

WORLD WAR II: A SELECTED READING LIST



The Pacific Theater

[Day of Infamy](#) by Walter Lord (940.54 Lord)

Lord traces the human drama of the great Pearl Harbor attack: the spies; the Japanese pilots; the crews; the men at the airfields and the bases with the generals, the sailors, the housewives, and the children who responded to the attack with magnificent courage.

[Ghost Soldiers](#) by Hampton Sides (940.54 Sides)

On January 28, 1945, 121 hand-selected troops from the elite U.S. Army 6th Ranger Battalion slipped behind enemy lines in the Philippines. Their mission: march thirty miles in a daring attempt to rescue 513 American and British POWs--the last survivors of the Bataan death march.

[In Harm's Way](#) by Doug Stanton (940.54 Stanton)

On July 30, 1945, after completing a top secret mission to deliver parts of the atom bomb "Little Boy," which would be dropped on Hiroshima, the battle cruiser USS Indianapolis was torpedoed in the South Pacific by a Japanese submarine. An estimated 300 men were killed upon impact; close to 900 sailors were cast into the Pacific Ocean, where they remained, undetected by the navy, for nearly five days.

The European Theater

[Citizen Soldiers](#) by Stephen Ambrose (940.54 Ambro)

A shockingly realistic look at the American side of the European Theater of World War II from the day after D-Day to the end of the conflict. The battles and subsequent turn of events are extraordinary: the futility of the Hurtgen Forest, the bold gamble of Operation Market Garden, the surprise of the Battle of the Bulge and the fight into Germany.

[D-Day: the Battle for Normandy](#) by Antony Beevor (940.54 Beevor)

This account of the turning point of World War II begins a few days before the invasion, as Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower prays for good weather, and ends on August 25th, when Allied troops triumphantly liberate Paris.

[Voices of D-Day](#) by Ronald Drez (940.54 Drez)

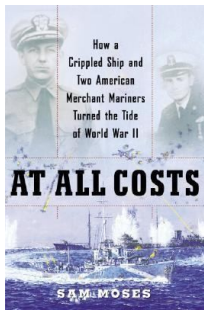
The story of that momentous operation is told almost entirely through the words of individuals who were there. Drez's book follows the men from the time of enlistment, to the gathering and preparation of forces in the United Kingdom, to the day of the great invasion itself. Other voices, those of German soldiers guarding the cliffs and farmlands of Normandy against invasion and of French civilians enduring war and occupation, are also included.

[The Day the War Ended](#) by Martin Gilbert (940.54 Gilbe)

Hundreds of voices respond in this book as leaders and civilians, prisoners and spies, war-torn peasants and soldiers from each side describe where they were and what they were doing when news of the Allied victory came.

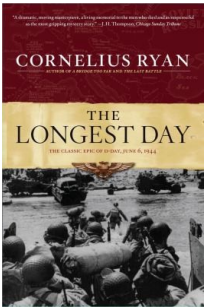
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[At All Costs](#) by Sam Moses (940.54 Moses)

Describes how two American Merchant Marines manned the guns of their crippled tanker to fight off Axis dive-bombers for two days as the sinking tanker was towed by destroyers to the island of Malta to prevent Rommel's North Africa advance.



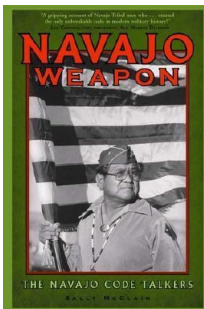
[The Longest Day: June 6, 1944](#) by Cornelius Ryan (940.54 Ryan)

In this compelling tale of courage and heroism, glory and tragedy, Ryan painstakingly recreates the fateful hours that preceded and followed the massive invasion of Normandy to retell the story of an epic battle that would turn the tide against world fascism and free Europe from the grip of Nazi Germany.

The Home Front, Love Stories, & Personal Accounts

[Flags of our Fathers](#) by James Bradley (940.54 Bradl)

Here is the true story behind the immortal photograph that has come to symbolize the courage and indomitable will of America. In February 1945, American Marines plunged into the surf at Iwo Jima—and into history. Through a hail of machine-gun and mortar fire that left the beaches strewn with comrades, they battled to the island's highest peak. And after climbing through a landscape of hell itself, they raised a flag.



[Navajo Weapon: the Navajo Code Talkers](#) by Sally McClain (940.54 McClain)

The U.S. Marine Corps recruited young Navajo warriors to create a secret code, using their native language that many of them had once been forbidden to speak. These Code Talkers played decisive roles in the Pacific Theater and helped turned the tide in the bloody battles for Bougainville, Cape Gloucester, New Britain, Saipan, Guam, Peleliu, and Iwo Jima.

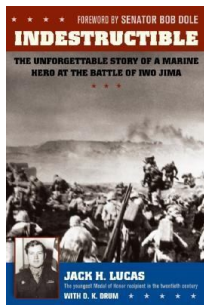
[To Hell and Back](#) by Audie Murphy (940.54 Murph)

Desperate to see action but rejected by both the marines and paratroopers because he was too short, Murphy eventually found a home with the infantry. He fought through campaigns in Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. He emerged from the war as America's most decorated soldier, having received twenty-one medals including the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Memoirs

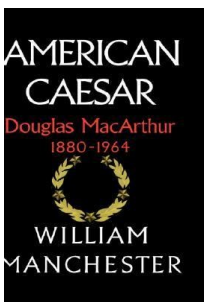
[Indestructible: The Unforgettable Story of a Marine Hero at Iwo Jima](#) by Jack Lucas (B Lucas)

A candid combat memoir recalls the battlefield exploits of a seventeen-year-old Marine Corps private, whose selfless actions at the height of the Battle of Iwo Jima not only saved his companions, but also led to him becoming the youngest Marine in history to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.



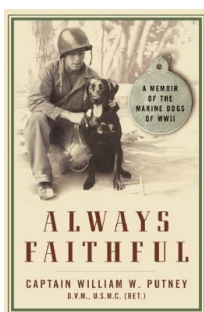
[American Caesar, Douglas MacArthur, 1880-1964](#) by William Manchester (B Manchester)

MacArthur, the public figure, the private man, the soldier-hero whose mystery and appeal created a uniquely American legend, portrayed in a brilliant biography that will challenge the cherished myths of admirers and critics alike.



[Always Faithful: A Memoir of the Marine Dogs of WWII](#) by William Putney (940.54 Putney)

Putney writes a moving and heartrending account of his days as commander of the 3rd Marine War Dog Platoon, in which some 72 dogs and their handlers were his responsibility. The dogs and handlers trained in scouting, mine detection, and other patrol duties and went into combat together. He continues the story of how those dogs that survived the war were retrained and returned to civilian life.



NOTE: There are many more books about World War II on the shelf, under the 940.54 Dewey Decimal number. In the catalog, look for the subject heading starting: World War, 1939-1945.