

## *Bibliography of Resources Related to World War II in the Pacific Northwest*

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Below is a selected list of books and articles that address the World War II experience in the Pacific Northwest. Most are readily available through academic or public libraries although some are only available at specific institutions. This bibliography is far from exhaustive. I would welcome suggestions of materials that I have omitted.

### **General Histories:**

Carl Abbott, "Planning for the Home Front in Seattle and Portland, 1940-45." In Roger W. Lotchin, ed., *The Martial Metropolis: U.S. Cities in War and Peace* (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1984), 163-189. Abbott examines how the cities tried to cope with the rapid growth caused by the influx of newcomers during the war.

Richard C. Berner, *Seattle in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Volume III: Seattle Transformed, World War II to Cold War* (Seattle: Charles Press, 1991). This book provides a very detailed account of all aspects of Seattle history during the war.

Bremerton Public Schools, "Development of Bremerton Schools, 1939-1947" (Unpublished manuscript, 1947 at Kitsap County Library, East Bremerton Branch).

Harry P. Cain, "Blitzing the Brothels," *Journal of Social Hygiene* 29 (December 1943): 594-600. Due to fears of the effect venereal disease would have on manpower availability, the military and federal officials demanded that cities across the nation suppress prostitution. Cain was Mayor of Tacoma during the early part of the war and led efforts to clamp down on prostitution in the city.

Brian Casserly, "Securing the Sound: The Evolution of Civilian-Military Relations in the Puget Sound Region, 1890-1984" (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Washington, 2007). Chapter 3 deals with the impact of the war on the Puget Sound region.

Clark Kerr, *Migration to the Seattle Labor Market Area, 1940-1942* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1942). Analyzes the large-scale migration to the Puget Sound area during the early part of the war and the problems this created.

Betty MacDonald, *Onions in the Stew* (New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1954). MacDonald gives a good personal account of the "ferry commuter" experience and lifestyle of those living on islands in Puget Sound during World War II and its aftermath.

Lorraine McConaghy, "Wartime Boomtown: Kirkland, Washington, A Small Town During World War II," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 80 (April 1989): 42-51. McConaghy, the historian at the Museum of History and Industry, describes the impacts of the war on one Seattle area community, emphasizing in particular tensions between newcomers and older residents, housing shortages, etc.

Agnes E. Meyer, *Journey Through Chaos* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1944). Meyer, a journalist, investigated wartime conditions in a variety of communities around the nation, including Puget Sound. Her accounts have a somewhat alarmist tone but are a useful source on the problems facing wartime communities.

Gerald D. Nash, *The American West Transformed: The Impact of the Second World War* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985). This is the major scholarly history on the effects of World War II on the western U.S.

Art Ritchie and William Davis, *The Pacific Northwest Goes to War* (Seattle: Associated Publishers, 1944). Examines a wide variety of economic changes the war brought to the region. Particularly interesting for its description of shipbuilding.

Roger Sale, *Seattle: Past to Present* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976). This is one of the better histories of the city.

Carlos Schwantes, ed., *The Pacific Northwest in World War II* (Manhattan, KS: Sunflower University Press, 1986). The essays in this volume describe the varied impacts of the war in the Pacific Northwest.

Calvin Schmid, *Social Trends in Seattle* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1944). This is an indispensable source of demographic and sociological information about the city just before and during the war.

Jade Takeshima, "Seattle On Guard: The Militarization of Public Space During World War II" (University of Washington: Masters of Landscape Architecture Thesis, 2002). Takeshima describes various sites around the city taken over by the military as anti-aircraft gun emplacements, locations for barrage balloons, etc.

U.S. Congress, Subcommittee of Committee on Naval Affairs, *Investigation of Congested Areas*, Part 6: Puget Sound, Washington (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1944). This is an incredibly useful resource for anyone interested in the problems faced by Puget Sound communities during the war. It deals with a wide variety of issues including housing and labor shortages, overcrowded hospitals, public transit systems and schools, control of venereal disease, racial tensions, etc.

U.S. Congress, Subcommittee of Committee on Naval Affairs, *Investigation of Congested Areas*, Part 7: Columbia River Area (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1944). Similar to the previous volume, but focuses on the Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington areas.

James Warren, *The War Years: A Chronicle of Washington State in World War II* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000). Warren provides a chronological account of various aspects of the war in Washington. Lavishly illustrated and a rich source of detail.

Frank Wetzel, *Victory Gardens and Barrage Balloons: A Collective Memoir* (Bremerton, WA.: Perry Publications, 1995). This is personal account of the experiences of the author and his high school classmates during the war. The book is especially useful for its descriptions of Bremerton, a community profoundly influenced by wartime changes.

