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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.
Negative number: 102808.

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Date revised: 07 April 2026

Copyright information for teachers

This research guide is designed for individual use by students studying The Australian Curriculum: History.

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Teachers can advise students on State Library's resources and encourage their use to help with their studies and research. Students are encouraged to access State Library's resources at school, but not during class time.

Teachers are most welcome to advise students what is available via State Library, and to encourage students to make use of ebooks and databases to help with their studies. It is permissible for a teacher to demonstrate the use of State Library's catalogue, and to point out how various online material can be accessed.

It is also permissible for students to access State Library's online resources at school – but this must not be during class time. An example of permitted use might be where students have a spare period when they work on assignments or homework, and they are accessing databases as private members of State Library. Information about joining State Library is [here](#).

Please also note that State Library has digitised a range of material such as diaries, and out of copyright publications held in our collections. There are no restrictions on the use of this material as part of a teaching program – and no requirement to be a member of the library to use this material. This type of material can easily be found, [searching State Library's One Search catalogue](#) using the "SLQ digitised collections" option in the dropdown menu.

For more information about the use of copyright materials visit [Understanding copyright](#).

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

- [Become a member](#) of State Library of Queensland (it's free!).
- 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.
- Complete the [Student research with State Library](#) module for a guide to navigating State Library's resources. Or visit the [One Search help page](#) for tips & tricks for searching One Search.
- 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.

Student research with State Library

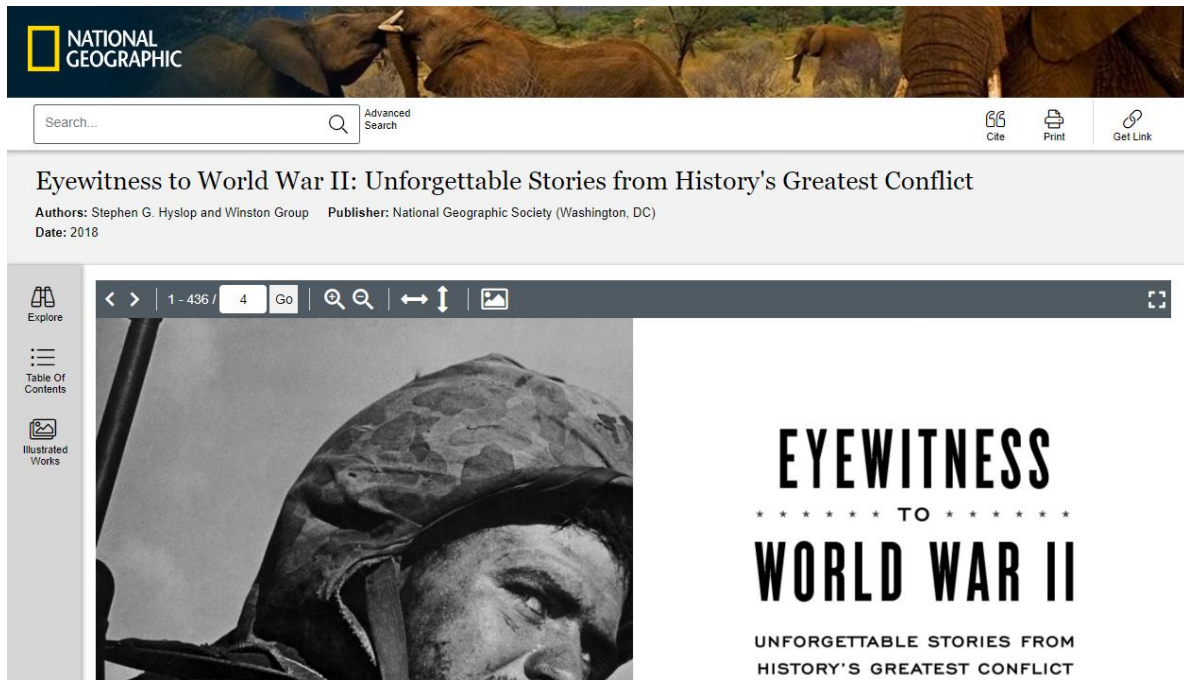
Feel more confident navigating State Library's resources to find high quality information sources for your assessments.

