



MacArthur Memorial Education Programs

In Their Shoes:

WWII Through the Eyes of Participants

Instructions:

The following activity encourages students to explore the impact of World War II on individuals on both sides of the conflict. To suit different pacing schedules and curriculums, the activity can be used as a single or multi-day exercise.

Included in this packet are 32 short biographical profiles of men and women who participated in World War II (pages 2-19). The profiles include American, German, British, Soviet, Japanese, French, Italian, and Filipino citizens. The ultimate fate of each of these citizens is also included. This information is located on pages 32-40 of this packet. Print and cut out the profiles and fates of each person. Tape the “fate” of each person face down on the back of their profile so the student cannot see it. Distribute a profile to each student.

A series of primary source documents and critical thinking questions are also provided in this packet (pages 20-31). Ask the students to examine the documents and answer the questions provided. If you have time, you may ask your students to use these documents to try to understand how the war may have impacted their “person.”

At the end of the exercise or your unit on World War II, it is time to reveal the fate of all the men and women profiled to the students. Have the students peel the “fate” off the back of the profile. Historians estimate that approximately 85 million combatants and non-combatants perished during World War II. Even once it was over, the war continued to impact many people’s lives.

For additional resources visit: www.macarthurmemorial.org

Name: George H.W. Bush

Nationality: U.S.A

Birthdate: June 12, 1924

Occupation: Student

Wartime Occupation: U.S. Navy Pilot

Other available details:



George H.W. Bush was born in Milton, Massachusetts, to Senator Prescott Bush and Dorothy Walker Bush. In high school, he was very involved in student government and served as captain of the varsity boys' soccer and baseball teams. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, he decided to delay going to college and instead enlisted in the U.S. Navy on his 18th birthday. The next year, he became the youngest aviator in the U.S. Navy at that time. Bush was involved in aerial combat in the Pacific Theatre - including one mission where his plane was shot down and he narrowly avoided capture by the Japanese.

Name: Joseph Liebgott

Nationality: U.S.A

Birthdate: May 17, 1915

Occupation: Barber

Wartime Occupation: Paratrooper

Other available details:



Joseph Liebgott was born in Lansing, Michigan to Austrian parents. He was the eldest of six children, all of whom were raised Roman Catholic and attended Catholic school. Prior to the war, Liebgott worked mainly as a barber. During the war, he served in the U.S. Army's 101st airborne division. As a paratrooper, Liebgott made a combat jump into Normandy to support the D-Day invasion. He was fluent in German and was commonly used to interrogate German prisoners. His fellow soldiers often assumed he was Jewish because of his last name and his strong hatred for the Nazis.

Name: Doris Miller

Nationality: U.S.A

Birthdate: October 12, 1919

Occupation: Farm worker

Wartime Occupation: Navy Cook

Other available details:



Doris Miller was born in Waco, Texas into a family of farmers. He was very athletic and was a good student until he dropped out of school at age 17. During the Great Depression he applied to join the Civilian Conservation Corps but was not accepted. Miller worked with his father at the family farm until he enlisted in the Navy in 1939. During the war he served as a Messman Third Class aboard the battleship *West Virginia*. Miller was present during the attack on Pearl Harbor where he was commended for his bravery.

Name: Audie Murphy

Nationality: U.S.A.

Birthdate: June 20, 1925

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:



Audie Murphy was born in Kingston, Hunt County, Texas to sharecroppers of Irish descent. He was the seventh of twelve children. He was a moody child and dropped out of school in the fifth grade. He worked several jobs to support his family after his father left and his mother died. After hearing of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Murphy tried to enlist in the Navy, Army, and Marine Corp but was turned down for being underweight and underage. He tried again and was accepted by the Army in 1942. He first saw action in the Allied invasion of Sicily and would continue to serve in the Mediterranean and European theaters throughout the war.

Name: John F. Kennedy

Nationality: U.S.A.

Birthdate: May 29, 1917

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Sailor

Other available details:

TOP SECRET



John F. Kennedy was born in Brookline, Massachusetts to a wealthy family. He had eight brothers and sisters. Kennedy was well educated and attended Harvard. He also toured Europe, the Soviet Union, the Balkans and the Middle East. After graduating from Harvard he enrolled in Stanford Graduate School of Business. In September of 1941 he joined the U.S. Navy. He served as an ensign in the office of the Secretary of the Navy during the attack on Pearl Harbor. He later served in the Pacific Theatre as the skipper (or commander) of PT-109.

Name: Calvin Graham

Nationality: U.S.A.

Birthdate: April 3, 1930

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Sailor

Other available details:

TOP SECRET



Calvin Graham was born in Canton, Texas. He came from an abusive household and ran away from home after his father died and his mother remarried. He lied about his age and joined the Navy at the age of twelve on August 15, 1942. He served aboard the *USS South Dakota* and participated in the battles of Santa Cruz and Guadalcanal where he was injured.

Name: Daniel Inouye

Nationality: U.S.A.

Birthdate: September 7, 1924

Occupation: Student, Painter

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:

Daniel Inouye was born in Honolulu, Hawaii to Japanese immigrant parents. At the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, Inouye had been a pre-medical student at the University of Hawaii and served as a volunteer medic during the attack. When the U.S. Army allowed Japanese Americans to enlist in 1943, he left school and joined the Army. He volunteered to be part of the segregated Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team, mostly made up of Japanese Americans from Hawaii and the mainland. He served primarily in Italy.

TOP SECRET



Name: Jacklyn Harold Lucas

Nationality: U.S.A.

Birthdate: February 14, 1928

Occupation: Student

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:

Jacklyn Lucas was born in Plymouth, North Carolina. He was captain of his high school football team and also competed in several other sports. In 1942, at the age of 14, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve without his mother's consent. Hungry for action, in early 1945, he abandoned his unit and stowed away aboard the *USS Deuel* which was transporting units of the 5th Marine Division into combat. When the Division reached Iwo Jima, he was allowed to remain and participated in the heavy fighting on the island.

TOP SECRET



Name: John P. Cromwell

Nationality: U.S.A.

