

Rationing during WWII

War Ration Book No. 3, 1943 and Fuel Ration pamphlet, 1946

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

④ N^o 253202CA

WAR RATION BOOK No. 3 *Valid if altered*

Identification of person to whom issued: PRINT IN FULL

Lelia C. Cowardin
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Street number or rural route 901 N. 36th St.

City or post office Richmond, State Va.

AGE	SEX	WEIGHT Lbs.	HEIGHT Ft. In.

SIGNATURE Lelia C. Cowardin
(Person to whom book is issued. If such person is unable to sign because of age or incapacity)

WARNING
This book is the property of the United States Government. It is unlawful to sell it to any other person, or to use it or permit anyone else to use it, except to obtain rationed goods in accordance with regulations of the Office of Price Administration. Any person who finds a lost War Ration Book must return it to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it. Persons who violate rationing regulations are subject to \$10,000 fine or imprisonment, or both.

LOCAL BOARD

Issued by _____ (Local board number)

Street address _____

City _____ (Signature of _____)

OPA Form No. R-130

YOUR FUEL OIL RATION FOR THE YEAR
It must last until September 1946
HERE'S WHAT IT IS ...

There are two kinds of coupons:

FUEL OIL	UNIT COUPONS
5 GALLONS	10 UNITS

GALLON COUPONS UNIT COUPONS

Gallon coupons are worth the number printed on them. Unit coupons are usually worth 10 gallons a unit. OPA may raise or lower this unit value whenever more or less oil is available for home heating.

HERE'S HOW TO USE IT ...

Unit coupons are divided into five periods. They can only be used after the date on which they become valid. Gallon coupons are good all year. They should be saved for making change and helping your oil dealer deliver a full tank load when you need oil and have only one or two valid coupons left.

SAVE FOR SUMMER HOT WATER

★ ★ ★

HELP YOUR DEALER TO HELP YOU

Although he is doing his best, wartime conditions have made it tough for your dealer to deliver fuel oil. Your dealer is short of help. His trucks are wearing out. He has trouble getting tires. Here is what you can do to help him make deliveries to you.

1. Place your order for "summer" oil as soon as you receive your ration.
2. Do not request special deliveries.
3. If you do not deposit coupons with your dealer, place orders in advance. Be sure that you have coupons enough to cover each delivery, and be sure that someone is at home when a delivery of oil is expected.
4. Budget your ration wisely so that you do not run out before the end of a heating period.

OPA Form R-1173 (Rev. 4-45) GPO O-541086

ERA
WWII

THEMES
Homefront during WWII,
Civilian War Effort

CITATION
Lelia C. Cowardin's War Ration
Book, 1943, FIC.032414,
The Valentine

Fuel Ration pamphlet, 1946,
FIC.031629, The Valentine

*Includes associated local
newspaper article.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How did Richmonders support the war effort?
- How did life change for people on the homefront during WWII?

CONTEXT

Ration books that contained stamps or coupons allowed citizens to purchase items that were in short supply during the war. Sugar, oil, meat, butter, coffee and gasoline were all in scarce supply during World War II because those supplies were also needed by American troops. When buying a rationed item, the person would present the required coupon to the store, which would then be detached from the book. The ration books limited, or rationed, these supplies and tried to prevent hoarding of essential goods. Every citizen, including children, received ration books that had to last until the next group of ration books was issued. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) was created to oversee the rationing system.

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RICHMOND STORIES**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

④ NO 253202CA

WAR RATION BOOK No. 3

Void if altered

Identification of person to whom issued: PRINT IN FULL

Selvia
(First name)

C
(Middle name)

Cowardin
(Last name)

Street number or rural route

201 Massachusetts St.

City or post office

Richmond, Va.

AGE	SEX	WEIGHT Lbs.	HEIGHT Fr. In.	OCCUPATION

SIGNATURE *Selvia C. Cowardin*
(Person to whom book is issued. If such person is unable to sign because of age or incapacity, another may sign in his behalf.)

LOCAL BOARD ACTION

Issued by _____ (Local board number) _____ (Date)

Street address _____

City _____ State _____

(Signature of issuing officer)

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OPA Form No. R-130

O.P.A.?
VALID
T.O.A.?
Address and Sign

NOT VALID WITHOUT STAMP

Lelia C. Cowardin's War Ration Book, 1943, FIC.032414, The Valentine



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OPA Form R-1173 (Rev. 4-45)

GPO O-641086

Warning on Loss Of Ration Books

Richmonders who have had a tendency to be careless about keeping track of their all-important ration books should take warning of a new and more "hard-boiled" attitude threatened today by local ration board officials.

These officials say that they are becoming more and more concerned about the number of persons rushing to the board to report loss or theft of ration books, and that the only way they see of slowing down the rush is to institute a waiting period before replacements will be issued. This will give time for checks and investigations by both the board and the individual reporting the loss.

The ration officials remind that it is within their power, under OPA regulations, to require a waiting period of as long as 60 days before a replacement is authorized in cases of lost ration books.

*Warning on Loss of Ration Books, April 1, 1943,
Richmond News Leader, Newspapers.com,
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-richmond-news-leader/155592042/>*

Text of Newspaper Article

Headline: Warning on Loss Of Ration Books

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Newspapers.com,
<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-richmond-news-leader/155592042/>