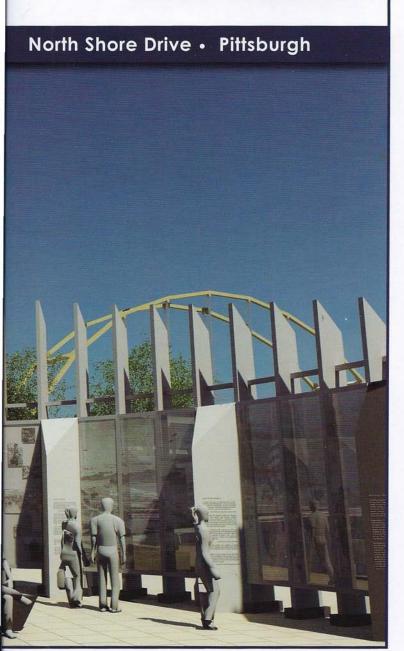
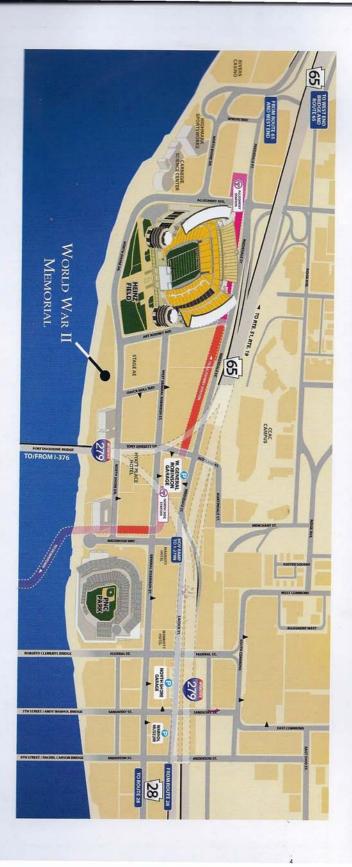
Southwestern Pennsylvania

# WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Dedication - December 6, 2013





# The Southwestern Pennsylvania World War II Memorial

The global conflict of World War II engulfed Southwestern Pennsylvania in a unique way.

Few families from the region escaped participation in the War, through either service or industry. The local stories of the War are the heart of the Memorial: from letters home from those who served in far off battlefields to those who labored in factories to arm the war effort. Historian David McCullough, born and raised in Pittsburgh remembers, "At night the sky pulsed red; blast furnaces were working day and night. Pittsburgh was making steel, aluminum, glass, landing crafts, and Jeeps. We were all proud; we knew Pittsburgh was helping to win the war."

The World War II Memorial was inspired by the concepts of Duty, Honor and Country, the Memorial tells the story of Pittsburgh's and Southwest Pennsylvania's contribution to the War and of the War itself. After the war the city leaders formed the Allegheny Conference to develop and fund a transformation of the quality of life for the entire region. Foul air and polluted rivers, the byproduct of industrial might, were cleaned, river banks transformed from factories to parks. Renaissance Pittsburgh emerged as the dynamic city of today.

On this day, December 6, 2013, the Memorial is being dedicated on the North Shore in Riverfront Park. This is a Significant focal point in Allegheny County. During the War, brave men and women departed from this riverfront to defeat the threats of world tyranny. The skyline in the distance symbolizes the region's industries, workers and everyday citizens of this generation that through perseverance and sacrifice supported the War effort.



## WEST 1 THE WAR BEGINS

In Germany, unresolved grievances resulting from the negotiated end of World War I contributed to the rise of Adolf Hitler and control of the government by his Nazi Party. Having re-armed fully, Germany marched unopposed into Austria in 1938 and seized control of Czechoslovakia later that year. But not until after the invasion of Poland in 1939 did England and France begin their military resistance to the continuing aggression of Germany and its Axis ally, Italy.

The war in Europe began poorly for the Allies. Fascist armies swept eastward across Poland, occupied Norway and The Netherlands. defeated English and French forces in Belgium and France, and moved south to control North Africa. Britain avoided invasion only by heroically maintaining air supremacy over the English Channel. And it fought virtually alone until mid-1941 when Germany attacked Russia in violation of a secret non-aggression pact between those nations.