Birthdate: September 11, 1901

Occupation: Naval Officer

Wartime Occupation: Naval Officer

Other available details:

John P. Cromwell was born in Henry, Illinois. In 1920 he was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy where he graduated in 1924. His first years in the Navy were spent on battleships but by WWII, he served on submarines. In May, 1941 he became Engineer Officer for the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force. From 1942-43 he served on the submarine *USS Sculpin*.



Name: Harold F. Cannon

Nationality: U.S.A.

Birthdate: January 7, 1912

Occupation: Teacher

Wartime Occupation: Paratrooper

Other available details:

Harold Cannon was born in Honea Path, South Carolina into a family of farmers. He was the youngest of eleven children. He attended Clemson University and graduated in 1932. After college he became a teacher until he joined the Army as an infantryman in 1938. In 1943, he joined the 82nd airborne division. He took part in many important battles and events including D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge.



Name: Billie Harris

Nationality: American

Birthdate: Unknown

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: 1st Lt. U.S. Army

Other available details:

Six weeks after marrying his sweetheart, Billie Harris was sent to fight in France as a fighter pilot. Just barely a month after D-day, Harris flew over Nazi-occupied northern France on July 17, 1944. He was reported as missing in action, though shortly after he was declared alive.



Name: Geraldine Hoff Doyle

Nationality: American

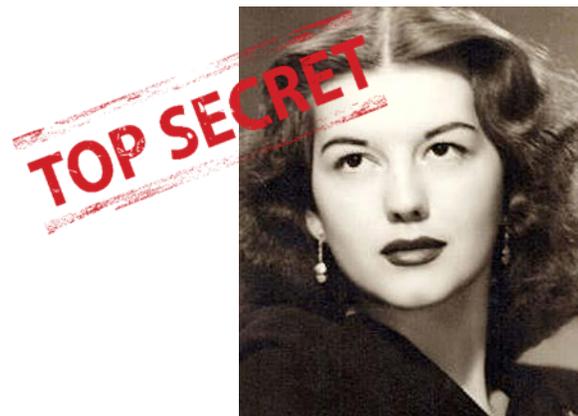
Birthdate: July 31, 1924

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Factory Worker

Other available details:

Geraldine Hoff was born in Inkster, Michigan. When she graduated from high school in 1942, she found work as a metal presser in the *American Broach & Machine Co.* in Ann Arbor. WWII saw many women taking over men's jobs in the workplace as most of the men were overseas fighting. Geraldine left her factory job after only a few weeks but during her time working she was photographed by a United Press International photographer. It is said that her picture was the inspiration behind J. Howard Miller's "We can do it!" poster.



Name: Hans-Joachim Marseille

Nationality: German

Birthdate: December 13, 1919

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Luftwaffe Pilot

Other available details:

Hans-Joachim Marseille was born in Berlin, Germany. His parents divorced when he was young and he was often ill as a child. He was known for being rebellious and having a lack of discipline, characteristics which would remain with him when he became a pilot. He joined the Luftwaffe in 1938 and with the start of the war, became one of Germany's most notable fighter pilots particularly in the North African Campaign. Due to his success, he became known as the "Star of Africa".

TOP SECRET



Name: Michael Wittman

Nationality: German

Birthdate: April 22, 1914

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Waffen-SS Tank Commander

Other available details:

Michael Wittman was born in the village of Vogethal in the Oberpfalz region of Bavaria into a family of farmers. In 1934, he joined the German Army. During World War II he was a *Waffen-SS* tank commander. He was famous for his ambush of elements of the British 7th Armoured Division during the Battle of Villers-Bocage where he destroyed up to fourteen tanks and fifteen personnel carriers along in the span of fifteen minutes. Wittman is credited with the destruction of 138 tanks and 132 anti-tank guns.

TOP SECRET



Name: Fritz Christen

Nationality: German

Birthdate: June 29, 1921

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:

TOP SECRET



Fritz Christen was born in Wredenhagen, Germany in 1921. He was a soldier in the Totenkopf division of the Waffen-SS. His division acted as a spearhead of the German invasion of the USSR. In 1941 during an engagement with Soviet skirmishers, Christen manned a 50mm cannon alone for three days without food, supplies or sleep. For this action, he was awarded Germany's Iron Cross, First Class.

Name: Erich Alfred Hartmann

Nationality: German

Birthdate: April 19, 1922

Occupation: Flight Instructor

Wartime Occupation: Luftwaffe Pilot

Other available details:

TOP SECRET



Erich Alfred Hartmann was born in Weissachm, Württemberg. His father was a doctor and Hartmann spent his early childhood in China before moving back to Germany in 1928. He was taught to fly by his mother who was one of the first female glider pilots in Germany. In 1937 she helped to open a flying school where Erich became an instructor at the age of 14. He gained his pilot's license in 1939 and joined the German military in 1940. He is known as the most successful fighter ace in the history of aerial warfare and by 1945, he had 336 aerial victories. He was known by many nicknames including the Blond Knight and the Black Devil.

Name: Lilli Henoch

Nationality: German

Birthdate: October 26, 1899

Occupation: Athlete

Wartime Occupation: Athlete

Other available details:

TOP SECRET



Lilli Henoch was born in Königsberg, East Prussia to Jewish parents. She was interested in athletics from an early age and joined the Berlin Sports Club after WWI. She soon became a well-known track and field star. When Hitler came to power in 1933, she and other Jews were forced to leave the Berlin Sports Club and were banned from competing in the 1936 summer Olympics due to the new Nazi race laws. In 1942 Lilli and her mother were deported to the Riga Ghetto in Nazi Germany occupied Latvia.

Name: Tommy Macpherson

Nationality: British

Birthdate: October 4, 1920

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:

TOP SECRET



Tommy Macpherson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and was the youngest of seven children. He went to Fettes College at the age of fourteen where he joined the officer training corp. He also attended Trinity College, Oxford where he was awarded a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He was a notable student athlete as well. In 1939, he joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders Territorial Army. He served in No. 11 (Scottish) Commando unit in 1940-41 and served with French resistance forces. Macpherson became infamous amongst the Axis forces and was known as the "kilted killer".

Name: Violette Szabo

Nationality: U.K.

