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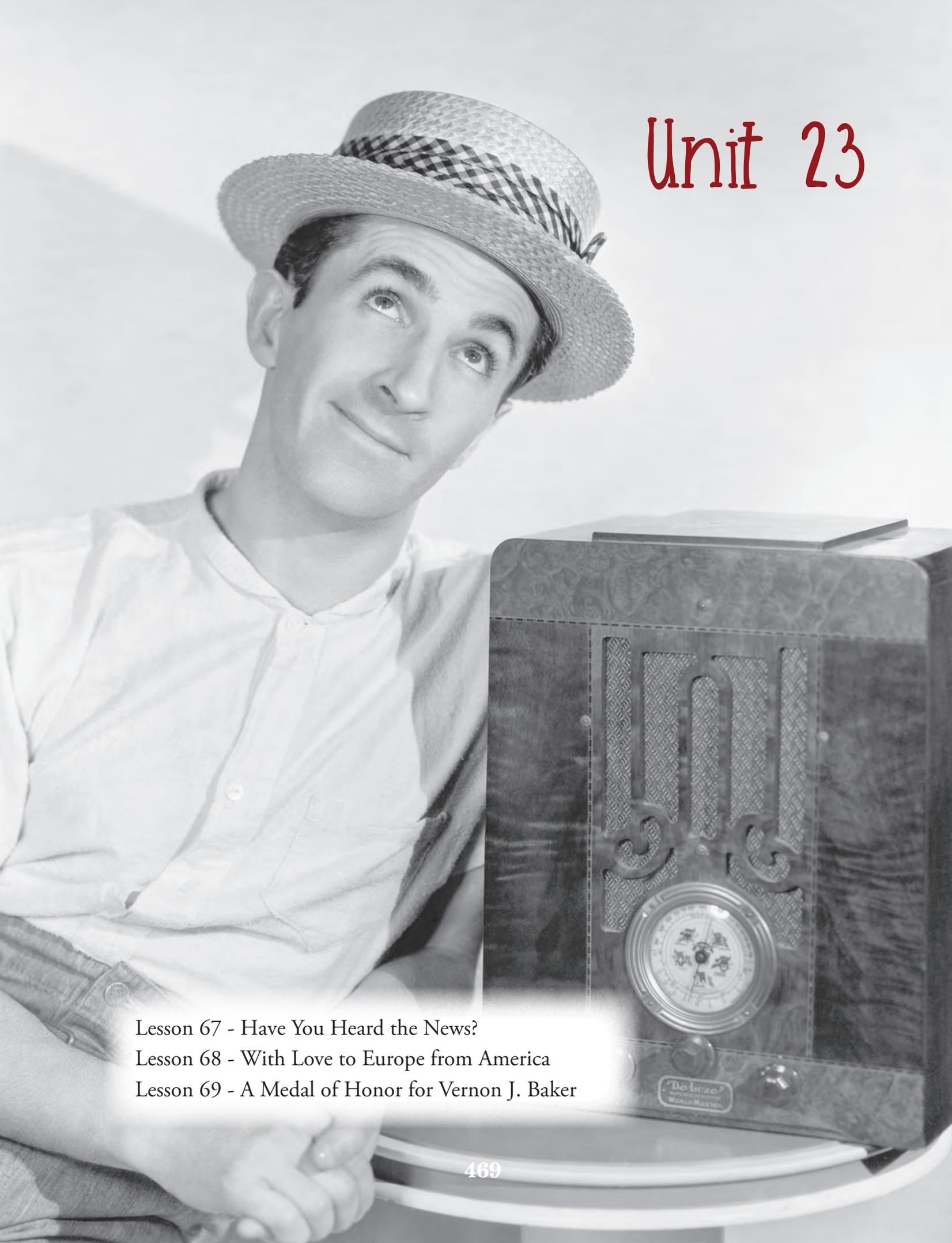
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Homeschoolers Exploring Boston, 2016

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Unit 23

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- Lesson 67 - Have You Heard the News?
 - Lesson 68 - With Love to Europe from America
 - Lesson 69 - A Medal of Honor for Vernon J. Baker

Have You Heard the News?

Daddy worked half days on Saturday. He walked home at lunch time. Patty was always ready in her dress and shoes when he got there. The family ate lunch together. Then it was time to go. Mommy stayed home with the babies. Patty and Daddy went to the movies. They went every Saturday afternoon. Every week Patty counted down the days until Saturday. She loved walking downtown with her hand in Daddy's.