In Asia, events involving Japan were eerily similar to those occurring in Europe. That fuel-starved nation began its imperialistic march in 1931 by seizing Manchuria for its abundant coal and oil reserves. Soon, much of China was under the invaders' control. In 1941, Japan occupied Indochina, announced an alliance with Germany and Italy, and laid plans both to extend its military presence deep into the Pacific and limit America's capacity to interfere as those operations were carried out.

# WEST 2 AMERICA ENTERS THE WAR

To discourage further aggression by Japan, the United States Pacific fleet was assigned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where it was attacked by Japanese aircraft on December 7, 1941. The date was famously described by President Franklin Roosevelt as one "which will live in infamy." Prior to the attack, Americans were deeply divided regarding their country's stance on a war that many viewed as "not our fight." Pearl Harbor removed those divisions in a single stroke. America would answer Japan in the Pacific and join the Allies in confronting the Fascist tide in Europe.

Recruiting offices were immediately overwhelmed with enlistments, and few volunteers had illusions regarding the character of the fight ahead. From its start, the conflict was marked by dimensions of barbarism not usually associated with civilized nations. Non-combatants were targeted to an alarming degree, often solely for their ethnicity. Jews and other minority populations were segregated and virtually enslaved, and their practice of cultural traditions was forbidden. Before the War's end, millions of their number would lose their lives to a policy so monstrous that a Polish officer coined a word to describe it. He called it genocide.

About to confront the dangers of a world gone apparently mad, one Pittsburgh recruit was asked his reason for enlisting. In simply replying that "I wanted to serve," Pittsburgh's John Vento gave voice to the spirit of an entire generation of Americans.

# WEST 3 PEARL HARBOR

In less than 90 minutes the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor took a terrible toll: 18 ships, 2,386 Americans killed, 1,139 wounded.

"Well, we arrived at Pearl Harbor this morning and we were all prepared to see a sad sight...but we were still appalled at the amount of damage done. It was the greatest disaster that has be fallen any navy...

As we came in the Harbor the first thing we saw was the Nevada ruined and run aground...The loss of life was terrific. Over 3,000 men went down with their ships. Liberty parties returning from Honolulu were strafed. Their white uniforms were perfect targets.

All of this was mighty heartbreaking, and I saw many a tear...But the men are not broken in morale... We lost the first round but are not whipped. We are just mad. We do not understand how a nation can do a thing like that. If they tho't our morale would break, they are mighty badly mistaken. We want to fight. The only trouble is we have nothing to fight with, but we hope to soon."

Frank B. Hass in his diary Dec. 15, 1941



# WEST 4 PRISONER OF THE JAPANESE

"I might as well tell you that I have been sent with 200 men & 3 other officers to Port Hughes the last outpost of the Philippines—we are all by ourselves between the Philippines & Indo-China and Japan.

Things are getting very serious around here. For the first time, the majority of the officers are expecting hostilities at any hour. Where from or how, I don't know, but we are ready & will be awfully tough to lick...See you in 1943."

Arthur H. Buchman, in a letter to his parents written from a prison ship, November 4, 1942.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM
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WASHINGTON DC 23 635P
HARRY H BUCHMAN
3030JENKIN ARCADE PGH+

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DEEPLY REGRETS TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR SON 2/LT BUCHMAN ARTHUR H WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN PACIFIC AREA 15 DECEMBER 44 WHILE BEING TRANSPORTED ABOARD A JAPANESE VESSEL CONFIRMING LETTER FOLLOW=WITSELL ACTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

# WEST 5 A UNITED HOME FRONT

December 7, 1941 was a Sunday, bright and sunny in much of the United States. At the White House, President and Mrs. Roosevelt had invited 31 guests for lunch. In Pittsburgh, 8-year-old David McCullough was at his first stage show. His older brother had taken him to the giant Syria Mosque to see the ballet Rodeo. When they came out of the theater David knew something had changed. "That day I realized there was a world outside Pittsburgh."

The city quickly became a center of wartime production. "At night the sky pulsed red; blast furnaces were working day and night. Pittsburgh was making steel, aluminum, glass, landing crafts, and Jeeps. We were all proud; we knew Pittsburgh was helping to win the war."