Birthdate: June 26, 1921

Occupation: Salesclerk

Wartime Occupation: Spy

Other available details:

Violette Szabo was born in Paris, France to a British father and French mother. She lived in France until the age of eleven and was known to be an active and lively girl in her youth. Before the war broke out she worked at the perfume counter in a department store. In 1940, she joined the Land Army but soon returned to London to work in an armaments factory. In August of that same year, Szabo married a French officer. After the death of her husband in combat in 1943, Szabo trained as a spy and returned to France to help pass information to the Allies.



Name: Charles Coward

Nationality: British

Birthdate: 1905

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:

Charles Coward was born in 1905. He joined the army in 1937. He was captured by the Germans in 1940 near Calais while serving in the British Army. He attempted to escape from prisoner of war camps at least 7 times before being transferred to Auschwitz III labor camp in 1943. Once there, Coward became aware of the extermination camp, Auschwitz II, nearly five miles down the road.



Name: Jack Churchill

Nationality: British

Birthdate: September 16, 1906

Occupation: Editor, Model

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:

Jack Churchill was born in Ceylon (modern day Sri Lanka). His family moved to Hong Kong in 1910 and then to England in 1917. He graduated from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst in 1926 and served in Burma with the British Army. In 1936 he left the army and worked as a newspaper editor and male model in Nairobi, Kenya. Churchill was also a champion archer and played the bagpipes. After Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939, he rejoined the army. He famously fought with a longbow, bagpipes and a Scottish broadsword. His nicknames were "fighting Jack Churchill" and "Mad Jack" and his motto was "any officer who goes into action without his sword is improperly dressed".



Name: Elizabeth Windsor

Nationality: British

Birthdate: April 21, 1926

Occupation: Princess

Wartime Occupation: Mechanic/Truck Driver

Other available details:

Elizabeth Windsor was the granddaughter of King George V of England. In 1936, her father became King of England and she was next in line for the throne. Though just a teenager when Britain entered the war, Elizabeth did what she could to aid the war effort. She staged plays to raise money for the Queen's Wool Fund to help make uniforms and she made radio broadcasts to the children of Great Britain. When she was old enough, Elizabeth joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial service in 1945 where she trained as a driver and a mechanic.



Name: Hiroo Onoda

Nationality: Japanese

Birthdate: March 19, 1922

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:

Hiroo Onoda was born in Kamekawa Village in Japan to a family of the ancient Samurai warrior class. His father served in the military until his death in 1943 when he was killed in action in China. Hiroo enlisted in the Imperial Japanese Army at the age of 18 in 1940. He was sent to fight in the Philippines in 1944. In 1945, Allied forces landed on the island and he fought to push them back.



Name: Hiroyoshi Nishizawa

Nationality: Japanese

Birthdate: January 27, 1920

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:

Hiroyoshi Nishizawa was born in Nagano Prefecture and was the fifth son of a manager of a sake brewery. After graduating from elementary school, he went on to work at a textile factory. In 1936 he saw a poster that encouraged his interest in flying. He completed his flight training in 1939 graduating from the Japanese Navy Air force training course ranked sixteen in his class of 71. During World War II, he became a flying ace and became known as the “Demon of Rabaul”.



Name: Tetsuzo Iwamoto

Nationality: Japanese

Birthdate: June 15, 1916

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Fighter Pilot

Other available details:

Tetsuzo Iwamoto was born in Karafuto, Japan. His father was a policeman. He was an active child and enjoyed skiing and was a trumpeter in the school band. His favorite subjects in school were mathematics and geometry. He was regarded as the most opinionated student in his school (a negative thing in prewar Japan). He entered the Imperial Japanese Navy in 1934 and completed his pilot training in 1936. He first saw combat in 1938 during the Sino-Japanese war. In World War II he became one of Japans top scoring flying aces. He became known as “Tiger Tetsu”.



Name: Mutsuhiro Watanabe

Nationality: Japanese

Birthdate: January 1, 1918

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Soldier

Other available details:

Mutsuhiro Watanabe was the fourth of six children born into a wealthy family. His family owned numerous hotels and mines. Watanabe was educated at Waseda University where he studied French literature. He then worked at a news agency prior to enlisting in the Japanese army. He was expected to become an officer in the army like his brothers but failed to do so. This failure and the weight of his family’s disappointment had a major impact him. He served as a guard at prisoner of war camps and became known for his extraordinarily cruel nature toward prisoners.



Name: Mathilde Carré

Nationality: French

Birthdate: June 30, 1908

Occupation: Teacher

Wartime Occupation: Spy

Other available details:

Mathilde Carré was born in Le Creusot, France. She attended Sorbonne University in the 1930s and became a teacher upon graduating. After getting married, she and her husband moved to Algeria. She moved back to France and began working as a nurse in Paris after her husband died fighting in the Italian campaign. While in France, she witnessed her country fall to the Germans. In 1940 she joined a spy network based in Paris. She was nicknamed La Chatte (the she-cat) for her stealth as a spy.

TOP SECRET



Name: Lydia Litvyak

Nationality: Soviet

Birthdate: August 18, 1921

Occupation: Flight Instructor

Wartime Occupation: Pilot

Other available details:

Lydia Litvyak was born in Moscow, Russia into a Jewish family. She was interested in aviation from an early age. At the age of 14, she enrolled in a flying club and later graduated from Kherson Military Flying School. She then became a flight instructor and by the start of WWII she had already trained 45 pilots. In 1941 she joined the Soviet Union's Women's 556th Fighter Regiment of the Air Defense force. In 1942 she was assigned an all male regiment. She was the first female pilot to earn the title of fighter ace and was nicknamed the "White Lily of Stalingrad".

TOP SECRET



Name: Roza Shanina

Nationality: Soviet

Birthdate: April 3, 1924

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Sniper

Other available details:

Roza Shanina was born in the village of Yedma in the Soviet Union to a milkmaid and a logger. She was extremely dedicated to her studies and trekked 120 miles to get to a rail station so she could go to college. She worked as a teacher to support herself through school and graduated in 1942. After the deaths of three of her brothers in World War II, she decided she wanted to join the military. She was trained as a sniper and by 1944, newspapers were calling her “the unseen terror of East Prussia.”

TOP SECRET

Stu



Name: Vasily Zaytsev

Nationality: Soviet

Birthdate: March 23, 1915

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Sniper

Other available details:

Vasily Zaytsev was born into a peasant family. He grew up in the Ural Mountains where he became a skilled hunter. When the war began, he initially served in the Russian Navy but eventually transferred to the army where he served in the 1074th Rifle Regiment. He became one of the most renowned Soviet snipers and was known as the Hero of the Soviet Union.

