

## Our Boys: One Community During World War II

### Introduction

While most histories of World War II focus on a mission, a man, or a “band of brothers”, this book, *Our Boys: One Community During World War II*, is about **real** brothers, cousins, and classmates from **one** community.

This microHistory celebrates these soon-to-be-forgotten men, and women too, at war, the community to which they were connected, and the sacrifices made by all.

---

I began wanting to learn more about my parents’ youth before I was born, which made their young lives more complicated than they ever imagined.

Their hometown weekly newspapers contained a wealth of information about them. Due to limited circulation, these newspapers couldn’t afford to subscribe to international news agencies, e.g., United Press International and Reuters. Small town newspapers relied on local news to fill the white space around ads. Besides births, marriages, and deaths, there were brief items on out-of-town visitors, birthday parties, accidents, injuries, illnesses, and local court news. With a county population of about 12,000, each weekly issue mentioned over 2,000 residents.<sup>1</sup>

In a very short time, my scope expanded to include all their friends and other residents, particularly during World War II. Every weekly issue contained news about “Our Boys”, as the newspapers called those in the armed forces.

---

Nearly all of the vital federal veteran records are now gone. Over four days in 1973, a fire at the US National Archives veterans’ records warehouse in St. Louis, MO destroyed 80% of the Army’s personnel records before 1960 and 75% of the Air Force records before 1965.<sup>2</sup>

Sadly, the veterans of World War II are nearly gone as well.

For the luckier families, their wartime photos, letters, and Good Conduct and Purple Heart Medals are stowed away in drawers and attics. But those items are not available outside the families.

The most plentiful public source of veteran stories is now only the wartime newspapers. Drawn from those sources, here are their stories from World War II, as well as stories about the impact of war on their folks back home.

World War II raged between 1939 and 1945, affecting nearly the entire world population of 2.3 billion.<sup>3</sup> This included the United States’ 130 million.<sup>4</sup> Over 12% of the US population, 16 million men and women, served in the armed forces during World War II.<sup>5</sup> Most were away from their families for three years or more.

# Our Boys: One Community During World War II

## Introduction

During the war, around 68 million people died, including about 400,000 members of the US armed forces.<sup>4</sup> For every 40 in service, one did not return to their loved ones after the war.

Of the 16 million who served, only about 100,000 remain today.<sup>6</sup> The Veterans Administration expects that the number of centenarian veterans will fall to negligible levels by 2036.<sup>7</sup> Theirs will be forgotten history very soon.

This book contains stories of their time in service, as well as glimpses of life back home during those dark years.

**Close your eyes and imagine nearly every male between 18 and 25, including relatives, loved ones, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and even store clerks. Our Boys were to be gone for no one knows how long. Or gone for – ever.**



8

During the 1940s, every community in this country had its own cohort who went to war. For me, they were connected to rural Pulaski County in northwestern Indiana, where I was born. But whether rural or urban, once in service, their stories of bravery, sacrifice and friendship were the same, nationwide.



During World War II, Pulaski County had approximately 12,000 residents.<sup>9</sup> The county seat, Winamac, was a rural town of about 1,800 in 1940.<sup>10</sup> During the 1940s,

## Our Boys: One Community During World War II

### Introduction

Winamac had a small business district that included five law offices, four small groceries, a few clothing stores, two drug stores, two furniture stores, two banks, two newspapers, a lumber yard, a grain elevator, a “variety store”, and a movie theatre. One Catholic and four Protestant churches served the spiritual needs. Three doctors and three dentists provided healthcare needs. The nearest hospital was a 40-minute drive south to the much larger city of Logansport. The county also had four small towns, a few villages, and over a thousand family farms. Hogs and corn were the county’s primary products.<sup>11</sup>

From this county, over 1,600 men and women left for war. Another 1,700 individuals had connections to the county through work, friendship, marriage, or blood.<sup>12</sup>

Born between 1901 and 1927, these veterans were part of the Greatest Generation. While the older members lived through an influenza pandemic and the Great War, they all lived through the Noble Experiment (Prohibition), the Great Depression, and, now, another World War.

In this book, nearly all their stories are based on items published in Pulaski County’s two competing weekly newspapers, the *Pulaski County (IN) Democrat* and the *Winamac (IN) Republican*. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, county residents could count on the local news provided by the *Democrat* and the *Republican* for sale every Thursday downtown, delivered by paperboys to homes in town, or delivered by mail to the farms.

