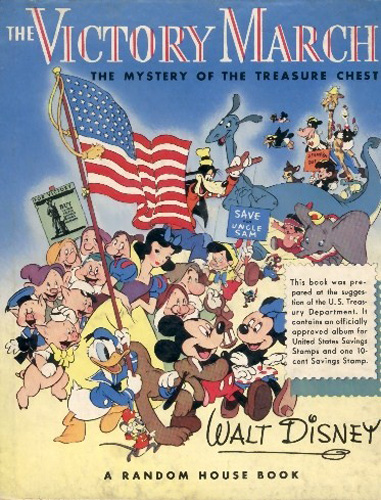
Donald Duck Goes to War – WWII Cartoon Activities

During the war, Hollywood stars, radio personalities, musicians and even cartoon characters joined the war effort.

In the 1940s, 90 million Americans went to the movies every week. Newsreels and animated shorts were shown before the feature movie played; cartoon characters sold war bonds, flew planes, built bombs and even fought the enemy.

These were important for morale because they made the enemy look ridiculous and allowed the audience to laugh at their own daily lives for a few minutes.





To support the war effort, Walt Disney Studios, along with Warner Brothers Studios, created many war-themed animated shorts.

Donald Duck was the most popular Disney character at the time, so he was often the star of the film.

The studio devoted over 90 percent of its employees to make training and propaganda films. In total, the Disney Studios made some 68 hours of film. Walt Disney and his artists also designed over 1,200 insignias that appeared on warplanes, trucks, fighter jackets and other military equipment used during the war.

In May 1942, Donald Duck first reports for duty in “Donald Gets Drafted.”

In a cartoon called “The Spirit of ’43,” Donald shows Americans why it was important to save money and pay their income taxes on time. (“The Spirit of 43” was seen by 26 million Americans, and more than a third of them later admitted they began saving for their taxes partly thanks to Donald.)

Mickey, Minnie and Pluto starred in a propaganda short that explained how cooking oil could be vital for victory.



In 1984, nearly 50 years after his first war film, the U.S. Army, to show its gratitude for his war efforts, promoted Donald Duck to the rank of sergeant – and then honorably discharged him from the military.

**Assignment**:

1. Watch a total of **3** videos (*links are on the class wikispace)*:

Two required videos:

1. *Der Fuehrer’s Face (1942)*
2. *The Spirit of ’43 (1943)*

One video choice from the following:

1. *Donald Gets Drafted (1942) –* Disney
2. *Fall Out Fall In (1943) -- Disney*
3. *Commando Duck (1944) –* Disney
4. *Daffy the Commando (1943) –* Looney Tunes
5. *Japoteurs (1942) –* Superman
6. For each, 3 total cartoons, complete the following:
7. In 4-5 sentences, summarize the video.
8. Describe how the enemy is portrayed (physically, behaviorally, etc.).
9. Explain with examples as support: What aspects of the video do you think are accurate? What aspects are exaggerated? What aspects are made up?
10. Explain the purpose(s) the animated short & give examples as support.

* Instructional (teaching and encouraging people to do something)
* Informational (informing the people of something)

1. Explain whether you think the video was entertaining and, at the same time, met its intended purpose.

4. After watching all 3 videos, write ½ page describing which video you like the most. What did you like about it? Why?

