

ANALYZING SOURCES IN HISTORY

1. Andy Rooney, writer and television commentator, was an army reporter who landed on the Normandy beach a few days after D-Day. In this excerpt, why does Rooney call D-Day “monumentally unselfish”?

There have been only a handful of days since the beginning of time on which the direction the world was taking has been changed for the better in one twenty-four-hour period by an act of man. June 6, 1944, was one of them. What the Americans, the British, and the Canadians were trying to do was get back a whole continent that had been taken from its rightful owners and whose citizens had been taken captive by Adolf Hitler’s German army. It was one of the most monumentally unselfish things one group of people ever did for another. . . .

When I came in, row on row of dead American soldiers were laid out on the sand just above the high-tide mark where the beach turned into weedy clumps of grass. They were covered with olive-drab blankets, just their feet sticking out at the bottom, their GI boots sticking out. I remember their boots—all the same on such different boys.

2. Nell Giles was a newspaper reporter who took a job in a factory to report on the life of women in war industries. What attitudes does Giles say the workers have?

Not a day passes but you’ll hear somebody say to a worker who seems to be slowing down, “There’s a war on, you know!”

The foreman of each floor gets a monthly quota for production, which he breaks down into weeks and days or nights. At the present time, our factory is two weeks ahead of schedule, but since war doesn’t run on schedule, that is not too comfortable a margin.

In spite of the terrific pressure to get things out in a hurry, the first demand is for quality. Everything must be EXACTLY right.

3. Yuri Tateishi was interned in Manzanar, a detention camp near Los Angeles, California. What conditions did Japanese Americans face in the camps?

When we got to Manzanar, it was getting dark and we were given numbers first. We went to the mess hall, and I remember the first meal we were given in those tin plates and tin cups. It was canned wieners and canned spinach. It was all the food we had, and then after finishing that we were taken to our barracks. . . . The floors were boarded, but they were about a quarter to a half inch apart, and the next morning you could see the ground below. What hurts most I think was seeing those hay mattresses. We were used to a regular home atmosphere, and seeing those hay mattresses—so makeshift, with hay sticking out . . . was depressing. . . .

You felt like a prisoner. You know, . . . you have a certain amount of freedom within the camp I suppose, but . . . you’re kept inside a barbed-wire fence, and you know you can’t go out.