Before they were our fathers, uncles, grandfathers, and even great-grandfathers, they were the sons of their community. Whether volunteering or drafted, Our Boys trained stateside, then were sent to fight in North Africa, Europe, and the South Pacific. Before their service, most hadn’t gone farther from home than Indianapolis, 100 miles southeast.

The elders of Pulaski County saw most answering the nation’s call, leaving their work on farms and in towns, the steel mills of Gary, the Studebaker automobile plant in South Bend, and the nearby munitions plant. For the rest, it was their first “job”. They went off with their buddies to fight for their country and for their loved ones back home.

Whether at sea or on another continent, most were separated from their families and friends for three years or more.

This cohort represented America’s youth, not only the rural population, which was 42% of the country in 1940, but also boys from the cities. More than half were between 18 and 25; nearly all ages served, from old men aged 63 and 74 to an underage runaway, 15.

Our Boys had folks whose previous world war was on their minds. Except for stories from the elders, few had any idea what war entailed. But their elders knew.

---

While most families sent a son or two, some families had to farm and “make do” with several sons away at war for three years or more.

## Our Boys: One Community During World War II

### Introduction

Fifteen of Frank&Magdalena Gilsinger's grandsons were in the service across North Africa, Europe, and the South Pacific, including five sets of brothers. Not only did Gerald Lebo go to war, but also his brother, five brothers-in-law, a cousin-in-law, and five cousins, one of whom was killed in action.

Carl&Clara Dommer had four sons, a son-in-law, and Carl's brother in the service in World War II, as were the six sons of Herschel&Edith Henry. Joe&Mary Bauer had three sons and two daughters in the service. Three sons and three grandsons of Oscar&Della Depoy were in service. John&Mary Kate Stoll had four sons in service, as did Carl&Della Morrison.

Several families lost multiple sons or nephews. Three pairs of brothers didn't return. And Henry Helm's momma lost a son in each World War.

In other families, enlistment pairs included seventeen married couples, a father and son, and even a son and his mother.

---

This book features nearly 300 short wartime vignettes of Our Boys, nearly all taken from newspaper items in the two competing local weeklies. Here are some samples from the book sections: "The Dead" and "War Stories" in the year-by-year chapters.

Many of the men were already married, and some even had children. Some married just before leaving for service. Many married soon after they returned from war. Robert Vanaman, Jack Shidler, and Raymond Hartman returned with brides from England, and Harry Von Tobel married a Belgian girl. Walter Stratton married an Aussie girl. Some died in battle before they could return to marry their loved ones. James Barnard's fiancée sadly learned of his death in the newspaper.

John Sheppard wrote home about his time "somewhere overseas", losing a day crossing the International Date Line, sailing the Indian Ocean, and seeing the Pyramids and the Holy Land, but missing the sight of the feet of his new baby girl. Thankfully, he returned to see her.

Eight of Our Boys, who were fathers, were not as fortunate. Richard Roth, a bombardier, only saw his baby daughter through his bombsight during a flyover of his hometown eight months before he went missing in action and was later declared dead. Ralph Koebcke had only seen his son in a photograph a month before he was killed in action. Howard Bloomberg, Harry Kocher, Nick Wason, Richard Long, Robert Clausen, and Chester Freel never even got to see their babies.

The births of some of the first Baby Boomers were connected to furloughs back home or camp visits. Phil was on furlough back home in April 1944. His wife, Pauline, gave birth to a son in January.

## Our Boys: One Community During World War II

### Introduction

During my research, I, a Baby Boomer myself, discovered a secret through DNA that only one single mother knew. While my late father, Bill Phillips, was at his parents' home on leave in October of 1942, he hooked up with Elaine before he returned to his base the following week. A couple of months later, Elaine left for Fort Wayne, a much larger city about 80 miles east, to work as a telephone operator. In June 1943, Elaine gave her newborn son up for adoption and returned to her hometown of Winamac. Bill never knew.

---

Although he never lived to fulfill his potential during World War II, Dick Freeman was an accomplished airman. The West Point graduate flew diplomatic and rescue missions to South America and a scientific mission to Alaska. Sadly, he died in an air crash early in 1941, before the US went to war.