It was an exciting time for a young boy. "I was a junior commando: we went house to house collecting scrap and fat. Kids could go anywhere on their own then. Gas was rationed. War movies had us all steamed up and patriotic. I saw all the war movies. I checked the war cartoons in the Post Gazette."

"If there was a silver star in the window of a house it meant someone was in the service. A gold star meant someone had died. Next door the house had two blue stars: Bill and Bob Dickey were serving in the Army and the Navy."

# WEST 6 NURSES WHO SERVED

Women assigned to the Army and Navy Nurse Corps served in every theater of operations. Some were taken as POWs by the Japanese; others were killed during the landings at Anzio Beach. Nurses landed t Normandy on the fourth day of the invasion, where they immediately established hospitals and began treating casualties.

A huge and still untallied number of women from Southwestern Pennsylvania volunteered and served as nurses during the War, providing care for service members, POWs and civilians on every continent. Colonel Florence Blanchard, a graduate of Pittsburgh's Southside Hospital Training School for Nurses, led the Army Nurse Corps during the War. She supervised the expansion of the Corps from 1,000 to 57,000 in a 2-year period and was credited by the War Department as being "largely instrumental in securing full military rank for nurses."

One nurse from Pittsburgh, Catherine Eckerd, paid the ultimate sacrifice for her service when, with 5 other nurses and 6 doctors, she was killed as a Japanese kamikaze pilot crashed his plane into the USS Comfort hospital ship's operating room during the Battle of Okinawa.

# WEST 7 AT IWO JIMA

"...no description on earth can do justice to this hell...The smoke, dust, and stench of the beach was terrific. Dead and dying, mortar fire, etc., made the whole thing fantastic...A runner came from the squad on the edge of the airstrip and informed me of some casualties. I couldn't have felt worse. I felt the terrible sensation of losing men. That morning [they] threw another bombardment at us. Casualties quite terrible; many friends."

I was dug in right in front of some tanks and an ammunition dump...I have never said so many prayers in my life. Shells were landing constantly five and ten yards from my hole. I was scared silly ... I was in a ward with the casualties. Many of them were my good friends. It was a hideous night... My only wonder now is-when will we be relieved and get taken off this Hades?"

> Lt. Walter J. Curley in a letter to his parents February 19-March 9, 1945

The American victory in the Battle of Iwo Jima was one of the deadliest battles in the War.

Lt. Curley survived and later became the U.S. Ambassador to France.

# WEST 8 TWO "ROSIES" REMEMBER

"When I graduated from high school, I got a job at Murphy's and from there I was hired by the Credit Bureau. In 1942 I left my job and was hired by Dravo. They built LSTs on the Ohio River. My job was to install insulation into the bulkhead of the ship and secure it with a welding pin. The position I had was sometimes difficult. We wore bandanas on our heads and also wore slacks. That was a new beginning for women. I could never wear slacks at my office job. It didn't take long before women wore them everywhere every day.

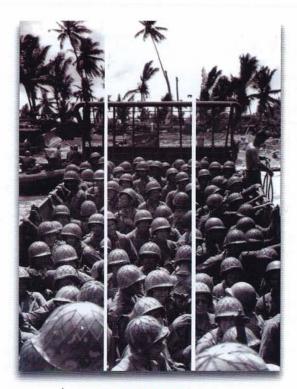
My job gave me confidence to attempt anything I had in mind to do...I was very proud to be a Rosie."

Mary Rita Walsh

"It was a hard period to grow up in. You couldn't have everything... You could only buy so much of this, so much of that... None of it seemed like a major problem though. You know why? Everybody was in exactly the same boat, trying to raise families, trying to keep food on the table, trying to keep the kids dressed.

When the war was over, that's when the difficulty came in. Women had learned that they could do these jobs. And they were bringing in money and supporting the family. It was hard for them to ...go back into the kitchen...Most of them never went back to just being housewives anymore."

Emma Rocco



## FRANK BOLDEN, WEST 9 AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST

Frank Bolden was one of only two African American correspondents given access to World War II combat troops. In 1944 he covered the heroism of black soldiers of the 92nd Infantry Division as 12,000 of its members were cited for valor in Italy. In 1945 he reported on the 352nd Engineer General Service Regiment's building of the famous Burma Road in brutal jungle conditions. "Having established itself as a crack engineering outfit, the battalion was given the important assignment of constructing a bigger air base for the Twentieth Bomber Command." Bolden wrote, "It was from this base that the...Command made the first land based raid on Japan."

