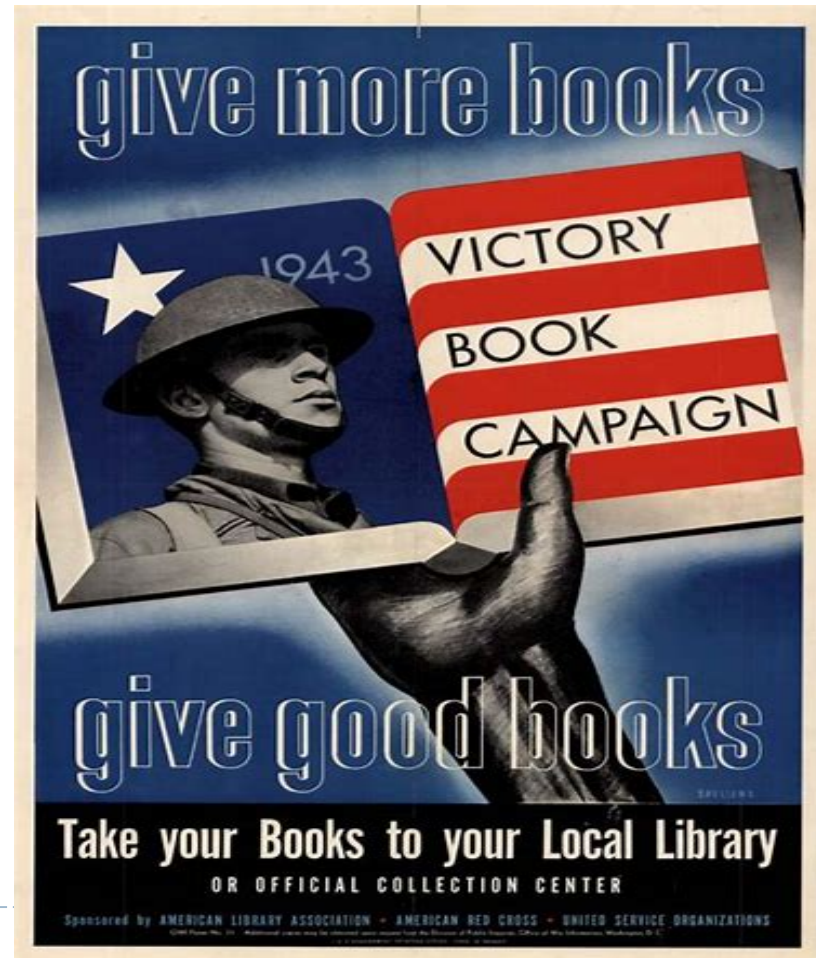
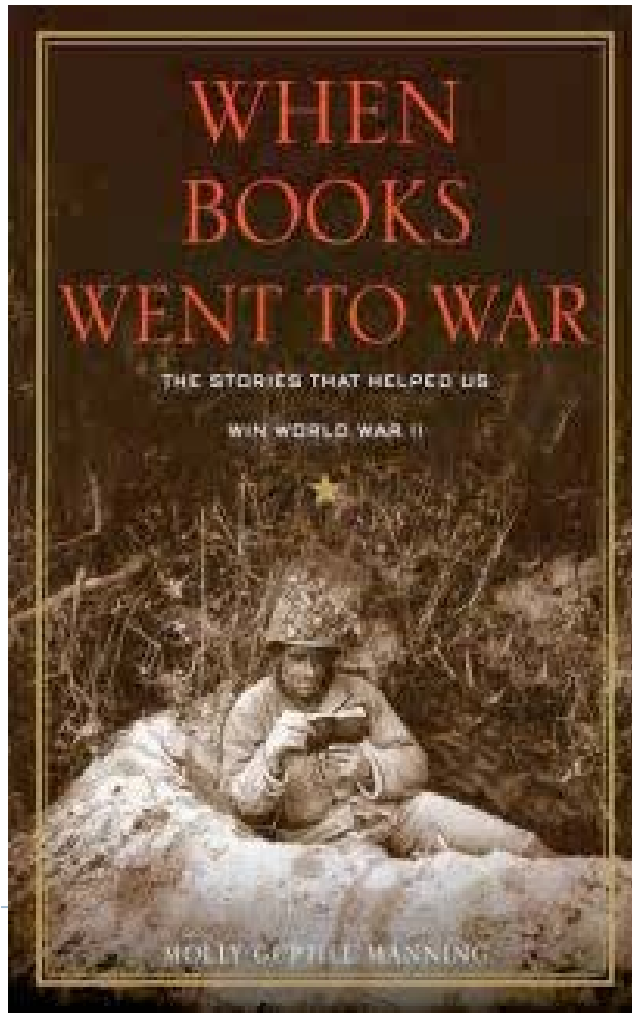


When Books Went To War

► Molly Guptill Manning



A Few Names

- ▶ Althea Warren – Librarian at Los Angeles Public Library – led the volunteer Victory Book Campaign

Raymond L. Troutman – Library Section Chief U.S. Army – worked with the libraries on the Victory Book Campaign and led the effort with the A.S.E.

