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# World War II

(1939-1945)

## Student Research Guide

History | Year 10

Cover: [Naval recruits march along Melbourne Street, South Brisbane, 1941](#), John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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**Date updated:** 03 March 2026

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## Overview

State Library is a great place to find information to complete your research-based assessments.

[State Library's One Search catalogue](#) is the gateway to an extensive suite of national and international journals, databases, eBooks, encyclopedias, newspaper archives, and collections of thousands of historical images, letters, artworks, diaries and artefacts to interrogate as sources.

This guide is designed to help you discover items on World War II that you can access on site, from your school or home.

## Before you get started

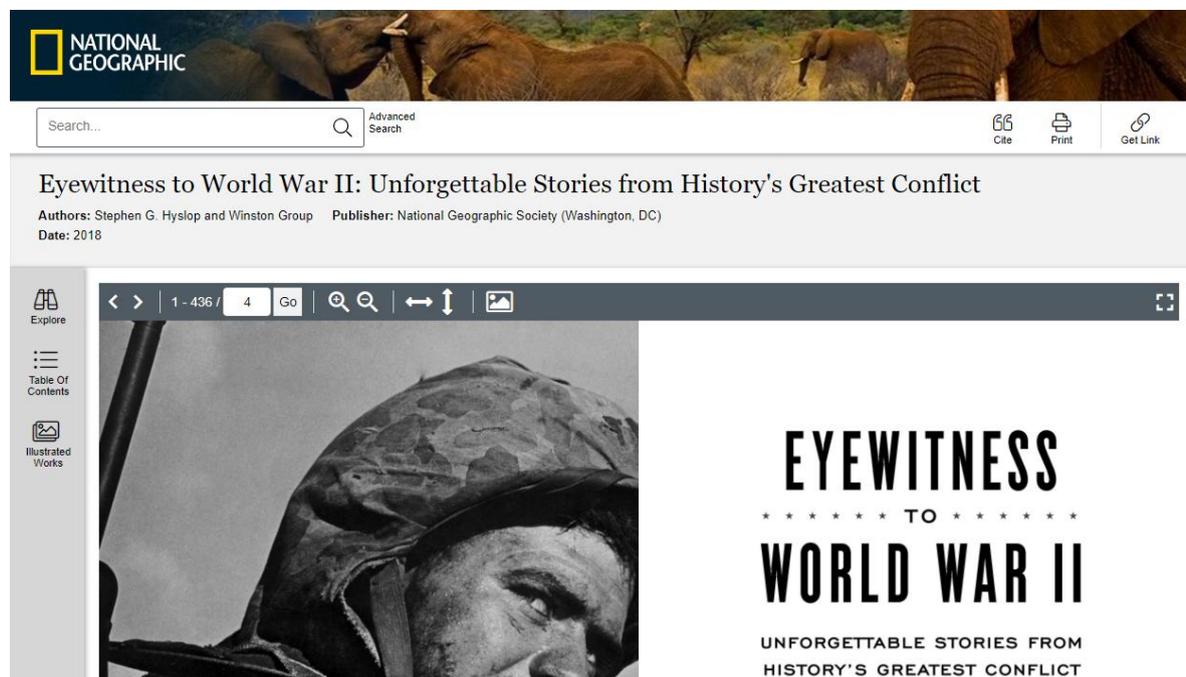
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Once you have joined State Library, [log in](#) to your account in [One Search](#) so you can use the links in this research guide to access the featured collection items.

You can search our catalogue for [all items on World War II](#) or begin exploring by clicking on some of the featured items contained in this research guide.

## Featured Databases

The Virtual Library of [National Geographic](#) has magazine articles, books and more on World War II.



The screenshot displays the National Geographic Virtual Library interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search..." and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar are icons for "Advanced Search", "Cite", "Print", and "Get Link". Below the search bar, the title "Eyewitness to World War II: Unforgettable Stories from History's Greatest Conflict" is displayed. Underneath the title, the authors "Stephen G. Hyslop and Winston Group" and the publisher "National Geographic Society (Washington, DC)" are listed, along with the date "Date: 2018". The main content area shows a large image of a soldier in a camouflage hood, with the text "EYEWITNESS TO WORLD WAR II" and "UNFORGETTABLE STORIES FROM HISTORY'S GREATEST CONFLICT" overlaid. On the left side of the interface, there are navigation icons for "Explore", "Table Of Contents", and "Illustrated Works". At the bottom of the image, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow, a forward arrow, and a page indicator "1 - 436 / 4 Go".

