

DOWNLOAD PDF THE EXPERIENCE OF COMMONWEALTH AND COLONIAL SOLDIERS IN WORLD WAR II

Chapter 1 : BBC - History - World Wars: Colonies, Colonials and World War Two

The Battle of Singapore was fought in the South-East Asian theatre of World War II when the Japanese Empire invaded British Malaya and its stronghold of Singapore. It was the major British military base in South East Asia and nicknamed the "Gibraltar of the East".

More than a million African soldiers were engaged in this war, some as volunteers while most of them were forcibly conscripted. The recent celebration of the D-Day landing and the multiple recollections of the ageing participants in the battles of that war issued in a period of recollection of the horrors of that war and the bravery of the participants; particularly by the survivors. Celebrities from both the Axis and the Allied Powers were there; even the French, Russians and Italians who fought on both sides of the war. The only ones missing were the valiant African soldiers who fought and died in these same battles, served at the front and perished in the prisoner-of-war camps. Their heroism and dedication went unnoticed and unregarded. This is a pity and a great shame for the hosts of these celebrations. It should have been no surprise to the Africans, however, as their treatment after the war was a triumph of racist and discriminatory behaviour towards them by those whose homelands the Africans had fought to save. These African soldiers were many and ubiquitous. There were over a million African soldiers engaged in this war. For them the war started at its very beginning; not the attack on Poland which triggered the European response in 1939, but even earlier in 1941 when the Italian Fascist troops, backed by African soldiers from Eritrea attacked Ethiopia. African troops were engaged in this war as a result of the colonial occupation of their countries and the compulsion of the colonial powers on the colonies to provide manpower for the war effort. Some were volunteers but most were compelled to become soldiers. Each colonial power had a different method of conscription but the end result was the same. He describes it as the largest single movement of African men overseas since the slave trade. Most of the Africans were told that they had no choice. They were told that they must fight and were picked up by Army trucks from their home villages and sent for basic training, often with the complicity of the native chiefs and district supervisors. The Belgians just rounded up whomever they saw and dropped them off at a local army base; usually after some initial brutality. The French had created a body of African soldiers earlier. The Tirailleurs Sénégalais were created as the first permanent units of black African soldiers under French rule in 1889. These were not professional soldiers; they were drawn from the ranks of the ex-slaves and social outcasts who were sold to the French by the local African chiefs. From 1914 to the main recruiting of these soldiers was the rachat repurchase system in which slaves were purchased from their local owners by the French and turned into mercenary soldiers. The practice of buying slaves by the army was ended officially in 1914 but it was observed more in the breach than the observance. In the French colonies in Africa were put under civilian rather than military rule. However, this removal of French military rule over the region meant that ever more African proxies were needed for policing, fighting resistance forces, and as garrison troops. These surrogate troops were used to put down local uprisings and expand French rule. The Tirailleurs Sénégalais participated in the conquest of Morocco in the early 1930s. In a new partial-conscription law was passed, making it easier for the French to recruit surrogates. The number of West African troops serving under French command in World War I comprised about 1,500,000 men, and approximately 300,000 of them were killed. In Senegal alone more than a third of all males of military age were mobilized and sent to France to fight. After the war the French colonial authorities passed the Conscription Law of 1945, which called for universal male conscription in peacetime as well as wartime.

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Chapter 2 : Japanese prisoners of war in World War II - Wikipedia

