

## History of Jazz – The 1940's



Armed Forces Band, World War 2

- **During 1939-1945, many jazz musicians were drafted to fight in World War II.** Big dance bands had difficulties finding musicians.
- In the United States, there were war restrictions on the use of plastics and gasoline. **Fewer records were produced to conserve plastic, and gasoline cutbacks made it difficult for bands to travel.**
- African American jazz bands continued to face racial discrimination by the record industry, clubs and audiences. **White jazz bands had financial success, while talented black entertainers were often overlooked.**
- During the war years, there were bloody confrontations between black and white troops at military bases all across the country.
- **Off-base, black soldiers were harassed, beaten, barred from buses and even from restaurants** where even German prisoners of war were allowed to eat.
- Many African Americans began a "Double V" campaign - fighting for victory over tyranny abroad and discrimination at home.