

Reader's Guide

A*merican Home Front in World War II: Biographies* presents the life stories of twenty-six individuals who played key roles on the American home front while the nation was at war from 1941 to 1945. Individuals from all walks of life are included. Some held prominent national roles in guiding America through the war, others were among the millions who eagerly did their share in contributing to the war effort. Profiled are well-known figures such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, painter Norman Rockwell, social activist A. Philip Randolph, industrialists Donald Douglas and Henry Kaiser, entertainers Betty Grable and Dorothy Lamour, movie director Frank Capra, and journalist Elmer Davis, as well as lesser-known individuals such as industrial worker Peggy Terry, artist and author Mine Okubo, physicist Elda Anderson, and labor leader Luisa Moreno.

Features

The entries in *American Home Front in World War II: Biographies* contain sidebar boxes that highlight topics of special interest related to the profiled individual. Each entry also



offers a list of additional sources students can go to for more information. More than fifty black-and-white photographs illustrate the material. The volume begins with a timeline of important events in the history of home front America during World War II and a “Words to Know” section that introduces students to difficult or unfamiliar terms (terms are also defined within the text). The volume concludes with a general bibliography and a subject index so students can easily find the people, places, and events discussed throughout *American Home Front in World War II: Biographies*.

American Home Front in World War II Reference Library

American Home Front in World War II: Biographies is only one component of the three-part U•X•L American Home Front in World War II Reference Library. The other two titles in this set are:

- ***American Home Front in World War II: Almanac*** (one volume) presents, in thirteen chapters, a comprehensive overview of events and everyday life that occurred within the United States while the nation was at war from 1941 to 1945. The volume concentrates on the actual events related to the World War II effort rather than simply relating all general happenings of the time period. Coverage includes the sweeping mobilization of American industry, women entering the work force, the effects of war on everyday life, preparations for a changed postwar world, and the legacies of the home front in World War II that were felt throughout the twentieth century .
- ***American Home Front in World War II: Primary Sources*** (one volume) tells the story of the American home front in the words of the people who lived and shaped it. Approximately thirty excerpted documents provide a wide range of perspectives on this period of history. Included are excerpts from presidential addresses and proclamations; government pamphlets; magazine articles; and reflections by individuals who lived through the tumultuous times.

A cumulative index of all three titles in the U•X•L American Home Front in World War II Reference Library is also available.

Dedication

The *American Home Front in World War II* volumes are dedicated to our new grandson Luke Clay Hanes. May he and his generation be spared the trauma and ravages of war.

Special Thanks

Kelly Rudd contributed importantly to the *Biographies* volume. Catherine Filip typed much of the manuscript for the *Primary Sources* volume. Constance Carter, head of the Library of Congress science research department, assisted in searching out primary source materials.

Comments and Suggestions

We welcome your comments on *American Home Front in World War II: Biographies* and suggestions for other topics to consider. Please write: Editors, *American Home Front in World War II: Biographies*, U•X•L, 27500 Drake Rd. Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331-3535; call toll free: 1-800-877-4253; fax to (248) 699-8097; or send e-mail via <http://www.gale.com>.

Words to Know

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aliens: Immigrants who hold citizenship in a foreign country.

Allies: Over thirty nations, including the United States, Great Britain, and Soviet Union, who united in the fight against Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II.

appeasement: Giving in to the demands of another nation in order to maintain peace.

atomic bomb: A bomb whose massive explosive force comes from the nuclear fission of uranium or plutonium.

Authoritarian: A political system in which authority is centered in a ruling party that demands complete obedience of its citizens and is not legally accountable to the people.

auxiliary: Volunteers who provide additional or supplementary assistance, or an organization that is supplemental to a larger one, such as the auxiliary police or firemen.

Axis powers: Nations who fought against the Allies in World War II including Germany, Italy, and Japan.