Patty loved sitting by Daddy in the fancy seats. She loved laughing at the funny movies. She loved the sad movies, too. Daddy paid for two tickets. He held the door open for her. They always sat in the same seats: right in the middle, halfway back. They watched while people filled the theater. At the same moment every Saturday, the lights went down. They settled back in the soft red velvet. The bright light of the screen lit up Daddy's face.

When the newsreel started, Daddy leaned forward. He looked like he was trying to memorize every word and picture. Sometimes Daddy leaned down to explain something to her in a whisper. When the movie started, Daddy leaned back and she leaned forward. At dinner back home, she and Daddy did all the talking. Patty told all about the movie. Daddy told Mommy every bit of news from the newsreel.



Newsreel men filming
President Franklin Roosevelt in 1936

Person-to-Person

People have always liked to hear what is happening. People have told each other news since Adam and Eve. At first, people heard news only from other people. People talked about what had happened in another house, another village, or a nearby city. Sometimes a traveler might pass through and share bits of news from far away. Most of the time, people had no idea what was happening in other parts of the world.

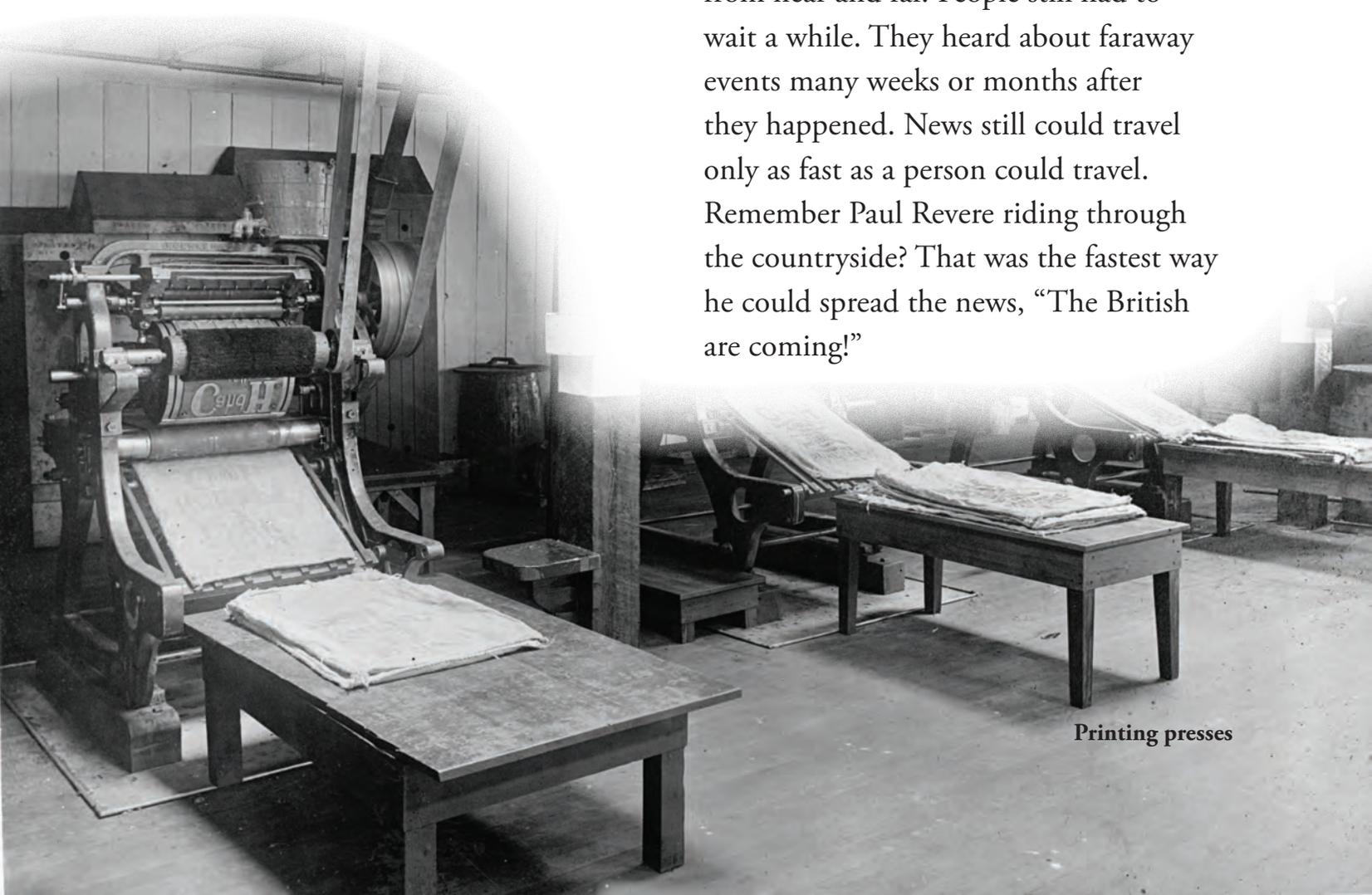




Soon people began to write things down. Kings and wealthy people wrote letters to send news. Messengers traveled from one place to another with important news. Still, almost everyone heard their news from people who lived close by.

Newspapers

Around the time that English settlers started coming to America, people started printing newspapers to share news. People had invented machines to print letters on paper. People had learned how to make paper cheaply. Newspapers had information about big events and famous people. Newspapers spread news from near and far. People still had to wait a while. They heard about faraway events many weeks or months after they happened. News still could travel only as fast as a person could travel. Remember Paul Revere riding through the countryside? That was the fastest way he could spread the news, “The British are coming!”



Printing presses

In 1844 Samuel Morse introduced a new way to share news. Morse's new machine was called a telegraph. This was about the same time that people started going west on the Oregon Trail. The telegraph used electricity to send messages over wires. This was the first time news could travel faster than a person could travel. People started hearing about faraway events more quickly. During the Civil War, people heard about battles soon after they happened, instead of weeks or months later.



Newspaper vendor during the Civil War

