

SNMA Library
April 1, 2021

LGBTQ People and/in the Military

Serving in the armed forces, LGBTQ people have experienced different degrees of acceptance and discrimination. The SNMA has a rich assortment of over 130 books on the subject of the military, with an emphasis on the 1990s to the present. A sampling of the library collection, this reading list consists of historical accounts, memoirs, biographies, political criticism, novels, and erotica that variously concern queer sexual orientation and gender identity in the military.

Allan Berubé, *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II* (New York: Plume, 1990).

An account of how war transformed the relationship between gay citizens and the government.

Tim Blanning, *Frederick the Great: King of Prussia* (New York: Random House, 2016).

A biography of the autocrat and military leader, with a detailed analysis of his frequent homosexuality.

B. R. Burg, ed., *Rebel at Large: The Diary of Confederate Deserter Philip Van Buskirk* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2009).

A Civil War diary that details sexual encounters with men.

Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009).

An account of federal regulation of homosexuality, including in the military.

Vincent Cianni, *Gays in the Military: Photographs and Interviews* (Hillsborough, NC: Daylight Books, 2014).

A documentary exploration of current and former gay and lesbian service members.

Zsa Zsa Gershick, *Secret Service: Untold Stories of Lesbians in the Military* (Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 2005).

Profiles of lesbian service members and veterans.

Janet E. Halley, *Don't: A Reader's Guide to the Military's Anti-Gay Policy* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999).

A book that challenges the phrase as well as the logic of "Don't Ask/Don't Tell."

Gary Lehring, *Officially Gay: The Political Construction of Sexuality* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2003).

A study of how the military defined homosexuality as well as its impact on gay and lesbian politics.

- Bronson Lemer, *The Last Deployment: How a Gay, Hammer-Swinging Twentysomething Survived a Year in Iraq* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011).
A memoir of a gay former soldier's experience in the Iraq War.
- Sandra Levins, *Either Way: Story of a Gay Kid* (Washington, D.C.: Margination Press, 2016).
A young adult coming-of-age-book that involves a gay man in the military.
- Winston Leyland, ed., *Marine Biology* (San Francisco: Leyland Publications, 1994).
Gay erotic short stories about military experience.
- Nanci Little, *Thin Fire* (Northboro, MA: Madwoman Press, 1993).
Lesbian erotic novel that involves army life.
- James Lord, *My Queer War* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010).
A memoir of sexual awakening in the armed forces in World War II.
- Jill Malone, *Giraffe People* (Ann Arbor: Bywater Books, 2013).
A lesbian coming-of-age novel against the backdrop of an army base.
- Ann-Marie MacDonald, *The Way the Crow Flies* (New York: HaperCollins Publishers, 2003).
A historical fiction novel set at a Canadian air force base in 1960s Ontario.
- Phillip MacKenzie, Jr., ed., *Special Forces: Gay Military Erotica* (San Francisco: Cleis Press, 2009).
A collection of erotic stories that involve military service.
- Brian Joseph Martin, *Napoleonic Friendship: Military Fraternity, Intimacy, and Sexuality in Nineteenth-Century France* (Hanover: University of New Hampshire Press, 2011).
A historical study of male intimacy in the French military from Napoleon to the First World War.
- Robbi McCoy, *For Me and My Gal* (Tallahassee: Bella Books, 2011).
A lesbian romance that involves a historical investigation into a Rosie-the-Riveter shipyard worker and a Navy WAVES recruit.
- Lesia D. Meyer, *Creating GI Jane: Sexuality and Power in the Women's Army Corps during World War II* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996).
A study of the creation of the Women's Army Corps.
- Alexander Nicholson, *Fighting to Serve: Behind the Scenes in the War to Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"* (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2012).
The story of Servicemembers United, a group that worked to repeal DADT.
- Mason Powell, *The Brig* (San Francisco: Alternative Press, 1984).
A classic gay BDSM novel that takes place in a military prison.

Frank M. Richardson, *Mars Without Venus: A Study of Some Homosexual Generals* (Edinburgh: W. Blackwell, 1981).

An account of the “homosexual tendencies” of military men across history.

Craig A. Rimmerman, ed., *Gay Rights, Military Wrongs: Political Perspectives on Lesbians and Gays in the Military* (New York: Garland Pub., 1996).

A collection of articles about historical and contemporary debates on the subject.

Randy Shilts, *Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the U.S. Military from Vietnam to the Persian Gulf* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994).

A major study of gay and lesbian participation and discrimination in the military.

Peter Tatchell, *We Don't Want to March Straight: Masculinity, Queers and the Military* (London: Cassell, 1995).

A critique of gay assimilation and the British military since 1945.

Lucian K. Truscott IV, *Dress Gray* (New York: Doubleday, 1979).

An influential novel involving a West Point cadet and a gay love affair.

Julie Wheelwright, *Amazons and Military Maids: Women Who Dressed as Men in Pursuit of Life, Liberty, and Happiness* (London: Pandora, 1990).

A history of women who served as men in the military from the 1700s.

Major Margaret Witt, *Tell: Love, Defiance, and the Military Trial at the Tipping Point for Gay Rights* (Lebanon, NH: ForEdge, 2017).

A memoir of the author's landmark case.

Alfred F. Young, *Masquerade: The Life and Times of Deborah Sampson* (New York: Vintage Books, 2005).

The story of the woman who fought in the American Revolution passing as a man.