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There was no military tradition in my family. I enlisted because of patriotism and adventure. The West Indies gave full support to the mother country, Great Britain, in her conflict with Germany. My service began in June 1940. While I was in the Royal Navy we swept shipping channels for mines and suspected objects, as well as escorting convoys from the east coast of America up to the Panama Canal. We also searched for survivors from torpedoed ships. In the RAF my unit picked up aircrews shot down or ditched at sea. They could be any nationality. For example, we saw some airmen ditched in the Channel. Full-speed ahead, we went to pick them up. They turned out to be German airmen, shot down. Anyway, being on the humanitarian side we decided to pick them up and continued to pick up the other British airmen. In the boat, they all sat looking at each other. Our other jobs included refuelling, re-loading bombs and towing sea-planes to dry docks. Being black did make a difference in World War Two, although I treated each person as an individual, according to the initial approach. I know for a fact that Black American servicemen were confined to non-combatant units until late when the whole scene changed – all the black fighting units were suddenly sent over to fight in Italy and the Middle East to invade enemy-held territories. The black units were led by white American officers, until orders came from Washington that racial discrimination in the American armed forces should be discontinued. Then experienced black servicemen got the opportunity to move up the promotion process to commanding positions. The British scene was different – there was no official racial discrimination in the services, but seniority promotion for a black serviceman was rare, even though you were qualified to do the job. Excuses for non-promotion were always there, so you were simply allowed to carry on in the ranks, regardless of your ability. But we were treated very well by white civilians because they were aware that you had left your safe country to face danger and help them in their time of need. And white British servicemen, in my case, were fine. In the navy, on a small ship, you have to live close, so you automatically become a close unit - whether afloat or ashore, any difficulties that arise are quickly sorted out. In the RAF, again when on air-sea rescue duties, you are together as a crew. Most of the time, I was the only black, so no problem, but when I was on other duties and had to mix, there were some problems – mostly caused by stereotyping. I did socialise and went on quite a few dates with white girls – it was a novelty at the time. Some of my black brothers got married in the process. They pictured their loved daughter falling in love with a black man, and maybe eventually going abroad to live in the jungle and never seen again. That is what they immediately saw. A few did step out of line, but were dealt with accordingly. They were reluctant to accept the fact that the British black servicemen were a different race in social outlook. So we had open wars, especially in dance halls and various places of entertainment, with the local whites as back-up on our side. The black American GIs were a different story. We got along very well indeed - we British black servicemen were their protectors. At times, they were attacked by groups of white GIs, especially if they were in the company of white girls. If they attempted to defend themselves against the white GIs, police were always at hand to arrest the black ones for the stockade, so we would go to their rescue and try to prevent them being arrested. Because the US GI police had no jurisdiction over British servicemen, we could defend them and ourselves until the British police arrived on the scene, along with the ambulance for the wounded. I was not treated equally regards pay and promotions, etc, but I never protested. My service changed my outlook, though. I was exposed to things that I only used to read about, like racism in the USA and other parts of the world. Since then I have taken part in protests as a veteran. I support the West Indian Ex-servicemen Association, formed for the welfare of veterans and for collective recognition. I would also say that military service had some benefits. I travelled extensively and saw things for myself and was able to form my own opinion of worldwide issues. No arrangements had

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been made by the government of Jamaica or the British military for our return. Then they got some form of rehabilitation going, but I was frustrated and returned to England, where I thought the prospects were better because they were in the process of rebuilding the country. Find out how you can use this. Forum Archive This forum is now closed These messages were added to this story by site members between June and January It is no longer possible to leave messages here. Find out more about the site contributors. Message 1 - Servicemen Posted on: We cannot help the colour of our skin, or nationality. I do not believe that racism was as strong in this country as in USA, but I cannot be sure. I remember a friend of mine had a very pretty sister who walked out with large, handsome, white American servicemen, one on each arm! All during my time in National Service 6 years, including Territorial service, after the war. I never saw even ONE black man during my time in the army, makes me wonder whether ANY non-nationals were "called up". If not, why not? I met hundreds and hundreds of soldiers, all white men, English, Irish, Welsh and Scottish. Don Baker Message 2 - Servicemen Posted on: Racism is dreadful and everyone should be proud of what they are. I say this as an OLD white woman. Message 3 - Servicemen Posted on: What an interesting guy. I have heard similiar stories. In one, a Jamaican serving in the RAF who had gone to a pub many times before America came into the war was suddenly embroiled in a fight when Americans were there. He gave more than he got and wound up being charged and went to Court and told his story to the Judge and was found Not Guilty. Message 6 - Servicemen Posted on: I hope the rest of the country never forgets the contribution they made. I would like to apologise for the lack of care afforded to them by the British Government including their passagen across the Atlantic. God Bless Them All. This story has been placed in the following categories. Story with photo Most of the content on this site is created by our users, who are members of the public. The views expressed are theirs and unless specifically stated are not those of the BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of any external sites referenced. For any other comments, please Contact Us.