Before long, telephones made telling news even faster and easier than the telegraph. A reporter could call the newspaper he worked for and tell who won the election for president. A little girl could call her grandmother to tell her that her dog had puppies.

Radio

Warren G. Harding was president in 1922. That's when he brought the latest technology to the White House: a radio! By the time of the Great Depression, radio was all the rage. Everyone wanted one! These shiny, fancy wooden boxes had an honored place in people's living rooms. Some people did not have the money to buy one. They went to a neighbor's house to enjoy this amazing new machine.



Listening to the radio



Radios

People could hear an orchestra right in their living room. They could hear stories that kept them glued to their seats. They could hear actors tell funny jokes. Radio actors quickly became famous. Radio stations had regular times to tell the news. People could hear news reports on the same day that events happened! Presidents like Franklin D. Roosevelt started talking directly to the American people through radio. At the same time, a farmer in Wyoming could hear what a banker in New York was hearing! Radios made people feel connected to the world.

Newsreels

Movies helped people forget about hard times. Americans flocked to movie theaters during the Great Depression and World War II. Movie tickets were cheap. People got a lot of fun out of a few coins. They loved to see the latest movie with their favorite movie stars.

Movies gave people a lot more than a good story. Theaters showed newsreels before the movie started. Newsreels were about ten minutes long. This ten minutes gave people a new way of understanding the world.

Newsreels were the first opportunity people had to see the news. It's one thing to read about something in a newspaper. It's another thing to hear about it on the radio. It's different to see a film of the real event. In an early newsreel in 1927, cameramen filmed Charles Lindbergh taking off on his famous flight across the Atlantic Ocean!

Newsreels showed everything from parades to sports to faraway events of war. These films showing real people made news seem much more real. People learned a lot before the movie started on the big screen.



Tuning in on the radio



Movie projector



Have You Heard the News?

By the end of World War II, people could hear the news in many different ways. People still said to their neighbors, “Have you heard the news?” People still used their telephones to spread the word. Newspaper boys left news on front porches every morning. People tuned their radios to the evening news broadcasts. Newsreels showed the real faces and places that made the news.

Before long, another little box would be showing up in America’s living rooms. It would change things all over again. The next little box was called television.

People have spread news in many ways — on foot, by letter, in newspapers, through newsreels and radio. The best news to spread is the good news of Jesus.

