

## Rationing WWII

The United States had been in the Second World War for 18 months, and food needed to be rationed. In May of 1943, war ration books were issued to American civilians for the first time.

Meat was a scarce supply, and the solution to the shortage was a product developed in 1937—Spam!

Spam was used around the world. Margaret Thatcher said that Spam was a “wartime delicacy,” and Nikita Khrushchev said that the Soviet Army would not have been fed without Spam. American soldiers had strong feelings about this delicacy. One can see those feelings in comments like “meatloaf without basic training” or “ham that didn’t pass the physical.”

I remember my introduction to Spam when my mother walked us over to a friend’s house, which to a preschooler seemed like a forced march. Once we reached Kitty’s house, she made Spam sandwiches, leaving the gelatin on the meat. I took one look at the sandwich and yelled out, “There is snot on my sandwich!”

To this day, I do not eat Spam! However, it is more popular today than ever with recipe cook-offs!

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