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Chapter 3 : History of the Australian Army | Military Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

"The war on the periphery: The experience of soldiers fighting in European colonies," in Timothy Dowling, ed., Personal Perspectives: World War I (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO,), "The experience of Commonwealth and Colonial soldiers in World War II," in Timothy Dowling, ed.

Army From , hundreds of thousands of Filipino soldiers fought and died under the command of American generals against the Japanese in the Philippines. This struggle included one of the worst military defeats in U. But Congress and President Truman reneged this offer in . Only four thousand Filipino war veterans, out of an estimated , who survived the war, were able to get citizenship before the retraction was signed into law. It was never taught. The Imperial Japanese objective was domination of all of Asia, and, having conquered Korea, parts of Russia, China and Taiwan, many of the countries that remained were colonial holdings of Western nations. He had shared that objective publicly with the American people, a large majority of whom now accepted war as inevitable. The Philippine army circa Wikipedia At the start of , the Philippines had a meager army. Part of that transition should have involved amassing a Filipino military -- to replace the U. But development of such a force was slow. Had the Japanese attacked the Philippines in January , eleven months before Pearl Harbor, they would have encountered a few thousand American troops and a few thousand Filipinos. Which is why, in the summer of , following the Japanese capture of French Indochina, the U. For the first few decades of the 20th century, because the U. As a result, in , there were about 45, Filipinos in the United States, most of them service-aged, male farm and factory laborers. Military service was then, as it is now, one of the shorter and more reliable paths for an alien to achieve citizenship. From to the end of the war, the government streamlined the hell out of that path. Filipino men were recruited into the U. Nearly one third of draft-age Filipinos in the continental U. I did not even have to file an application. Many of these individuals, and the Filipino immigrants who enlisted in the continental U. President Roosevelt promised U. Ultimately, the allied forces in the Philippine campaign from consisted of , Filipino troops and 30, American troops, some of whom were Filipino Americans. Caught unaware and underprepared, the assault went very poorly for the allied side. Not only were they poorly trained, but they were under equipped. This extended to blankets, medicine, helmets, and gas masks. Most troops carried either Enfield 17 rifles and Springfield 03s -- which dated from and , respectively. Their uniforms were worn-out and second-hand, the soles of their shoes quickly wore thin. This poverty even extended to food: The division railhead scheduled to open on 1 December did not begin operations until a week later, after the war had started, because of the inexperience of Filipino supply officers. With poorly trained and poorly equipped troops facing a highly-trained force of Japanese, this plan quickly failed. No reinforcements could be expected. This meant that the Bataan troops were left to fight the highly trained imperial army without provisions or reinforcements. But the dwindling forces were tenacious. The Bataan Death March Zuanzuanfuwa After fighting for six months, five of those on half rations, the defenders at Bataan surrendered to the Japanese forces in May . The ordeal that followed became known as the Bataan Death March. Once on the march, the men -- many of whom were already malarial, starving, and exhausted -- were not given any food or water. Those who flagged were physically abused by their captors. Those who were not able to continue were executed, often in gratuitously painful or humiliating ways. Tens of thousands of allied soldiers made the march, and thousands of them died. Over the next several years, many more of them would die in captivity. Some were moved into other camps, or forced into slave labor. A period of brutal Japanese occupation reigned over the Philippines for two and a half years. In that time, escaped POWs and civilians joined the growing ranks of Filipino guerillas. Many of these men ended up establishing liaisons with the exiled U. Propaganda poster recruiting guerrillas US military Allied forces began their liberation of the Philippines in October of . The liberation ended, in allied victory, in the summer of . The Filipino immigrants who were living in the U. But the Filipinos who enlisted from within the Philippines were not so fortunate. In , President Truman signed the Rescission Act, which retroactively

