



HRD Yesterday

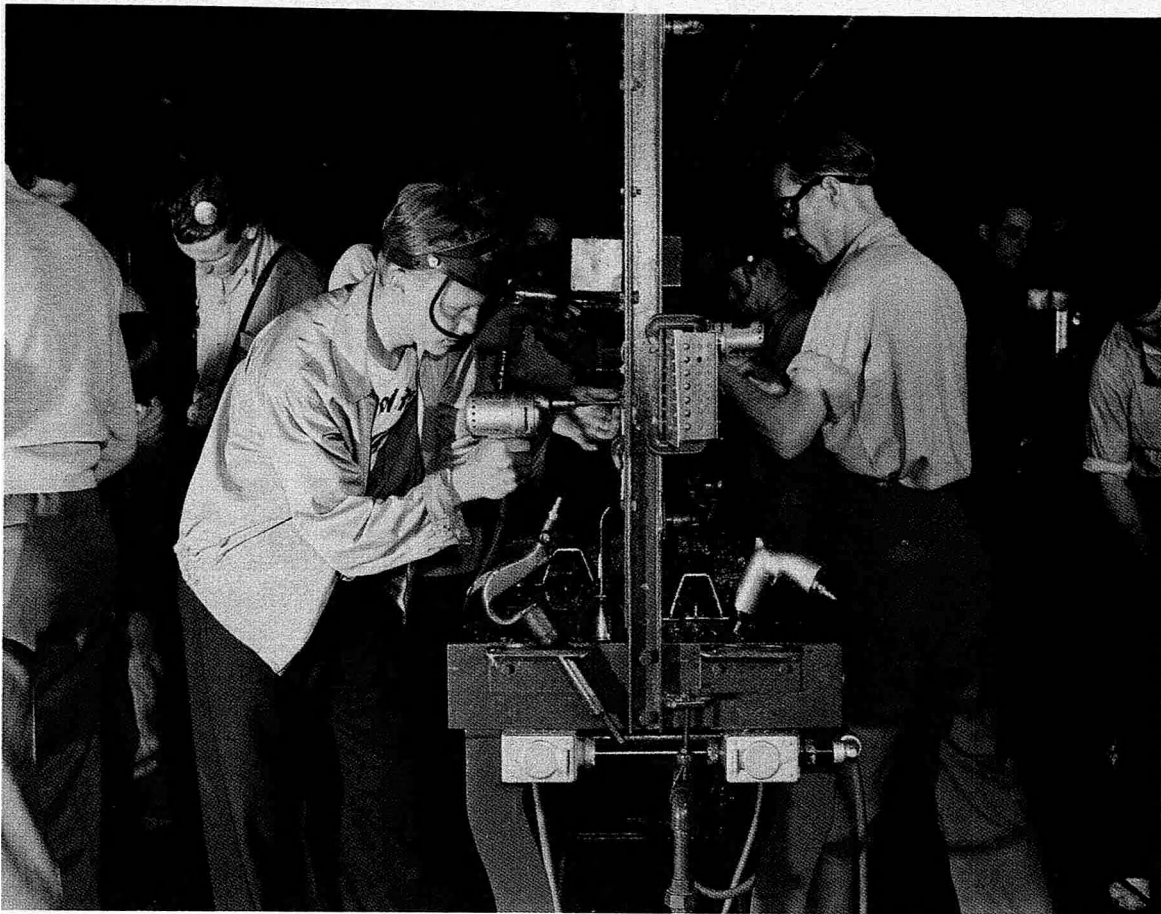
By Robert Bové, Staff Writer

Franklin Roosevelt was president. Berlin and Tokyo had yet to surrender to the Allies. In the factories, countless Rosies riveted the planes and ships that went to war. This was 1944, a world that no longer exists.

To be sure, much that was sown in 1944 has borne fruit; the United Nations, NATO and the Warsaw Pact all had their roots in the war years. The Baby Boom that began when the men returned from the services continues to alter profoundly American society. And then there was something called training, an activity that before the war was done mostly on the job by people who worked full-time at the jobs they were teaching to others. But that changed during the war, when millions of servicemen and factory workers had to be trained more quickly

than anyone thought possible at the time. No one used the term at the time, but human resource development had arrived in a big way.

This photo feature is about those seminal days in training. Finding the photographs was easy. Among the countless photos on file with the Library of Congress are hundreds stored in the drawers labeled "Training." It is no coincidence that the earliest were taken soon after the outbreak of World War II.



Top left

June 1941—Office training finishing course in the business division of the San Diego Vocational School. At the time, there were 1,500 students enrolled. In the first six months of 1941, 600 students had been placed in jobs. (Farm Security Administration photo by Russell Lee.)



Top Right

July 1942—They're learning a fourth "R" at this school, and one that was highly important to the war effort. Young men in the Willow Run bomber plant attend a riveting school before going to work on the assembly line. Like many such training facilities, the "schoolrooms" were in the plant proper. (Office of War Information photo by Ann Rosener.)

