

Lewistown, Montana, WWII Heritage City

A series of lessons from the [World War II Heritage Cities Lesson Collection](#)



Figure 1: B-17 Aircraft crew-- Lewistown, Montana 1942--Standing--Pilot, Bud Hineker Co-Pilot, Marion Haley, Nav., Donald Rassner, Bombadier, Oliver Wolf Kneeling--Waist Gunner, Everett Hart, Waist Gunner, C.J. Lamure Radio-Op, C.J. Lamure, Tail Gunner, Maxson Case, Ball Gunner, Bud Higgins, Waist Gunner, C.S. Dent, Front lying down - Flight Engineer, Fred Green. Pilot Replaced 1st Alnurre. 2nd Eli Dahir (Credit: Montana History Portal, Lewistown Public Library)

Introduction

The three lessons, and culminating fourth lesson, support the development of understanding the significance of [Lewistown, Montana](#) designated as an American [World War II Heritage City](#). Highlights include contributions to the training of B-17 Flying Fortress crews at the Lewistown Satellite Airfield, including with the Norden Bombsight, and volunteerism and contributions made by many civilians, including youth. The lessons highlight specific contributions but connect to larger themes and understandings of the U.S. home front during wartime.

Lessons (with World War II home front topics):

The first three lessons listed can be taught individually or collectively, in any order. The final lesson is to support students in combining learning across the three lessons, and/or comparison to other World War II home front cities in a culminating activity.

1. [Lewistown Army Airfield and B-17 Flying Fortresses in Lewistown, Montana, World War II Heritage City \(p. 4\)](#)
 - o Military training

- Norden Bombsight
- B-17 Flying Fortresses

2. [Civilian Volunteerism and Contributions on the Home Front in Lewistown, Montana, World War II Heritage City \(p. 13\)](#)

- American Red Cross
- Scrap and salvage drives
- War funds
- Civilian defense and air wardens
- Victory gardens

3. [Home Front Experiences and Contributions by Youth in Lewistown, Montana, World War II Heritage City \(p. 21\)](#)

- Rationing
- Scrap drives
- National Youth Administration

4. [Lewistown, Montana: Comparing and Connecting WWII Home Front Cities \(p. 31\)](#)

Positioning these Lessons in the Curriculum:

The standards listed beneath the lesson links are a collection of standards covered in the lesson collection. Objectives for each lesson, materials, and resources are listed within the lesson.

Time period: World War II

Topics: World War II, women's history, workforce migration, science and technology

United States History Standards for Grades 5-12

This lesson relates to the following [National Standards for History](#) from the UCLA National Center for History in the Schools:

Era 8: The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)

Standard 3: The causes and course of World War II, the character of the war at home and abroad, and its reshaping of the U.S. role in world affairs

Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

This lesson relates to the following [Curriculum Standards themes for Social Studies](#) from the National Council for the Social Studies:

- Theme 2: Time, Continuity, and Change
- Theme 5: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- Theme 8: Science, Technology, and Society
- Theme 9: Global Connections

Relevant Common Core Standards

These lessons relate to the following [Common Core English and Language Arts Standards for History and Social Studies](#) for middle and high school students:

Key Ideas and Details

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-12.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-12.2

Craft and Structure

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-12.4

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-12.7
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-12.9

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-12.10

The lesson series was written by Sarah Nestor Lane, an educator and consultant funded by a National Council on Public History's cooperative agreement with the National Park Service.

Lesson 1: Lewistown Army Airfield and B-17 Flying Fortresses in Lewistown, Montana, World War II Heritage City

About this Lesson

This lesson is part of a series teaching about the World War II home front, with [Lewistown, Montana](#) designated as an American [World War II Heritage City](#). The lesson contains readings and photos to contribute to learners' understandings about the [Lewistown Satellite Airfield Historic District](#). Service members were relocated to Lewistown to train as B-17 Flying Fortress crews, and with the top secret Norden bombsight.

Objectives:

1. Explain the connections among the B-17 Flying Fortresses, the Norden bombsight, and training at Lewistown Army Airfield.
2. Describe the factors contributing to the success of the bombers in raids during World War II with connections to Lewistown.
3. Compare local, historical perspectives on service to synthesize and connect to larger wartime perspectives and themes.

Materials for Students:

1. Photos: Figures 2-x7 (*can be displayed digitally*)
2. Readings 1, 2, 3 (and optional extension)
3. *Recommended:* Map of Montana with Lewistown marked; other airfields can also be marked.



Getting Started: Essential Question

How did the Lewistown Army Airfield lead to the success of bombing raids during World War II?

Photos



Figure 2: "Photograph of the Airport in Lewistown, Montana during World War II. The airfield was used for training pilots." 1942. (Credit: Lewistown Public Library; Central Montana Historical Photographs)



Lewistown, Mt. - 1942

Figure 3: Lewistown, Montana airport; men, bomb, and bomber plane, winter 1942. (Credit: Lewistown Public Library; Central Montana Historical Photographs)



By the numbers:

- The B-17 airplane, called the “Flying Fortress,” had four engines and was used in World War II bombing campaigns. Nearly 1,000 service members trained at The Lewistown Satellite Airfield with B-17s.
- For a comparison, the population of Lewistown, Montana in 1940 was 5,874.



Quotations to consider:

“Our flying fortress bombers produced magnificent results in the fighting in the East Indies . . . Even greater satisfaction is derived from the knowledge that we have planes capable of carrying the war into enemy strongholds.”

- “Will Do the Job,” *Lewistown Evening Telegram*, April 17, 1942, p.4

“My grandfather, a plumber in Lewistown, would paint a stripe on the side of their home each time a local serviceman shot down an enemy plane...the story has been told for decades.”

- Jeanette Adam



Read to Connect

Reading 1: Historical Marker Inscription

“Lewistown Army Airfield, 1942-1943”

Erected by Montana Department of Transportation in Fergus County, Montana

“At this airfield, US Army Air Force airmen trained to fly and fight with the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress during the darkest days of WWII. Heavy bomber crews completed final proficiency phase training here before being assigned to aerial combat in Europe and North Africa. The combat squadrons polished the vitally important skills of formation flying, precision bombing with the top secret Norden bombsight, aerial gunnery and navigation.

The Montana airbases were constructed in record time by the US Army Corps of Engineers. By the first anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, B-17 aircraft were landing at this airfield. The 49th, 548th, 570th, and 615th Bomb Squadrons all preformed crucial Organizational Training Unit missions in Montana. B-17 training bases were also located at

Cut Bank, Glasgow, and Great Falls.