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annulled the offer of citizenship and any veterans benefits promised to Filipino troops under measures like the G. This was probably motivated by financial concerns -- there were an estimated , Filipino veterans who survived the war. Guests remove their shoes to keep the wall-to-wall carpet soft and blonde. Gaerlan sits in the living room, surrounded by bookshelves stacked with framed photos of loved-ones. The way he told it was like a cowboy story. Even when he was talking about the death march it was funny. It had sound effects. These days, Gaerlan makes several trips a month to Sacramento, helping and hounding the California Board of Education to implement the state law AB . If Gaerlan succeeds, it will be a first for United States education. Filipino Bataan veterans in , in Jacksonville, FL Annie Chambers When it comes to material recognition, Filipino veterans have been lobbying the government for decades to undo the Rescission Act. In , as part of the Immigration Act , George H. Bush passed a measure that extended an offer of citizenship to Filipino veterans. Even though it was 45 years after the fact, this resulted in a wave of immigration of tens of thousands of elderly Filipinos to the United States. Unfortunately, the act did not also extend veterans benefits to them -- including old age pensions and veterans hospital medical care -- and many of these new immigrants ended up on social security. As part of the stimulus bill, Obama payed out a lump sum to surviving Filipino veterans. Only those on an official registry received the benefits, which was itself a gamble, given the state of wartime and postwar record keeping in the Philippines. Most of the remaining survivors are in their 90s, now, and regretfully live in a world where their sacrifice is not appreciated or even known about. This is often explained as stemming from shame around the surrender of Bataan. But Gaerlan and her colleagues say there may be a geopolitical dimension to the blindness around Bataan, too. Japan is infamous for whitewashing its own history, especially in textbooks , and the Philippines is still economically dependent on both Japan and the United States. When Gaerlan first heard about AB , a law to include the role of Filipinos in WWII in the public school curriculum, in , she immediately started asking around: She started petitioning assembly members to strengthen the bill, she started a campaign on Change. And it paid off. She started campaigning for more public awareness of this chapter of history after a particularly reading of her novel, which is set in the Philippines during World War II. She asked who in the audience had heard of the Bataan Death March. She turned her novel into a play, and gave speeches on the historical background, between the scenes. The writing, research, and performance of these pieces eventually led her to found a historical society. Now, twice a year, she holds major events on the subject, bringing in the veterans themselves, and former prisoners of war, to talk about their experience. Concurrent to these events and her lobbying efforts, she is trying to fund a film. She wants to make a documentary for use as an educational tool. Not wanting to get involved in the lengthy process of petitioning textbook companies, she hopes that if she creates an accurate, classroom-friendly movie about Bataan, instructors will use it to meet the new curricular requirement. Gaerlan says she never should have been in charge of all this. She looks down at the photo of her father at 21, who passed in August at age

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Chapter 4 : Personal perspectives. World War II / Timothy C. Dowling, editor | National Library of Australia

African, Indian, Caribbean and other colonial troops and personnel played a crucial role in supporting the Allied cause in World War Two. So much so, that Marika Sherwood wonders whether the war.

