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

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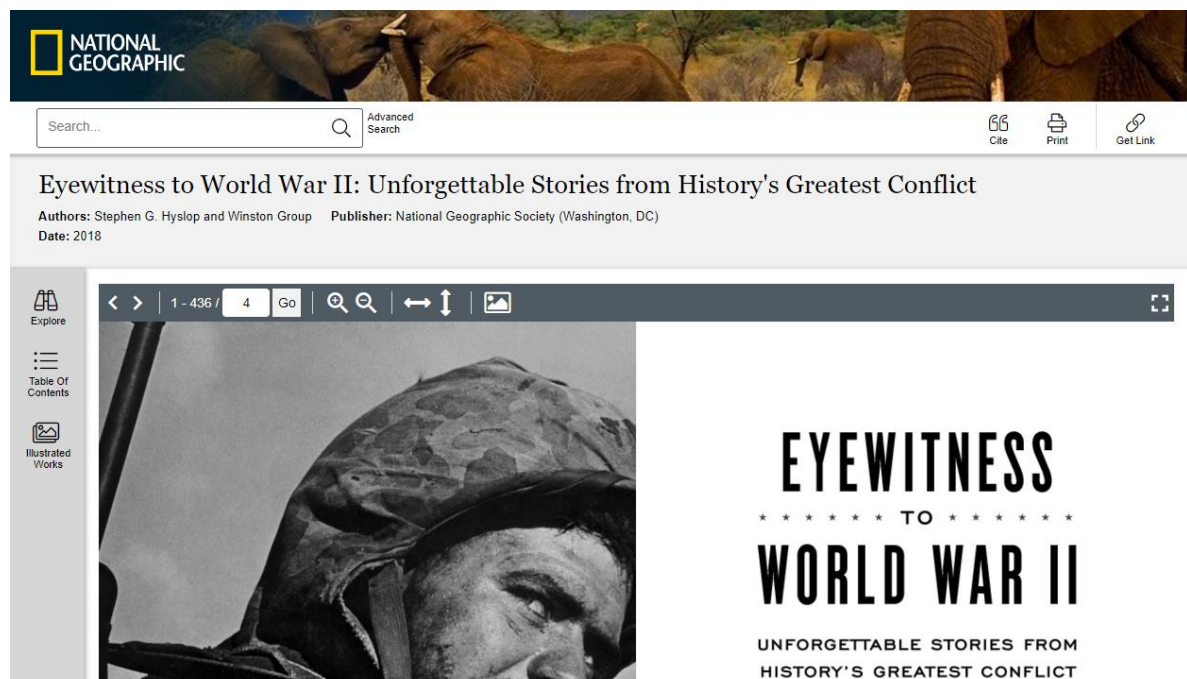
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You can search our catalogue for [all items on World War II](#) or begin exploring by clicking on some of the featured items contained in this research guide.

Featured Databases

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The screenshot shows the National Geographic website 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 main heading reads "Eyewitness to World War II: Unforgettable Stories from History's Greatest Conflict". Underneath the heading, it lists "Authors: Stephen G. Hyslop and Winston Group" and "Publisher: National Geographic Society (Washington, DC)". The date "Date: 2018" is also visible. The main content area features a large black and white photograph of a soldier in a helmet, looking through a rifle scope. To the right of the photograph, the text "EYEWITNESS" is displayed in large, bold, black letters, followed by "***** TO *****" and "WORLD WAR II" in even larger, bold, black letters. Below this, it says "UNFORGETTABLE STORIES FROM HISTORY'S GREATEST CONFLICT". On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar with icons for "Explore", "Table Of Contents", and "Illustrated Works".

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

250 Britannica Library Teens

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World War II

Introduction

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Introduction

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.

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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).

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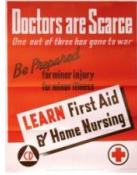
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Featured Map

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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 illustrates the Pacific Theater of World War II, showing Japanese advances and military operations. Key locations and dates are marked:

- MANCHUKUO (Manchuria):** Occupied by Japan, with arrows pointing to Peking (Beijing), Lushan, and Shanghai.
- JAPAN:** Occupied islands include Iwo Jima, Saipan, Tinian, and Guam (June-Aug. 1944).
- Okinawa:** Occupied (Apr.-June 1945).
- Other locations:** Iwo Jima (Feb. 1945), Saipan, Tinian, & Guam (June-Aug. 1944), Okinawa (Apr.-June 1945), Iwo Jima (Feb. 1945).

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Featured Collections



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Newspapers

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Britain

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

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

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

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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 at 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 joy

ally 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

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

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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

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

MAY 12, 1945

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

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