The Montana-trained squadrons flew a total of 1263 combat missions, dropped 71,128 tons of bombs, lost 548 aircraft and shot down 1018 enemy planes without ever turning away from a mission. They earned Presidential Unit Citations for valor and fortitude over Leipzig, Oscherslaben, Regensburg, Schweinfurt, Steyr and Zwickau. Assigned to the Mighty 8th and 15th Air Forces, the unwavering courage and unbowed bravery of airmen from this Montana airfield shines as this nation's bright pride.”

[Note: The following are the countries for each city: Leipzig, Oscherslaben, Schweinfurt, Zwickau (Germany); Regensburg (Switzerland); Steyr (Austria).]



Figure 4: Credit: Barry Swackhamer, The Historical Marker Database

Questions for Reading 1 and Photos

1. Who built the Montana air bases, such as Lewistown's Airfield?
2. What was the purpose of the Lewistown Army Airfield? What abilities did service members gain during their time there?
3. Why were the squadrons recognized for valor?

Reading 2: Newspaper Excerpt

Proving Their Worth

Lewistown Democrat-News, September 9, 1942, p. 4

Our huge American Flying Fortresses have made a dozen raids over enemy territory from their bases in Britain with the loss of but two of their number. These big bombers have made all their raids in daylight, which exposes them to greater hazards from enemy fighter planes than are faced by night bombers. Before they went into action, it was predicted that our fortresses would be easy prey of fast fighter craft, but these dire predictions have not been fulfilled.

These big fellows have shown that they can not only fly to and effectively bomb their objectives from stratospheric heights, but can also successfully fight off swarms of the best fighters the enemy can send against them. Their heavy armor enables them to take a lot of punishment, and their eight gunners have shown an ability to shoot down any planes that come within range of their weapons. The precision with which Fortress bombardiers land their deadly loads on targets from heights of from fifteen to twenty thousand feet has been a source of amazement to allies and enemies alike. This success is doubtless due in large part to their use of the Norden bombsight, our most closely guarded war secret and one which any other major nation at war would give millions to possess.

Questions for Reading 2

1. What features made the B-17 Flying Fortresses successful in raids?
2. Connect Reading 1 and 2: How did the Lewistown Satellite Airfield connect to the success of the bombardiers in the raids, and the use of the Norden bombsight?
3. How do you think the success of the American Flying Fortresses during World War II impacted both the morale of the home front in Lewistown, and the Allied forces overseas?

Reading 3: Elmer Cheatham, B-17 Radio Operator



Figure 5: Elmer Cheatham, 1943 (Credit: Photo courtesy of Mickey Cheatham, son of Elmer Cheatham)

Background

Elmer Cheatham (1924 – 2015) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. His family moved to Haleyville, Alabama in 1927. He graduated from Haleyville High School in 1942. Cheatham joined the U.S. Army on November 30, 1942 in Birmingham, Alabama. Cheatham trained in Lewistown, Montana, at the Lewistown Satellite Airfield and served overseas as a B-17 radio operator. Cheatham served for one enlistment until his Honorable Discharge on December 6, 1945 in Fort McPherson, Georgia, at the rank of Tech Sergeant. The following are recollections from his son, Mickey Cheatham, on his father's service.

Elmer Cheatham's Service

"My dad was from Alabama and trained in Lewistown. While there he dated a young lady, Constance June Blaine. She was my mom. Since my grandfather, Lee Blaine, my mom's dad, had a grocery store, he had [gas coupons](#) for delivering groceries. So, my dad and mom dated in her father's car. After the war he returned to Lewistown and married her. Our family lived in Lewistown from 1950 to 1967. My mom was third generation, and my brother and sister were born there as fourth generation Lewistown residents.

After training in Lewistown, my dad was a radioman on B-17s and did 30 missions. His location in the B-17 was just after the bomb bay and he had the radio and a gun in the top of the plane. Right behind him were the two waist gunners. They shot out a large open "window," so it was very cold and windy. Everyone wore electric heated flight suits.

At one point the training was over and dad's crew took off in their B-17 for England. When they landed to refuel, I think in Kansas, they received new orders. Apparently, there wasn't room at the base for them and so they were ordered back to Lewistown for additional training. So, they returned.

One of the crewmen my dad trained with also dated a Lewistown girl. After returning from the lack of space in England, my dad's friend married his girlfriend. But my dad told me at that time he didn't think that marriage would last. I suppose because it was so rushed. (But after the war, that couple reunited and they remained married for over 50 years. Once,

when visiting my dad out in Oregon, we visited with his wife. He had died a few years before that. So, the marriage did last.)

More about this other airman. He was a gunner in the belly “Ball Turret” of the B-17. That is a very precarious and claustrophobic job. So, after a few missions, he declined to fly anymore and asked to quit that job. To quote my dad, “That was really desertion, and they usually shoot you for that. But they didn’t and just reassigned him to another job.”



Figure 6: Elmer Cheatham, 1944 (Credit: Photo courtesy of Mickey Cheatham, son of Elmer Cheatham)

A little while later, there was a large mission by the group in England, and many planes were lost. So now there was space for my dad's crew at the base in England. They left Lewistown finally and entered the war. My dad kept in touch by letter with my mom during the entire war.

On my dad's first mission in England, as they taxied to the runway in line with several other bombers, the brakes failed on my dad's plane. The pilot tried to turn off the runway, but the plane collided with the plane in front taxiing. Both planes got some damage, and they didn't fly that day. They did finally fly. They needed 25 missions to complete, but Jimmy Doolittle (I think) was the new commander and extended that goal to 30 missions. That didn't make him very popular with the airmen. Since my dad was a Radio Operator and they were in short supply, he flew a few missions with other planes. So, he completed his 30 missions before the rest of the crew. He then returned to the US via boat. Later, his plane, “Stormy Weather” was shot down with the rest of his old crew. Some died and some bailed out and were rescued. . . There's more to the story because my dad ended up going back overseas, this time to India where he flew the hump over the Himalayas.”

Questions for Reading 3

1. Who was Elmer Cheatham and what were his contributions as a service member in World War II?
2. How did Elmer Cheatham's training in Lewistown, Montana, contribute to his service during World War II?
3. What were challenges Cheatham's crew faced?
4. What benefits and challenges are associated with exploring narratives told by family members to understand life on the home front and the experiences of service members during World War II?

Lesson Closing

Answer the essential question: How did the Lewistown Army Airfield lead to the success of bombing raids during World War II?