The apostle Paul wrote:

Finally, brethren, pray for us
that the word of the Lord
will spread rapidly
and be glorified
2 Thessalonians 3:1

Lesson Activities

- Rhythms and Rhymes: Enjoy “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” on page 58.
- Student Workbook: Complete the Lesson 67 page.
- Literature for Units 23-26: *The Year of Miss Agnes*

Review Questions

- Where did people go to see newsreels?
- How do you think radios made a difference for people who lived in isolated places?
- What is your favorite way to tell news?

Hands-On History Ideas

- Pretend that you are a radio announcer or actor on a radio show.
- Use building blocks to build a movie theater.

This other family was letting him, his little sister, and his mother live in an upstairs bedroom of their home. His mother spent hours writing. She wrote letters to relatives and filled out forms. She was trying to figure out where they should go. For now, they waited. They were grateful to have a clean, dry place with a roof over their heads. They had slept in many different places during the war and since. Before the war, they had their own house and farm. The war had taken it all away.

The boy reached the house. Then he conquered the tall set of stairs. At his family's door, he stopped to listen. He could hear his mother talking to his sister. He turned the knob and let the box push the door open. His mother looked up with wide eyes. The boy was beaming over the top of the box.

Opening the box felt like Christmas in that faraway time before the war. His mother pulled each item out of the box slowly. There were different kinds of food. They laughed because they didn't know what they were! The labels were all in English. They could smell coffee and chocolate. His little sister would be trying chocolate for the first time.



No Longer Enemies

In 1945 twenty-two American organizations decided to work together. Their mission was to help people in Europe. They called the group Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe. They called it “CARE” for short.

CARE first sent 2.8 million boxes of supplies left over from the United States Army. When those boxes were gone, CARE put more boxes together. Many businesses helped by giving supplies. American families gave money to send boxes. Even President Harry Truman gave money. He helped the American people learn about CARE’s mission.

CARE boxes spoke louder than words. The gifts sent a message to the people of Europe. The boxes said, “The American people care about you. They want you to succeed. Our countries are not enemies anymore.”

General George Marshall

CARE gave Americans the chance to help from one family to another. The United States government also helped to rebuild Europe. The project was called the Marshall Plan. The plan was named for George Marshall who proposed it.



General George Marshall was a servant of his country. During World War I, he was on the first ship of American soldiers to cross the Atlantic Ocean. He had great responsibility. He did a good job of leading soldiers.

By World War II, Marshall was Army Chief of Staff. It is the highest position in the Army. Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman respected and trusted General Marshall.

Harry Truman appointed Marshall secretary of state in 1947. The secretary of state's job is to lead the United States in working with foreign countries.



Secretary of State George Marshall

The Marshall Plan

George Marshall knew many countries needed help to recover from World War II. He wanted the United States to lead the way in helping. The United States Congress agreed to put the Marshall Plan into action.

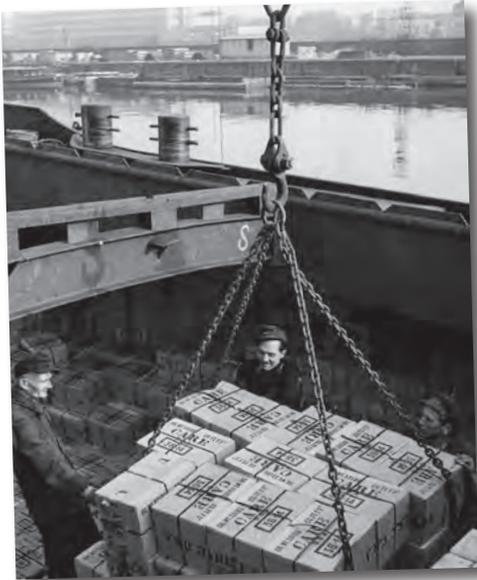
The United States sent money to European countries. The money paid for new homes and factories. The money paid for repairing ports, roads, and railroads. The money bought new machines for factories and farms. The money bought medicine and built hospitals. The Marshall Plan helped many countries in many ways.



President Truman donates to CARE.



Parade honoring the Marshall Plan



Reaching Out a Hand

The Marshall Plan and the work of CARE were like sparks. They kindled the fire of hope in hearts weary from war. The gifts helped people to make a new start. A new machine meant jobs at the factory. Jobs at the factory meant money for shelter and food. When people had money to buy food, stores could re-open. This created more jobs. Stores open meant farmers had a place to sell their crops.

Gifts from America were like a hand reached out to help Europe get back on its feet. A little help, a little kindness, can go a long, long way.