Bolden's work, including his interviews of Gandhi, Nehru, Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin and Chiang Kai-shek, was widely distributed in the African-American press. On his return home, he declined offers from the New York Times and Life magazine to rejoin the Pittsburgh Courier. "Without the Courier, there would be no Frank Bolden," he said. Following the paper's bankruptcy in the 1960s, Bolden reported briefly for the New York Times and the National Broadcasting Company.

"I'm trying to make the world conscious of what blacks have done for this country," Bolden once said. "But it's not where we came from, but where we're going that counts. Our ancestors came on different boats, but we're all in the same boat now."

# WEST 10 BUILDING THE BOMB

"At the time, we believed Germany was close to developing an atomic bomb. Even when they failed to do so, ending the war with Japan remained a priority. The regrettable bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki did bring that conflict to an end, and saved countless tens of thousands of lives on both sides."

Dr. Philip Morrison

Philip Morrison grew up in Pittsburgh and attended public schools. He graduated from Carnegie Tech, then earned his doctorate in theoretical physics at the University of California, where he studied under J. Robert Oppenheimer. Later, he was one of the physicists who worked on the Manhattan Project, which developed the atomic bomb.

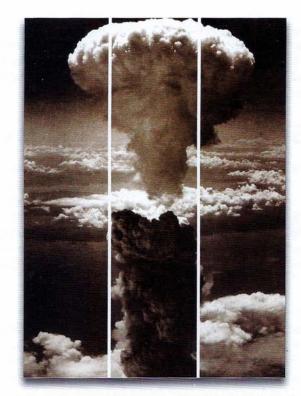
After visiting Hiroshima, Dr. Morrison became an opponent of nuclear proliferation. He was co-founder of the Federation of American Scientists and helped found the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies. He was a highly respected professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he also worked on numerous books, radio and television programs aimed at a general audience. He contributed to The Price of Defense, the first book to propose a detailed alternative defense strategy for the United States. Though he was a staunch pacifist who abhorred war, Dr. Morrison did not regret having contributed to the building of nuclear weapons: "My only regret is the dark period that followed."

# WEST 11 AMERICA'S SACRIFICE

After Pearl Harbor, small banners bearing blue and/or gold stars began appearing in the windows of American homes—blue signifying the military service of family members and gold representing each life lost. The number of gold stars mounted quickly. By the end of the War, more than 400,000 U.S. deaths were reported—nearly 2,300 from Allegheny County alone. Plans to invade Japan included projections that as many as 800,000 additional Americans could be killed if invasion proved necessary.

Participants in World War II served "for the duration," and the survivors of one battle or mission had little respite before beginning the next. In Europe, the enemy was formidable and entrenched, while conditions in the Pacific could be as dangerous as combat itself. Surrender or capture there also represented a threat to survival. One in three U.S. prisoners died in Japanese hands; just one in 100 perished in German custody.

Regrettably, one citizen group had to overcome both institutional racism and military policy to be permitted to fight. Nearly 1,000 African American pilots strong, the Tuskegee Airmen, primarily provided fighter support for Allied bombing missions. Unit members were recognized repeatedly for their heroism. Sixty-four Airmen pilots were killed in action; another 32 survived capture. In 2007, group veterans and the widows of their



deceased comrades accepted the Congressional Gold Medal for the unit's wartime performance.

# WEST 12 RENAISSANCE PITTSBURGH

"Our grand design in Pittsburgh has been the acceptance of a belief that a city is worth saving; and that the people of a city can take pride and glory in it ..."

In 1946, Mayor David L. Lawrence teamed with leaders of the recently formed Allegheny Conference, several of whom were returning veterans, to develop and fund programs to transform the quality of life of an entire region. The success of their effort established a national standard for urban renewal.

The task was formidable. Pittsburgh was no longer "hell with the lid off," but it was still "The Smoky City." Fouled air and polluted rivers were byproducts of its industrial might. The banks of those rivers, which flooded frequently, were overcrowded with the tools of production. Through legislation and investment, the team implemented its Renaissance agenda. Air was cleared; water quality improved; greenspace expanded; and flood control measures adopted. Finally, a spacious park and nearby office complex provided a new gateway to a changed but still indispensable city.