In a letter to his widowed momma, Nellie, three months before his death, Marion Appel couldn't say where he was [probably New Zealand], but that "the country is beautiful and the people are nice.". Six months after Marion's death, Nellie, now a Gold Star mother (having lost a son), got a letter from his commanding officer describing her son's last minutes. A year after his death, one of Marion's buddies visited her. The following year, a friend of her son sent her pictures of his temporary grave on Guam. Almost 5 years after he died in the South Pacific, Marion's body was returned for burial in his hometown.

Although she lost a son, Nellie was fortunate that she had stories about his final months. Other families were not as fortunate.

Buck Ginn's plane went missing during a flight from China to India in 1944. He and his crewmates were declared dead after two years. In 2006, 62 years later, the crash site was discovered in the Indian backcountry.

In two separate cases, a Pulaski County aviator, perishing in a plane crash, was re-interred in his final resting place with a pair of his crewmates. In both cases, the military, unable to identify the individual bodies, buried their remains together in a stateside military cemetery equidistant from their three families. Albert Ross and his two crewmates were re-interred together in Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville, KY, and Tip Baker and his two crewmates were re-interred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, MO.

Of course, Christmas, away from home, was tough for Our Boys. But in 1944, it was catastrophic for two. Robert Craigmile was killed on Christmas Eve. And Jesse Vories drowned in an overturned truck in a ditch on Christmas Day.

In the same outfit, Henry Helm and his hometown buddy, George Freeman, were killed four days apart on Corregidor.

---

Many of Our Boys had established professions before the war.

## Our Boys: One Community During World War II

### Introduction

Since 1927, Doc Halleck had been a prominent doctor in Winamac. Since he was in the Indiana National Guard, he was called into service for World War II. Dr. John Phillips grew up in Star City and, in 1942, while stationed in Ireland, reconnected with a fellow student at Indiana University, war correspondent Ernie Pyle. Dr. Don Caseley, another physician, was married to a daughter of the *Republican* publisher. He treated a wounded soldier mentioned in one of Ernie's columns. Eleven other physicians were connected to Pulaski County either by marriage or by blood. After the war, Carl Ault, Dick Russell, and Charles Campbell became physicians.

Two Catholic priests well known in Pulaski County went to war. Father Harold Roth returned, but Father Clement Falter did not. After the war, George Kruzick became a priest, and Jack Russell, a minister.

Harry O. Miller and Urban Kennedy were morticians before entering the service. On his way back to base after a family visit, Harry helped deliver a baby on a Chicago bus. Two years later, he was awarded a Bronze Star for his care of the sick and wounded. Byron Henry taught hand-to-hand combat in Hawaii. His imposing countenance was captured in six paintings at the Pearl Harbor Officers' Club and in an ad in a Honolulu newspaper. His brother, Stanley Henry, was carried on a stretcher for five days in China after a field appendectomy. After the war, both brothers became morticians.

---

In the letters home, Our Boys wrote about their experiences and thoughts. For his first year or so in service, Dick Dodd, who had worked for the local *Democrat* newspaper before the war, wrote regular columns about his early stateside experiences in the service.

As children, some of the Greatest Generation wrote letters to Santa, which were published in the papers. Like his older brother, Jay, Jack Jordan's letter to Santa was published in the paper. Neither survived the war. In the 1924 and 1925 papers, young Chet Reynolds' letters to Santa included a request for an electric moving picture machine. When Chet returned from the service at age 27, what business do you think he entered?

---

In the northwest corner of the county, Francesville, was "attacked" during separate training flights by Robert Farney and by John Wuethrich. Each executed "threatening" aerial maneuvers and tossed five-pound flour "bombs" onto their hometown below, showing off their flying skills.

Women, too, did their part in service. Two years after touring the western states with a vaudeville troupe for six weeks, "Hap" Stevens volunteered for the WACs. After a year, she returned home to help her father on the farm.

Mary Kelly joined the Air WACs as a cryptographic technician after her son, Forrest, joined the Army. Other women served so that men could be sent to fight. "Deanie" Kruzick Stahlberg supervised the soda fountain at her camp's Post Exchange. Most women served

## Our Boys: One Community During World War II

### Introduction

as nurses in military hospitals around the world or as “Cadet Nurses” in state-side government hospitals. Danger remained, abroad and stateside. One stateside nurse, Dorothy Ewing, was slugged by a soldier who feigned fixing her car at a traffic light. (The outcome of the attack is in the section, “War Stories” in the 1946 chapter.)