The [Britannica Library](#) has articles, images, videos, primary sources, eBooks and more on World War II with a selection of resources especially for teenagers.

The screenshot shows the Britannica Library Teens website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the Britannica logo, the text 'Britannica Library Teens', a search bar, and a menu icon. Below the header is a large image of three P-51 Mustang fighter planes flying in formation over a landscape. The title 'World War II' is prominently displayed in the center. To the left, there is a vertical navigation menu with options like 'Introduction', 'Buildup to War', 'The War Year by Year', 'Key Campaigns and Battles of World War II', 'Consequences of the War', 'The Hard Road to Peace', and 'Additional Reading'. The main content area is titled 'Introduction' and contains a small timeline graphic and a paragraph of text: 'Some 20 years after the end of World War I, lingering disputes erupted in an even larger and bloodier conflict—World War II. The war began in Europe in 1939, but by its end in 1945 it had involved'.

[Oxford Reference](#) has a helpful, searchable online encyclopedia on World War II.

The screenshot shows the Oxford Reference website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About', 'News', 'Subscriber Services', 'Contact Us', 'Help', 'For Authors', and 'Personal Profile'. The main heading is 'Oxford Reference' with a search bar to the right. Below the heading, there are navigation tabs for 'Subject' and 'Reference Type', and buttons for 'My Content (3)' and 'My Searches (0)'. The featured article is titled 'The Oxford Companion to World War II' and is edited by I. C. B. Dear and M. R. D. Foot. The article text states: 'This online edition was reviewed and selectively updated by the original editors in 2011. Written by more than 140 specialist contributors from Italy, Germany, and Japan, as well as the Allied nations, the Companion provides unique world-wide coverage of the subject. Every aspect of the war is covered including, detailed surveys of major countries; politics and grand strategy; domestic and economic issues; resistance and intelligence services; campaigns, battles, and military operations; warfare and weapons; wartime leaders and influential people; and slogans and phrases.' To the right of the article, there is a biographical note for I. C. B. Dear, editor in chief, and M. R. D. Foot, author, mentioning their military service and subsequent work in book publishing.

[JSTOR](#) provides access to a wide range of international primary sources from World War II.

Primary source content:

Images (7,737)

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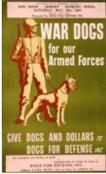
Graphic Design and ... (447)



Poster, 'He's Coming S...  
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Chapman, Frederick T.  
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American Red Cross War...  
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Back 'Em Up, Buy War B...  
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Evacuation of Japanese...  
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Japanese arriving at O...  
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Free Labor Will Win  
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Doctors are Scarce  
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## Maps

State Library provides access to online [maps of World War II](#).

### Featured Map

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World War II, Pacific Theater, 1941-1945

by Maps.com

PUBLISHER: Maps.com

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World War II, Pacific Theater, 1941-1945

The map shows the Pacific Theater of World War II from 1941 to 1945. It highlights Japanese advances with red arrows and Allied operations with blue arrows. Key locations include Mongolia, Manchukuo (Manchuria), China, Japan, Burma, French Indochina, and the Philippines. Specific operations are marked: Okinawa (Apr.-June 1945), Iwo Jima (Feb. 1945), and Saipan, Tinian, & Guam (June-Aug. 1944). Major cities like Peking, Shanghai, Canton, and Manila are also labeled.

## Images

State Library has a large collection of digitised [historical images from World War II](#).

### Featured Collections



## Listen

State Library has a collection of audio resources containing [music and oral history recordings about World War II](#).

## Watch

State Library has a collection of video interviews containing [oral histories on personal experiences during World War II](#).

## Newspapers

State Library provides access to archives of Australian and international historical newspapers covering the events of World War II.