Extension

1) Norden Bombsight and Storage Building



Figure 7: Norden Bombsight on display in the Central Montana Museum in Lewistown, Montana. (Photo Courtesy of Gary Yaeger)

The only identifiable Norden bombsight building still standing in the United States is part of the Lewistown Satellite Airfield Historic District.

Learn more about the top secret Norden Bombsight and its importance:

- [Bombsight Storage Building - Lewistown Satellite Airfield Historic District | Historic Montana](#)
- [Lewistown Satellite Airfield Historic District \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)
- [Norden M-9 Bombsight: National Museum of the United States Air Force](#)

2) Local WAAC enlistments

Lewistown had many local enlistments and those who served in the war. This reading shows one example:

Quartet of Local WAACs Leave Monday

The Sunday Democrat News, January 31, 1943

The Misses Helen Hagstrom, Marimavis Evans, Virginia Alm and Enid Mason Head for Fort Des Moines, Iowa, Monday Nite.

Four Fergus County young women who have recently enlisted in the woman's army auxiliary corps have received their call and will leave Monday night for the WAAC training headquarters at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

They are Helen Hagstrom, Marimavis Evans and Virginia Alm, all of Lewistown, and Enid Mason of Denton.

Although definite plans have not been announced, it is understood members of the Elks band and others are preparing to give the local WAAC contingent a community farewell send off as they embark for their training assignment with the U.S. Army.

Research

Learn more about the [WAACs](#) and their importance. They became the [Women's Army Corps \(WACS\)](#) in August of the year this article was written.

Lesson 2: Civilian Volunteerism and Contributions on the Home Front in Lewistown, Montana, World War II Heritage City

About this Lesson

This lesson is part of a series teaching about the World War II home front, with [Lewistown, Montana](#) designated as an American [World War II Heritage City](#). The lesson contains readings and photos to contribute to learners' understandings about the ways civilians contributed to home front efforts. These efforts included Red Cross volunteers, participating in scrap and salvage drives, air raid wardens, and victory gardens.

Objectives:

1. Identify examples of ways civilians volunteered on the home front in Lewistown, Montana.
2. Describe how volunteer efforts in Lewistown contributed to the war efforts.
3. Compare local, historical perspectives on service to synthesize and connect to larger wartime perspectives and themes.

Materials for Students:

1. Photos: Figures 8-10 (*can be displayed digitally*)
2. Readings 1, 2, 3 (and optional extension)
3. *Recommended:* Map of Montana with Lewistown marked; other airfields can also be marked.



Getting Started: Essential Question

How did civilians in Lewistown, Montana contribute to home front war efforts, and why were their contributions significant?

Photos



Figure 8: An example of a poster encouraging Red Cross volunteers: Volunteer for victory Offer your services to your Red Cross; Toni Frissell. (1941 – 1945) Although this print was not specific to Lewistown, Lewistown had volunteers with the Red Cross. (Credit: Library of Congress)



By the numbers:

- 5, 874: Approximate population of Lewistown, Montana in 1940; 6,573 in 1950 (US Census)
- Fergus County six months scrap quota: 1,637,000 lbs (*Lewistown Democrat-News*, February 2, 1943, p.8)
- 100 local citizens had completed a voluntary air raid warden course by September 22, 1942 (*Lewistown Democrat-News*, p.3)



Quotation to consider:

“With American service men stationed in every part of the world, the burden of the American Red Cross is far heavier than anything ever before experienced. Realizing this, we believe the contributions from Lewistown people will be prompt and generous.”

- *City Air Raid Wardens will Open Red Cross 1943 War Fund Throughout City Today*, January 16, 2024, p.2



Read to Connect

Reading 1: Newspaper Article

Background: Mrs. Alfred Walter (A.W.) Johnson, chairman of the Fergus County Red Cross Surgical Dressing committee in the article, was the mother to Second Lieutenant Stanley W. Johnson. Second Lieutenant Johnson went missing in action over the Pacific on November 7, 1943. The minuteman electronics building on Malmstrom Air Force Base was renamed Johnson Hall in his honor in 1963. Mrs. A.W. Johnson, Gold Star mother, was the paternal grandmother of Robin Fleming of Lewistown, Montana. Fleming contributed scanned copies of the following article, and the photo.

250 Fergus County Women Making Red Cross Surgical Dressings

Fergus County Argus, December 24, 1942, p. 1-2. (*Lewistown is located within Fergus County.*)

That the women of Fergus County are wholeheartedly contributing to the nation’s war effort is evidenced in the report today by Mrs. A.W. Johnson, chairman of the Fergus County Red Cross Surgical Dressing committee.



Figure 9: Mrs. A.W. Johnson (right) with son Second Lieutenant Stanley W. Johnson and wife Barbara in 1943. (Credit: Robin Fleming, granddaughter of A.W. Johnson)

The task of folding dressings, Mrs. Johnson states, is indeed a tedious one and the nearly 175 workers in Lewistown are doing an excellent job. Perfection and not speed is the aim at all the classes which are held daily, above the P.C.A. offices, except Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and each Monday evening from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

After the holidays two and perhaps three evening classes will be in session during the week. When it is realized by the ladies that every dressing folded will be used for the boys of the United States forces only, the pains taken to turn out a 100% dressing is clearly evidenced. Two types of sponges are being made by the Fergus County women, both of which dressings are applied directly to the wound so the importance of keeping them sterile is plain to see. Each worker, before entering the surgical dressing room, must change from her street clothes to a fresh cotton dress, preferably white,

must wear a head covering and have her fingernails free from any artificial polish. The quota assigned to any one chapter is classed a military secret and must not be divulged, Mrs. Johnson informed the Argus today.

In addition to the Lewistown ladies folding dressings, a work room has been established at Denton where regularly 60 ladies of that community devote a certain number of hours to the project. Mrs. Johnson reported that the Denton group, working under the Fergus County chapter, had obtained an excellent work room and the job they were doing was greatly augmenting the work in this city. Their number brings the total number of women folding dressings to nearly 250.

The surgical dressing program is the largest, single Red Cross endeavor that has ever been undertaken and the women of the United States, volunteering for duty, will turn out 90% of the dressings which are to be used.

A number of important revisions as a result of the experience gained in making the first reserve stock of 40 million dressings for the U.S. army have been forthcoming. Surgical dressings for the army must conform to the specifications given in the Red Cross manual. When a large number of individuals are working on a project, uniformity in all processes and in the finished product is essential. The highest standard of workmanship must be

maintained. If a chapter is unable to provide proper supervision to fulfill these requirements, it should not accept a quota as the errors and poorly made dressings of one chapter offset the splendid work of many. The manual also stresses that absolutely no deviations in the directions for the dressings are allowed. Specifications are made up under the orders of U.S. Army surgeon General. . .”