Except for battle, most Pulaski County men found the military tolerable, but three of Our Boys went “Away Without Official Leave” (AWOL). John Oglesby even escaped the guardhouse at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. Joe Rabella was labeled a “Straggler” by the Navy. And Fred Williams was AWOL for seven years before being arrested in 1949. Three times during the war, the Pulaski County sheriff encountered someone who turned out to be AWOL.

Dave Lilienthal never served in the military, but he fulfilled his potential by leading two large federal projects. In 1933, he was named a director of the Tennessee Valley Authority, which was charged with providing low-cost electricity to eastern Tennessee. After the war, he was named the first chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

---

While Our Boys were away, doing their part, the rest of the community pitched in. Here are samples of stories about the folks back home in the section, “Also in the Paper”, for each war-year chapter.

Local businesses were affected as employees went to war. In one case, due to public outcry, Harold Zanger’s induction was postponed three weeks because he owned the only local bakery. But his bakery finally closed, forcing grocers to turn to a distant company for bread and other baked goods. In another case, Oscar Kocher had to close his meat market because his butcher, Jack Jordan, was drafted into service. And while Pete Kasten was away at war, his wife assumed his elected duties as County Treasurer.

At the war’s start, tires were rationed, and soon so were coffee and sugar. Eventually, ration stamps were also required for meat and canned goods. Teenage Don Duggleby, at one point, lost a family ration book of stamps and posted a classified ad in the local weekly hoping to recover it. Others also posted about their lost ration books in “Lost&Found”.

Although “Victory Gardens” were a new idea for larger cities to supplement rationed food, gardens were already common in rural towns and on farms.

Scrap metal was collected for the war effort. Phonograph records were recycled as well. Homemakers were urged to collect bacon fat and other drippings, which were used to produce explosives. Children collected milkweed pods to fill life vests.

Homemakers had always joined church auxiliaries and neighborhood book clubs. In wartime, there were also clubs for war mothers and women’s clubs to bolster their own morale, including the Polly Ann Sewing Club, Cheer Up Club, and Happy Hour Club.

## Our Boys: One Community During World War II

### Introduction

Even after the war's end, homemakers continued collecting cooking fats and continued urging their children not to waste food, given that there were "children starving in Europe".

---

Although Pulaski County had no Medal of Honor recipients, it did produce three recipients of the next-highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. In August 1943, Bob Bigler was awarded the Air Medal for his role as co-pilot, taking over controls entangled by the body of his pilot, who had been killed at the start of a bombing run. Two months later, he was reported missing but managed to work his way back to his unit. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

In July 1945, Andy Nufer earned his Distinguished Service Cross. When pinned down by enemy fire, he ran across fire-swept open terrain to friendly tanks. Mounting the lead tank, he led them into action until he was knocked to the ground by enemy fire. Mounting a second tank, he continued to guide the group until that tank was hit and he was wounded. Despite his wounds, he continued to lead until his company's objective was secured.

Forrest Kelly earned his Distinguished Service Cross at the Battle of St. Lo in France.

The Presidential Unit Citation was a military unit's equivalent of an individual's Distinguished Service Cross. At least 78 earned one, including Ray Haschel, when "[o]ut of his company of 250 men which went into the 6-day battle for Hill 510 at Bastogne, France, only 18 returned.".

Our Boys collectively earned a variety of other medals, including the Silver Star, the Soldiers Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, and the Air Medal, as well as the Purple Heart. In 1985, several dozen of Our Boys were retroactively awarded the newly-created Prisoner of War medal.

In 1942, the Japanese overran US and Filipino forces on the Bataan peninsula on the islands of the Philippines in the western Pacific. The defeated 100,000 US and 66,000 Filipino troops were forced march to Japanese prison camps. The 60-mile week-long march without food or water doomed at least 500 Americans and well over 5,000 Filipinos, executed by the Japanese or dying from exhaustion or dehydration. John Shank died of exhaustion during the march, but his father didn't learn his fate until 1945. Clarence Kline survived the March, but in 1944, he was lost at sea when the unmarked Japanese prisoner ship on which he was held was sunk by US planes.

That first full year of war, 1942, included the war's deadliest day for Pulaski County, on 8 November. Jack Condo and James Huffman both died in training flight crashes stateside. Father Clement Falter died during a landing in North Africa. And, also just off the North African coast, Davy Jones died from wounds incurred after his ship was torpedoed.

