American GIs



March 22

Darling, Darling, Junie!
Junie, this happiness is right
unbearable. Got back from a mission
at 4:00 this afternoon . . . but I quit
breathing completely until the
wonderful news was unfolded. A son!
Darling, Junie . . .

All of the boys in the squadron went wild. Oh it's wonderful! I had saved my tobacco ration for the last two weeks and had obtained a box of good American cigars . . . Golly I'm anxious to know all the details. I figure Damon was born on the 19th. I wonder what he weighs and all about him. Tell him that he has the proudest, happiest, and luckiest Pop in the whole world.

Junie if this letter makes no sense forget it—I'm sort of delirious—Today everything is special. This iron hut looks like a castle;. The low hanging overcast outside is the most beautiful hue of blue I've ever seen. I'm a father. I have a son! My darling wife has had a fine boy and I'm a king . . . Oh, Junie, I wish I could be there. Now I think maybe I could be of some help. There are so many things to be done. What a ridiculous and worthless thing a war is in the light of such a wonderful event. That there will be no war for Damon! . . . Oh my beautiful darling, I love you more and more and more. Gosh, I'm happy! Sweet dreams my sweet Mother.

Love, Rarey

Source: "Dear Home: Letters from WWII," History.com, www.history.com.

Japanese Americans





Women



Rosie the Riveter

All the day long,

Whether rain or shine,

She's a part of the assembly line.

She's making history,

Working for victory,

Rosie the Riveter.

Keeps a sharp lookout for sabotage,

Sitting up there on the fuselage.

That little girl will do more than a male can do,

Rosie the Riveter.

Rosie's got a boyfriend, Charlie.

Charlie, he's a Marine.

Rosie's protecting Charlie,

Working overtime on the riveting machine

When they gave her a production "E,"

She was as proud as a girl could be,

There's something true about,

Red, white, and blue about,

Rosie the Riveter.

-Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb, 1942

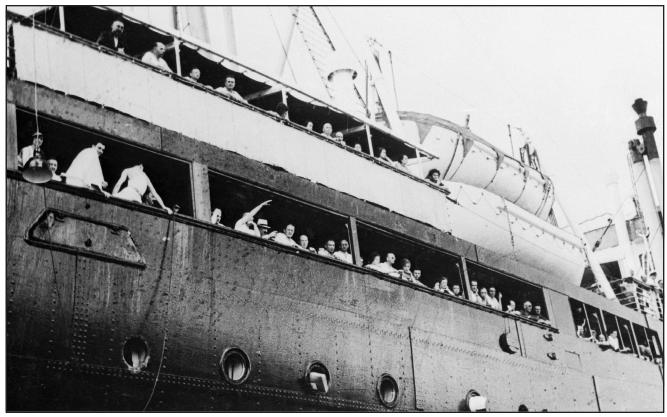
African Americans



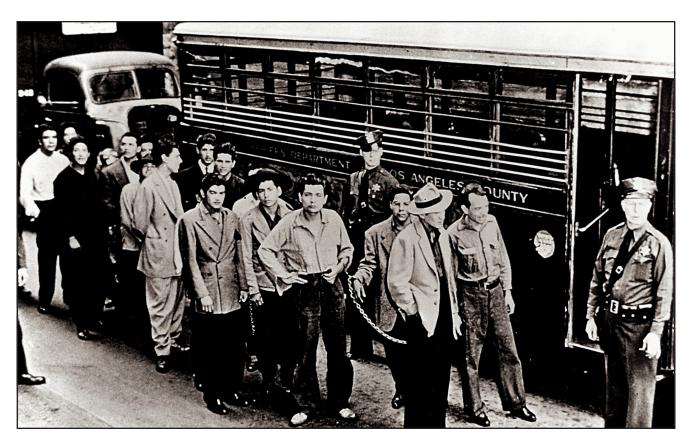


Jewish Americans





Mexican Americans



Dear Mr. Wallace:

We are writing you this letter
because we heard you speak on the
16th of September here in Los Angeles
... In our neighborhood there are no
recreation centers and the nearest movie
is about a mile away. We have no place
is about a mile away. We have no place
to play so the Police are always arresting
us ... There is still a lot of discrimination
in theaters and swimming pools and
... [the] newspapers have made us look
like criminals too. They make fun of zoot
suits and use the word "Mexicans" like it
was a dirty word.

was a unity word.

We have talked about all this in our
club and we think it is very bad for the
war because it is against unity and
divides us from the rest of the people . .

[We] know that us Mexican-American boys and girls can do a lot of things to win the war if someone will give us a chance. We have got a Defense Club to help the 24 boys on trial and the way we are raising money for that is to collect scrap iron . . .

Discrimination is what hurts the most, so help us with that particularly because discrimination is the thing that makes the other Americans divide from us . . . We don't like Hitler or the Japanese either.

We thank you very much.

Respectfully, YOUTH COMMITTEE for the DEFENSE OF MEXICAN AMERICAN YOUTH

Source: "American Experience: Zoot Suit Riots," PBS, www.pbs.org.