

MS 388
World War II Ration Memorabilia Collection
1942-1945
.21 linear feet, 1 box

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History Note

The Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply was established by Presidential Executive Order 8734 on April 11, 1941, in an effort to control inflation. The civilian supply function of the agency was transferred to the Office of Production Management in August of 1941 and the name was shortened to the Office of Price Administration (OPA). The Emergency Price Control Act (January 30, 1942) established the purposes of the agency as follows: to stabilize prices and rents and prevent unwarranted increases in them; to prevent profiteering, hoarding and speculation; to assure that defense appropriations were not dissipated by excessive prices; to protect those with fixed incomes from undue impairment of their living standards; to assist in securing adequate production; and to prevent a post-emergency collapse of values. The Office of Price Administration fixed price ceilings on all commodities except farm products and controlled rents in defense areas. The first rationing program, for automobile tires, was initiated December 27, 1941. There were two types of rationing programs. The first was a certificate program, where an applicant had to meet eligibility standards and show need to a local ration board before receiving a certificate permitting a purchase to be made. This type of program was applied to tires, automobiles, typewriters, bicycles rubber footwear and stoves. The second program was a coupon or stamp type for which all civilians were eligible. These programs were administered through local banks and covered foods, fuel oil, gasoline and shoes. Rationing continued throughout World War II and by the end of November 1945 only the sugar and rubber tire rationing programs remained. Tire rationing ceased on December 31, 1945. Sugar rationing continued until June 11, 1947. The Office of Price Administration was dissolved April 1, 1947.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains certificates and stamps which were used for the purchase of bicycles, automobiles, food, fuel oil, gasoline, rubber footwear, shoes, sugar, tires and typewriter rental. It also contains War Ration Books One through Three and Five. These books were intended primarily for use with food items. Books One and Two were distributed through public schools. Book Three was distributed through the mail. Book Four (not included in the collection) was distributed through school systems and lasted, with the addition of ration tokens, until the end of the war. War Ration Book Five was prepared in early 1945, and several million copies of it were printed before V-E Day (May 8, 1945), when work on the book was abandoned.

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Arrangement

The collection is organized by type of commodity and with each folder by OPA form number.

Acquisition

This collection was donated to the Department of Special Collections in 1991.

Box/File

Bicycle

1/1 Certificate Authorizing Acquisition of New Adult Bicycles. OPA Form R-704 (Revised). 1943.

Automobile

1/2 Certificate of Purchase 1942 Model Passenger Car for Use. OPA Form R-214. 1943.

Foods

1/3 Processed Foods Ration Card for Residents of Border Zone in Mexico. OPA Form No. R-184. 1944.
Meats-Fats-Fish-Cheeses Ration Card for Residents of Border Zone in Mexico. OPA Form No. R-185. 1944.
Sugar Purchase Certificate. OPA Form No. R-306. n.d.
Sugar Allowance Coupon for Home Food Processing (3 Pounds). OPA Form R-326. n.d.
Sugar Allowance Coupon for Home Food Processing (1 Pound). OPA Form R-327. n.d.
Food Ration Certificate. OPA Form No. R-1201. n.d.

Fuel Oil

1/4 V-Fuel Oil Ration Class 1 Consumer Coupons (One-Unit Coupons and Change Coupons). Form OPA R-1105A. n.d.
V-Fuel Oil Ration Class 1 Consumer Coupons (One-Unit Coupons and Change Coupons). Form OPA R-1105B. n.d.
V-Fuel Oil Ration Class 1 Consumer Coupons (One-Unit Coupons and Change Coupons). Form OPA R-1105D. n.d.
V-Fuel Oil Ration Class 2 Consumer Coupons (Ten-Unit Coupons and Change Coupons). Form OPA R-1106B. n.d.
V-Fuel Oil Ration Class 3 Consumer Coupons (One-Gallon Coupons). Form OPA R-1107. n.d.