---

## Our Boys: One Community During World War II

### Introduction

From time to time, veterans unexpectedly met their schoolmates far from home. In December 1943, while driving an Army truck along a narrow road in Sicily, Arlis Frain encountered an oncoming Army truck driving too near the center of the road. Exiting his truck, enraged and ready to fight, the other driver turned out to be his hometown friend, Bob Strasser.

Over the years, on more than 100 occasions fellow Pulaski County residents, including brothers and cousins, crossed paths. Almost half of these encounters were coincidental – meeting on board a large troopship headed toward the war zone, in the same large military unit, or in a bar. One bittersweet event was the first coincidental meeting between brothers, Arthur and Harry Kocher, followed by another meeting a year later, just three months before Harry was killed. On another occasion, Joe Kirsch, an immigrant from Germany, visited his parents and family just after the war in Europe ended.

After meeting his brother, Bob, in a nearby camp in Italy, Ed Fahler wrote to their folks, “Fifteen miles sounds close to you, but it isn’t always that way here, and one is not always sitting around his tent waiting for visitors from home. I may not get to see him again, but this meeting did us both a lot of good”. Eight months later, Bob was killed.

On a stateside visit, “Butch” Schraeder raised the spirits of his Pulaski County uncle and aunt after reports of their son, Richard Roth, also a bombardier, was missing in action. Butch told them that he, too, had a plane shot out from under him and had parachuted to safety. Sadly, it turned out that Richard was not to be as fortunate. And Butch’s luck ran out a year later.

Soon after the war ended, some returning veterans met death by accident or, in one case, by police action. Soon after their return, Donald Foerg and Dick Hathaway died in separate car wrecks. Phil Gerace earned his Bronze Star delivering ammunition over shelled roads in pitch darkness. Although caught in Missouri as a youth after stealing a new car in his hometown, Phil shone in service. But back home after the war, he died beside this stolen car in a shootout with police.

---

In the summer of 1943, eleven county canines were sent into service. Sadly, Shep was returned, mid-training, as gun-shy, and Jerry was returned as too nervous. In a letter to the dog’s owner, Tippie’s handler wrote glowingly about his performance. Brownie was killed in action. Tippie, Teddy, and Fuzzy were eventually discharged. The fates of Bus, Sport, Dick, Lad, and Ranger are unknown.

---

This book includes an Introduction and, for each year of the war, a chapter with four or five sections.

This book, like the war it chronicles, starts slowly. The first three chapters, like the first three years of World War II, are filled with just preparation for war. In the first chapter,

## Our Boys: One Community During World War II

### Introduction

**1939: Distant Lightning**, a nearby daily newspaper ran stories about the conflict in Europe, North Africa, and the Far East. Germany annexed Austria and made land claims in Czechoslovakia. Nearly all of Europe was at war by September when Germany invaded Poland. The local newspapers contain a few recruitment ads, several short news items about the war in Europe and two short eyewitness accounts of the war. In **1940: The Draft**, the nearby daily described the German bombing of London, German attacks on France and Scandinavia, and Italy's attack on Greece. The local papers focused on county news related to the start of the draft and the nearby plant making artillery shells. In **1941: Preparing for War**, the US continued to build arms for European "allies". After the December attack on Pearl Harbor, the US joined Britain, France, and others against Germany, Italy, and Japan. The first five of Our Boys died.

The following three chapters document years of intense conflict. In **1942: The First Year**, the daily news mainly covered the Pacific war with Japan. The local weekly news reported on Our Boys, sent into harm's way in North Africa, Europe, and the South Pacific, suffering twelve deaths. In **1943: All In**, the daily news focused on North Africa and the assault on Italy, defended by the Germans. The deaths of Our Boys nearly doubled, indicating the increasing level of conflict in Europe and the South Pacific. In **1944: In the Thick of It**, most of the daily news was about the Allies invading France from England and the march toward Germany. In local weekly news, Our Boys' deaths more than tripled, indicating an even more elevated level of conflict, although the end of the war in Europe was visible by the fall.

The last two chapters chronicle the continuing intense conflict until peace came in Europe in the spring and, four months later, in the South Pacific. In **1945: Mopping Up**, daily headlines were evenly split between Germany and the Pacific, culminating with Germany's surrender in May and Japan's surrender in August. The deaths of Our Boys continued at the rate of the previous year, but, thankfully, end with total peace by late summer. Finally, in **1946-1950: Aftershocks**, daily headlines shifted from international news to national and state news. As Our Boys returned home, only five service-related non-battle deaths were reported. The community began a "new" normal.

