
A guide to the Permanente Metals Corporation photograph album, 1941-1945

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P14-006

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, National Park Service

2015, National Park Service

Title: Permanente Metals Corporation photograph album

Date: 1941-1945

Identifier/Call Number: P14-006 (SAFR 24426)

Creator: Permanente Metals Corporation

Physical Description: 1 item.

Repository: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Historic Documents Department

Building E, Fort Mason

San Francisco, CA 94123

Abstract: The Permanente Metals Corporation photograph album, 1941-1945, (SAFR 24426, P14-006) is comprised of an album containing photographs of World War II shipbuilding activities at the Kaiser Shipyards, operated by the Permanente Metals Corporation, in Richmond, California. The collection has been processed to the Collection level and is open for use.

Physical Location: San Francisco Maritime NHP, Historic Documents Department

Language(s): In English.

Access

This collection is open for use unless otherwise noted.

Publication and Use Rights

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Processing Note

The descriptions in this collection guide were compiled using the best available sources of information. Such sources include the creator's annotations or descriptions, collection accession files, primary and secondary source material and subject matter experts. While every effort was made to provide accurate information, in the event that you find any errors in this guide please contact the reference staff in order for us to evaluate and make corrections to this guide.

Please cite the title and collection number in any correspondence with our staff.

Preferred Citation

[Item description], [Location within collection organization identified by Collection Number/Series Number/File Unit Number/Item Number], P14-006 (SAFR 24426), Permanente Metals Corporation photograph album, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Acquisition Information

SAFR-02285

The photograph album was a gift from Dean L. Mawdsley to the Park's library, but it was never formally accessioned into the library collection. It was accessioned as a field collection into the museum collection by San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park staff in 2014.

Historical or Biographical Note

The Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond, California, were owned by Henry J. Kaiser and managed by the Permanente Metals Corporation. The contract to build Richmond Shipyard No. 1 was signed on December 9, 1940, and construction began in January 1941. Approval to build Shipyard No. 2 followed in April. Shipyard Numbers 3 and 4 were built in 1942. The Richmond Kaiser Shipyards built 747 ships in four years during World War II, 519 of which were Liberty ships.

Source: National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Richmond Shipyard Number Three

<http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/00000364.pdf>

Collection Scope and Content

The Permanente Metals Corporation photograph album, 1941-1945, (SAFR 24426, P14-006) is comprised of an album containing photographs of World War II shipbuilding activities at the Kaiser Shipyards, operated by the Permanente Metals Corporation, in Richmond, California. The collection has been processed to the Collection level and is open for use.

Contains photographs primarily of Liberty ships under construction at the Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond, California, 1941-1945. There is 1 bound photograph album containing 43 unique photographic images (black-and-white photographic prints, mostly 8.5 x 10.75 in.). The album measures 8.75 x 12 x 1.25 in. The name "C. S. Foley" is printed on the cover of the commemorative album presented "In Appreciation of Your Cooperation on a JOB WELL DONE." Forty-two of the photographs are adhered to the album pages and one photograph is adhered to the front cover. In addition to photographs of shipbuilding activities, the album contains a map of the Richmond Kaiser Shipyards as well as graphs related to ship production.

The photograph on the cover of the album shows ROBERT E. PEARY (built 1942; cargo ship: Liberty ship) ready to launch from shipway no. 1 of Kaiser Shipyard No. 2, bow view, 1942 November 12. The first seven photographs in the album are an aerial view of Shipyard No. 2 and views of people assembling prefabricated sections and working aboard ships. The next four photographs show BENJAMIN WARNER (built 1944; cargo ship: Liberty ship), YALE VICTORY (built 1945; cargo ship: Victory ship), a cargo ship with "489" painted on the port bow, and a cargo ship with "PA205" painted on the starboard bow and starboard stern underway.

Next is a portrait of twenty-two men employed at Shipyard No. 2. The text opposite the photograph reads: "The Permanente Metals Corporation / Shipyard Number Two and Prefab / Richmond, California / August 14, 1943 / Top Row--Reading from Left to Right / H. L. Modie, Hull Supt.; W. C. Dalby, Master Rigger; Grant Leeson, Plate Shop Supt.; A. S. Fountain, Ass't. Gen'l. Supt.; C. L. Wood, Master Mtnce. Electrician; P. J. Soukup, Welder Supt.; D. T. Bush, Master Welder; J. B. Dodson, Supt. of Assemblies; R. V. Wolfe, Master Shipfitter; J. Blackburn, Master Shipwright. / Middle Row--Reading from Left to Right / A. M. Underkoffler, Ass't. Hull Supt.; E. H. Chapman, Ass't Mstr. Machinist; J. L. Brown, Sr., Ass't. Gen'l. & Marine Supt.; J. C. McFarland, General Supt.; T. A. Bedford, Jr., Ass't General Manager; A. B. Innis, Ship Dlvry. Outftg. Qtr.; C. A. Johnson, Master Vessels Electrician; D. L. Mapes, Warehouse & Trnsp. Supt. / Bottom Row--Reading from Left to Right / O. J. Babich, Master Painter; W. F. Smith, Master Steamfitter; F. J. Scheuerle, Outfitting Superintendent; O. A. Kent, Master Sheetmetal Worker."

Following the portrait are a map illustrating the general layout of Richmond Kaiser Shipyards 1, 2, 3, 4, and the "Prefab" area as of September 1, 1944; a graph illustrating the average number of construction days (both days on ways and days outfitting) required for Liberty ships up to June 1, 1944 (comparing the Richmond Shipyards to twelve other U. S. shipyards); and four graphs illustrating the number of ships delivered monthly by the Richmond Shipyards from October 1941 to September 1945.

The remaining thirty photographs show the "Construction Sequence on Typical Liberty Ship." Twenty-one of the photographs document various stages in construction while on the shipbuilding ways. They are captioned, "First Day on Way," "Second Day on Way," and so on up to "Twenty-first Day on Way." None of the ships are identified. The last nine photographs in the album document activities at the outfitting docks. They are captioned "First Day at Outfitting Dock," "Second Day at Outfitting Dock," and so on up to "Ninth Day at Outfitting Dock." All of the vessels are viewed from off the bow. Some of the vessels are identified as EMILE BERLINER (built 1943; cargo ship: Liberty ship), EMMET D. BOYLE (built 1944; cargo ship: Liberty ship), GEORGE CLEMENT PERKINS (built 1944; cargo ship: Liberty ship), HENRY DODGE (built 1943; cargo ship: Liberty ship), HENRY V. ALVARADO (built 1943; cargo ship: Liberty ship), JOHN COLTER (built 1943; cargo ship: Liberty ship), MARY M. DODGE (built 1943; cargo ship: Liberty ship), and MELVILLE E. STONE (built 1943; cargo ship: Liberty ship).

Collection Arrangement

Single item.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Cargo ships

Liberty ships

Shipyards

Shipbuilding

World War, 1939-1945

Kaiser Shipyards (Richmond, Calif.)

Richmond (Calif.)

Photograph albums

Black-and-white prints (photographs)

Gelatin silver prints
