

OREGON STATE  
DEFENSE COUNCIL  
RECORDS

*1918-1920 & 1941-1945*

Processed 1987  
Accession 87A-42

## **OREGON STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

### **Accession 87A-42**

The Oregon State Defense Council accession consists of the records of the Defense Council of World War I and World War II. While the World War I records consist mostly of personal military service records, the World War II records concern full scale civil defense operations.

The records of the Defense Council of World War I contain correspondence of the state historian, personal military service records, and publications. The correspondence details efforts of the state historian to collect military and family histories of individual Oregon soldiers, medal selection, book drives, and children's essays.

The records of the World War II Defense Council relate to the preparation and implementation of policies for the protection of Oregon's coast, forests, and civilian population from potential enemy invasions. The records also deal with government involvement in domestic life during the war through food rationing, victory gardens, and nutrition programs. The World War II records consist of administrative correspondence, county civil defense correspondence, committee work, civil defense training schools, air raid warning records, publications and public relations material, and emergency medical services records. The topics include rumor control, child health care, consumer affairs, evacuation plans, public lighting, blackouts, dimouts, food rationing, nutrition, recreation, salvage, victory gardens, Women's Ambulance Corps, and attack drills.

The records of the Oregon Defense Council were originally accessioned into the State Archives between 1951-1976 under the following accessions: 76A-40, 76A-41, 76A-42, Inv. 83, and Inv. 87, and consisted of approximately sixty cubic feet of records. These accessions have been combined and are now identified by accession number 87A-42.

## **OREGON STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**

The Oregon State Defense Council of World War I was formed in April 1917. In 1918 the Council hired the state historian to appoint county historians and collect a permanent record of the war effort in Oregon. The primary duty of the state historian was collecting information about Oregon servicemen. The Education Department was enlisted to gather information on servicemen through school districts. This resulted in detailed personal data on the majority of men serving from Oregon. The Council ceased to function on January 1, 1919 although the state historian continued to collect records and assist a state Medal Selection Committee until 1922.

The Defense Council was re-created on June 1, 1941 by Executive Order of governor Charles A. Sprague. A twenty-six person State Advisory Council was appointed to decide the structure of the Defense Council. One of the first tasks assigned to the Council was the recruitment of volunteers for ground observation posts. Over 25,000 volunteers were recruited to monitor aircraft movements in western sectors of the state. The Defense Council organized civilian services including salvage, rationing, public welfare, child care, recreation, and health services. The Defense Council also concerned itself with the fighting of forest fires and blackout and dimout testing. Between late 1941 and mid-1942 several divisions of the Defense Council were organized including the Rumor and Propaganda Bureau, the Women's Activities Division, the Youth Participation Division, and the Training School Division.

In June 1942, the Defense Council changed its organizational structure to conform with the United States Office of Civilian Defense guidelines. Two major divisions, the Civilian Protection Division and the Civilian War Services Division, were organized. The Civilian Protection Division consisted of several subdivisions including Emergency Food and Housing, Evacuation, Camouflage, Aircraft Warning Service, Lighting, Public Utilities, Sanitation, Decontamination, Shore Patrol, Civil Air Patrol, Emergency Medical Service, and the Forest Fire Fighter Service. The civilian War Services

Division operated primarily as a liaison between federal bureaus and local defense councils. This Division helped counties organize civil defense service programs, set up volunteer bureaus, and establish Block Leader systems. The subdivision of the Civilian Protection Division included defense housing, salvage, consumer interests and rationing, agriculture and victory gardens, and health and welfare services. In July of 1942, the Information and Public Relations Division was formed. After 1943, the Defense Council's activities diminished rapidly and by 1945 the Defense Council ceased to exist.

**OREGON STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL  
SERIES LIST**

**Accession 87A-42**

Administrative Correspondence, 1941-1945.  
Air Raid Warning Records, 1941-1945.  
Civilian Training School Records, 1941-1945.  
Civilian War Service Records, 1942-1945.  
Control Center Drill Records, 1943.  
County Defense Council Records, 1941-1945.  
Emergency Medical Service Records, 1941-1945.  
Federal Office of Civilian Defense Council Correspondence,  
1941-1945.  
Fiscal Records, 1941-1945.  
Marion County Defense Council Records, 1941-1945.  
Oregon State Defense Council Bulletins, 1941-1945.  
Oregon State Defense Council Committee Records, 1941-1945.  
Oregon State Defense Council Operations Reports, 1941-1945.  
Personal Military Service Records, 1919-1920.  
Publications, 1941-1945.  
Public Relations Records, 1941-1945.  
Rumor and Propaganda Records, 1941-1945.  
State Historian Correspondence, 1918-1920.  
World War I Publications, 1917-1920.