Most of these yearly chapters contain five sections. Besides an Overview section, there are sections: Community Climate, The Dead, War Stories, and Also in the Paper.

The short section, Overview, summarizes the major battles in each war zone, along with the medal and fatality counts, and the local news related to the war.

The section, Community Climate, summarizes the headlines of the nearby local daily, which regularly reported war news, including major events in other countries, the nation, and the state. These headlines provided residents with a regular update on the war. This news was supplemented by two 15-minute radio news updates and a short newsreel at the movie theater each week. The two competing Pulaski County weeklies reported on

# Our Boys: One Community During World War II

## Introduction

Our Boys and local news. Additionally, the most popular music and movies of the year are listed, as is “News of the Future”, which highlights events, invisible at the time, that would become important, such as the Manhattan Project and the Holocaust.

Starting in 1941, there is a section, The Dead, that contains a profile of each fatality.

The section, War Stories, about the men and women in service, was mainly sourced from the local weeklies.

Finally, the section, Also in the Paper, contains war-related newspaper items and ads that affected the folks back home during the war.

---

During World War II, everyone sacrificed for the benefit of all, as we must always do in terrible times. For their elders and the Greatest Generation, the sacrifices ranged from coffee drinkers limited to only a single daily cup of coffee to one of Our Boys suffering a traumatic death far from home.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “2252”. *Pulaski County (IN) Democrat*, 11 Nov 1943: 1.

<sup>2</sup> “The 1973 Fire, National Personnel Records Center”. National Archives.

<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/fire-1973/> [accessed on 1 Dec 2025].

<sup>3</sup> “Historical Estimates of World Population”. U.S. Census Bureau.

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/international-programs/historical-est-worldpop.html> [accessed on 2 Dec 2025].

<sup>4</sup> “United States Summary”. US Census Bureau.

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1940/population-volume-1/33973538v1ch02.pdf> [accessed on 2 Dec 2025].

<sup>5</sup> “American War and Military Operations Casualties: Lists and Statistics”. U.S. Congress.

<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/RL32492> [accessed on 2 Dec 2025].

<sup>6</sup> “Memorializing Valor: Honoring World War II Veterans on Memorial Day 2024”. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. <https://www.data.va.gov/stories/s/Memorial-Day-2024-World-War-II/x6jv-ykjh/> [accessed on 2 Dec 2025].

<sup>7</sup> “When Will the U.S. Lose Its Last WWII Veterans?”. Statista. <https://www.statista.com/chart/13989/when-the-us-will-lose-its-wwii-veterans/> [accessed on 2 Dec 2025].

<sup>8</sup> “County Selectees Meet for Departure to Fort Benjamin Harrison”. *Winamac (IN) Republican*, 6 Feb 1941:1.

<sup>9</sup> “Table 3. – Area and Population of Counties, Urban and Rural: 1920 to 1940 – Continued”. U.S. Census Bureau, p338. <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1940/population-volume-1/33973538v1ch04.pdf> [accessed on 2 Dec 2025].

<sup>10</sup> “Table 5. – Population of Incorporated Places: 1920 to 1940 – Continued”. U.S. Census Bureau, p349.

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1940/population-volume-1/33973538v1ch04.pdf> [accessed on 2 Dec 2025].

<sup>11</sup> “Sixteenth Census of the United States:1940, Agriculture, Volume II, Third Series State Reports, Part 1, Statistics for Counties, Value of Farm Products”, County Table XVI. – Value of Specified Livestock on Farms, Apr. 1, 1940 and 1930; and Value of Specified Livestock Products and Crops Harvested, 1939 and 1929, p265. <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1940/agriculture/1940-census-agriculture-vol-2-indiana.pdf> [Accessed on 10 Dec 2025].

<sup>12</sup> Phillips, Jim. Pulaski County, Indiana, World War II Veteran Dataset [accessed on 11 Dec 2025].

## **Our Boys: One Community During World War II**

### Introduction

---

<sup>13</sup> “Coffee Rationing on the World War II Home Front”, National Park Service.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/coffee-rationing-on-the-world-war-ii-home-front.htm> [accessed on 11 Dec 2025].