The beaches were fortified with barbed wire placed by the Japanese defenders. Lying in wait for the 2nd and 4th Division Marines were trenches and machine gun posts. The Marines successfully established a beachhead with a width of six miles by nightfall. The move proved disastrous, as the Japanese lost three aircraft carriers and aircraft, rendering Japanese forces unable to become resupplied and reinforced. He was instantly struck shortly after landing the beach. About a quarter mile from the beach, they came out screaming, and we just opened up. Anything moving we shot at. I never saw him again. It was tough going and everything was coming down on us. The terrain of the island was a plethora of caves, which provided easy cover for the Japanese defenders instructed to fight to the end and not surrender. Flamethrowers was a new technology at the time. Thousands of soldiers participated in this assault along with Japanese civilians. Banzai attacks or charges make for imminent death. The assault lasted for fifteen hours and American forces were able to regain strength. As the Americans were making significant progress on the island of Saipan, Japanese officials turned to the civilians and urged them under no circumstances to surrender to the American forces. Civilians were promised an elite status in the afterlife, raising their social class rank. The civilians of Saipan were told that the Americans would do heinous things to them if they surrendered, thus instilling fear. Emperor Hirohito made a direct order to the civilians to commit suicide, and approximately 1, Japanese can be seen in Army footage films jumping to their deaths off of cliffs, appropriately named "Suicide Cliff. It marked the beginning of the end of the war in the Pacific Theatre. They are Marines, period. National Archives The Battle of Saipan was the first time that flamethrowers were used to eliminate Japanese defenders from caves. Furthermore, the world was mortified to learn that thousands of Japanese civilians took their own lives by jumping off of "Suicide Cliffs. Japanese soldiers were bound by the honor code to die before surrendering. Many allowed themselves to be killed rather than to face shame. In fact, historylearningsite reports of holdouts who refused to surrender until December --months after the war ended. News of the suicides disappointed the Japanese people. They thought the suicides represented defeat rather than "spiritual enlightenment. What are your thoughts about the Battle of Saipan? Feel free to leave your comments in the comment section.

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Chapter 5 : BBC - WW2 People's War - Making a Difference - Experiences of a Black British Serviceman

During World War II, it has been estimated that between 19, and 50, members of the Imperial Japanese military surrendered to Western Allied combatants prior to the end of the Pacific War in August

They could not help Poland much and only sent a small French attack on Germany from the West. Germany then signed an agreement to work together with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union forced the Baltic countries to allow it to keep Soviet soldiers in their countries. While British soldiers were sent to the Continent, there were no big battles fought between two sides. The British and French sent an army to disrupt the German occupation, but had to leave when Germany invaded France. On 10 May, Germany invaded France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg and quickly defeated them by using blitzkrieg tactics. Soon after that, France was divided into occupation zones. One was directly controlled by Germany and Italy, [38] and the other was unoccupied Vichy France. By June, the Soviet Union moved its soldiers into the Baltic states and took them, [39] followed by Bessarabia in Romania. Although there had been some collaboration between the Soviet Union and Germany earlier, this event made it serious. The German Navy destroyed many British ships transporting goods in the Atlantic. The United States remained neutral but started to help the Allies. By helping to protect British ships in the Atlantic, the United States found itself fighting German ships by October but this was not officially war. Germany soon helped Italy. During the summer, the Axis quickly captured Ukraine and the Baltic regions, which caused huge damage to the Soviets. Britain and the Soviet Union formed a military alliance between them in July. This marked the end of the blitzkrieg stage of the war. It began a counter-attack that pushed the German army to the west. By April, many South East Asian countries: The Japanese navy had many quick victories. But in June, Japan was defeated at Midway. Japan could not take more land after this because a large part of its navy was destroyed during the battle. The fight on Guadalcanal began in September and involved a lot of troops and ships from both sides. It ended with the Japanese defeat in early Stalingrad was in the path of the Axis army, and the Soviets decided to defend the city. By November the Germans had nearly taken Stalingrad, however the Soviets were able to surround the Germans during winter [69] After heavy losses, the German army was forced to surrender the city in February A new Allied offensive, drove the Axis west across Libya a few months later, [72] just after the Anglo-American invasion of French North Africa forced it to join the Allies. After this, the Soviets became the attacking force on the Eastern Front, instead of the Germans. This resulted in the arrest of Mussolini in the same month. The Army of India and other forces expelled them in early In early, the Soviet army drove off the German army from Leningrad, [85] ending the longest and deadliest siege in history. After that, the Soviets began a big counter-attack. By May, the Soviets had retaken Crimea. With the attacks in Italy from September, the Allies succeeded in capturing Rome on 4 June, and made the German forces fall back. The code name for the invasion was Operation Overlord. The invasion was successful, and led to the defeat of the German forces in France. Paris was liberated on August and the Allies continued eastward while the German front collapsed. Operation Market-Garden was the combined aerial invasion of the Netherlands launched on 17 September The purpose of the invasion was to seize a series of bridges that included a bridge in Arnhem, which spanned the Rhine river. Market was the name for the airborne invasion. The ground invasion, named Garden, reached the Rhine river, but could not take the Arnhem bridge. Arriving Soviet troops caused uprisings against the German government in Eastern European countries, but these failed to succeed unless helped by the Soviets. By early, the Soviets attacked many German-occupied countries: Greece, Albania, Yugoslavia and Hungary. Finland switched to the side of the Soviets and Allies. American and Soviet soldiers met east of Elbe river, April On 16 December, the Germans tried one last time to take the Western Front by attacking the Allies in Ardennes, Belgium, in a battle is known as the Battle of the Bulge. This was the last major German attack of the war, and the Germans were not successful in their attack. In Italy, the Allies pushed forward, while the Soviets attacked Berlin. The allied western forces would eventually meet up with