- ▶ H. Stahley Thompson – Graphic Artist
 - ▶ Isabel DuBois – US Navy Chief Librarian
 - ▶ Malcom Johnson Van Nostrand Co Council on Books
- Robert A. Taft Republican - Senator – sponsored Title V amendment to the Soldiers Voting Bill



Book burning in Germany



Collecting for the Victory Book Campaign



Benny Goodman (right) and friends

ENNY GOODMAN-1/29/42-N.Y. Pub. Lib

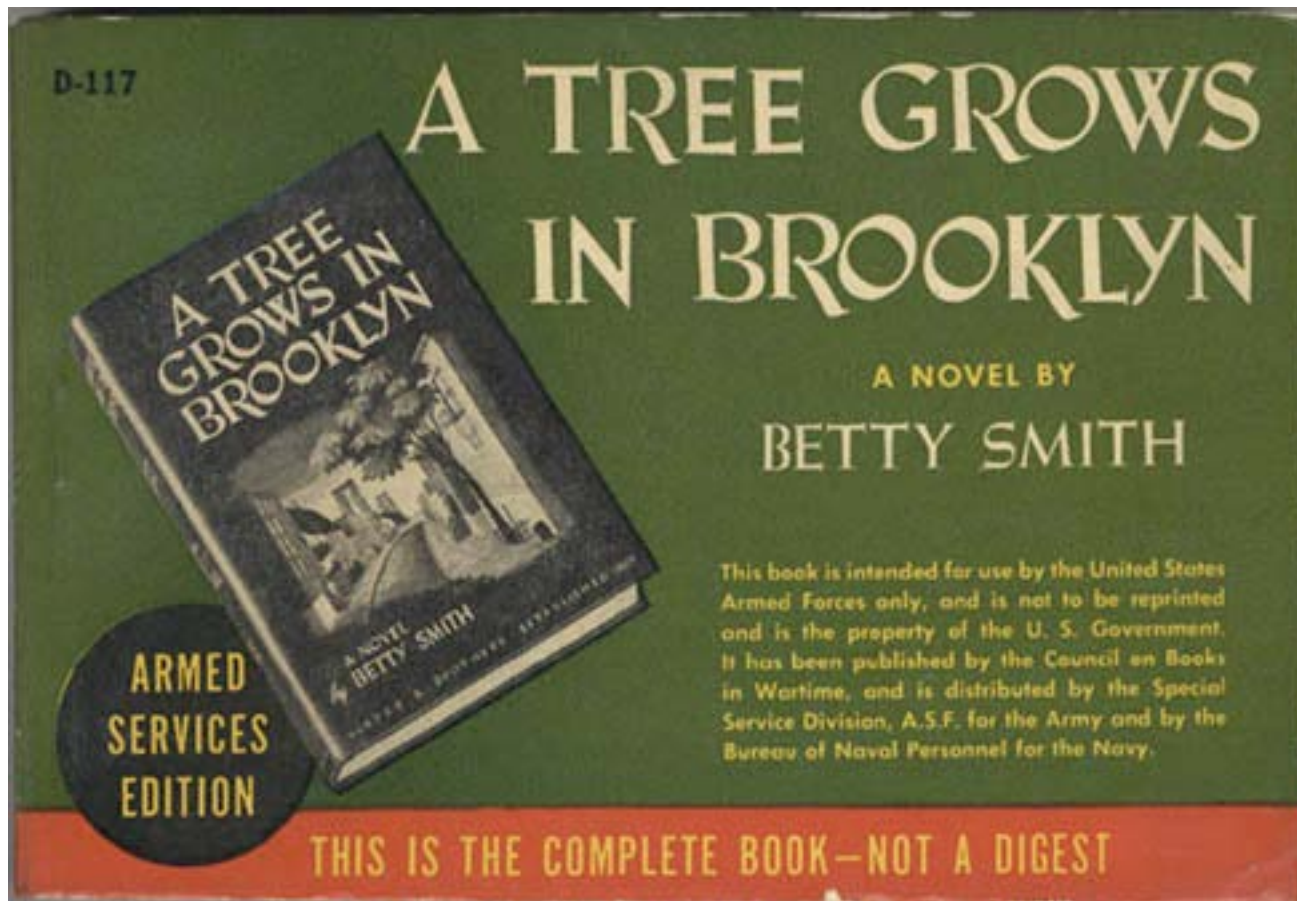


Victory Book Campaign records. Manuscripts and Archives Division. The New York Public Library. Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

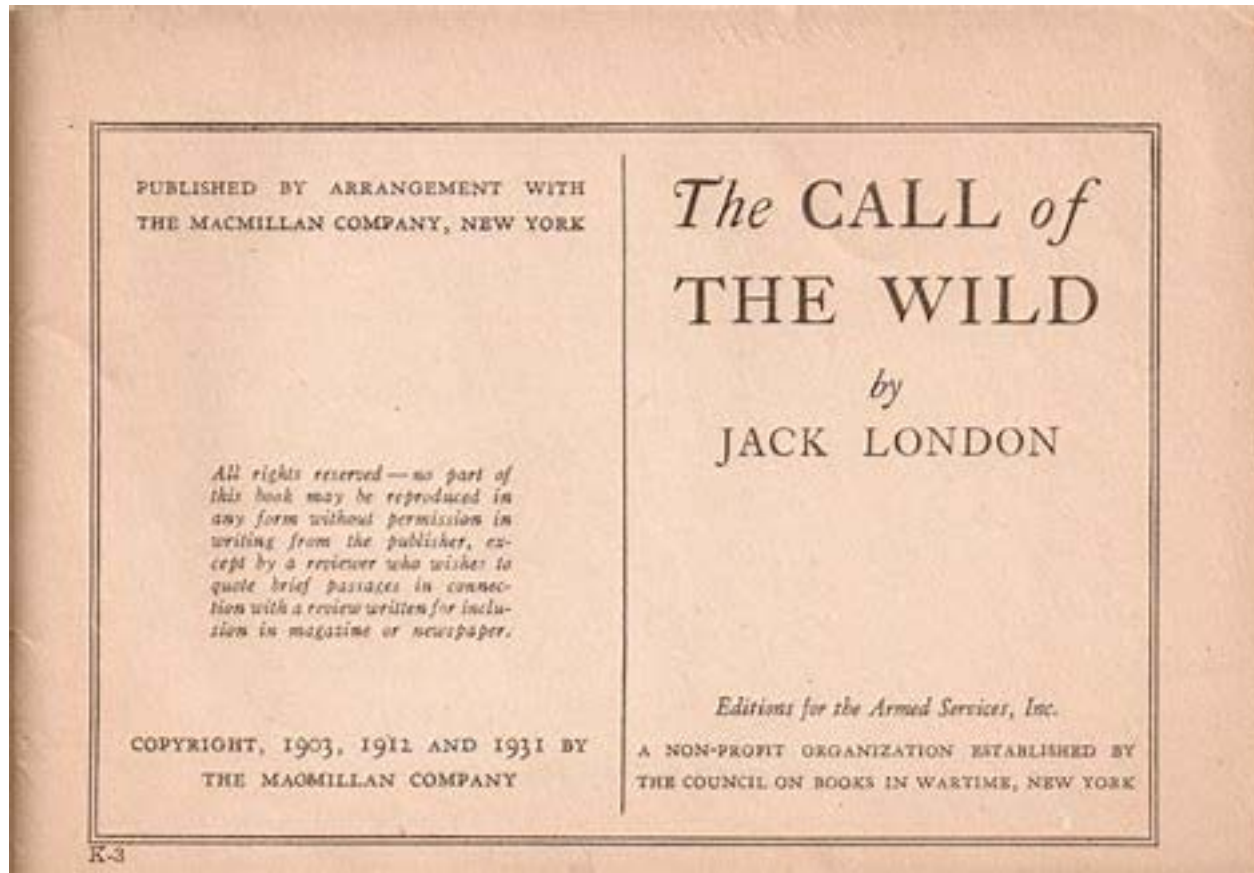
Sorting Books at the Oregon State Library



