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Abstract

World War II was not just a battle fought in the Pacific or in Europe. The war was being won back on the home front. Because of the contributions made by Americans throughout the war, the American military was able to receive the food, supplies, and vehicles needed to win the war. Companies across the country devoted their production to fulfilling the needs of the American government. This included the Studebaker Corporation. The South Bend, Indiana automobile manufacturer had a history of supporting the American government dating back to 1857. Throughout the war, the Studebaker Corporation was given its most difficult task. During the war, Studebaker manufactured US6 cargo trucks, engines for the B-17 Flying Fortress, and the M-29 Weasel. These vehicles were not only significant pieces of Studebaker's military history, but also its business history as the company continued to rebuild after the Great Depression. Finally, Studebaker's role in the war effort depicts a part of the state of Indiana's contributions to the war since a majority of the items made by Studebaker were built in Indiana. Through all of these features I analyze how one of the nation's oldest automobile manufacturers in the country was an influential part in the arsenal of democracy.

Honors College
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306