[Start module](#) 

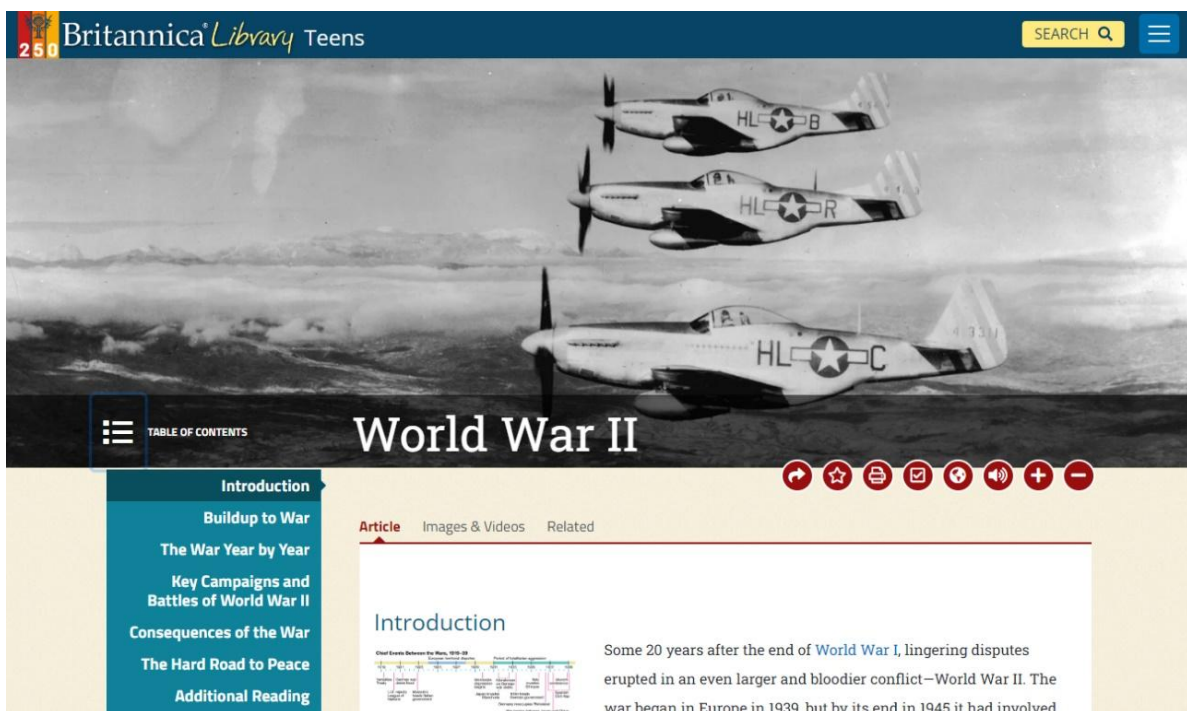


Featured Databases

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



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



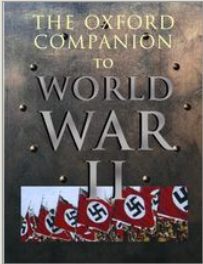
[Oxford Reference](#) has a helpful, searchable online encyclopedia on World War II.

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Oxford Reference

Search

Subject ▾ Reference Type ▾ My Content (3) My Searches (0)



The Oxford Companion to World War II

Edited by: I. C. B. Dear and M. R. D. Foot

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.

I. C. B. Dear, editor in chief
M. R. D. Foot, author

I. C. B. Dear served in the Royal Marines from 1953 to 1957 and saw active service in Cyprus. He subsequently worked in book publishing for 16 years before becoming a full-time writer in 1979. His books on military subjects include *Ten Commando, 1942–1945* (1987), *Sabotage and Subversion* (1999), and *Escape and Evasion* (2000).

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

Primary source content:

☐ Images (7,737)

IMAGE RESOLUTION ▾

DATE ? ▴

FROM

1939 CE ▾

TO

1945 CE ▾

[Reset](#) [Apply](#)

CLASSIFICATION ? ▴

Find a classification 🔍

☐ Photographs (531)

☐ Architecture and City Planning (331)

☐ Humanities and Social Sciences (145)

☐ Graphic Design and Illustration (477)



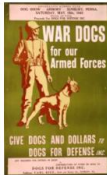
Poster, 'He's Coming South' ▾

Department of Information
Part of [Open: Museum of New Zealand - Te Papa Tongarewa](#)



Coca-Cola ad ▾

Chapman, Frederick T.
Part of [Wait Reed Illustration Archive](#)



War Dogs for Our Armed... ▾

Unknown
Part of [World War II Poster Collection](#)



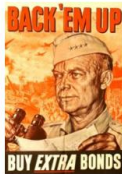
Let's All Fight, Buy War... ▾

Unknown
Part of [World War II Poster Collection](#)