TOP SECRET



Name: Nikolai Kuznetsov

Nationality: Soviet

Birthdate: July 27, 1911

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation: Intelligence Agent

Other available details:

Nikolai Kuznetsov was born in Perm Governorate in the Soviet Union. He studied forestry in college but also had a talent for languages. In 1938 he joined the Soviet Union's law enforcement agency. During the war, he operated as a spy in Nazi occupied Ukraine and personally killed six high ranking German officials. He was a member of the Communist party.



Name: Junio Valerio Borghese

Nationality: Italian

Birthdate: June 6, 1906

Occupation: Career Navy

Wartime Occupation: Naval Officer

Other available details:

Junio Valerio Borghese was born in Rome into the Italian noble House of Borghese. As a child, he was educated in London, England and later attended the Royal Italian Navy Academy. His Naval career began in 1929 and by 1933, he was a submarine commander. During the war, he was in command of the submarine *Scire*.



Name: Ruperto Kangleon

Nationality: Filipino

Birthdate: March 27, 1890

Occupation:

Wartime Occupation:

Other available details:

TOP SECRET



Ruperto Kangleon was born in the province of what is now known as Southern Leyte in the Philippines. Prior to, and early on in the war, he served in the military until he was captured by the Japanese Imperial Army. He was then sent to a prison camp but escaped and returned to Leyte in 1942. It was then that he formed a guerilla movement to resist the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Kangleon's guerillas participated in many operations against the Japanese Imperial Army and even assisted the allies at the Battle of Leyte in 1944.

Name: Jose Calugas

Nationality: Filipino

Birthdate: December 29, 1907

Occupation: Career Military

Wartime Occupation: Sergeant, Philippine Scouts

Other available details:

TOP SECRET



Jose Calugas was born in Barrio Tagsing, Philippines. His mother died when he was ten and he later dropped out of high school to work and support his family. In 1930 he enlisted the U.S. Army. Upon the completion of his basic training, he received additional training as an artilleryman and was assigned to the 24th Artillery Regiment of the Philippine Scouts. He later became a sergeant in the 88th Field Artillery Regiment and in December of 1941, his unit was mobilized for war and sent to the Bataan Peninsula.

Name: Fernando Amorsolo

Nationality: Filipino

Birthdate: May 30, 1892

Occupation: Painter

Wartime Occupation: Painter

Other available details:



Fernando Amorsolo was born in Manila, Philippines. After his father's death, he and his family moved in with his mother's cousin who was a painter. Between 1909 and 1914, Amorsolo was enrolled in the Art School of the Liceo de Manila where he earned honors for his paintings and drawings. After graduating from the Liceo, he entered the University of the Philippine's School of Fine Arts where he also received praise for his works. He is known for his bright optimistic depictions of everyday Filipino life. However, during the war, his paintings became darker and documented the destruction of Manila landmarks and the pain and tragedy faced by his people.

World War II Primary Source Activity

You have been assigned the identity of a person who lived during World War II. Drawing on your knowledge of World War II, examine the following primary source documents and answer the provided questions.

Additionally, you may consider how the major events of World War II impacted the life of your “person.”

Primary Document #1

Background Information

Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party came to power in Germany in 1933. Moving quickly, Hitler withdrew Germany from the League of Nations and began to rearm Germany. This act was in direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles that had ended World War I. Anxious to avoid war, no major powers were willing to challenge Hitler's violation of the treaty. In March 1936, Hitler decided to test the resolve of the major powers, by sending troops into the Rhineland, a demilitarized zone under the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler was prepared to withdraw if challenged, but no challenge came. Britain instead pursued a policy of appeasement, hoping Hitler would be satisfied with the Rhineland and would not invade any other territory. France was not able to oppose Hitler's action without British support. Realizing that Britain and France would not stop him, Hitler began to take advantage of this policy of appeasement to pursue further territorial gains in Europe.



“Spineless Leaders of Democracy” July 8, 1936

Questions

Briefly describe the conditions the Treaty of Versailles placed on Germany after World War I. How did Hitler's actions violate the Treaty? How would you explain the decision to appease, or allow Hitler to take over territory by the major European powers?

What is the cartoonist's opinion of the policy of appeasement? How did you reach your conclusion?

Primary Document #2

Background Information

On May 10, 1940, Nazi Germany invaded France. In what later came to be called the Battle of France or the Fall of France, British and French troops were unable to stop advancing German forces. With defeat eminent, British (and some French) troops were evacuated to England. In approximately one month, Nazi Germany defeated France and became virtual master of the European continent. Great Britain was now the only major power left in Europe that was still able to resist Nazi Germany.

Primary Documents



Adolf Hitler in Paris, June 23, 1940

Questions

How do you think the fall of Paris affected the moral of the Allied soldiers? Of the German soldiers? What evidence do you have to support your conclusion?

Why do you think Hitler posed for a photo in front of the Eiffel Tower? What message was he trying to convey? Do you think it worked?

Primary Document #3

Background Information

On December 6, 1941, most people in America were determined to stay out of the wars that had started in Europe and Asia in the 1930s. Tensions with Japan were rising, but many believed these problems would be solved through diplomacy because Japanese diplomats were in Washington,, D.C. to negotiate. Despite this, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese launched a surprise attack on the American military base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack resulted in the deaths of more than 2,400 Americans. The next day, American President Franklin Roosevelt made a speech referring to December 7th as a “day which will live in infamy,” and asked the American congress for authorization to go to war against the Empire of Japan. Days later on December 11, 1941, Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy declared war on the United States. The United States reciprocated, and within a matter of days, the United States was at war against the Axis powers.

Primary Document



St. Louis Post-Dispatch, December 8, 1941

Questions

Do you think America's declaration of war against Japan was a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

How did the US become involved in the European war? What do you think the role of the United States will be in the war?

Can you think of another event in American history that is similar to the attack on Pearl Harbor? What are the similarities between the two?

