



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Allies:** The term that refers to the U.S., Great Britain, the Soviet Union, China, Canada and approximately 50 other countries who opposed the Axis countries during WWII.

**Ammunition:** The material fired, scattered, dropped or detonated from any weapon (such as bombs or rockets) and shrapnel, bullets or shells fired by guns.

**AA Gun:** Anti-Aircraft Gun. A weapon used to shoot down or disable aircraft from the ground, aboard a ship or on an aircraft.

**Armament:** The equipment with which a military unit or is supplied.

**Arsenal:** 1. a place of storage containing arms and military equipment for land or naval service. 2. a government establishment where military equipment or munitions are made.

**Arsenal of Democracy:** The term coined by President Theodore Roosevelt in his December 29, 1940 Fireside Chat, to gain American support for sending military supplies to the Allies.

**Axis:** The partnership of countries that opposed the Allies in World War II, primarily Germany, Italy and Japan, but also Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Croatia.

**Blackout:** The practice of shutting off all the lights in a city in order to make it invisible to enemy bombers flying overhead.

**Bomber:** An airplane equipped to carry and drop bombs.

**B-24:** An U.S. four-engine heavy bomber, nicknamed the *Liberator*. Its longer range made it especially useful in the Pacific. More than 18,000 Liberators were built during WWII.

**Detroit Tank Arsenal:** A building constructed by Chrysler in Warren, Michigan to build tanks for World War II.

**Dollar-A-Year Men:** Production experts, including leaders at Detroit's automobile companies, who worked for the government during the war to expedite factory output. Many, but not all, refused to take a paycheck during the war, instead agreeing to a payment of only one dollar a year.

**Fireside Chats:** The name given to speeches made by Roosevelt to the American people over nationwide radio broadcasts throughout the Great Depression and WWII.

**GI:** Military acronym (initials) that stand for Government Issue

**GP:** Military acronym (initials) that stand for General Purpose. Pronounced "Jeep" as a nickname.

**Industry:** Refers to manufacturing and trade.

**Infrastructure:** The basic framework or features of a system or organization.

**Jeep:** Slang term for “General Purpose” (GP). The automobile known as the “Jeep” was originally made during World War II as a GP vehicle.

**Landing Craft:** A large, flat bottomed boat made to carry hundreds of soldiers or marines from a large ship to land during battles, such as the Normandy invasion on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

**LCI:** Stands for “Landing Craft Infantry,” a specific landing craft that could carry more than 200 soldiers or Marines and land them directly onto beaches.

**LCVP:** Stands for “Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel,” which was popularly called "Higgins boat" after its designer Andrew Jackson Higgins. LCVPs could carry up to 36 soldiers or Marines and were equipped with a ramp on the front by which troops could quickly exit.

**Lend-Lease:** An U.S. economic program that supplied the Allies war products between 1941 and 1945. A total of \$50 billion of supplies were provided (\$700 billion in today's dollars).

**Matériel:** The military word for “material.” It refers to the arms, ammunition, and equipment used by the military.

**Ordnance:** 1. military weapons with their equipment, ammunition, etc. 2. the branch of an army that attains, stores and issues weapons, munitions and combat vehicles and maintains arsenals for their development and testing.

**Propaganda:** Information, ideas or rumors purposely spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, nation, etc.

**Ration:** A fixed amount of supplies or food allowed to soldiers or civilians during a shortage.

**Rationing:** To restrict the use of supplies or food during a shortage: Rationing meat during war.

**Retool:** To reorganize or rearrange, usually for the purpose of updating or changing a process.

**Rivet:** a metal pin for passing through holes in two or more plates or pieces to hold them together, usually made with a head at one end, the other end being hammered into a head after insertion.

**Riveter:** A factory worker who installs rivets.

**Rosie the Riveter:** The nickname given to U.S. women who worked in defense factories during WWII.

**Scraping:** The act of collecting and recycling used materials to be made into new materials.

**Sherman Tank:** U.S. medium tank; served as the primary tank for U.S. forces in WWII, with a production of more than 50,000.

**Tuskegee Airmen:** The informal name for black Americans who were trained to become pilots during World War II. Responding to complaints from blacks that they were not being given the opportunity to serve as pilots, the Army Air Corps in 1941 established a training program for them at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama.

**VE-Day:** Victory in Europe Day; May 8, 1945, the date that the Allies accepted the surrender of Germany.

**Victory Gardens:** Vegetable and fruit gardens grown by Americans in back yards and vacant lots to supplement their rationed food during WWII. By 1944, there were 20 million Victory gardens being grown in the U.S. providing 40% of the nation's vegetables.

**VJ-Day:** Victory over Japan Day; can refer either to August 15, 1945, the day Japan announced its surrender, or September 2, 1945, the day the Japanese signed the surrender document aboard the *U.S.S. Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

**War Bond:** A type of savings bond supplied by governments to help fund wars and control inflation. 85 million Americans purchased \$185 billion of War Bonds during WWII.

**Willow Run:** A factory in Romulus, Michigan built by the Ford Motor Company to produce B-24 bombers during World War II.