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V-Fuel Oil Ration Class 3 Consumer Coupons (Five-Gallon Coupons). Form OPA R-1108. n.d.
V-Fuel Oil Ration Class 3 Consumer Coupons (Twenty-Five-Gallon Coupons). Form OPA R-1109. n.d.
V-Fuel Oil Ration Class 3 Consumer Coupons (One Hundred-Gallon Coupons). Form OPA R-1110. n.d.
Fuel Oil--One Gallon Inventory Coupons). Form OPA R-1111. (2 copies). 1942.
Application and Registration Certificate for Fuel Oil Dealer or Supplier. Form OPA R-1116. 1942
Fuel Oil Exchange Certificate. Form OPA R-1118. 1942.
Fuel Oil Ration Class 4 Consumer Coupons. R-1137 (Zone A-1). n.d.
Fuel Oil Ration Class 4 Consumer Coupons. R-1138 (Zone B-1). n.d.
Fuel Oil Ration Class 4B Consumer Coupons. R-1141B (Zone A-2). ca. 1945
Fuel Oil Ration Class 5 Consumer Coupons. R-1147 (Zone A-1). n.d.
Fuel Oil Ration Class 5 Consumer Coupons. R-1148 (Zone B-1). n.d.
Fuel Oil Ration Class 5B Consumer Coupons. R-1151B (Zone A-2). ca. 1945
Fuel Oil Ration Class 6 Consumer Coupons. R-1158 (Zone B-1). n.d.
Fuel Oil Deposit Certificate. Form OPA R-1170. n.d.

Gasoline

1/5 Basic Gasoline Ration A. Form OPA R-1170. n.d.
Supplemental Gasoline Ration C. Form OPA R-528B. n.d.
Non-Highway Rations E. Form OPA R-530A. n.d.
Non-Highway Gasoline Rations R. Form OPA R-531. n.d.
Non-Highway Rations R. Form OPA R-531B. n.d.
Transport Mileage Ration T-1. Form OPA R-532A. n.d.
Transport Mileage Ration T-1. Form OPA R-532B. n.d.
Transport Mileage Ration T-2. Form OPA R-533B. n.d.
Gallon Inventory Gasoline Coupons 1. Form OPA R-547. n.d.
1/6 Gasoline Ration Card A. Form OPA R-501. 1942.
Basic Mileage Ration A. Form OPA R-525B. ca. 1943.
Basic Mileage Ration A. Form OPA R-525C. n.d.
Supplemental Mileage Ration B. Form OPA R-527A. 1942.
Supplemental Mileage Ration C. Form OPA R-528B. ca. 1943.
Motorcycle Mileage Ration D. Form OPA R-529B. 1943.
Non-Highway Rations E. Form OPA R-530B. 1943.
Acknowledgment and Authorization of Delivery Gasoline and Fuel Oil.
OPA Form R-544. 1942.
Gasoline One-Gallon Bulk Coupons. Form OPA R544A. n.d.
Gasoline Ration Sticker A. R-556. n.d.

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Gasoline Ration Sticker B. R-557. n.d.
Gasoline Mileage Sticker T. R-559. 1942.
Gasoline Deposit Certificate. OPA Form R-568. n.d.
Gasoline Purchase Permit. OPA Form R-571. n.d.

Rubber Footwear

1/7 Certificate of Registration to Buy, Acquire, Sell, and Transfer Men=s Rubber Boots and Rubber Work Shoes. OPA Form No. R-602. n.d.
Rubber Footwear Purchase Certificate. OPA Form R-605. 1943.
Rubber Footwear Purchase Certificate. OPA Form R-605. 1944.
Certificate to Acquire Men=s Rubber Boots and Rubber Work Shoes. OPA Form No. R-605. ca. 1942

Shoes

1/8 Shoe Purchase Certificate. OPA Form R-1705A. n.d.
Non-Rationed Shoe Stamps. R-123. n.d.
Special Shoe Stamp. OPA Form R-1706. n.d.
Non-Rationed Shoe Stamps. R-1711. n.d.

Stoves

1/9 Stove Purchase Certificate. OPA Form R-901. 1943.
Stove Purchase Certificate. OPA Form R-901. 1945.

Tires

1/10 Nontransferable Certificate for Purchase of Tires or Tubes or Recapping Service. OPA Form No. R-2. 1943.
Tire Dealer=s Part of Tire Certificate. OPA Form No. R-2A. 1945.
Tire Supplier=s Part of Tire Certificate. OPA Form No. R-2B. 1945.

Typewriter Rental

1/11 Application for Certificate to Rent Class B. Typewriters. Form OPA R-401. 1942.
Typewriter Rental Certificate. Form OPA R-403. 1942.

Ration Books

War Ration Book Two. OPA Form No. R-121. 1942.
War Ration Book No. 3. OPA Form No. R-130. 1943.
War Ration Book Five. OPA Form R-161. n.d.
War Ration Book One. OPA Form No. R-302. 1942.