Primary Document #4

Background Information

In early 1942, it was clear to many that the Allies were not winning World War II. Hitler dominated Europe and the Japanese had conquered much of the Pacific and were turning their attention to Australia and the west coast of the United States. Feeling victory at hand, the Japanese began planning an operation to give Japan total dominance in the Pacific. The plan was to lure the United States' aircraft carriers into a trap near the Midway Islands and destroy them. The Japanese hoped that such a terrible naval defeat would force the United States to withdraw from the war in the Pacific. Instead, America code breakers were able to intercept Japanese messages describing this trap. The United States Navy then set a counter-trap and from June 3-7, 1942 one of the most decisive naval battles in world history was fought. The Battle of Midway ultimately resulted in a decisive defeat of Japan and a turning of the tide of the war in the Pacific.

Primary Documents



“Midway Tide-Stick,” Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss), 1941

Questions

What is the main idea in the cartoon above? Based on the cartoon and background information, what do you predict will happen in the Pacific theater of war after June, 1942?

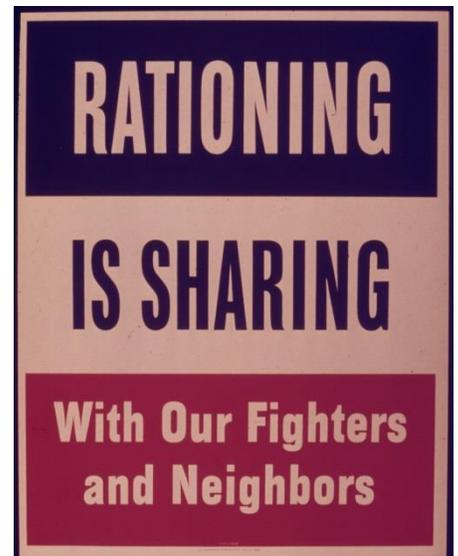
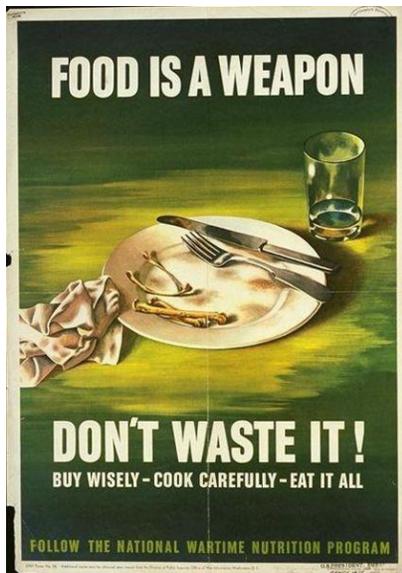
If the Japanese had won, what do you think the outcome might have been?

Primary Document #5

Background Information

World War II was a total war. It required huge economic commitments from the nations involved in it and it also required daily personal sacrifices from millions of people on the Homefront. In order to feed and supply a nation's army and citizens, measures had to be taken on all of the Homefronts (Axis and Allied) to conserve things like food, gasoline, metal, and fabric. This resulted in rationing programs being implemented. Rationing programs allowed citizens to buy a certain amount of a product and no more. This ensured that there was enough of that product for other citizens and for the troops fighting in the war. Each citizen would then have exactly what they needed to survive, and no more. Citizens in Allied and Axis countries were reminded on a daily basis that doing with less and obeying rationing laws would ensure ultimate victory in the war.

Primary Documents



WWII Rationing Posters

Questions

Define rationing in your own words.

Do you think this program was supported on the homefront? Why or why not? What ideas are the posters above trying to convey? How did you reach your conclusion?

Do you think rationing would be supported in the United States today? Why or why not?

Primary Document #6

Background Information

On June 22, 1941, Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union. This invasion shocked many throughout the world. In 1939 and 1940, the two countries had entered in to a series of agreements. One agreement involved trade - the other was a non-aggression pact. In invading the Soviet Union, Adolf Hitler broke this pact. Angry over this betrayal, Soviet leader Josef Stalin joined the Allied coalition against Nazi Germany.

German troops won some quick victories during the invasion but were soon stopped by the Soviet Red Army. This failure drove Hitler to try again and again to defeat the Soviets. As a result, the fighting on the eastern front was incredibly bloody and devastating, as Soviet troops and civilians remained determined to resist the invasion.

Primary Documents



“A. Hitler Taxidermist,” PM Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss), June 25, 1941

Questions

What were the terms of the non-aggression pact? What were the motives behind Hitler’s decision to break the pact?

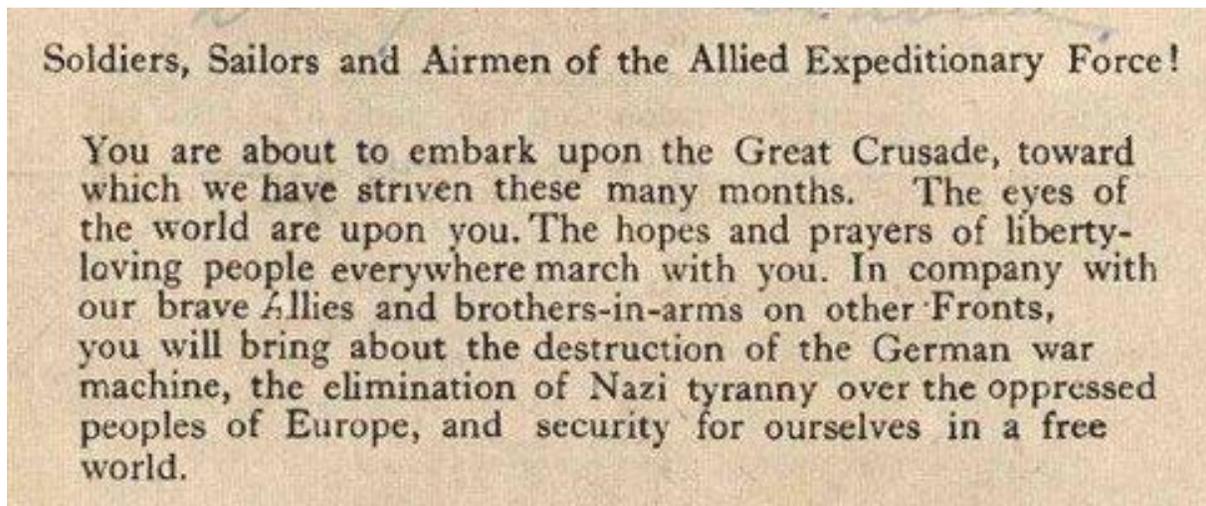
Predict what impact the invasion of the Soviet Union will have on the war in Europe. What information led you to this prediction?