Questions for Reading 1 and Photos

1. In the reading, how do the women of Fergus County contribute to the nation's war effort?
2. What measures did the volunteers take to ensure the quality of their work?
3. How did the surgical dressing program connect to broader wartime initiatives? Consider the involvement of women volunteers.

Photos



Figure 10: An example of a poster encouraging civilian participation in salvage for the war effort: “Are you helping? With Salvage” Although this was printed by the Work Projects Administration in So. California, similar prints were found across the US. Lewistown, Montana contributed with salvage and scrap drives. (Credit: Library of Congress)

Reading 2: Newspaper Excerpt

City’s Scrap Metal Drive Swings Into High Gear Thursday; Speeds Up Today

Lewistown Democrat-News, October 2, 1942, p. 3

More Valued Keepsakes Added to Growing Stack of Scrap Metal Vital to War Effort as County Salvage Depot Trucks Kept Busy Picking Up House to House Contribution

A Japanese Prayer Mirror and a 27-85 M.M. shell of World War I days were added to the tons of scrap metal which started rolling in from practically every household and business house Thursday as Lewistown's part in the Fergus County intensified scrap metal drive, sponsored by the newspapers of America, was shifted into high gear preparatory to an accelerating climax today and grand finale Saturday.

The three big trucks from the county salvage depot, corner Fourth and Erie were kept rolling from early morning until late at night, with the truckers endeavoring to reach at least a majority of the homes and business houses where a pickup was requested for Thursday. There were stacks of metal scrap in front of practically every home Thursday morning, while in the business district the scrap piles appeared in the interior of many stores as well as at the alley entrances.

The truckers will still be on the move today and any 'Thursday' customer who was overlooked will be cared for, if possible, before the week ends. However, just in case of an oversight, anyone who was overlooked and wants to be sure that his or her metal scrap contribution to the war effort is called for, is asked to call Phone 1250 at the County Salvage depot.

The decidedly rare 'Japanese Prayer Mirror' turned in to Scrap Chairman Harold Erickson was contributed by Mrs. John M. Heckler, while Dr. Kidder donated the World War shell keepsake.

Everyone is urged to keep hunting for metal scrap, as the campaign does not end until October 17, and every ounce is vitally needed to keep the war making machinery of the nation moving.

Questions for Reading 2

1. Why were there scrap metal and [material drives](#) on the home front during the war?
2. What unique items were added to the scrap metal collection in Lewistown as part of the Fergus County scrap metal drive? Why do you think these items were highlighted?
3. Based on the details in the reading, how effective was the scrap metal drive with community participation and raising awareness of the importance of contributing to the war effort?

Reading 3: Newspaper Article

Mounted Air Raid Warden Detachment Being Formed Here

Lewistown Evening Telegram, May 6, 1942, p.4

What is believed to be the first Mounted Air Raid Warden detachment under the Fergus County civilian defense setup in Montana is now assured for Lewistown, it was announced Tuesday at local civilian defense headquarters. This innovation and civilian defense preparedness has come about through the personal efforts of Cy Price and Charles Cooley, both of whom are ardent horsemen. They in turn have enlisted the volunteer services of other local horsemen and making up a mounted air raid warden unit of what eventually will be 15 or 20 members. Many of whom have already signed up at local civilian defense headquarters for this work.

At a later date, this group expects to set up their own staff, which will work in conjunction with the regular defense air raid wardens under the general chairmanship of Sheriff Tullock and his Assistant Chief of Police, A.C. McKnight. Among those already signed up for Fergus County's Cavalry Civilian Defense Detachment, in addition to Messrs. Price and Cooley, are T.R. Biggerstaff, Ken Mortag, Evan Hall, Bill Goodrich, Clifford Pallett, R. R. Williamson and Dr. C. P. Smith.

Questions for Reading 3

1. What made civilian defense preparedness and volunteer contributions important on the home front?
2. How would the mounted air raid warden unit contribute to civilian defense preparedness in Lewistown?
3. Why was it important to use horsemen for air raid defense in a rural place like Fergus County, considering things like the land and what resources are available?

Lesson Closing

Using details from across the readings, describe some of the different ways civilians contributed to the home front efforts in Lewistown.

Answer the essential question: How did civilians in Lewistown, Montana contribute to home front war efforts, and why were their contributions significant?

Extension

Victory Gardens in Lewistown

[Victory gardens](#) were another way that civilians in Lewistown contributed to the home front. To increase motivation and excitement around gardening, a local newspaper hosted a Victory Garden competition with prizes.

Democrat-News will Sponsor Victory-Garden Event, in Line with Food-For-Victory Drive

The Judith Basin Farmer (Lewistown, Montana), March 4, 1943, p.2



The advertisement is a rectangular poster with a decorative border. At the top left is a graphic of a seed bag labeled 'BETTER SEEDS'. To its right, the text reads 'mean BETTER RESULTS!' in a stylized font. Below this is a cartoon illustration of a smiling man wearing a hat and driving a tractor. Underneath the tractor, it says 'For Your Victory Garden!'. The main text of the ad reads: 'We are Central Montana's Headquarters for VICTORY GARDEN SUPPLIES'. Below this, there is a bulleted list: '• Anaconda Garden Fertilizer', '• Ammoniated Phosphate', and '• Superphosphate'. Further down, it lists 'Vegetable and Flower Seed in 5c pkts. or bulk' and 'Tomato, Cabbage, Asparagus, Onion and Strawberry Plants'. Below that, it lists 'Rose Bushes, Crab Apples, Etc.' and 'Gladiolus Bulbs, Dahlia Tubers, Onion Sets Seed Potatoes'. At the bottom, it says 'Quality Merchandise • Priced to Sell!' followed by '— at —' and 'Searle Seed Co.' in a large, bold font. The location 'Lewistown, Montana' is printed at the very bottom.

Figure 11: Advertisement for Victory Garden supplies at the Searle Seed Co. within the *Fergus County Argus*, Lewistown, Montana (May 11, 1944)

With a view to lending encouragement to the nationwide Victory Garden campaign and furnish added incentive for every resident to put in a private garden as a means of supplementing the family larder pinched by necessary rationing of foods needed for the boys overseas, the Democrat-News in cooperation with other local concerns and individuals has arranged to make special interest arousing prize offers.