Do not let kindness
and truth leave you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet
of your heart.
Proverbs 3:3

Lesson Activities

- Student Workbook: Complete the Lesson 68 page.
- Literature for Units 23-26: *The Year of Miss Agnes*

Review Questions

- How do you think people in Europe felt when they received a CARE package?
- What is the name of the plan George Marshall proposed to help Europe after World War II?
- How does the Bible teach us to treat our enemies?

Hands-On History Ideas

- See the Unit 23 Project instructions on page 488.

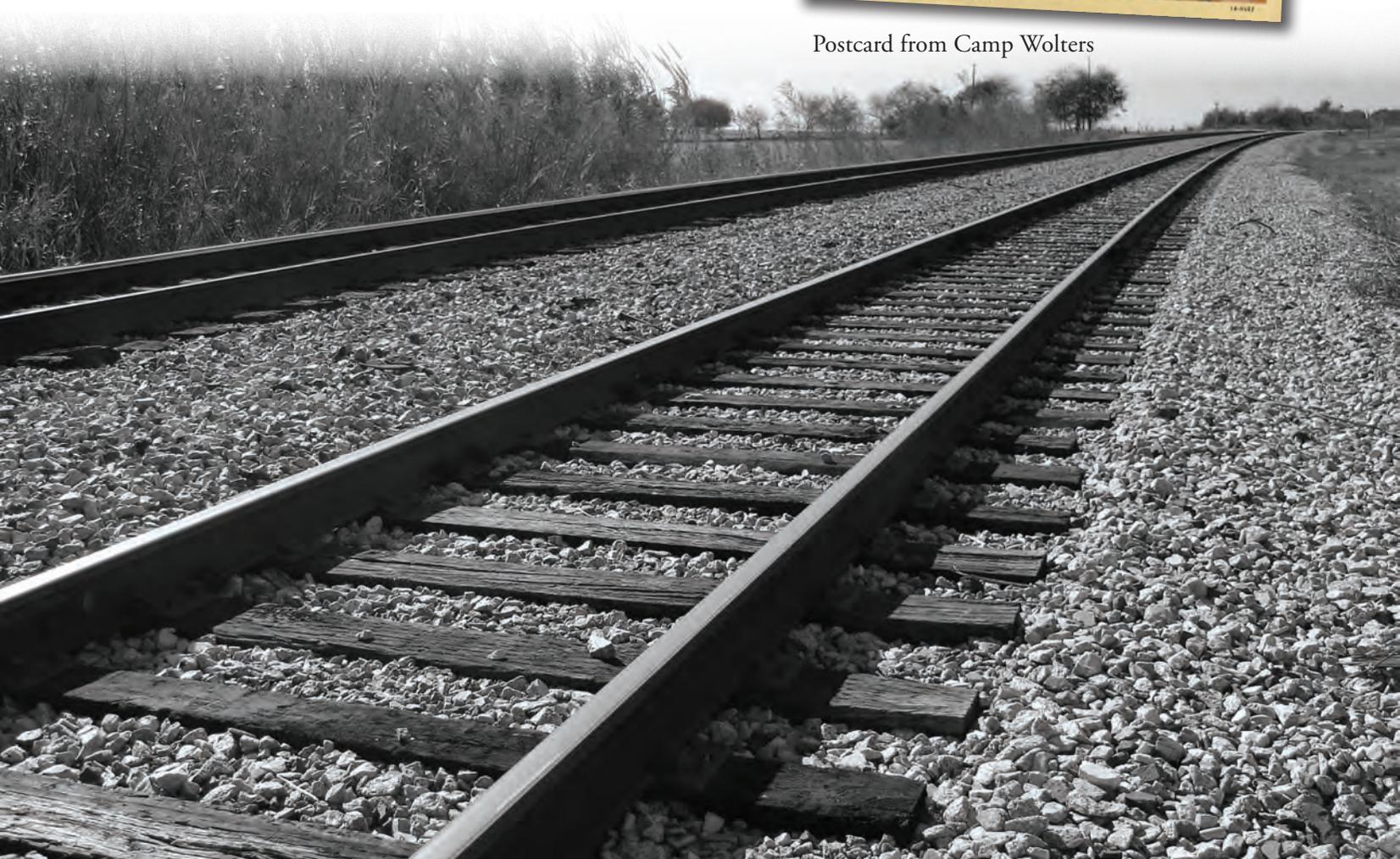
A Medal of Honor for Vernon J. Baker

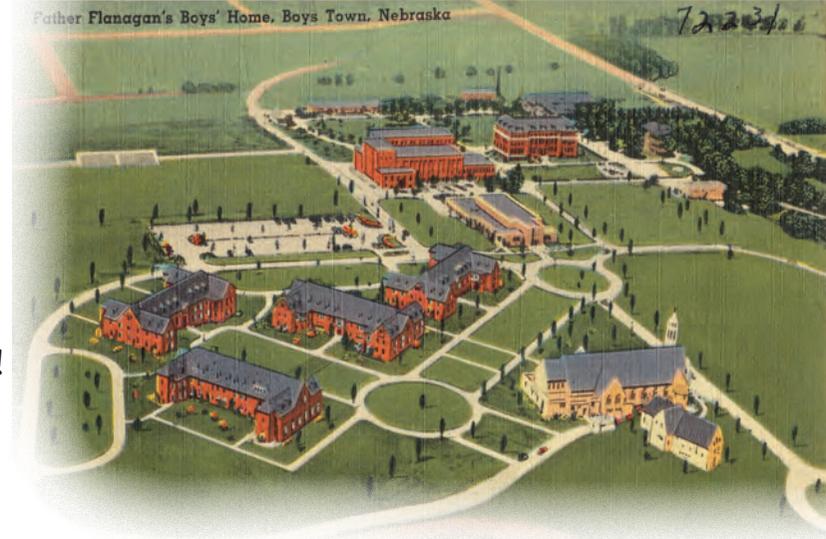
Long hours and many miles of railroad track stretched between Wyoming and Texas. The train finally puffed into the station. Vernon Baker collected his things. He walked down the steps into the bright Texas sun. After so many hours moving, it seemed strange for the land to stand still. Almost to Camp Wolters! Baker was a brand-new Army volunteer.

This was the middle of 1941. World War II had begun, but still seemed far from America's shores. No one knew that before the year's end, the war would arrive on America's doorstep.



Postcard from Camp Wolters





Postcard from Boys Town

Vernon Baker waited at the station's bus stop. Soon a big, shiny bus pulled up and groaned to a stop. Baker sprang up the steps. Just a short trip now to basic training! He settled into the empty seat behind the driver. Immediately the driver turned and yelled ugly words in his face. He ordered Baker to the back of the bus. Baker was angry. He was ready to punch the driver. An older man appeared at Baker's side and stopped him. The man led Baker to the back of the bus. He gently explained people's expectations in that part of the country. Baker wasn't allowed to sit in an empty seat at the front of the bus? No. Vernon Baker was black.

Growing Up