Primary Document #7

Background Information

On June 6, 1944, the Allies launched an invasion of northern France at Normandy. The D-Day landings were the largest seaborne invasion in history. On the first day, the Allies suffered 10,000 casualties, with 4,414 troops confirmed dead. Entrenched German defenders had roughly 1,000 casualties for the same time period. On the first day of the operation, the Allies managed to hold the beaches of Normandy, but failed to move deeper into France. Over the next weeks however, the Allies were able to slowly accomplish their goals and push the Germans back. Ultimately, the D-Day landings began the liberation of western Europe from Nazi control. With a foothold in France, the Allies were soon pushing towards Germany.

Primary Documents



Excerpt of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's D-Day Speech, June 6, 1944

Questions

What role did General Eisenhower play in World War II? What message is he trying to convey in the speech above? Describe the events of the D-Day invasion.

What similarities and differences do you see between the D-Day invasion, and the Battle of Midway? What do you think will happen next?

Primary Document #8

Background Information

Nine hours after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, they also attacked the Philippines (a Commonwealth of the U.S. at the time), where tens of thousands of American and Filipino troops were stationed. During the resulting Japanese invasion, General Douglas MacArthur had been trapped on the island of Corregidor in Manila Bay. President Franklin Roosevelt ordered him to escape to Australia and to direct the Allied war effort in the Pacific from there. General MacArthur obeyed these orders and on arriving in Australia, made his famous “I Shall Return” promise. It took General MacArthur 2.5 years to fulfil this promise. On October 20, 1944, his forces began landing in the Philippines. General MacArthur himself even went ashore at Leyte to announce via radio that the liberation of the Philippines had begun. With the liberation of the Philippines underway, many Allied leaders in the Pacific began to turn their thoughts to an invasion of Japan.

Primary Documents



MacArthur Lands at Leyte, October 20, 1944

Questions

What does this photograph suggest about General MacArthur’s role in the war? What emotions are conveyed in the photograph above? What led you to your conclusions?

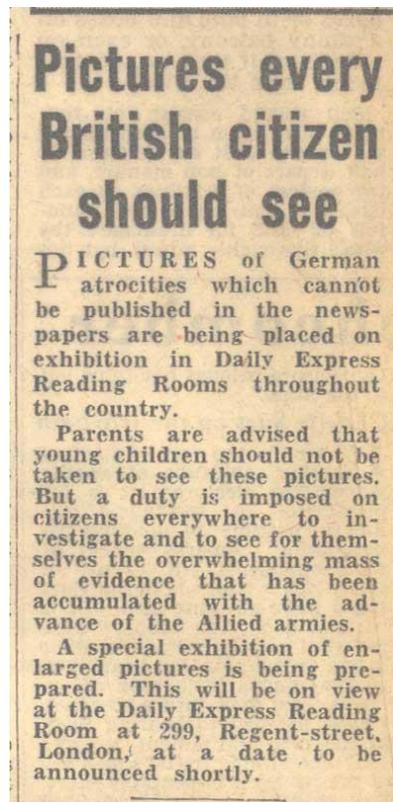
What does MacArthur’s return to the Philippines suggest about the war in the Pacific in 1944? Why?

Primary Document #9

Background Information

When Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power in 1933, they began establishing concentration camps throughout Germany. Initially these camps held political opponents. Within a year however, the camps were being used to hold people that the Nazi's deemed "racially undesirable." This included Jews, criminals, homosexuals, and other minorities. As Nazi Germany conquered much of Europe, more camps were built and the Nazi's began a campaign to exterminate those they deemed "undesirable." People who escaped from the concentration camps tried to alert the rest of the world to the genocide occurring in Europe, but was not until Allied forces began liberating concentration camps in 1944-1945 that the world became aware of the Holocaust.

Primary Documents



Unknown American Newspaper, 1945

The Daily Express, April 21, 1945

Questions

What is a genocide? What do you think Hitler's motives were behind carrying out genocide?

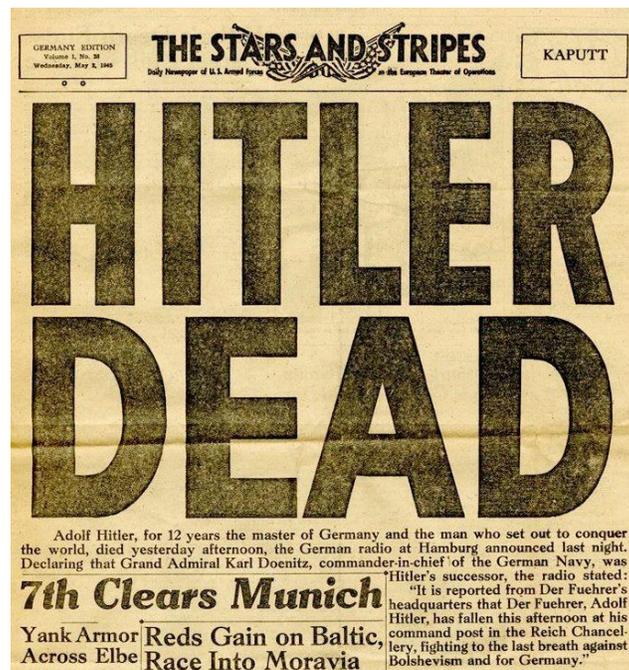
Why do you think the article on the right suggests that it is a "duty...imposed on citizens everywhere" to view the photographs depicting the Holocaust? Do you agree that citizens should have viewed photographs of these atrocities? Why or why not?

Primary Document #10

Background Information

By late spring 1945, American and British forces were advancing into Germany from the west, and Soviet forces were advancing from the east. Germany was surrounded and the Allies were getting closer to Berlin each day. On April 30, 1945, with Soviet troops fighting in the streets just blocks away from his underground bunker, Adolf Hitler committed suicide. A week later, on May 8, 1945, German forces surrendered unconditionally to the Allies. News of the Allied victory spread, prompting Victory in Europe or VE-DAY Celebrations in all the Allied countries. These celebrations were somewhat tempered however by the fact that the war against Japan was still underway in the Pacific.