The renewal projects provided employment for the area's military veterans

and former defense workers alike. Thousands more took advantage of generous education provisions in a G.I. Bill of Rights to enter and complete college, decisions virtually ensuring that successive generations would follow their educational path. The collective intellectual capital they acquired helped sustain the region for decades, even during its change to a service-based economy from its industrial past.

## EAST 1 PITTSBURGH: A CROSSROADS OF ...

Just across from this Memorial, the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet to form the Ohio. The confluence of three waterways capable of transporting cargo to and from virtually all of early America established Pittsburgh as the nation's busiest inland port. When nearby reserves of high-quality coal, gas and oil were discovered, a strong manufacturing component was added. Soon, steel and steel products were being turned out in amounts sufficient to earn Pittsburgh its designation as The Steel City. The description would apply for more than a century.

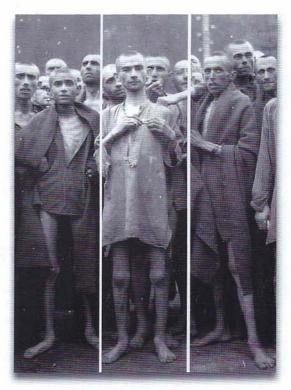
Area industries provided abundant opportunity for labor, much of it performed initially by European immigrants. They came first from Britain, Ireland and Germany, and later from Poland, Italy, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Romania and Greece. The arrival of African-Americans from the South during The Great Migration further enriched Pittsburgh's human mosaic. Other American population centers had grown larger, but none would surpass the region in its support of the nation's wars.

The city's status as a supplier to the military dates to the Civil War. A single local foundry produced 15 percent of all Union Army artillery; 10 percent of artillery rounds fired were Pittsburgh-made; and virtually all naval ironclads were protected by armor produced here. Regional producers helped arm the Allies in World War I and, despite the Depression related shutdown of some capacity, they quickly retooled to meet the Axis threat.

# EAST 2 AN ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY

"At night the sky pulsed red; blast furnaces were working day and night. Pittsburgh was making steel, aluminum, glass, landing craft and Jeeps. We were all proud; we knew Pittsburgh was helping to win the War." Before historian David McCullough could form those boyhood impressions of World War II, his city's industrial base was expanded dramatically and staffed by a staggering increase in skilled workers.

In West Homestead, portions of Mesta Machine Corporation were quadrupled in size to produce barrels for naval guns at a wartime pace. The Homestead Works of United States Steel tripled its forged armor production after undergoing the largest expansion of any comparable facility in the nation. Overall, the region supplied 95 million tons of steel to Allied forces, leading a Navy official to praise the performance as "victory through steel power."

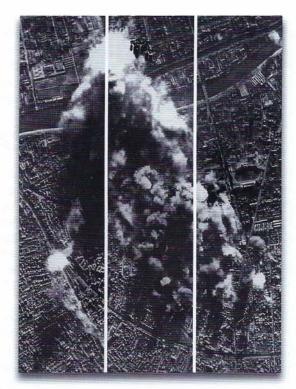


Dravo Corporation's Neville Island shipyard was converted to build LSTs—for Landing Ship Tank—the largest combat vessels ever launched from inland locations. They were built at a rate of two per week to carry both men and equipment, and they supported the invasions of Africa, Europe and every Pacific island objective. At Iwo Jima, the captain of Dravo-built LST 779 volunteered his "Sunday Flag" to be flown atop Mt. Suribachi when the banner raised there was judged too small to be seen by arriving ships. The replacement flag flew throughout the battle.

# **EAST 3** RESCUING JEWS

"I visited several villages where Jews are not permitted to buy food...they are compelled to walk to another village several miles away to buy the food they can afford...During a burial service, the Aryan crowd stoned the Jews so badly that the Rabbi had to stop his prayers before the completion of the burial. A sevenyear-old girl was so severely stoned that she required medical attention..."