As part of the plan the Democrat-News will give out \$25 in war stamps for the best gardens and during the growing and harvesting season will devote its display window to out-of-the-ordinary and peculiar garden grown vegetables, fruits, plants and such like, brought to the office.

Other special prizes to be announced later will be offered by merchants, seed houses and other concerns and individuals, with a view to making the prize distribution as widespread as possible.

Small gardens as well as large ones will have an equal chance in this interesting war-aid contest, with neatness, variety, size, and growth of plant products all to be given consideration in the final judging. . .

Lesson 3: Home Front Experiences and Contributions by Youth in Lewistown, Montana, World War II Heritage City

About this Lesson

This lesson is part of a series teaching about the World War II home front, with [Lewistown, Montana](#) designated as an American [World War II Heritage City](#). The lesson contains readings and photos to contribute to learners' understandings about what it was like for children in Lewistown: to grow up on the home front and to contribute to the war effort and their community.

Objectives:

1. Describe how local Lewistown youth were impacted by the war and what it was like to grow up on the home front.
2. Identify ways youth contributed to the war effort and their community.
3. Compare local, historical perspectives on service to synthesize and connect to larger wartime perspectives and themes.

Materials for Students:

1. Photos: Figures 11-17 (*can be displayed digitally*)
2. Readings 1, 2, 3
3. *Recommended:* Map of Montana with Lewistown marked; other airfields can also be marked.



Getting Started: Essential Question

How did the experiences of growing up on the home front in Lewistown, Montana shape the lives of local youth, and what roles did they play in contributing to the war effort and their community?

Photos: Reading 1



Figure 12: Gary Yaeger's birthday party. Gary is Right Front, and brother, Bill, is behind him. Photo taken on August 14, 1945, also known as V-J Day, Victory over Japan Day. (Courtesy of Gary Yaeger)



Figure 13: Gary Yaeger, age 11, with a friend and his Uncle Bill. His Dad is "proudly watching, since he spent 27 years operating steam engines on our farmland." Gary continues to use and share about steam engines today. (Courtesy of Gary Yaeger)



Figure 14: 1942 Montana license plate (bottom of photo), made of tin. 1944 Montana plate (top of photo) is made of soy meal. (Courtesy of Gary Yaeger)



Figure 15: 1943 Montana license plate is made of old 1942 license plate (see Figure 13), to save metal. (Courtesy of Gary Yaeger)



Quotation to consider:

“Locally the Girl Scouts are taking active leadership in the gathering of waste fats, disposing of them at the reception depots—Lewistown Grocery, Safeway Store and Pete’s Sell-Rite—and using the money received for their Girl Scout activity fund.”

- *“Kitchen-Fats Week for Feb. Starts Monday: All Housewives urged to cooperate in important war effort salvage program and at same time aid local girl scout movement;” The Sunday Democrat News, January 31, 1943*



Read to Connect

Reading 1: Narrative

Gary Yaeger: Life as a Child on the Home Front in Lewistown, Montana

Note: This first-person narrative was compiled and revised from communications between Sarah Nestor Lane and Gary Yaeger. Gary Yaegar was born in Lewistown, Montana and raised on his Grandpa Jäger's 1880-1881 Homestead ranch, 9 miles southwest of Lewistown on Beaver Creek. He shares memories of growing up on the home front. His cousin also trained at Lewistown Army Airfield.

Memories of the Lewistown Army Airfield

“Lewistown is the most complete B-17 base extant, according to the Montana Historical Society. Incidentally, when they took off on Runway 25 (west), they exited the Lewistown Flight Pattern over our ranch, where they turned east to head to their bombing range 12 miles north of Winnett, Montana. My older brother Bill and I used to run outside to watch those B-17s with all 36 cylinders in a full power climbing turn over our Beaver Creek Ranch: a sound I shall never forget.

I had a dear friend from Kalispell who moved to Lewistown for two years operating a Cat Road grader in the lengthening of the runways to accommodate the needed length for these bombers. This cut 85-90 miles both ways from West Base in Great Falls to Winnett. The bombing target there is still visible from space. It is the only one extant. The others around the nation got built over, paved or plowed under.

Gasoline was precious during the war. There were five huge fuel tanks that held B-17 fuel alongside the old Milwaukee Railroad where the highway overpass was until a few short years ago. The railroad delivered gasoline. I remember a little tar paper shack with a yard

light outside. There was always a soldier with his rifle guarding the tanks day and night. Those soldiers were very impressive upon this boy's mind.

Childhood Memories, Rationing and License Plates

I remember the bombers, I remember trips to Lewistown in the 1937 Plymouth, and Mom read me books at night. Salty Sam the Sailor was my favorite and I was singing "Bell Bottom Trousers" (on pitch).

We had the red and blue tokens that were "change" for items that were rationed. Sugar was scarce. We had a one-acre garden and lived off the land pretty much. We boys had to help water and weed after planting. We had a root cellar and Dad used it. Lots of steam engines were scrapped during the war. I'd heard that the Barr Brothers at Hobson, Montana had "a mile" of old tractors stacked along the Great Northern Railway there. They were scrapping the tractors . . .

Gasoline was rationed, but as farmers, our farm fuel was rationed, but it usually came through, according to Dad. The vehicle fuel was more tightly rationed. Somewhere I still have ration coupons, the red and blue tokens. Born in 1943, the pennies were zinc, not copper. I kept quite a few of them, and license plates were another thing. The photo of a green 1944 Montana license plate is made of soy meal. Below is a black 1942 tin license plate. The third license plate was a 1943; they took left over 1942 plates, chopped them into nearly quarters, re-stamped them with 1943 and painted that portion red.

A local Lewistown machinery salesman had a knack for stopping at farms as the farmer's wives usually had decent meat and vegetables to serve. He would stop by a farm around 11 to 11:30 A.M. to talk machinery. Farmers, being the good people they are, would ask him to stay for "Dinner" (noontime in Montana back then!). He went to a farm and got asked for dinner. When he came out, the pigs that were running loose around the buildings ate both license plates from his vehicle!

Family Service

My late brother Bill was five years older than me. He was my aircraft library! Incidentally, he ended up being



Figure 16: William J. Bill Yaeger, Gary Yaeger's late brother. Gary recalled watching B-17 flyovers from Lewistown Airfield with his brother, and that Bill was the "aircraft library." (Courtesy of Gary Yaeger)



Figure 17: Frank McArthur, cousin of Gary Yaeger, who trained at Lewistown Army Airfield and did overseas bombing missions. (Courtesy of Gary Yaeger)

a US Army Brigadier General, qualified in eight fixed-wing, multi-engine, and rotary-wing aircraft as a Master Aviator.