Bottom Right

May 1943—A training class held at the Bethlehem-Fairfield shipyards. (OWI photo by Arthur Siegel.)



Top left

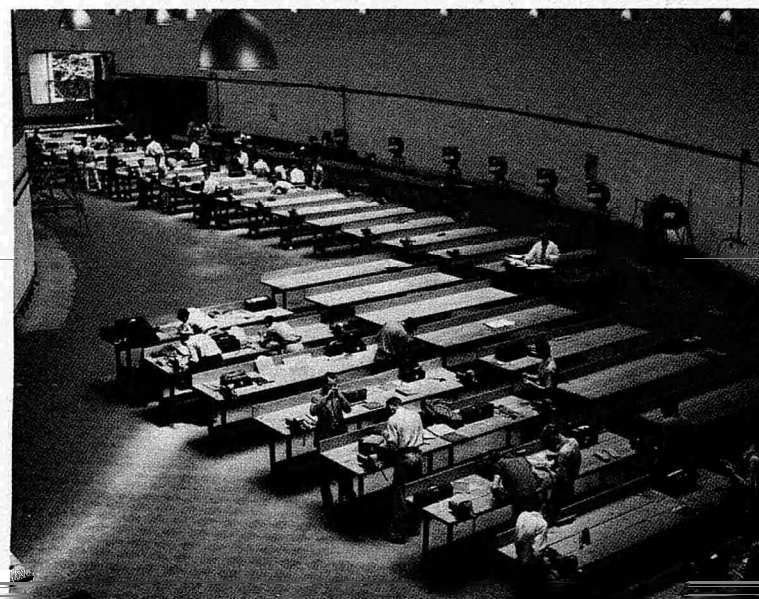
Spring 1942—The suggestion box here was installed at the Cadillac Motor Car Division of General Motors in Detroit. (OWI photo by Arthur Siegel.)

Middle Left

July 1941—Detroit's Crowley Milner department store is the site of a class for telephone-order receivers. (OWI photo by Arthur Siegel.)

Bottom Left

May 1941—This tranquil scene in the workshop at a vocational school for aircraft construction workers in San Diego belies the gathering clouds of a war that would change all such scenes forever. (FSA photo by Russell Lee.)





Top Right

February 1943—War work, in this case government-sponsored industrial training at New York University, offered women the opportunity to learn skills previously denied them. Here women are instructed in welding and soldering. (OWI photo by Marjory Collins.)



Bottom Right

Spring 1942—A prototype for "Rosie the Riveter," the woman here is being trained in aluminum work at Detroit's Briggs School. (OWI photo by Arthur Siegel.)



Top Left

May 1943—Bethlehem-Fairfield shipyards in Baltimore is the scene of a women's training class. (OWI photo by Arthur Siegel.)

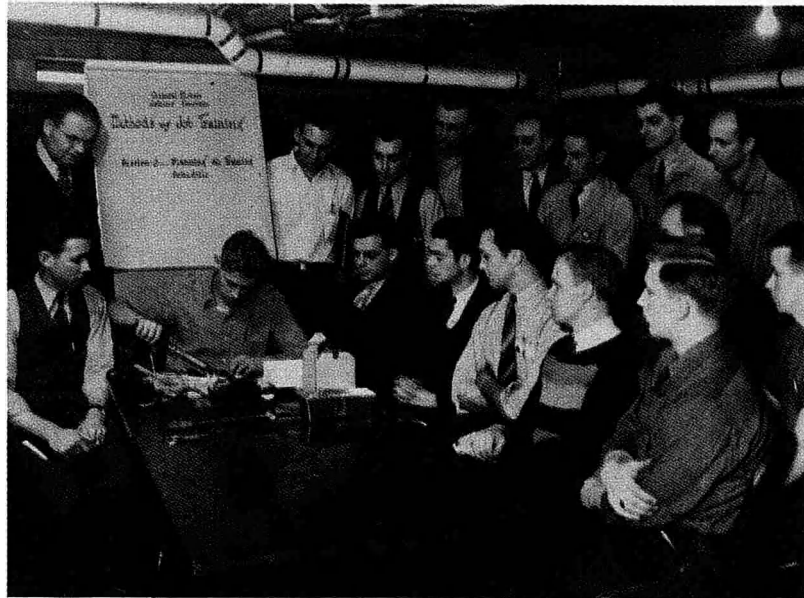


Bottom Left

February 1943—Training sometimes makes for strange bedfellows. Both engaged in war work industrial training at New York University, the two women here were brought together from different worlds. The woman in the foreground was a schoolteacher until her marriage in 1933. The woman in the background was a vaudeville entertainer who had once entertained the troops abroad in the First World War. (OWI photo by Marjory Collins.)

Top Right

January 1942—Class is now in session. These workers at the General Motors plant in Flint, Mich. are being trained in defense work. (OWI photo.)



Bottom Right

May 1943—Promising employees chosen from a production line at Bell Aircraft Corp. in Niagara Falls are undergoing supervisor training as an opportunity for advancement. (OWI photo by Marjory Collins.)

