

Basic Detail Report

00033868

Title

Symbol of life

Date

1945

Primary Maker

US Army Nurse Corps

Medium

Ink on paper with linen backing

Dimensions

Overall: 790 x 593 mm

Name

Poster

History

As a result of government propaganda, American women whether motivated by patriotism, independence or necessity, joined the American work force as nurses, factory workers or members of Auxiliary Armies. In July 1944, when the war was at its peak, over 19 million women were employed in jobs traditionally done by men. Nursing was a respectable employment and the mass entrance of women into nursing corps allowed more Doctors to work on the front line. In the early stages of the war, recruitment posters presented women in passive and supporting roles like nursing. By the final stages of the conflict women were being depicted in more traditional masculine roles such as the army corps. Although millions of American women stepped in to serve their country, their jobs were not made easier by their male colleagues or husbands. Women faced discrimination in hiring practices, job placement and pay rates.