Cousin Frank McArthur's parents lived in Great Falls. His mother Julia was Dad's older sister. Frank and his brother Raymond spent lots of time with Grandma Yaeger, Dad, and his seven brothers on Beaver Creek. Frank trained in Lewistown and flew 33 or 34 missions over Germany as a B-17 Bombardier. I'm unaware of the amount of time Frank spent training at Lewistown. He only had to fly 25 missions then could be rotated out to another theater of operation. He told his commander, "These guys are my friends and I'm staying."

After he was stationed in Germany, he had a few stories I remember. One was about the Norden Bomb Sight. When they were over target, the control of the plane was given to the bombardier. He said if their plane ever got hit and they had time, there was a canister he was to place the "top secret" bombsight into, with explosives that destroyed the sight. Frank told about doing only nighttime bombing sorties over Germany. Their fighter aircraft had a better chance against the superior German Messerschmitt fighter planes. But when America had tested and built the P-51 Mustang fighter plane, it was superior to any German fighter plan of that era. They then went to daytime bombing missions. Schweinfurt was one he really remarked on, because that city had the ball and roller bearing factory that were used in German warfare equipment: airplanes, tanks, trucks, etc. Without bearings, the rest of the huge amounts of iron were helpless. Frank was released from the Army Air Corps as a Staff Sergeant sometime after Germany surrendered. Frank stayed in central Montana as a rancher after the war. I saw him often. Our family called him a (Missouri River) "river rat."

Raymond, Frank's brother, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was a member of the "Rainbow Division" that helped liberate Dachau Concentration Camp, near Muenchen, or Munich, Germany. After the war, Ray went back to Great Falls and passed away about 8 years ago there.

The end of the war

My mother talked to us boys each night about "The War." She was obsessed by it. But that did make me aware of what was going on with the war. Hitler and Hirohito were not nice

words at our house. The Japanese did surrender on my August 14th birthday in 1945! I thought people were happy it was my birthday!

Questions for Reading 1 and Photos

1. What memories does Gary Yaeger share about the Lewistown Army Airfield and its impact on his childhood in Montana?
2. What were some of the ways he remembered rationing as a child? How do you think rationing affected the lives of civilians in Lewistown?
3. How did Gary Yaeger's family members contribute to the war effort during World War II?
4. What was unique about one of Gary's birthdays?
5. Why are the personal memories of people who grew up on the home front during World War II important in helping us understand what life was like during that time?

Reading 2: Newspaper Article

Free Theater Ticket for Each Lb. Of Copper

Lewistown Democrat-News, February 2, 1943, p. 8

School-Theater Copper Scrap Drive Swings Into Action Monday; Ends Saturday

Fergus county's school-theater copper scrap drive got away to a flying start Monday, according to Tom Downen, chairman of the county salvage committee, who said that local school authorities reported receiving a considerable quantity of war-needed copper articles from students who, with parental cooperation, started the week's drive off with a bang.

Through the courtesy of Manager Irving Simpson of the Judith theater, school children of the county are to receive a pass to the theater for each pound of copper turned into the schools during this week. The passes will be good for any show at the Judith up to and including Feb. 15 and the state school that turns in the highest amount of copper per scholar will be awarded a \$25 prize by the state salvage department, Downen stated.

Under this system the smallest rural school has the same opportunity to win the grand prize as the largest school—if not better—and in this connection Chairman Downen urged that rural school teachers present the program in detail to their pupils at once.

All of the copper must be taken to the schools for checking and weighing in. The copper campaign which started Monday ends next Sunday.

Questions for Reading 2

1. How do you think incentivizing students with theater passes and a prize for their school affected their participation in the copper scrap drive?
2. Why were scrap drives like this important to the home front war efforts?

Photo



Figure 18: Example of a poster for the National Youth Administration: "Jobs - get the facts about occupations - free classes for young men and women 16 to 25 yrs." National Youth Administration of Illinois / Dusek. Poster shows a young woman holding books and a young man holding machine parts, with factories and city skyline below. (Credit: Library of Congress)

Reading 3: Newspaper Article

Background: The National Youth Administration (N.Y.A.) was a New Deal agency sponsored by Franklin D. Roosevelt. It provided work and education for youths aged between 16 and 25. It started in 1935 and was discontinued in 1943.

Air Raid Shelter Blankets for Red Cross and Model Poultry Houses Being Made by Local N.Y.A. Youth; Some Material Needed.

Various phases of the national defense program in which efforts, abilities, and equipment of the local N.Y.A. integrate with timely fitness are now receiving the attention of Mrs. Emma Lincoln, head of the local N.Y.A. program, and the 10 boys and 10 girls of Lewistown and vicinity who are currently enrolled in the National Youth self-help movement here.

The making of raid shelter blankets for the Red Cross by the girls and miniature chicken houses as models for increased poultry and egg production for distribution over the Central Montana area to aid in the greater food for defense program are now receiving the full attention of N.Y.A. enrollees at their headquarters located in the old Presbyterian church building at the corner of Janeaux and Fifth avenue.

A visit any afternoon to this locality will find the crew of 20 young people busily engaged in carrying to successful conclusion this most worthwhile defense project handed them and prove a pleasant surprise to the visitor.

One of the chief needs at the present time, according to Mrs. Lincoln, is old coats, blankets and other wool articles which the N.Y.A girls can renovate, cut up and sew into the needed air raid shelter blankets for the Red Cross. Anyone having such articles is requested to write Mrs Emma Lincoln . . . Or leave the articles at N.Y.A. Headquarters Corner, Janeaux and Fifth. The local Red Cross chapter is furnishing the lining for the blankets. Five of the present quota of which have already been completed.

On completion of the allotted model poultry houses, the boys will next start on a similar quota of model brooders and model hog houses, all of which, when completed, will be distributed at key points throughout the Central Montana areas for study by farmers and others desiring to tie in with the Food Production for Defense program. On a recent visit to the Lewistown N.Y.A, Col. George W. Wiesel of Helena, Director of the Montana in Regulation. work program, stated that the projects being carried out by the local NYA boys and girls were by all odds the best in the state. He also highly complimented the personnel of the Lewistown group, both young and old. . .

Questions for Reading 3

1. What were some of the specific local and wartime needs, and how were they addressed by the N.Y.A.?
2. How do you think the involvement of young people in projects like these impacted their sense of contribution to the war effort and their community?
3. Consider the viewpoints and contributions across the three readings: How do you think children's home front contributions varied based on age and other factors? How would you describe growing up on the home front as a child in Lewistown, based on some of the information presented?