### **Women's Experiences in the War:**

Karen T. Anderson, *Wartime Women: Sex Roles, Family Relations, and the Status of Women during World War II* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1981). Anderson includes useful coverage of Seattle, especially the experience of women.

Augusta Clawson, *Shipyard Diary of a Woman Welder* (New York: Penguin, 1944). Clawson provides a unique account of the daily life of women working in a Portland area shipyard. A federal employee, she went "undercover" as a welder to experience the challenges faced by women working in industry and to see what improvements could be made to the training programs provided for these women.

Amy Kesselman, *Fleeting Opportunities: Women Shipyard Workers in Portland and Vancouver During World War II and Reconversion* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1990). *Fleeting Opportunities* describes the experiences of women working in the shipyards and the challenges they faced.

Karen Beck Skold, "Women Workers and Child Care during World War II: A Case Study of the Portland, Oregon, Shipyards" (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Oregon, 1981).

Karen Beck Skold, "The Job He Left Behind: Women in the Shipyards During World War II." In Karen J. Blair, ed., *Women in Pacific Northwest History: An Anthology* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1990), 107-129.

Mary Louise Webb, "Delinquency in the Making: Patterns in the Development of Girl Sex Delinquency in the City of Seattle with Recommendations for a Community Preventative Program," *Journal of Social Hygiene* 29 (November 1943): 502-510. This wartime article reflects concerns about juvenile delinquency, especially among girls, that arose as traditional social restraints weakened under the rapid social changes that took place during the war.

### **Specific Military Installations:**

David Chance, *The Evolution of Intent at Fort Lawton* (Seattle: Geo-Recon International, 1984). History of the Army's Fort Lawton beginning with its establishment in the 1890s.

Jack Hamann, *On American Soil: How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II* (Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 2005). The book deals with the killing of an Italian American prisoner of war at Fort Lawton. African American troops stationed at the fort were blamed for the death, although Hamann argues this may not have been the case.

John L. Poole, "A Historical Account of the Socio-Economic Relationship Between Fairchild Air Force Base and Spokane, Washington" (M.A. Thesis, Eastern Washington State College, 1976).

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, *Puget Sound Naval Shipyard* (Baton Rouge, LA: Army & Navy Publishing Company, 1947).

Louise M. Reh and Helen Lou Ross, *Nipsic to Nimitz: A Centennial History of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard* (Bremerton, WA: Federally Employed Women, Inc, 1991). History of the largest naval installation north of San Francisco.

Terry V. Solomon, *Sound Defender: History of Fort Lawton* (Seattle: U.S. Army, 1970).

Dennis Stuhau, *Naval Station Puget Sound at Sand Point* (Seattle: U.S. Navy, 1992). This is a general history of the Naval Air Station from its beginnings in the 1920s to its closure in the 1990s.

### **Japanese American Internment:**

Roger Daniels, *Concentration Camps U.S.A.: Japanese Americans and World War II* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972). Daniels is one of the most respected historians of the wartime internment of Japanese Americans.

Roger Daniels, "The Exile and Return of Seattle's Japanese," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 88 (Fall 1997): 166-173.

Roger Daniels, *Prisoners Without Trial: Japanese Americans in World War II* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1993).

Louis Fiset, *Imprisoned Apart: The World War II Correspondence of an Issei Couple* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997). Fiset's foreword provides a very useful introduction to the history of the internment of people of Japanese origin. The moving letters between Iwao and Hanaye Matsushita describe the shock of internment to the Japanese American community and details of life in the camps.

David Neiwert, *Strawberry Days: How Internment Destroyed a Japanese American Community* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2005). *Strawberry Days* focuses on the impact of internment on the Japanese American community in Bellevue, WA.

Monica Sone, *Nisei Daughter* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1979). This is one of the few published accounts by a Japanese American woman of growing up in Seattle in the 1930s and of the events leading up to and during internment.

David Takami, *Divided Destiny: A History of Japanese Americans in Seattle* (Seattle: University of Washington Press and Wing Luke Asian Museum, 1998).

Other resources on Japanese American history, including a more extensive bibliography, can be found [here](#).

### **African Americans and World War II in the Northwest:**

Howard Droker, "Seattle Race Relations During the Second World War," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 67 (October 1976): 163-174. Droker's article describes the tensions that developed in Seattle with the arrival of large numbers of black workers in a city that previously had a very small African American population.

Heather Fryer, "Race, Industry, and the Aesthetic of a Changing Community in World War II Portland," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 96 (Winter 2004/2005): 3-13.