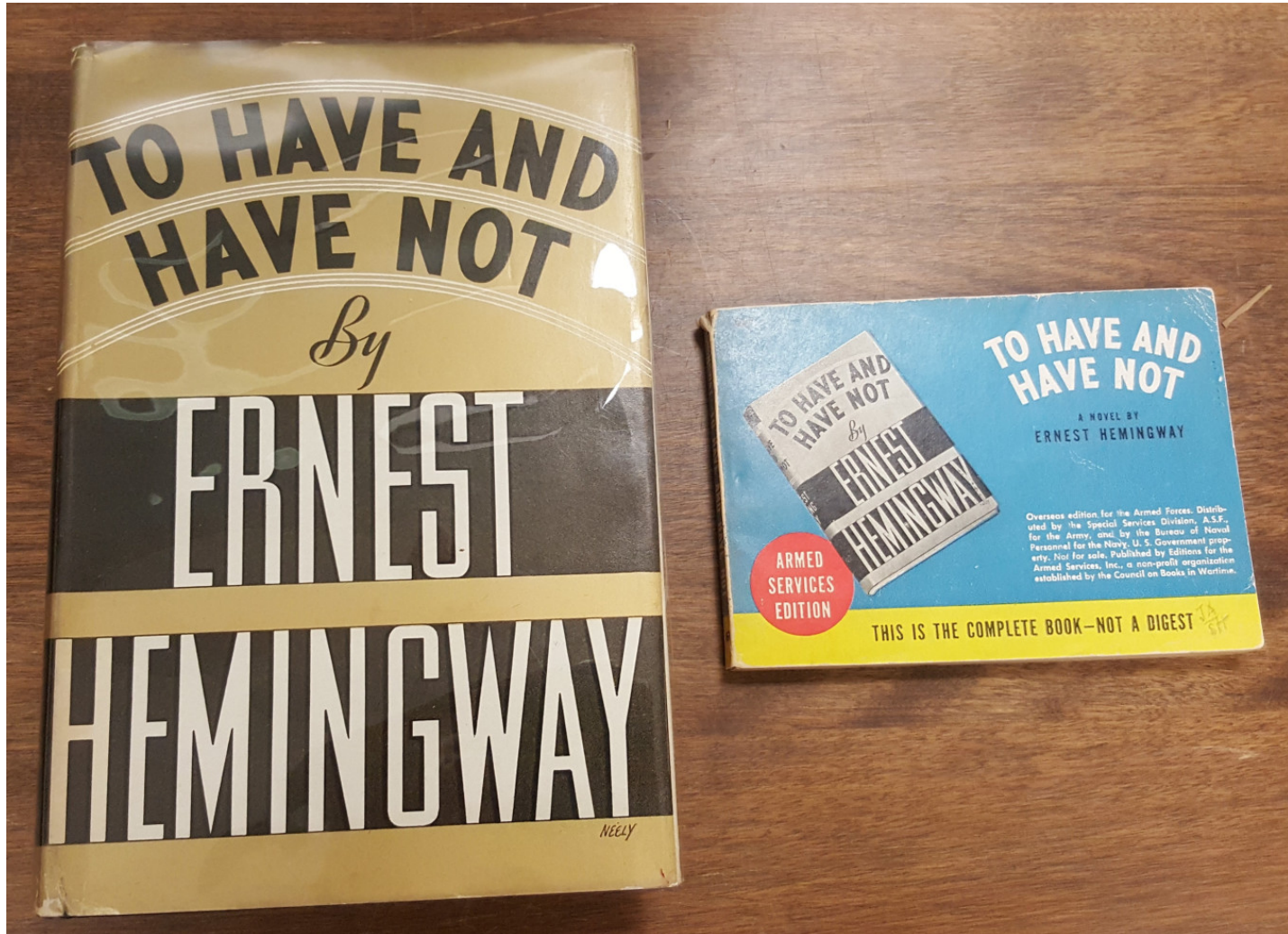
What is an Armed Services Edition?



