Overview

Service Newspapers of World War Two contains an extensive range of both rare and well-known wartime publications for soldiers serving in major theatres around the world. In addition to maintaining morale and helping to create an atmosphere of solidarity, journalism played a vital role in keeping servicemen informed about events in their unit and immediate locality, as well as delivering news from home and about the war at large. Many newspapers were written by the servicemen themselves, while others were sanctioned by senior staff and had a more official agenda. This material, so rich in social and cultural history, offers a unique perspective on the local and global experience of the war, and will enable scholars and students to research key historical events through the medium of contemporary publications.

“Digital access to these materials enables significant cross-national studies into the attitudes, beliefs and interests of military personnel engaged in the terrible struggle that raged across the world between 1939 and 1945.”

John Crawford, New Zealand Defence Force Historian
Service Newspapers of World War Two provides digital access to a vast range of both rare and well-known newspapers offering a broad view of the war and the experiences of those on its front lines.

Key Topics

- News coverage of key events, victories and battles
- The soldier’s experience
- The role and portrayal of women
- Activity on the home front and the civilian experience
- Identity and belonging
- Morale and propaganda
- Light entertainment
- Local news and customs
- Education and welfare
- Empire

Source Archives

- The British Library
- Imperial War Museums
- US Army Heritage and Education Center, US Army War College
- Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand
- Berlin State Library - Prussian Cultural Heritage

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