Vernon J. Baker was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on December 17, 1919. His parents died when he was four years old. He and his two sisters then lived with their grandparents. His grandfather loved and taught his young grandson. He taught Vernon, "Think with your brains, not with your fists," and, "Don't hate. Because if you hate, hate will destroy you."

At age ten, Vernon went to Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska, for three years. Boys Town is a special home to help troubled boys. Vernon finished high school while living with his aunt in Iowa.

Back in Cheyenne, he worked for a while as a railroad porter. A porter works on a train serving passengers.

Vernon hated the job. He tried shining shoes. He tried working as a janitor at a barber shop.



Porters at work checking schedules and making a bed in a sleeper car



Unit of black soldiers during World War II



Army mechanic during World War II

Vernon Baker's division in Italy in 1945



Vernon Baker wanted a better job. He decided to join the Army. When he first tried to sign up, the man rudely turned him away because he was black. In a few weeks, Baker tried again. The second Army recruiter signed him up. In six months, America would start fighting in World War II.

Double V

During World War II, black and white servicemen served in separate units. This is an example of segregation. The military did not allow black soldiers to command white soldiers. Many white commanders expected black soldiers to do jobs like cleaning, serving food, and transporting goods. Some people thought black soldiers could not be trusted to do the hardest fighting.

During World War II, African Americans fought for a “Double V” or double victory. They fought for victory over America’s enemies in the war. They also fought for victory over unfair treatment from their fellow Americans.

In 1944 the Army finally allowed black soldiers to fight in battle. They proved beyond a doubt that they were capable and brave. Many African American heroes fought for freedom in World War II. Many gave their lives for their country.