Quincy Jones, *Q: The Autobiography of Quincy Jones* (New York: Doubleday, 2001). Jones begins his book with a description of his family's migration to the Bremerton area during the war.

Stuart McElderry, "Building a West Coast Ghetto: African American Housing in Portland, 1910-1960," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 92 (Summer 2001): 137-148.

Robert W. O'Brien, "Profiles: Seattle," *Journal of Educational Sociology* 19 (November 1945): 146-157. This article describes race relations in Seattle at the very end of the war.

Rudy Pearson, "A Menace to the Neighborhood: Housing and African Americans in Portland, 1941-1945," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 102 (Summer 2001): 159-179.

Quintard Taylor, "The Great Migration: The Afro-American Communities of Seattle and Portland during the 1940s," *Arizona and the West* 23 (1981), 109-126. Taylor is the leading scholar of African American history in the region. This article provides valuable insight into the struggles endured by black workers and their families who moved to the Northwest during the war.

Quintard Taylor, *The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District From*

*1870 Through the Civil Rights Era* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1994). Taylor's book is the most comprehensive history of Seattle's African American community.

### **Mexican Americans and the War in the Northwest:**

Erasmus Gamboa, *Mexican Labor and World War II: Braceros in the Pacific Northwest, 1942-1947* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990). Gamboa examines the first large-scale migration of Mexicans to the Northwest as Mexican men were recruited to fill a shortage of farm laborers.

### **Hanford and the Manhattan Project:**

Carl Abbott, "Building the Atomic Cities: Richland, Los Alamos, and the American Planning Language," in Bruce Hevly and John M. Findlay, eds., *The Atomic West* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998), 90-115.

John M. Findlay and Bruce Hevly. "*P.S. Your Bombs Are Certainly Wonderful*": *Hanford and the American West* (forthcoming).

Michele Stenehjem Gerber, *On the Home Front: The Cold War Legacy of the Hanford Nuclear Site* (Lincoln, NE.: University of Nebraska Press, 1992).

Stanley Goldberg, "General Groves and the Atomic West: The Making and Meaning of Hanford," in Hevly and Findlay, eds., *The Atomic West*, 39-89.

*Hanford Site Historic District: History of the Plutonium Production Facilities, 1943-1990* (Columbus, OH.: Battelle Press, 2003).

Colonel F.T. Matthias, "Building the Hanford Plutonium Plant," *Engineering News-Record*, 13 December 1945, 118-124.

S.L. Sanger, *Hanford and the Bomb: An Oral History of World War II* (Seattle: Living History Press, 1989). Sanger's interviewees discuss the construction of the Hanford plant and their reaction to news of the use of the first atomic bombs.

Harry Thayer, *Management of the Hanford Engineer Works in World War II* (New York: ASCE Press, 1996).

Ted Van Arsdol, *Hanford...The Big Secret* (Richland, WA.: Columbia Basin News, 1958).

## Boeing:

Richard Kirkendall, "The Boeing Company and the Military-Metropolitan-Industrial Complex, 1945-1953," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 85 (October 1994): 135-147. This article deals with the immediate aftermath of the war and Seattle leaders' efforts to ensure that Boeing continued to win as many defense contracts as possible.

Harold Mansfield, *Vision: The Story of Boeing, A Saga of the Sky and the New Horizons of Space* (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1966).

Robert J. Serling, *Legend and Legacy: The Story of Boeing and Its People* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992).

Jacob Vander Meulen, *Building the B-29*. While not specifically about Washington, Seattle or even Boeing, Vander Meulen describes some of the problems facing Boeing in the area during the war.

In addition to the materials cited above, researchers will want to consult the wartime issues of the region's newspapers, especially the *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Bremerton Sun*, *Tacoma News Tribune*, the *Portland Oregonian* and the *Spokane Spokesman-Review*. Archival materials dealing with a variety of issues related to World War II are available in a number of collections. Two of the most useful are:

- [The National Archives and Records Administration's Seattle branch](#). NARA holds the records of the Puget Sound Navy Yard in Bremerton and of the 13<sup>th</sup> Naval District, which encompassed Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. In addition to military issues, the Navy also faced a variety of problems, such as housing shortages, traffic congestion, and crime and vice, that required it to work with civilian governments and organizations in the region.
- [Special Collections Division of the University of Washington Libraries](#). Of particular interest are the papers of Representative Warren Magnuson, which deal with issues like housing shortages for workers in defense industries. The library also holds the papers of Seattle's Civic Unity Committee, which aimed to calm racial tensions in the city. The Seattle Civilian War Commission Papers deal with issues such as air raid precautions and are also available at UW Special Collections.