



# A Glimpse of Houston during World War II

by Joel Draut



All citizens were expected to contribute to the war effort. None gave more than war mothers.

All photographs courtesy Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library

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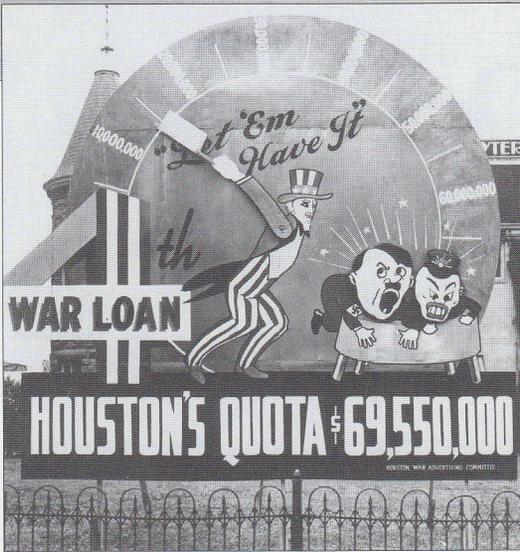
**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Joel Draut is a former photo-journalist who spent eighteen years in the photo department of the *Houston Post* before joining the Houston Metropolitan Research Center in 1998 to care for the photographic collections housed there.

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# ★ Supporting the war effort



The Girls Service Organization was a component of the USO. These volunteer organizations worked hard to provide wholesome activities for servicemen away from home.

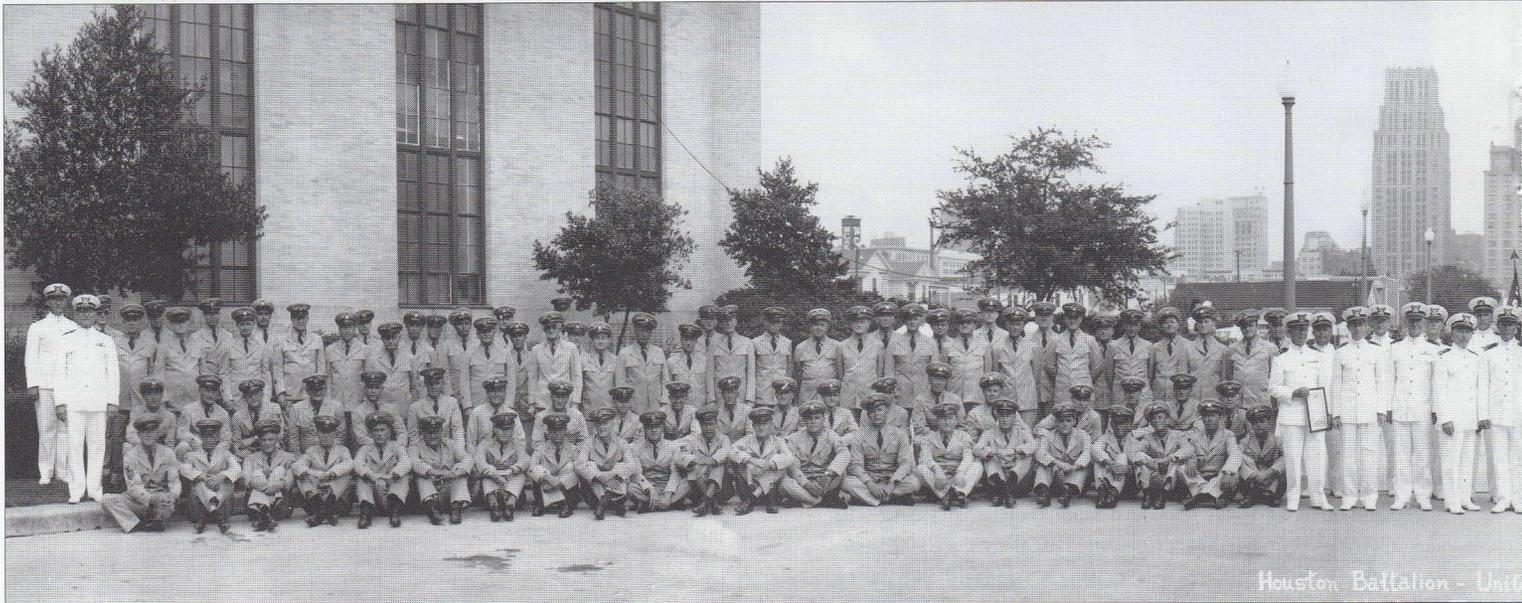


Houston's patriotism rang high throughout the multiple war loan drives held during the war years. Millions of dollars were raised through the efforts of the city's war advertising committee.