**OREGON STATE DEFENSE COUNCIL  
CONTAINER LISTING**

**Accession 87A-42**

- CONTAINER 1: State Historian's Correspondence
- CONTAINER 2-7: Personal Military Service Records
- CONTAINER 8-9: World War I Publications
- CONTAINER 10-15: Administrative Correspondence
- CONTAINER 16-21: County Defense Council Records
- CONTAINER 22: Emergency Medical Services Records
- CONTAINER 23: Emergency Medical Services Records  
Oregon State Defense Council Defense  
Operations Reports
- CONTAINER 24: Civilian War Service Records
- CONTAINER 25: Civilian War Service Records  
Oregon State Defense Council Bulletins  
Rumor and Propaganda Records
- CONTAINER 26: Air Raid Warning Record
- CONTAINER 26-27: Marion County Defense Council Records
- CONTAINER 28-31: Oregon State Defense Council Committee
- CONTAINER 31: Oregon State Defense Council Committee  
Records  
Public Relations Records

- CONTAINER 32: Federal Office of Civilian Defense  
Correspondence  
Fiscal Records
- CONTAINER 33: Civilian Training School Records  
Control Center Drill Records
- CONTAINER 34-36: Publications
- CONTAINER 37: Air Raid Warning Records (oversized)
- CONTAINER 38: Public Relations Records (oversized)

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 1

**State Historian's Correspondence**

1918-1920

1 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by subject or by county name.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the state historian's efforts to collect individual military service records of Oregonians who served in World War I and to document the history of civilian groups. Records include correspondence, reports, and form letters. Series also includes school children's essays on the war. Topics include the collection of service records, medal distribution, the Circle Club, the American Jewish Committee, book drives, the American Red Cross, United States Boys Working Reserve, veterans in Oregon colleges, and war histories.

*Photographs removed to the photographic collection.*



**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 2-8

**Personal Military Service Records**

1919-1920

6 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by county name, thereunder numerical by school district and alphabetical by surname. Miscellaneous groups are arranged alphabetically by surname.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents an individual's military service in Oregon during World War I and was used as a basis for medal distribution. Standardized forms include name, date, type of service, injury or death data, and parents place of birth.

*Photographs removed to the photographic collection.*

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 9

**World War I Publications**

1917-1920

.5 cubic feet

Arrangement: none.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the activities of Oregonians in World War I. Records include newsletters, bulletins, pamphlets, blank data cards and questionnaires, memorials, and tributes. Publications include *Four Minute Men News* (December 14, 1918); *Oregon State Council of Defense Newsletter*; *Winged M Bulletin* (1918); *Oregon Overseas*; and "Friends' War Relief Service Report (typescript). Topics include Oregonians at war and the civilian war effort in Oregon.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 10-15

**Administrative Correspondence**

1941-1945

6 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by subject.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the activities of the Oregon State Defense Council during World War II. records include correspondence, minutes, activity reports, publications, reports, charts, and plans. Topics include the administration of the Council, the State Advisory Council, aeronautics, airplane crash service, alien permit control, enemy aliens, dimouts and blackouts, bomb reconnaissance agents, incendiary and unexploded bombs, citizens defense training, United States Citizens Defense Corps, civilian protection, county coordinators, confidential agents, emergency vehicle masks, civil reserve enrollment surveys, essential facilities lists, State Fire Marshall, fire defense programs, forest fire fighting, gas masks and decontamination, health, recreation, incident observers, Japanese bombs (paper), observation post reports, Oregon State Guard, plant protection, Public Utilities Commission, American Red Cross, shore patrol, transportation, highways, United States Army Confidential files, war disaster relief, Women Air Corps recruitment, and the Oregon Women's Ambulance Corps.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 16-21

**County Defense Council Records**

1941-1945

6 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by county name.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the activities of county defense councils in Oregon and their coordination with the State Defense Council. Records include correspondence, reports, organizational charts, bulletins, and brochures. Topics include blackout tests, civil defense equipment and training, civilian protection, appointments to the councils, incident tests, and the Curry County bombing incidents (1942).

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 22-23

**Emergency Medical Services Records**  
1941-1945  
2 cubic feet  
Arrangement: alphabetical by subject

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the activities of the Emergency Medical Services Committee of the Oregon State Defense Council. Records include correspondence, reports, and bulletins. Topics include base hospital units, ambulance services, blood banks, camouflage, civilian security, evacuation, gas protection, and nurses aids.

This series also includes medical facility survey results with correspondence and narrative reports which list emergency casualty stations by locations and summarize services available.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 23

**Oregon State Defense Council Operations Reports**  
1941-1943  
.25 cubic feet  
Arrangement: chronological by date of report.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the activities of county civil defense councils in Oregon during World War II. Reports include numbers of volunteers in each activity (air raid warden, firemen, nurses aide, etc.); number of volunteers trained, in training, and awaiting training in each activity; and number of paid staff. Series also includes statewide totals for each category.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 24-25

**Civilian War Service Records**

1942-1945

1.5 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by subject.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the activities of the Civilian War Services Division of the Defense Council. Records include correspondence, reports and bulletins. Topics include agriculture, block leaders, child welfare, civilian defense conferences, health, Junior Citizens Corps, neighborhood leaders, nutrition, physical fitness, rationing, and recreation.