An Integrated Military

Harry Truman was president of United States at the end of World War II. Truman grew up in a family that treated black people unkindly and unfairly. As an adult, Truman understood that was wrong.



President Harry S. Truman with U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Edward Williams



Integrated unit

On July 26, 1948, Truman ordered the integration of all branches of the United States military. Integration is bringing together things that have been separate. It was time for America to treat black and white servicemen as equals. Sadly, many military leaders ignored the president's order. America fought in the Korean War a few years after World War II. Finally, soldiers of all races fought side-by-side.

The Medal of Honor

The United States Congress created the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. It is the highest medal given for valor in battle. The Medal of Honor is only for the bravest of the brave. Many World War II soldiers received the Medal of Honor, but none were African American. Fifty years after the war, African American veterans asked the Army to find out: had prejudice excluded black servicemen from this honor?

Yes, the researchers found, the military had excluded African Americans from receiving the Medal of Honor because of prejudice. The United States military researched records of bravery during World War II.

Honor Long Overdue

The year was 1997. World War II had ended more than fifty years before. President Bill Clinton hosted a large ceremony at the White House. The president would be presenting the Medal of Honor to seven exceptionally brave black veterans of World War II.



During the ceremony, Commander John Richardson of the United States Navy read the story of Vernon Baker's brave deeds in World War II. Baker had led twenty-five soldiers up a well-guarded hill. They had captured a castle occupied by enemy Germans. The fighting was intense, but Baker had not given up. He had risked his own life to protect his fellow soldiers. He had helped those who were wounded. Vernon Baker's eyes looked far into the distance as he remembered that long-ago day on the hill.

The president placed the Medal of Honor around Vernon Baker's neck. The entire room gave him a long round of applause. Vernon Baker stood humbly before them with tears rolling down his face.

The other six African American heroes could not attend the ceremony. Vernon Baker was the only one still alive. Some had died in the war. Others died in the years after. Two widows, a niece, a son, a sister, and a fellow soldier received the Medals of Honor on their behalf.

Arlington National Cemetery



Vernon J. Baker at the Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House with President Clinton





A Soldier That Did a Good Job

Talking about his Medal of Honor, Vernon Baker said, “I’m not a hero. I’m just a soldier that did a good job. I think the real heroes are the men I left behind on that hill that day.”

Vernon Baker served in the Army until 1968. For the next twenty years, he worked with the Red Cross. He served as a counselor for military families. Baker worked with the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. He helped the museum present the history of World War II. Vernon J. Baker died in 2010 at the age of 90. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Render to all what is due them:

**tax to whom tax is due;
custom to whom custom;
fear to whom fear;
honor to whom honor.**

Romans 13:7

Lesson Activities

- All Around the USA Map: Find Camp Wolters, Cheyenne, Omaha, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans.
- Rhythms and Rhymes: Enjoy “When the Saints Go Marching In” on page 59.
- Timeline: Look at pages 42, 45, 47, 48, and 57.
- Literature for Units 23-26: *The Year of Miss Agnes*

Review Questions

- What was the “Double-V” black people fought for in World War II?
- What does it mean to be prejudiced?
- Why do you think it is important to give people honor and recognize the good things they do?

Unit Review

- Student Workbook: Complete the Lesson 69 / Unit 23 Review page.

Hands-On History Ideas

- Pretend you are the president of the United States giving awards or medals.
- Use building blocks to build a train station with a bus stop.

Unit 23 Project

Pack a Care Package

Americans sent CARE packages after World War II to give people in Europe things they needed and encouragement for their hearts. Think of a person you know whom you would like to encourage. It could be someone in the hospital or someone who is going through a hard time.

Supplies

- card
- gifts
- box
- tissue paper
- ribbon



Directions

1. Make a card/note for your recipient. Write encouraging words and/or draw a picture. Sign the card with your name.
2. Think of simple, inexpensive gifts to pack in your box. Appropriate gifts depend on the age and situation of your recipient. Buy a few gifts and/or look for things you already have at home. Some ideas are: snacks, candy, baked goods, bottled water, bubbles, card game, stickers, coloring book, crayons, tea bags, notepad.
3. Pack your card and gifts in a small box.
4. Stuff some tissue paper in the box to prevent items from moving around. Place the lid on the box.
5. Tie the box with a ribbon.
6. Ask for a parent's help delivering your care package. (You can also mail a care package. Choose lightweight items. Do not include liquids.)

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