### Australia

[Trove Newspapers \(1803-1954\)](#)

### Britain

[The Times Digital Archive \(1785-2014\)](#)

[British Library newspapers \(1732-1950\)](#)

[The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003](#)

# Featured Articles

Australia at War Filter Advanced Search ABOUT HELP NEWS PARTNERS SIGN UP LOGIN

Home / Newspapers & Gazettes / Browse / The Grenfell Record and Lachlan District Advertiser (NSW: 1876-1951) / Mon 4 Sep 1939 / Page 2 / Australia At War

Match text

tain had declared war on Germany, having hon

ored her pledge to Poland, which country was at

tacked by the most ruthless and bloody-minded in

ternational bully of all time.

Several heartening factors stand out. As for

instance Mr. Chamberlain's statement that "Never

was a challenge of war received by the British

people with a mind so equable, and in the same

time so sternly and grimly set. Britain is pre

pared; and, more closely than in 1914, Britain is

united.

And the Empire is united. Messages of loyalty

and assistance come from all parts of the world.

What of Germany? Do the people echo the sentiments of Hitler, Goering, Goebbels and the

leading foreign dignitaries contributed by New South Wales Government

## Australia At War

Yesterday came the dreaded news—Great Britain had declared war on Germany, having honored her pledge to Poland, which country was attacked by the most ruthless and bloody-minded international bully of all time.

Several heartening factors stand out. As for

## WAR

### Japan Guarantees Her Neutrality to England.

New York

A New York station intercepted a B B announcement that Japan has guaranteed her neutrality to England.

GALE PRIMARY SOURCES The Times Digital Archive

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## Adolf Hitler

Date: Wednesday, May 2, 1945 Publication: The Times (London, England) Issue: 50132

Explore

Nazi Germany over the world. The process was continuous, and the methods were the same. Hitler effected the triumph of the Nazi Party in Germany by a mixture of deceit and violence; he then employed the same devices to destroy other nations. From the time he became master of Germany he made lies, cruelty, and terror his principal means to achieve his ends; and he became in the eyes of virtually the whole world an incarnation of absolute evil.

Hitler was unimpressive to meet on informal occasions, but became transformed when he was face to face with a crowd, especially if it was an audience of his followers. He would speak to them like a man possessed and give the appearance of utter exhaustion when his speech was over. His speeches betrayed few if any original ideas, and even his belief in the suggestive power of reiteration scarcely justified the repetitions of past history with which most of his public orations were overlaid. He was, however, a propagandist of the first order, and his uncanny subtle and acute understanding of the mind of his own people was the ultimate source of his power for evil.

### EARLY YEARS

Papen, who regarded him as the cause of his own fall from power. Schleicher in December made a bid for independence. He thought to propitiate the Nazi strength by attracting to himself in a semi-Socialist administration Gregor Strasser.

### CHANCELLOR AT LAST

#### REICHSTAG FIRE

It was a critical moment. Hitler, who had borne the recent setbacks with surprising calm, now lost heart. "If the party breaks up," he confided to Goebbels, "I'll end matters with my pistol in three minutes." Schism indeed seemed imminent. But Strasser himself spoiled the scheme. He dallied and hesitated. The discussions were deferred, and before they could be resumed Schleicher had fallen. The tables had been suddenly turned by von Papen, who in January made an alliance with Hitler in order to overthrow Schleicher. The Nazi leader, whom he regarded as humbled by recent ill-fortune, was to be Chancellor and he himself Vice-Chancellor, with a majority of non-Nazi colleagues, the good will of the President, and, he confidently hoped, the real power. The plan took shape, and on January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was formally invested with the seals of office as Reichskanzler.

The new Government was a minority one.

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GALE PRIMARY SOURCES The Illustrated London News

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## The Illustrated London News

Date: Saturday, May 12, 1945 Publication: The Illustrated London News (London, England) Volume: 206, Issue: 5534

Explore

500

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

MAY 12, 1945

### SOME OF THE MILLIONS OF GERMAN PRISONERS—A GREAT PROBLEM.

## More

### Search the catalogue

Continue searching for more on World War II using these subject searches:

[World War, 1939-1945](#)

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[World War, 1939-1945 -- Queensland](#)

[World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Pacific Area](#)

[Germany -- History -- 1933-1945](#)

[Hitler, Adolf, 1889-1945](#)

[Holocaust, Jewish \(1939-1945\)](#)

[World War, 1939-1945 -- Japan](#)

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