

National History Day Topic: "It needed to be done." The responsibility of American women in the manufacturing industry during WWII

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Primary Source #1



A poster from the war which depicts a woman install a seal in an airplane urging women to work in industries outside the social norm for the era

Image Title: The more women at work the sooner we win!

Date: 1943

Persistent URL:

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/95504675/>

Introduction:

At the outbreak of WWII many American men (and women) stepped up to the front line to volunteer (or be drafted) to serve their country. To keep these men and women clothed, fed and supplied many women went to work in a factory setting with the understanding that there was not enough labor available to keep up without them. The country as a whole rallied around the troops but women on the home front were instrumental in keeping our manufacturing industry going. They understood their responsibility was to the homefront while the soldiers overseas were defending the rights of others overseas.

Guiding Historical Question

How did women working in the manufacturing setting impact their lives and the lives of others during WWII.

Primary Source #2



A photo from Detroit, Michigan showing two woman working in Detroit, Michigan in a converted factory during the war

Image Title: Conversion. Auto body plant. A job often delegated to women in aircraft manufacture is touching up metal braces on ailerons with paint before wing structure is complete.

Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/oem2002001594/PP/>

Primary Source #3



A photo of three women who are prepared to weld in Inglewood, California during WWII.

Image Title: Production. Airplane manufacture, general. Women arc welders discuss the production of motor mounts and welded parts in a welding booth at the Inglewood, California, plant of North American Aviation, Incorporated.

Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/oem2002001594/PP/>

Primary Source #4 A series of interviews with WWII Veterans about the times before during and after the war in Madison County

Image Title: A DVD collection which features two interviews with veterans talking about working in factories after the war started and before they enlisted.

Persistent URL: <http://www.mchs1900.org>

Secondary Sources

Secondary Source #1 The story of a woman who explains her work life during the great depression and WWII

Image Title: *Women and the Changing Times*

Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/resource/wpalh1.13060412/seq-7#seq-10>

Secondary Source #1 The local publication for employees and members of the Oneida Community Limited. During WWII Oneida Community Limited completed some \$54 million dollars in Military Contracts, and published a great deal of information about their work and employees in their newsletters

Image Title: *The Kenwood Chronicle 1941-1946*

Persistent URL: <http://www.oneidacommunity.org>