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Photographing “Government Girls:” Esther Bubley, Wartime Femininity,
and the Office of War Information

Supplemental material for masters thesis: photos and illustrations referenced in thesis



Figure 1. Esther Bubley,
“Arlington Farms, war duration
residence halls. Sunbathers on
the sidewalk in the back of
Idaho Hall,” June 1943, LC-
USW3-028274-E.

Permission for use of this and
other Esther Bubley
photographs: There are no
known restrictions on
photographs taken by
employees of the Farm
Security Administration/Office
of War Information. They are
accessible at the Library of
Congress and are in the public
domain.

Figure 2. Alberto Vargas, “Varga Girl,” February 1942. Image of a blonde woman reclining,
wearing Hawaiian themed clothes. Image removed from thesis supplementary materials for
copyright. This image and other examples of Varga Girl pin-ups can be found at
<http://www.thepinupfiles.com/vargas1.html>.



Figure 3. “We Can Do It!” poster.
Permission: image is in the public domain.

The artist, J. Howard Miller, made the poster for Westinghouse and the War Production Co-ordinating Committee. Despite popular conceptions, the image was only internally used by Westinghouse during the war, not widely distributed. Westinghouse displayed it in February 1943, not for recruitment but to push already-hired women to work harder. See William L. Bird and Harry R. Rubenstein *Design for Victory: World War II Posters on the American Home Front* (Princeton: Princeton Architectural Press, 1998), 78.

Figure 4. Cover of the published music to the song "Rosie the Riveter," 1942. Image removed for copyright. Can be accessed at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Rosie_the_Riveter_cover.png.

Figure 5. Rosie the Riveter as depicted by Norman Rockwell on the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*, May 29, 1943. Image removed for copyright. Can be accessed at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:RosieTheRiveter.jpg>.



Figure 6. John Newton Howitt, “I’m proud ... my husband wants me to do my part / See your U.S. Employment Service / U.S. Government Printing Office,” 1944, Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-5603. Permission: no known restrictions on publication.

Figure 7. “Miss February,” 1944 Vargas Girl calendar. Image removed for copyright. Can be accessed at <http://seanlinnane.blogspot.com/2010/11/b-17g-mount-n-ride.html>.

Figure 8. Tony Starcer, “Mount ‘N Ride,” B-17 bomber nose art, 1944. Image removed for copyright. Can be accessed at <http://seanlinnane.blogspot.com/2010/11/b-17g-mount-n-ride.html> or http://www.91stbombgroup.com/photo_history/mount.html.

Figure 9. Betty Grable pin-up, 1943. Image removed for copyright. Can be accessed at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Betty_Grable_20th_Century_Fox.jpg.



Figure 10. "A sailor doesn't have to prove he's a man!" 1942, U.S. National Library of Medicine. Permission: image is in public domain.



Figure 11. "Washington, D.C. A radio is company for this girl in her boardinghouse room," Esther Bubley, January 1943, LC-USW3- 038309-E.



Figure 12. "Washington, D.C. The shower bath in a boardinghouse," Esther Bublely, January 1943, LC-USW3-038318-E.



Figure 13. "Washington, D.C. A clerk in the U.S. Navy Department reading in his room in a boardinghouse," Esther Bublely, January 1943, LC-USW3-038306-E [P&P].



Figure 14. "Washington, D.C. In the hall of a boardinghouse," Esther Bublely, January 1943, LC-USW3-038327-E [P&P].



Figure 15. "Washington, D.C. A boardinghouse rule forbids men guest to come into girls' rooms and vice versa," Esther Bublely, January 1943, LC-USW3-038305-E [P&P].



Figure 16. "Arlington, Virginia. Girls in two of the long line of showers at Idaho Hall, Arlington Farms, a residence for women who work in the U.S. government for the duration of the war," Esther Bublely, June 1943, LC-USW3-026005-E.



Figure 17. "Arlington, Virginia. Girls entertaining their guests in one of the two card rooms, at a residence for the women who work in the U.S. government for the duration of the war. More privacy is afforded here than in the main lounge," Esther Bublely, June 1943, LC-USW3-026020-E.



Figure 18. "Washington, D.C. Jitterbugs at an Elk's Club dance, the 'cleanest dance in town.'" April 1943. LC-USW3-023097-E.



Figure 19. "Washington, D.C. Girl sitting alone in the Sea Grill, a bar and restaurant waiting for a pickup. "I come in here pretty often, sometimes alone, mostly with another girl, we drink beer, and talk, and of course we keep our eyes open--you'd be surprised at how often nice, lonesome soldiers ask Sue, the waitress, to introduce them to us,"" Esther Bublely, April 1943, LC-USW3- 021005-E [P&P].



Figure 20. "Washington, D.C. Girl who has picked up two soldiers since coming into the Sea Grill alone. They are drinking beer and exchanging life histories," Esther Bublely, April 1943, LC-USW3-021032-E.