Series also includes correspondence from county civil defense officials.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 25

**Oregon State Defense Council Bulletins**

1941-1945

5 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by bulletin type, thereunder chronological by date.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series reports on the activities of the Defense Council to county defense councils and the public on federal civil defense plans and requirements, Defense Council accomplishments, and protection against incendiary bombs and other dangers. Series includes informational, special, and war bulletins. topics include bombs, radio communications, blackouts, and plant protection.



**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 25

**Rumor and Propaganda Records**

1941-1945

.2 cubic feet

Arrangement: chronological by date of rumor.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents investigations and refutations of rumors brought to the Defense Council's attention by the public, the press, and other informants. Records include rumor, date, informant, factual information, and correspondence. Rumors concern overpricing by military suppliers, misuse of foodstuffs and salvage, and misconduct of allies.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 26 and 37 (OVERSIZED)

**Air Raid Warning Records**

1941-1945

.5 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by subject.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the activities of the Defense Council relating to air raid warnings systems, the Aircraft Warning Service, and the Aircraft Observation Service. Records include correspondence, reports, publications, and bulletins. Series also includes air raid warning district control center maps showing telephone and telegraph centers. Topics include recruitment of air raid wardens, maneuvers, drills, regulations, rescue service, and air raid preparation.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 26-27

**Marion County Defense Council Records**  
1941-1945  
1.5 cubic feet  
Arrangement: alphabetical by subject.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the activities of the Marion County Defense Council. Records include correspondence, newsletters, bulletins, maps, radio scripts, reports, and meeting minutes. Topics include air raid precaution, blackouts, decontamination, evacuation, auxiliary police, civil defense training, health, nurses aids, public welfare, rationing, block leaders, and the Women's Ambulance Corps.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 28-31

**Oregon State Defense Council Committee Records**  
1941-1945  
3.5 cubic feet  
Arrangement: alphabetical by committee name.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the activities of civil defense related committees or divisions of the Defense Council. Records include correspondence, reports, newsletters, bulletins, and radio scripts. Committees and divisions include Child Care and Welfare Committee, Consumer Interest Division, State Evacuation Committee; State Lighting Committee, State Nutrition Committee, Rationing Committee for Oregon, State Recreation Committee, Salvage Committee, Victory Garden Committee, Women's Activity Committee, and Youth Activity Committee. Topics include child care, health, rationing, evacuation, nutrition, gardening, recreation, women, and youth.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 31 and 38

**Public Relations Records**

1941-1945

.5 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by subject. Phonograph recordings are arranged and boxed separately.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents efforts to inform the public of the war effort and defense activities. Records include bulletins, correspondence, phonograph records (33 1/3 rpm) of the Public Relations Service, the Information and Propaganda Committee, and the Speaker's Bureau. Topics include federal plans and requirements for civil defense and defense council accomplishments.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 32

**Federal Office of Civilian Defense Correspondence**

1941-1945

.75 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by city of origin, thereunder alphabetical by correspondent.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents communications of the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD), Washington D.C., the OCD regional office in San Francisco, the sector office in Seattle, and the Federal Regional Advisory council within the Oregon State Defense Council. Records include correspondence, reports, bulletins, and newsletters. Topics include interstate cooperation in resource allocation, communications, air raid defense readiness, federal regulations, regional plans for defense, and civilian mobilization.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 32

**Fiscal Records**

1941-1945

.25 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by report, thereunder chronological by transaction date.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents financial matters of the Oregon State Defense Council. Records include audit (1941-1942) and expenditure reports (1944-1945), and an expenditure register (1941-1945). Entries include warrant date, payments, salaries, materials and supplies, and unexpended balance.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 33

**Civilian Training School Records**

1941-1945

.25 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by subject.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents the Defense Council's civilian training programs. Records include correspondence, manuals, and bulletins. Training classes included courses on bomb reconnaissance, chemical warfare, defense communications, fire defenses, motor transport, civilian and plant protection, and police reserves.

*Photographs removed to the photographic collection.*



**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 33

**Control Center Drill Records**

1943

.25 cubic feet

Arrangement: chronological by date and hour of drill.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents a full scale Japanese attack drill held on August 10, 1943 and other practice attack drills. Records include correspondence, scenario lists, dispatches, and control center messages. Topics include emergency preparedness.

**Oregon State Defense Council**  
Container 34-35 and 36 (OVERSIZED)

**Publications**

1941-1945

2.2 cubic feet

Arrangement: alphabetical by subject or publication title.

MicroMARC ID#: not assigned

Series documents state and national civil defense activities. Records include periodicals, bulletins, newsletters, broadsides, posters, insignia, decals, arm bands, pins, patches, maps, printing mats, and radio scripts. Newsletters include *Civilian Front* (1942-1945); *Japanese Exclusion League Journal* (Vol. 1, No. 1, 1945); *U.S. Western Defense*; and other publications of the Ninth Civilian Defense Region. Topics include labor, women, nutrition, women in the military, the Office of Civil Defense, the Office of Price Administration, protective services, public health, victory speakers, and volunteers.