Instead of beating swords into plow shares, this 1943 scrap metal drive recycled them into more modern weapons.

Houston Battalion, United States Coast Guard



Houston Battalion - Unit

# ★ Supplying the weapons



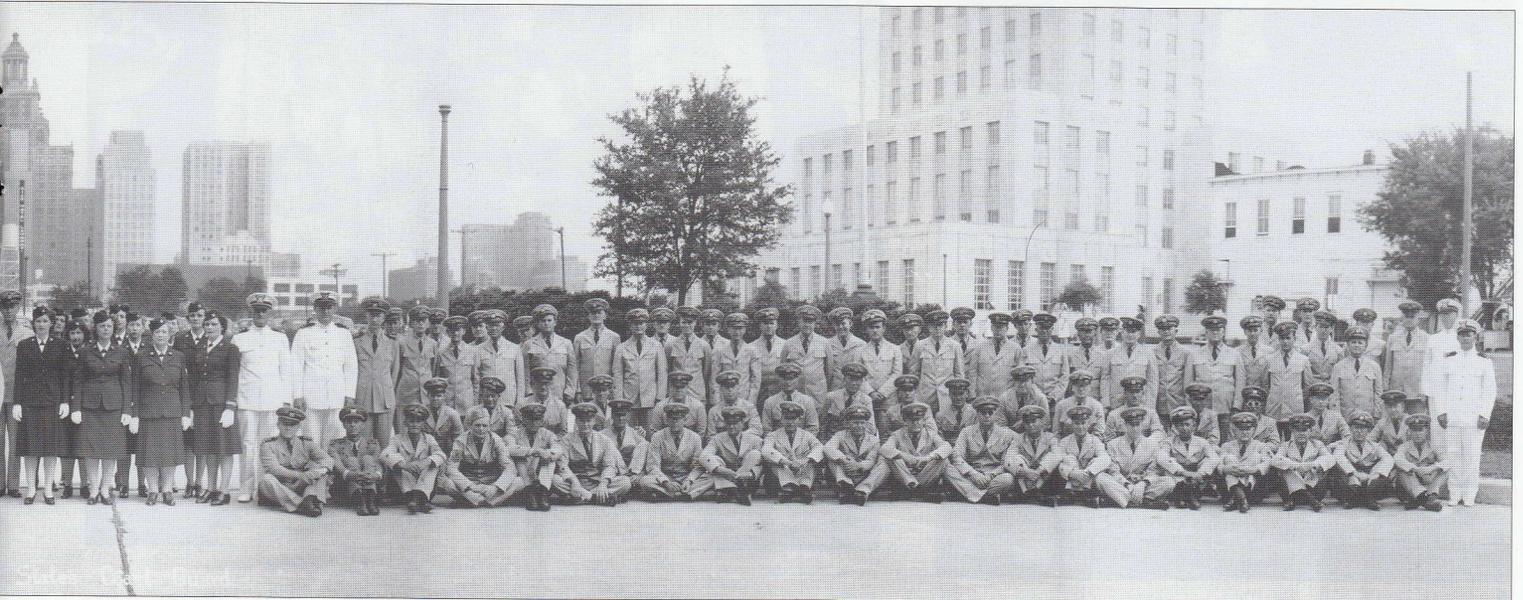
*Nine liberty ships in various stages of construction at the Houston Shipbuilding Corporation yard demonstrate the production line approach America adopted for supplying war materials. This yard launched 208 cargo vessels and fourteen tankers.*



*To assist workers with their commute to and from the ship yard, the Houston Shipbuilding Corporation (the name was changed to Todd/Houston in 1944) arranged for a steam powered train to carry workers from downtown to the yard at Irish Bend three times a day.*



*Hughes Tool added gun barrels, artillery shells, and aircraft landing gear components to its line of products. To fill their contracts, they recruited both women and men.*



# ★ Everyone wants to be in uniform



*Dr. and Mrs. Burr*



*Wharton family, November 1943*



*Reickhardt family, February 1943*



*Even those too young to serve could get into uniform. Almost half of these kindergarten aged boys are wearing soldier or sailor outfits at their consecration service.*