Primary Documents



Stars and Stripes, May 1, 1945

Questions

Do you think the war in Europe would have ended when it did if Hitler did not commit suicide? Why or why not? How do you think people around the world reacted?

What impact do you think the end of the war in Europe might have had on the war in the Pacific? Why?

Primary Document #11

Background Information

In the final year of World War II in the Pacific, the Allies began preparing a plan for the invasion of Japan. Military planners estimated that this invasion would result in millions of Japanese and American casualties. The United States had developed a new superweapon however – the atomic bomb. On July 26, 1945, the United States, Great Britain, and China issued the Potsdam Declaration which asked Japan to agree to an unconditional surrender or risk “prompt and utter destruction.” Japan ignored this request and American President Harry S. Truman made the difficult decision to use the atomic bomb on Japan.

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. American President Harry S. Truman called for Japan's surrender, warning that more destruction would follow if Japan did not surrender. When there was no response, days later the United States dropped another atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki. In both cities, most of the dead (approximately 220,000) were civilians, although Hiroshima was home to a military base. Six days after the bombing of Nagasaki and the Soviet Union's declaration of war on Japan, Japan agreed to surrender. General Douglas MacArthur presided over the official surrender ceremony on September 2, 1945. This surrender effectively ended World War II.

Primary Document

DAILY EXPRESS  No. 14,094 Lighting-up: 9.39 pm to 4.33 am TUESDAY AUGUST 7 1945 Weather: Cool, showers One Penny

Smoke hides city 16 hours after greatest secret weapon strikes

THE BOMB THAT HAS CHANGED THE WORLD

Japs told 'Now quit' 20,000 tons in golf ball

THE Allies disclosed last night that they have used against Japan the most fearful device of war yet produced—an atomic bomb.

It was dropped at 20 minutes past midnight, London time, yesterday on the Japanese port and army base of Hiroshima, 150 miles west of Kobe.

The city was blotted out by a cloud of dust and smoke. Sixteen hours later reconnaissance pilots were still waiting for the cloud to lift to let them see what had happened.

The bomb was a last warning. Now leaflets will tell the Japanese what to expect unless their Government surrenders.

So great will be the devastation if they do not surrender that Allied land forces may be able to invade without opposition.

ONE atomic bomb has a destructive force equal to that of 20,000 tons of T.N.T., or five 1,000-plane raid. This terrific power is packed in a space of little more than golf ball size.

Experts estimate that the bomb can destroy anything on the surface in an area of at least two square miles—twice the size of the City of London.

When it was tested after being assembled in a farmhouse in the remote desert of New Mexico, a steel tower used for the experiment vaporized; two men standing nearly six miles away were blown down; blast effect was felt 300 miles away.

And at Albuquerque, 120 miles away, a blind girl cried "What is that?" when the flash lighted the sky before the explosion could be heard.

Daily Express, August 7, 1945

Questions

Why do you think the headline declares that the atomic bomb “changed the world?” What led you to your conclusion?

Can you predict what might have happened in the Pacific theater if the atomic bombs had not been used? What lasting impacts do you think the atomic bombs may have had on Japan?

So what happened to them?

Teachers:

When it is time to reveal the fates of the men and women listed in this exercise, here is some basic information for your students. If students are interested in further research, there is a great deal of information available online about many of these figures.

George H.W. Bush

- Survived WWII and attended Yale University after the war.
- After college, he became a successful businessman in the oil industry.
- He later served as a congressman, Ambassador to the United Nations, the director of the CIA, the 43rd Vice President of the United States, and the 41st President of the United States.
- His son George W. Bush was the 43rd President of the United States.

Joseph Liebgott

- Survived the war and returned to Oakland, California to resume his job as a barber.
- Likely suffered from PTSD and never attended an Easy Company reunion.
- Died on June 28, 1992, aged 77.
- His experiences were part of the 2001 HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*.

Doris Miller

- Recognized as one of the “first heroes of WWII” as a result of his actions at Pearl Harbor.
- Presented with the Navy Cross by Admiral Nimitz on May 27, 1942.
- Died on November 24, 1943 during the Battle of Makin Island when his ship the *Liscome Bay* was struck by a Japanese torpedo. He was 24.
- His bravery encouraged many African Americans to join the military.

Audie Murphy

- Survived the war.
- One of the most decorated American combat soldiers of WWII receiving every military combat award for valor available from the U.S. Army as well as Belgian and French awards for heroism
- Enjoyed a 21 year as a movie star after the war but was plagued with PTSD for the rest of his life
- Died in a plane crash in 1971 at the age of 45.

John F. Kennedy

- When his PT boat was literally cut in two by a Japanese destroyer, although wounded, Kennedy saved the lives of his surviving crew members.
- Suffered from a back injury for the rest of his life as a result of this event.
- Began a political career in 1947 first serving as a congressman and later as a senator.
- Served as President of the United States from 1961 until his assassination in 1963.

Calvin Graham

- Received several awards for his service
- In late 1942, his mother revealed his true age after he took unauthorized leave; spent three months in jail as a result
- Tried to return to his ship but was released from the Navy without any awards or benefits.
- Joined the marines in 1948 at age 17 but broke his back in 1951
- Spent the rest of his life fighting for his military benefits
- In 1978 Jimmy Carter finally granted an honorable discharge for his service in the Navy

Daniel Inouye

- Lost his right arm in combat in 1945
- Remained in the military until 1947 and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain
- Abandoned plans of a medical career due to loss of his arm and instead pursued a political career.
- Served as a Senator of Hawaii from 1963-2012.
- Received Distinguished Service Cross for his bravery in action in 1945 and was later upgraded to a Medal of Honor by President Clinton.

Jacklyn Harold Lucas

- Survived his injuries and the war but would overall undergo 21 surgeries throughout his life
- Presented with the Medal of Honor in 1945.
- Graduated from High Point University before returning to the military where he served in the 82nd Airborne Division from 1961-65
- Died on June 5, 2008, aged 80.

