

We Can Do It!



17. Women in the War Effort, U.S.A., 1942-45

The wartime emergency drafted millions of men into the armed forces, opening up a wide range of employment opportunities for women, both in defense industries and the military. In shipyards and factories devoted to the war effort, women built Liberty ships, bombers, and tanks, as well as manufacturing munitions and other war

supplies. Others ran streetcars and buses, piloted airplanes and did men's jobs on the farm and in offices. The spirit of patriotic, can-do womanhood was symbolized by posters like this one, featuring a muscular, determined-looking "Rosie the Riveter" dressed in characteristic work shirt and bandana.