

People felt it was their duty to conserve

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member having to save it."

Everyone supported the war, Ward said, and felt it was their duty to conserve.

"People took it as a personal responsibility," she said.

Babcock said it was a 50-mile roundtrip to the schoolhouse where she taught and sometimes she didn't know if she had enough fuel to make it.

"I had a time with gas," she said. "I definitely didn't do any extra driving. But I made it."

Because many men were called to fight, Hayden said, there was a shortage of labor and farmers relied on each other for help.

"It was handled that way by almost everyone," he said.

Sometimes, Hayden said, he feels guilty that he didn't go to war, but the draft board evidently felt he was needed here more.

"I had no objection to going," he said. "I never asked for a deferment. Deep down, I felt bad about it. All your buddies and friends, they went, and you stayed back."

Schoepner, who operated a dairy farm near his home in east Goodland, said he did everything he could to remain useful because he didn't want to leave his wife and children. The draft board interviewed him every month, he said, and he had to carry around a draft card.

"Every month I crossed my fingers and hoped I was doing enough at home," he said.

Hayden said it was heartbreaking to send friends and family off to war.

"You knew they were going to fight," he said.

Babcock said it was tough for soldiers to adjust when they came home.

She said her husband enlisted in the Navy and was called to duty in January 1943.

Harvey was a "Seabee," she said, which meant he was a member of the Navy's construction battalion.

When Harvey came home two years later, Babcock said, he was nervous and couldn't sleep.

"The least little noise would wake

World War II timeline

Dec. 7, 1941	Japanese attack U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.	Aug. 25, 1944	Germans surrender Paris.
Dec. 8, 1941	U.S. declares war on Japan.	Nov. 6, 1944	Roosevelt wins presidential election for fourth time.
Dec. 11, 1941	Germany and Italy declare war on U.S..	Dec. 16, 1944	Battle of the Bulge begins.
Jan. 1, 1942	Allies sign the U.N. Declaration.	Feb. 19, 1945	U.S. Marines land on the island of Iwo Jima.
Jan. 13, 1942	Internment of Japanese-Americans begins.	March 7, 1945	Patton's 3rd Army crosses the Rhine at Remagen.
June 4, 1942	Battle of Midway begins.	April 1, 1945	American operations against Okinawa begin.
Aug. 7, 1942	U.S. Marines land on Guadalcanal.	April 12, 1945	President Roosevelt dies, succeeded by Harry S. Truman.
Jan. 27, 1943	U.S. 8th Air Force conducts first raid against Germany.	April 28, 1945	Mussolini assassinated.
Feb. 2, 1943	German Army surrenders at Stalingrad.	April 30, 1945	Hitler commits suicide.
May 13, 1943	Germans give up North Africa.	May 2, 1945	Soviets take Berlin.
July 25, 1943	Mussolini resigns.	May 8, 1945	Germany surrenders (V-E Day).
Sept. 3, 1943	Allies land in Italy.	Aug. 6, 1945	Atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.
Sept. 8, 1943	Italy surrenders.	Aug. 9, 1945	Atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.
Oct. 13, 1943	Italy declares war on Germany.	Aug. 14, 1945	Japanese surrender (V-J Day).
June 6, 1944	D-Day, the allied invasion of Normandy, France.		
July 20, 1944	Assassination attempt against Hitler — fails.		

him," she said. "He was used to being on guard all of the time."

Babcock said her parents and two nephews lived with her while her husband was at war, but that didn't stop her from feeling lonely and scared sometimes.

"I was worried," she said. "I didn't know where he was. When he did write, he couldn't tell me where he was."

Ward said the government censored letters servicemen sent home to make sure the wrong information didn't fall into enemy hands. She said she remem-

bers there were holes cut in letters her mother received from cousins who went to war.

"If they mentioned where they were," Ward said, "they would just literally cut it out."

To keep soldiers from Sherman County informed about what was going on at home, Ward said, the *Sherman County Herald* sent each one free newspapers, no matter where they were.

"I don't know how regularly they saw them," she added.

Ward said many soldiers moved



There was a parade down Main Avenue in the spring of 1946 to celebrate the end of World War II. Clarence Schoepner, who stayed in Sherman County to work and raise his family during the war, led the parade in his tractor. Collection of Andy Schoepner

through Sherman County during the war, as the government started training glider pilots here in 1942. She said several airfields were built around the county and the pilots stayed at the hotel on the northeast corner of 10th and Main.

Being a glider pilot was a dangerous job, Ward said, because once you landed, you probably weren't getting back up in the air. She said the Army required all glider pilots to be volun-

teers. Some of the pilots who survived the war, Ward said, returned to Sherman County.

"Several Goodland girls married glider pilots," she said.

Schoepner said after the war ended there was a parade down Main Street and a new 1946 Plymouth was given away. It was a big deal, he said, because the war was finally over and because it had been nearly impossible to buy a

new car.

Hayden said it didn't take long for life to return to normal.

"To me," he said, "everything just kind of fell back into place."

Of course, he added, the war left permanent scars on some of his buddies — both physically and emotionally.

"It kind of scares you and makes you shaky to hear what they went through," he said.



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