Beginning in 1936, David Glick, a Jewish businessman from Pittsburgh, traveled throughout Germany helping Jews gain permission to leave the country. The scope of Glick's contribution remained largely unknown until shortly before his death in 1964, but some 90,000 Jews emigrated safely because of his work. In contrast, a 12-year-old Polish Jew was the sole focus of a 1945 rescue effort by 78th Hospital Train unit soldiers operating in Germany.



"Mike told me he lost his family at Auschwitz. I got permission to bring him aboard the train. He became our orderly and interpreter. In September, our train unit was disbanded and we were assigned to the 239th General Hospital outside Paris. Mike worked with me and a civilian helper in food rations. When my orders to go home arrived in February 1946, we took Mike into the city and left him with the Jewish Welfare Board. He said he thought he might have relatives in Indiana. I never learned Mike's last name and don't know if he ever made it to the States."

Clarence Gomberg, Corporal T/5

# EAST 4 MADE IN PITTSBURGH

"I, along with some ten thousand other people, attended a ship launching today...[of] an ocean-going ship...built here at Pittsburgh...The most interesting thing...is that this seagoing vessel, launched out here in the Ohio River, came off an assembly line!"

Lowell Thomas, Newscaster, March 5, 1942

Winning the War required sacrifice by everyone. Families "did without" and factories retooled, converting their operations to manufacture items needed for the war effort. Bombers were made in canneries; pursuit planes were constructed in pickle factories; and factories that once turned out baby carriages now made parts for guns.

"I wish ...that the names of all the men who were doing this great production job in Pittsburgh could be written into the war history. Every time I

approach Pittsburgh, especially by plane, I get a sense of tremendous power, a sense of accomplishment. Pittsburgh thrills you."

Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy

The American Bantam Car Company in Butler, Pennsylvania, developed a prototype of the Jeep in 1940—they manufactured 2,675 of them during the War.

"I don't think we could continue the war without the Jeep. It does everything. It goes everywhere. It's as faithful as a dog, as strong as a mule, and as agile as a goat. It constantly carries twice what it was designed for, and still keeps on going."

Ernie Pyle, WWII correspondent, 1943

# EAST 5 PRISONER OF THE NAZIS

"We immediately lost engines 1, 2 and 4 while engine 3 was emitting white smoke...The plane descended to about 4,000 feet in 8 or 9 minutes. Upon descending in the unbelievable quietness, I heard the plane explode.

I retrieved my escape kit from my flight suit and removed the language dictionary. I first turned to the French section and indicated to the farmer my identity and my need for help. I was not sure if the farmer was French or German.

He gently took the book from me and turned the pages to the German section. He advised me that he was German and said, "For you the War is over."

John McCracken, 570th Bomb Squadron

# EAST 6 WOMEN WHO SERVED

Despite prevailing social and political conventions, women mobilized to meet the War's military and industrial challenges. In addition to the 6 million who replaced men in factories and on farms, 3 million volunteered with the Red Cross and more than 200,000 served directly in the armed forces.

Women in military service demonstrated their ability to perform their duties with courage and determination, often under fire and in harm's way. And many were recognized for their bravery: 26 women received the Purple Heart; 565 were awarded the Bronze Star; and more than 700 Women's Army Corps members received medals and citations. Like their male counterparts, they suffered wounds, were taken prisoner or lost their lives during the conflict.

Two women from Pittsburgh were at the forefront of military wartime operations on the home front. Theresa D. James, a WAF (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Service) volunteer, was the first female pilot to fly a

"On June 4 we floated a liberty ship and waited for the invasion to take place...First we went down over the side on rope ladders into small craft... We circled around until it was time for us to head to the beach. I prayed to God to give me the strength to face what was in my future...Just before landing, our officer passed around a bottle, told us all to take a swig: we were sure gonna need it.

This was the first Allied landing that was taken, done at low tide..." Lt. H. Wheatley Hoop, 2nd Beach Battalion, U.S.S. Chenago

"We hit the beach at 7 a.m. We had just been riding in nice until the sailors let the ramp down. Then we got it... I fell on the boat floor when a bullet hit my arm. When we crawled into the water, mines blew up some of the fellows. When we got to the rocks, lots of us were gone. A couple of Navy fellows joined us...We separated and a fellow with me and I managed to dig a little hole. The shell fire blew the two sailors to bits."

A survivor's evewitness report, published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette three days after D-Day.

