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WORLD WAR II RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

AT THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Nebraska State Historical Society has extensive collections relating to Nebraska and Nebraskans during World War II. These collections, the majority of which can be found in the State Archives, are open to the public. Many manuscript collections, which include the papers of families and individuals and the records of businesses and organizations, contain documents, letters, and diaries reflecting the experiences of Nebraskans in World War II. The archives also houses motion picture film and video tape documenting Nebraska's home front activities. Audio recordings (including the oral history interviews upon which this issue of *Nebraska History* is based) and recordings or radio broadcasts from the 1940s touch upon wartime themes. Many of the oral history interviews have been transcribed.

The State Archives also holds records from state and federal agencies which relate, in part, to Nebraska's participation in World War II. State agency records may contain original correspondence, reports, planning documents, blueprints, and administrative data. Federal records are mostly microfilm copies of original records held by the National Archives.

There are hundreds of newspapers and periodicals available on microfilm at the Society that would be of value for World War II research. In addition to those relating directly to the war effort (such as publications produced at air bases, war plants, and prisoner of war camps), daily and weekly newspapers from throughout the state often include articles addressing how the war affected individual communities and feature columns about home town residents' wartime service. The Society also has an incomplete World War II newspaper card index containing the names and dates of Nebraska men and women entering military service between December 1941

and November 1942. Each card gives a citation to the original newspaper on microfilm.

The Society's library contains many publications concerning World War II. There are general works about the war as well as specific books and articles pertaining to Nebraska topics. *Nebraska History* also has published several articles relating to World War II. Thousands of images depicting life at home and abroad during the war can be found in the Society's photo collections.

For researchers interested in the material culture of the time, the Museum of Nebraska History has several thousand artifacts relating to Nebraska and World War II. Many of them will be included in the exhibit, "What Did You Do in the War?," at the museum December 7, 1991 – August 15, 1995.

With few exceptions, all of the Society's archival, library, and photographic collections are open to the public for research. Researchers can purchase xerox copies of most items, and copies of photographs can be ordered. Museum collections not on exhibit are available for research by appointment.

A detailed finding aid, which lists the World War II collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society, is available at the Society or it can be ordered by contacting the Society's Reference Division, P.O. Box 82554, Lincoln, NE 68501.