Format



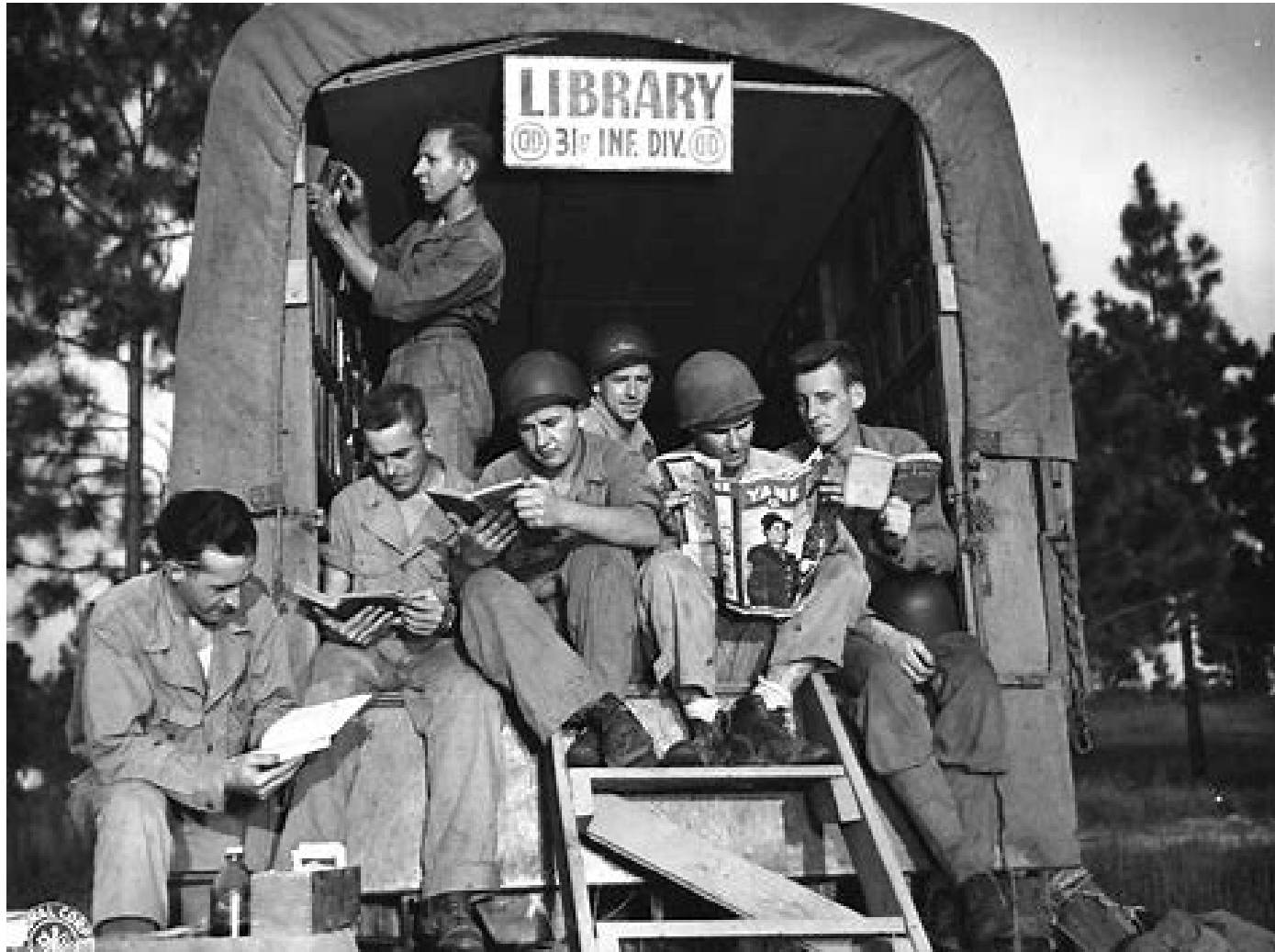
Regular book compared with ASE



Note size difference



Bookmobile



They were read everywhere



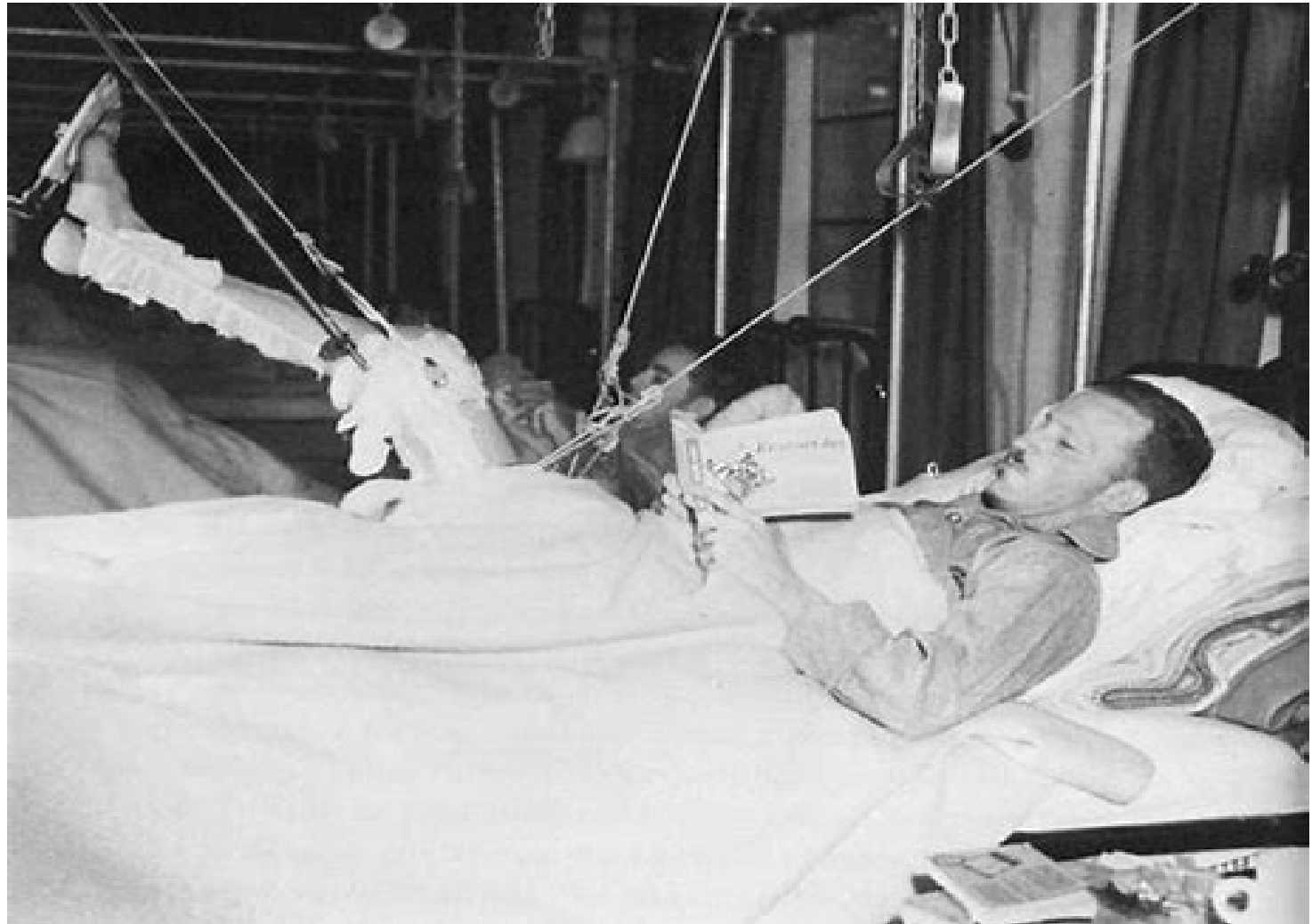
Really - everywhere



In camp



In the hospital



On the sea



Sailors near Okinawa escape with a good book. One GI called Armed Services Editions "as popular as pin-up girls."



What they said

- ▶ He nodded toward the book he was holding. “These little books are a great thing,” he said. “They take you away. I remember when my battalion was cut off on top of a hill at El Guettar, I read a whole book in one day. It was called ‘Knight Without Armor.’ This one I am reading now is called ‘Candide.’ It is kind of unusual, but I like it. I think the fellow who wrote it, Voltaire, used the same gag too often, though. The characters are always getting killed and then turning out not to have been killed after all, and they tell their friends what happened to them in the meantime. I like the character in it called Pangloss.”



The war is over



After the War - College

The GI Bill of Rights offered returning soldiers cheap loans for new homes & tuition for college



A Few Numbers

- ▶ Number of books collected:
- ▶ By the Victory Book campaign – 1942-43 – over ten million (more were collected but of the total 56% were not suitable)

Number of Armed Services Edition titles distributed through the Council on Books – 122 million - 1,324 titles (1225 unique titles) 1943-46

Distribution:

20 sets of book per crate – One crate/month per 150 soldiers; one crate/month per hospital; one crate/month per isolated unit - often in the Pacific



And a few more numbers

- ▶ A 1931 study showed that of 10 books purchased 9 cost \$2.00
- ▶ 2 out of 3 counties in the U.S, had no bookstore or any other place to buy a book
- ▶ By 1950 214 million paperbacks were sold – 2 for each adult



Questions?