Lesson Closing

Answer the essential question: How did the experiences of growing up on the home front in Lewistown, Montana shape the lives of local youth, and what roles did they play in contributing to the war effort and their community?

Lesson 4: Lewistown, Montana: Comparing and Connecting WWII Home Front Cities

About this Lesson

This lesson is part of a series teaching about the World War II home front, with [Lewistown, Montana](#) designated as an American [World War II Heritage City](#). The lesson contains photographs, two readings, optional media activity, and a culminating mastery project. The first reading shares a brief summary of Lewistown's contributions as a Heritage City, and the second reading connects the region to the designation of a Heritage City. There is a media activity to watch a local news clip highlighting the city's designation. The culminating project contributes to learners' understandings of the city as a WWII Heritage City, with the opportunity to combine lesson themes from the three other lessons in the Lewistown [lesson collection](#). This is to summarize the city's contributions and encourage connections to the overall U.S. home front efforts.

Objectives:

In a culminating product:

- a. Identify important World War II home front locations and organizations in Lewistown, Montana and describe their historical significance
- b. Explain the significance of the Lewistown Army Airfield in the training of B-17 Flying Fortress crews and Allied Forces successes
- c. Summarize the contributions and volunteerism of Lewistown civilians
- d. Describe life on the home front for children and their contributions within Lewistown, Montana
- e. *Optional:* Describe similarities and differences of Lewistown and other Heritage city(s) / World War II home front(s).

Materials for Students:

1. Photos: Figures 18-19 (*can be displayed digitally*)
2. Readings 1, 2, & media activity link
3. Maps, project materials (as needed)
4. Student graphic organizers (See Figure 20 at end of lesson, for reference)

- Create Comparison Matrices for your students to use. To compare two cities, create a one-page sheet with three columns and four rows. Label the left column Theme/Topic and the other columns City 1 and City 2. For a Comparison Matrix for three cities simply add an additional column.
- Create two Single-Point Rubrics to assist students' self-assessment. One is for assessing proficiency in meeting teacher-selected standards. One is for assessing proficiency in meeting objectives.
- For the rubric on standards, create a one-page sheet with three columns and four rows of content. Label the first column "Areas for Improvement," the second column, "Proficient (Meeting Standard)," and the third column, "Areas of Exceeding Standard." Leave the first and third columns blank. In each row of the second column identify a Standard and indicate a space for noting the evidence for meeting the standard. Include a space at the bottom of the page for assigning points for each column.
- For the rubric on objectives, create a one-page sheet with three columns and four rows of content. Label the first column "Areas for Improving toward Objective," the second column, "Proficient (Meeting Objective)," and the third column, "Areas of Exceeding Objective." Leave the first and third columns blank. In the four rows of the second column identify these four objectives:
 - a. Identify important World War II home front locations and organizations in Lewistown, Montana and describe their historical significance
 - b. Explain the significance of the Lewistown Army Airfield in the training of B-17 Flying Fortress crews and Allied Forces successes
 - c. Summarize the contributions and volunteerism of Lewistown civilians
 - d. Describe life on the home front for children and their contributions within Lewistown, Montana
 - e. *Optional:* Describe similarities and differences of Lewistown and other Heritage city(s) / World War II home front(s).

Include a space at the bottom of the page for assigning points for each column. See the last photo of this lesson for reference.



Getting Started: Essential Question

Why was Lewistown chosen as an American World War II Heritage City, and what are its similarities and differences to other home front cities?

Photos



Figure 19: Photograph of the Airport in Lewistown, Montana during World War II. The airfield was used for training pilots; 1942 (Credit: Lewistown Public Library; Central Montana Historical Photographs)



Figure 20: Photograph of the Airport in Lewistown, Montana during World War II. Pictured is one of the airfield's hangars, 1942-1943 (Credit: Lewistown Public Library; Central Montana Historical Photographs)



Quotation to consider:

“When they very first started, they flew one of the B-17s over Main Street in Lewistown, which didn't take very long, but with the bomb doors open and everything, I can't imagine how excited those people were at that time and how welcoming they must have been to all of our servicemen to come and train . . . The history would have been different. The war would have ended differently and it [Norden bombsight] developing out of something that looks like a small little shack that made such a huge impact; to me is inspiring.”

- Doug Day, member of the Lewistown Historic Preservation Board, quoted in “Lewistown named Montana’s only WWII American Heritage City,” August 18, 2023, Montana Right Now

Reading 1: Contributions of Lewistown, Montana

Teacher Tip: This summarizes readings from across the other Lewistown lessons. It can be used to summarize or review the learning from the previous lessons.

During World War II, Lewistown, Montana, played a significant role in contributing to the home front war efforts. The most notable contributions were from the establishment of the Lewistown Army Airfield, where service members received training for operating the B-17 Flying Fortress and utilizing the Norden Bombsight. This training proved crucial as many of the military personnel trained here went on to support Allied successes abroad. Nearly 1,000 service members underwent training at the Lewistown Airfield, strengthening the ranks of the Allied Forces. Lewistown also had many local enlistments, with men and women joining the military to serve both stateside and overseas.

Local civilians in Lewistown actively volunteered their time and resources to support the war effort. Women played a vital role by volunteering for the Red Cross, where they contributed to the production of surgical dressings essential for medical care on the front lines. The community rallied together to donate scrap metal for the war effort, participated in war fund campaigns, and engaged in activities such as victory gardens to supplement food supplies. Local civilians trained and volunteered as air wardens, including a unit of mounted air wardens.

Children in Lewistown were also involved in contributing. The local National Youth Administration (NYA) produced air raid shelter blankets for the Red Cross and created agricultural models to support increased food production for defense purposes. Collecting

kitchen fats was supported by the Girl Scouts. Children collected copper and other materials in local drives. They participated in victory gardening with their families.

Overall, the collective efforts of the residents of Lewistown exemplified their dedication and commitment to supporting the war effort on the home front during World War II.

Reading 2: Heritage City Designation

Excerpt from: “[House Report 115-998](#), “*To Direct the Secretary of the Interior to Annually Designate at Least One City in The United States as An ‘American World War II Heritage City,’ and for other purposes*” (October 30, 2018)

“. . .PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 6118 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to annually designate at least one city in the United States as an “American World War II Heritage City”.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

On December 7, 1941, military forces of the Empire of Japan attacked the U.S. Naval Fleet and ground bases at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. On December 8, 1941, one day after what President Roosevelt referred to as, “a date which will live in infamy,” the United States declared war against the Empire of Japan. Three days later, on December 11, 1941, Japan's ally, Germany, declared war on the United States. Sixteen million Americans, mostly young working-age men, served in the military during World War II, out of an overall United States population of 113 million.