American Red Cross War... ▾

Flagg, James Montgomery
Part of [World War II Poster Collection](#)



Back 'Em Up, Buy War Bonds ▾



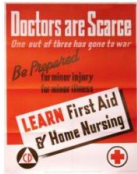
Evacuation of Japanese... ▾



Japanese arriving at O... ▾



Free Labor Will Win ▾

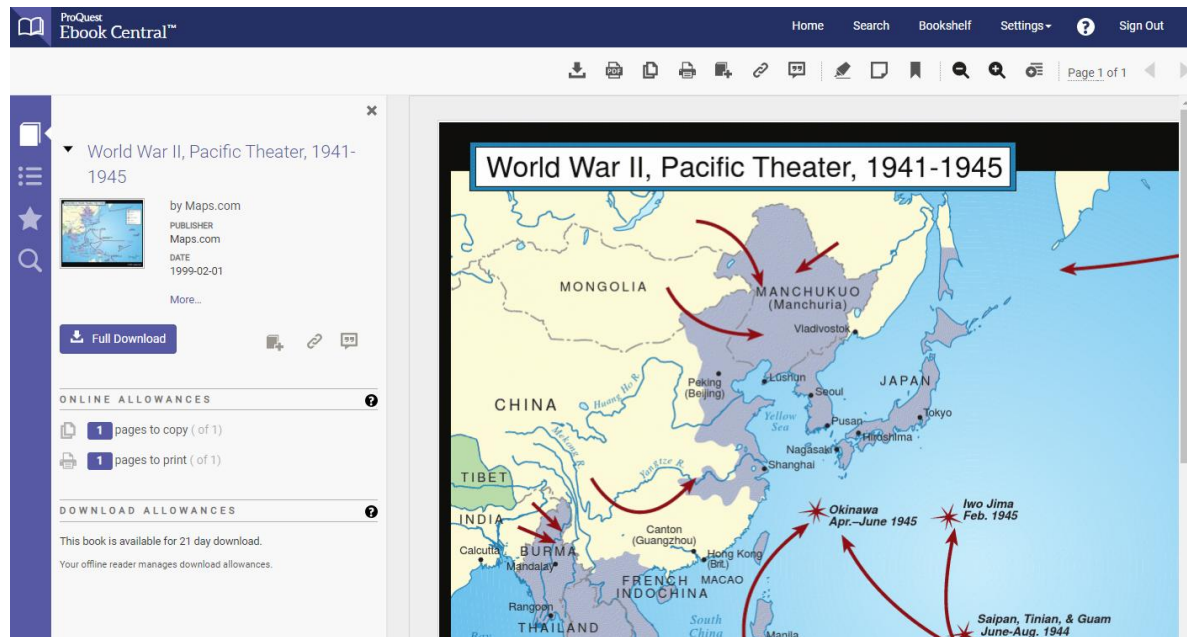


Doctors are Scarce ▾

Maps

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

Featured Map



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

The screenshot displays the Trove digital library interface. At the top, the 'Australia at War' collection is highlighted. A search bar contains the text 'Australia At War'. Below the search bar, a preview of a newspaper page from 'The Illustrated London News' is shown. The page features a large headline 'Australia At War' and a sub-headline 'Japan Guarantees Her Neutrality to'. The page is dated Saturday, May 12, 1945. The Trove logo is visible in the top right corner, and navigation links for 'ABOUT', 'HELP', 'NEWS', 'PARTNERS', 'SIGN UP', and 'LOGIN' are present. The bottom of the page shows a sidebar with 'Explore', 'Table Of Contents', and 'View Full Citation' options.

More

Search the catalogue

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

[World War, 1939-1945](#)

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

[World War, 1939-1945 – Australia](#)

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

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

[World War, 1939-1945 – Women](#)

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

[World War, 1939-1945 – Propaganda](#)

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

[World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service --
Australia](#)

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

Borrow items

Order items online through State Library's One Search catalogue and [borrow items from State Library's collections](#) when you visit us onsite.

Ask a librarian

[State Library staff](#) are available to advise on keywords and search strategies and suggest databases to help you carry out independent research.

Please note that librarians can guide and support your research process, but they cannot complete your assessment, select sources for you or provide answers to assessment questions.

Visit Anzac Square

Ask your teacher to visit the [World War II Gallery](#) at Anzac Square to explore Queensland's pre-eminent war memorial, on a [school tour](#).