

## Contents

Prolog	1
Chapter 1. Last One Home's a Rotten Egg	5
Chapter 2. Corn Cobs, Coal, and Ice	13
Chapter 3. Pucka-pucka-pucka	21
Chapter 4. Mrs. America, "The Weaker Sex?"	25
Chapter 5. Rosie the Riveter	32
Chapter 6. For the Duration	40
Chapter 7. Rationing and the OPA	48
Chapter 8. Victory Garden	60
Chapter 9. "I'll Wring Your Neck"	70
Chapter 10. Homefront Battles	74
Chapter 11. "Blow Your ——"	77
Chapter 12. Orphan Annie and Junior Commandos	83
Chapter 13. Savings Stamps and Snake Dances	89
Chapter 14. Convoys and Bivouacs	95
Chapter 15. One-Armed Bandits in Little Reno	101
Chapter 16. Cornfield Soldiers, Happy Civilians, and Singing POWs	109
Chapter 17. Red Ryder	122
Chapter 18. A Make-Believe Sword and Ostrich Feathers	127
Chapter 19. "Just a Stone's Throw from Church"	132
Chapter 20. By the River	141
Chapter 21. Gone Fishin'	148

Chapter 22. The Ball of String	154
Chapter 23. Bell Bottom Trousers	161
Chapter 24. Ink and Blood, Life and Death	167
Chapter 25. Editorials: I, We, and WE-ALL	178
Chapter 26. Bad News and Good News—Cookies, and Valentines	183
Chapter 27. Cartoons and Submarines	189
Chapter 28. The USO: Coffee, Cookies, and Dancing	199
Chapter 29. A Flag, New Shoes, and Blisters	204
Chapter 30. 1,760,000 Baskets of Dirt	212
Chapter 31. “Turn the Lights Out!”	217
Chapter 32. A Japanese Sword and a Panama Hat	223
Chapter 33. The Empty Rocking Chair	232
Chapter 34. Prewar, Wartime, Postwar . . . and More War	238
Ideas for Exploring the Homefront in Talks and Papers	247
Suggestions for Further Reading	255
Acknowledgments	263