While an unprecedented number of Americans served in World War II, the country drastically increased its war production on the home front, serving not only the needs of the armed forces of the United States but her allies as well--in what President Franklin Roosevelt called “The Arsenal of Democracy.” The combination of millions serving in the military, during a period of necessary and drastic increases in production, led to significant social changes on the American home front.

The World War II period resulted in the largest number of people migrating within the United States in the history of the country. Individuals and families relocated to industrial centers for good paying jobs out of a sense of patriotic duty. Many industrial centers became “boomtowns,” growing at phenomenal rates. One example, the City of Richmond, California, grew from a population of under 24,000 to over 100,000 during the war. . .”

Questions for Reading 1 and 2, Photos

1. What was the purpose of the bill (H.R. 6118) according to the report?
2. Why do you think Lewistown, Montana was designated as a World War II Heritage City? Connect details from the bill and the first reading.
3. Are there other cities you think of when considering home front contributions during wartime? Which, and why?

Media Activity

Heritage City Local News Coverage

Watch the [local news clip](#) (2:54) about Lewistown's Heritage City designation.

(Date: August 18, 2023, by Nonstop Local, of Central and Western Montana)

Transcript:

Reporter: In the dark days following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Congress appropriated massive defense appropriations. The US army selected Great Falls as a site for a major air base and then satellite airfields were built in Cut Bank, Glasgow, and Lewistown. That is where we find Joee Taylor who's diving into history as Lewistown gets ready to celebrate being named as Montana's only World War II Heritage City.

Joee Taylor, reporter: While this building might not look like much today, back in World War II it was encircled with barbed wire and kept under 24-hour armed guard as part of the Lewistown Satellite Airfield. Montana provided an ideal landscape for B-17 bomber training crews, so the US focused on the training of B-17 pilots here, as well as training bombardiers on a new piece of equipment - the Norden bombsight. This is how it works: As a bomber is approaching its target, the bombardier can enter the wind direction airspeed and altitude data into the bombsight's analog computer, and it would calculate wind drift and correctly aim the bomb.

Doug Day, Lewistown Historic Preservation Board Member: The airmen would come to Lewistown and a few other places, but Lewistown was one of the main places from anywhere from a month to three months, and train on how to fly the Flying Fortress , a B-17. . . Crawl into this little bubble underneath it to be a bombardier or a pilot or . . . Those guys are heroes. I can't imagine how brave they were. They'd come to Lewistown and train and then go off to fight in the war.

Taylor: The B-17 was said to have dropped more bombs than any other US aircraft in World War II, and this satellite airfield in Lewistown was only one of four secret training airfields.

Day: A lot of them were taken down because the government won't leave things up for . . . for strategic reasons, but this one in Lewistown still exists, and it's now part of our heritage.

Taylor: Overall, Lewistown was crucial to the success of World War II because of the Norden bombsight.

Day: History would have been different. The war would have ended differently, and developing out of something a small little shack that looks like . . . made such a huge impact . . . to me is inspiring.

Taylor: Now this is the only identifiable Norden bombsight building still standing in the US and you can come check this along with other historic buildings out at the Lewistown airport tomorrow, and you can find those details on our website. I'm Joee Taylor. Nonstop Local.

Reporter: Joee, thank you very much. There will be an event tomorrow honoring this development. It will take place at the Historic Lewistown Satellite Airfield and will feature guest speakers, an ice cream social, and a walking tour. It starts at 2:00 p.m., so if you're living in or near Lewistown, be sure to check it out if you get the chance.

- What imagery and details stood out to you in the news clip? How does this connect to the history you have learned about Lewistown?
- Are there other details you would have included in the news story to describe the home front contributions of Lewistown?

Culminating Activity/Mastery Product

To demonstrate student understanding, support students in creating a final product that meets the following objectives:

- a. Identify important World War II home front locations and organizations in Lewistown, Montana and describe their historical significance
- b. Explain the significance of the Lewistown Army Airfield in the training of B-17 Flying Fortress crews and Allied Forces successes
- c. Summarize the contributions and volunteerism of Lewistown civilians
- d. Describe life on the home front for children and their contributions within Lewistown, Montana
- e. *Optional:* Describe similarities and differences of Lewistown and other Heritage city(s) / World War II home front(s).

Mastery products should be:

- . . . **student-led**; Students work as individuals or in collaborative groups.
- . . . **student-directed**: Students are offered a variety of choices for product type.
- . . . **student-organized**; Teacher facilitates by providing students with the comparison matrices and/or resource links from throughout the series of lessons.
- . . . **student-assessed**; Teacher supports student self-assessment and reflection by providing students single-point rubrics to assess for meeting standards and/or lesson objectives.

Note: Depending on time and scope, the comparison of Lewistown to another WWII Heritage or home front city(s) within the mastery product (objectives) may be omitted. However, comparing cities is recommended, as it connects students to a deeper understanding of the WWII home front.

Examples of mastery product choices include, but are not limited to:

- **Written**: Letter (opinion or informative), essay, poem, narratives, biography, articles, class book or children's book, speech or debate (then presented orally), blog / website, plaque or historical displays, pamphlets or rack cards
- **Graphic Organizers**: timeline, flowcharts, mind or concept content maps, Venn diagrams, comparison matrices, posters
- **Artistic Expression**: song, dance, theater (ex. skits), 3-D models, dioramas, photo journal, stamp and coin designs, visual art, architecture/building or monument, museum design
- **Media design and creation**: podcast, historical markers, social media content, interactive virtual maps or tours, infographics, video, comic strips or graphics, game design, slideshows, digital scrapbook

Please view the [NPS Heritage cities lesson collection](#) for information and resources on other cities.

Single-Point Rubric

Areas for Improvement	Proficient (Meeting Standard)	Areas of Exceeding Standard
	Standard: _____ Evidence of meeting standard: •	
	Standard: _____ Evidence of meeting standard: •	
	Standard: _____ Evidence of meeting standard: •	
	Standard: _____ Evidence of meeting standard: •	
Points		

Figure 21: Single-Point Rubric (Standards; Blank) [Teacher selects priority standards for assessment.] Courtesy of Sarah Nestor Lane

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