

National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service



Over Here: Americans at Home in World War I

World War I changed America. “The Great War,” as it was known, aided woman suffrage and prohibition, pushed millions of southern African Americans north, brought women into traditionally male occupations, raised issues of civil liberties, and saw tremendous social unrest.

“Over Here: Americans at Home in World War I” draws on the unparalleled holdings of the National Archives to capture the patriotic fervor of draft registration, the emotional good-byes of men leaving for training camps, the “hoopla” of Liberty Loan drives, the craze for volunteerism, and the violence of vigilantism.



Exhibition Details

Content:

36 framed and matted black & white and color photographs, 4 panoramic photographs, text graphic panels, and labels. The exhibition also contains an optional video of selected World War I film from the holdings of the National Archives.

Curator:

Bruce Bustard, PhD, National Archives

Supplemental Materials:

Educational and promotional resources, including an education and resource guide, marketing resources, installation manual, and exhibit-related products through the National Archives Store.

Rental Fee:

\$3,000 for 7-week display

Security Requirements:

Limited security and environmental controls

Shipping:

Exhibitor is responsible for all outgoing shipping costs

Size:

200 linear feet

Number of Crates:

3

Insurance:

Insured by the National Archives

Tour Dates:

Over Here: Americans at Home in World War I is available through 2021. Dates are subject to change.

Project Status:

On the road

More About this Exhibition

“Over Here: Americans at Home in World War I” is organized topically in three sections that document the American home front during World War I.

Mobilizing the Nation

The photographic record from the home front reflects the nation striving to meet the demands of industrial production, draft registration, military training, and agriculture. Photographers also paid attention to groups such as women and African Americans and to the civilian volunteers who were expected to shoulder many of the burdens on the home front.

Stirring Patriotic Passions

In a war that was often described as a “crusade,” emotion, pageantry, and performance were weapons. Along with the Federal Government, local, state, and national organizations produced a variety of events that aimed at stirring feelings of patriotic obligation among Americans and encouraging sacrifice, volunteerism, and national service. Photographers staged their shots of these events for maximum emotional appeal.

Policing Enemies at Home

Nearly all home front photographs encouraged national unity and saluted patriotic work, but a much smaller number hint at some of the anti-German hysteria, political unrest, and social conflict that lurked behind the patriotic fervor of bond drives, pageants, and parades. They show government as well as private groups and vigilantes striking out against those suspected of disloyalty.

This exhibition is a companion to “Over There: Americans Abroad in World War I.” You may wish to book the two exhibitions together to provide your visitors with a more complex understanding of the American experience during World War I.

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