# EAST 11 THE DEVASTATING COST OF WAR

An estimated 60 million lives were lost—half of them civilian—during the period between Japan's 1937 invasion of China and the Axis surrender in 1945. The scope of the carnage is perhaps more accessible when examined in its component parts. The genocidal targeting of European Jews and other "undesirables" resulted in more than six million deaths. Twenty-one million Russians died, many of them during the sieges of Leningrad and Stalingrad. Of nine million Chinese civilians killed, some 300,000 were murdered during the heinous Rape of Nanking. Captured combatants often fared as poorly. Of two million Germans captured on the Eastern Front, for example, only 300,000 returned home. And unknown numbers of Japanese soldiers left behind on the Asian mainland vanished without a trace.

The advanced weaponry that produced the War's unprecedented casualty total also left several of the world's greatest cities and cultural sites in ruin. Bombing devastated London, Tokyo, Dresden, Hamburg and other population centers while Berlin, Warsaw and the major cities of Russia were the sites of fierce ground battles as well. The destruction contributed to a wartime total of homeless that exceeded the conflict's dead, with the number in China alone estimated at 60 million. The damage to infrastructure, railways, industrial production and other economically vital resources, meanwhile, created a financial burden that would be borne by victor and vanquished alike.



# EAST 12 THE END OF THE WAR

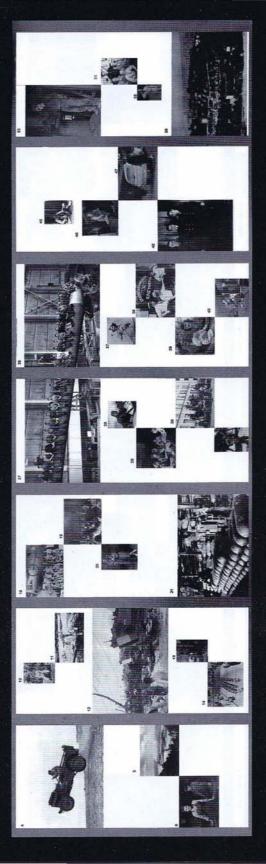
Hitler's suicide freed Germany from his fanatical determination to continue the War and led to its May 7, 1945 surrender to the Allies. Late in July, Japan was given an ultimatum to surrender or be invaded. When it refused, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The separate strikes early in August killed 75,000 just on the days the bombs fell, leading to Japan's declaration of surrender on August 15, 1945.

German and Japanese leaders, civilian and military, were tried before international tribunals for their wartime conduct. Those found guilty were executed or sentenced to prison. American-led programs helped rebuild infrastructure and restore economies across Europe and Asia-including those of its principal foes. The Marshall Plan aided the recovery of 17 European nations, while direct U.S. governance of Japan included billions of dollars for reconstruction.

Russia's role in defeating Germany markedly altered postwar events. Having occupied several Eastern and Central European countries at War's end, the Soviets remained to dominate their affairs. Soon, even Germany was partitioned by an "Iron Curtain" that divided the entire continent. Russia was now a superpower engaged in a "Cold War" with the United States. Amid increasing tensions in 1961, President John F. Kennedy affirmed the principles for which World War II was fought: America would again "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend and oppose any foe to assure the survival of liberty."

# Southwestern Pennsylvania World War II Memorial

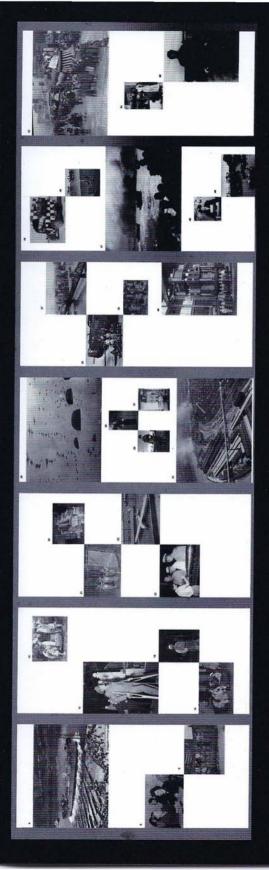




**IMAGES - WEST** 

# Southwestern Pennsylvania World War II Memorial





**IMAGES - EAST** 