John P. Cromwell

- In 1943, the *Sculpin* was fatally damaged in a gun battle while attacking a Japanese convoy.
- Having considerable knowledge of classified information, Cromwell decided to sacrifice his life rather than risk exposing this information to the enemy.
- He was 42 years old
- John P. Cromwell was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery.

Harold F. Cannon

- Survived the war and returned to South Carolina. Throughout his service during the war, the only injury he sustained was a broken ankle during training.
- Married Marion Cannon in 1946 and resumed his career as a teacher.
- Died in 2000 at the age of 88.

Billie Harris

- Harris was killed in France shortly after D-Day
- The War Department did not know if he was dead or alive for years.
- With the help of his widow, in 2005 his grave was finally discovered in France.

Geraldine Hoff Doyle

- Though she quit her factory job during the war, she became the face of the American woman during wartime.
- She married in 1943 and died in 2010.

Hans-Joachim Marseille

- By September 1, 1942, he claimed 158 victories
- 29 days later, he was killed in a flying accident at the age of 22.

Michael Wittman

- Killed on August 8, 1944 when a gunner in a Sherman firefly of the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry fired a round that destroyed his tank killing him and his entire crew.
- He was 30 years old.

Fritz Christen

- Survived the war
- Captured by the Americans in 1945 and turned over to the Soviets.
- Endured 10 years in a Soviet gulag and returned to Germany in 1955.
- Died in 1995 at the age of 74.

Erich Alfred Hartmann

- Survived the war.
- Surrendered to the U.S. Army in 1945 and was turned over to the Soviets.
- Convicted of false war crimes and sentenced to 25 years of hard labor but ended up on spending 10 years in various prison camps.
- Released in 1955.
- Joined the newly established West German Luftwaffe in 1956-70.
- Became a civilian flight instructor.
- Died in 1993 aged 71.

Lilli Henoch

- Shortly after her arrival in Latvia, she, along with a large number of Jews were machine gunned to death and buried in a mass grave.
- She was inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1990.

Tommy Macpherson

- Survived the war.
- Awarded the Military Cross and the French Croix de Guerre three times
- Remained in the military until 1964.
- Died on November 6, 2014 at the age of 94.

Violette Szabo

- On her second mission into occupied France, she was captured by the German Army.
- She was brought to Gestapo headquarters where she was interrogated and tortured.
- On February 5, 1945 at the age of 23 she was executed at Ravensbrück concentration camp.
- She was posthumously awarded Britain's George Cross on December 17, 1946.

Charles Coward

- Survived the war.
- Known today as the "Count of Auschwitz" he smuggled food and supplies to prisoners and orchestrated the escape of nearly 400 Jewish prisoners headed to the gas chambers.
- Testified at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials
- Died in 1976 aged 71.
- Posthumously named a British Hero of the Holocaust by the British Government in 2010.

Jack Churchill

- Captured in 1944 in Germany.
- Transferred with other inmates to Tyrol in 1945.
- After German departure, prisoners were released.
- Churchill continued to fight in the Pacific.
- Died on March 8, 1996 aged 89.

Princess Elizabeth

- Stood on the balcony at Buckingham Palace with her family and Winston Churchill to celebrate the end of the war
- In 1952, she became Queen of England. To date, she is the longest reigning female monarch in history
- Grandmother of Prince William and Prince Harry

Hiroo Onoda

- Continued to carry out his guerilla activities hiding in the hills.
- Refused to believe the Japanese surrendered and remained in hiding for nearly 30 years until his former commander made the journey to the Philippines in 1974 to issue orders relieving him from duty.
- Moved to Brazil in 1975 and back to Japan in 1984 to open an educational camp for young people.
- Died on January 16, 2014 aged 91.

Hirooyoshi Nishizawa

- Officially credited with 36 victories, 2 damages and 49 shared damages.
- Killed on transport over Calapan on Mindoro Island on October 6, 1944 at the age of 24.
- Posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Junior-grade.

Tetsuzo Iwamoto

- Survived the war.
- Though he avoided being declared a war criminal, he was blacklisted for public sector employment.
- Finally got employed at a spinning mill in 1952.
- Died of sepsis in 1955 at the age of 38.

Mutsuhiro Watanabe

- Survived the war.
- Listed as number 23 out of 40 on General MacArthur's list of most wanted war criminals in Japan.
- Went into hiding and never prosecuted.
- Later became a successful life insurance salesman and millionaire.
- Died on April 1, 2003.

Mathilde Carré

- After being interrogated by the Gestapo and threatened with death, she became a double agent and began working for Germany.
- Arrested by the U.K.'s intelligence service in 1942 and deported to France where she faced charges for treason and was sentenced to death.
- Her sentence was later lightened to 20 years in jail but she was released in 1954.
- Died in 2007.

Lydia Litvyak

- Holds the record for the greatest number of kills by a female fighter pilot.
- Shot down on August 1, 1943 by the Germans near Orel as she was attacking a convoy of German bombers.
- She was 21 years old.

Roza Shanina

- Though Soviet policy was designed to keep snipers off the front lines of combat, Shanina felt drawn to the front.
- She was renowned for her bravery and was the first Soviet female sniper to be awarded the Order of Glory.
- She was killed on January 28, 1945 while shielding a wounded commander of an artillery unit.
- She was 20 years old.

Vasily Zaytsev

- Finished the war with the rank of captain.
- Settled in Kiev after the war where he eventually became the director of a textile factory.
- Died in 1991 at the age of 76.

Ivan Pavlovich

- Like many people during World War II, Ivan Pavlovich's fate is unknown

Nikolai Kuznetsov

- Died on March 9, 1944.
- The official Soviet version of his death claims that he was killed in a firefight with members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army.
- He was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.
- He was 32 years old.

Ruperto Kangleon

- Survived the war.
- Became Leyte's civil governor with the re-establishment of the Philippine Commonwealth.
- Appointed Secretary of National Defense in 1946 but resigned in 1950.
- Later became a member of the Senate but died in 1958 at the age of 67.

Jose Calugas

- Survived the war.
- After the war he received a direct commission and became a United States citizen.
- Retired with the rank of captain in 1957.
- Died in 1998 at the age of 90.

Fernando Amorsolo

- Lived through the war.
- Still known as one of the most important artists in the history of the Philippines.
- Died in 1972 at the age of 90.