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the Soviets at the Elbe river on 25 April German forces in Italy surrendered on 29 April The final battle in Europe was ended in Italy on 11 May And by April , American and Philippine forces had cleared much of the Japanese forces, but the fighting continued in some parts of the Philippines until the end of the war. The Allies wanted Japan to surrender with no terms, but Japan refused. The surrender documents were formally signed on board the USS Missouri on 2 September , ending the war. Germany was divided in half. The Allies began denazification, removing Nazi ideas from history,[source? Germany lost a quarter of the land it had in , with the land given to Poland and the Soviet Union. The Soviets also took some parts of Poland [99] [] [] and Finland, [] as well as three Baltic countries. In , Korea was divided into North and South Korea , each claiming to be the legal representative of the Koreans, which led to the Korean War in Colonies around the world in However, many countries in Asia and Africa would become free later. After the war, decolonization took place in many European colonies. In most cases, it happened peacefully, except in some countries, such as Indochina and Algeria. In general, it was quite positive. German, [] Italian, [] [] and French economies recovered. Many studies said that more than 60 million people died in the war, mostly civilians. The Soviet Union lost around 27 million people, [] almost half of the recorded number. Mostly, people died because they were sick , hungry to death , bombed, or killed because of their ethnicity. The Nazis killed many groups of people they selected, known as The Holocaust. They exterminated Jews , and killed the Roma , Poles , Russians , homosexuals and other groups. There were reports that the Germans and Japanese tested biological weapons against civilians [] and prisoners of war. Concentration camps and slave work Edit Polish civilians that would be sent to Germany for forced labor. Other than the Holocaust, about 12 million people, mostly Eastern Europeans, were forced to work for the German economy. Both treated prisoners of war badly. This was even the case for Soviet soldiers who survived and returned home. Japanese prisoner-of-war camps, many of which were used as labour camps, also caused a lot of deaths. The death rate of Western prisoners was Some Germans and Italians were included too. The Allies agreed that the Soviet Union could use prisoners of war and civilians for forced labor. However, this was no longer the case after the United States and Soviet Union joined the Allies in The Allies were able to have a higher production level compared with the Axis because the Allies had more natural resources. Also, Germany and Japan did not plan for a long war and had no ability to do so. At factories, women were employed to make bombs, guns, aircraft, and other equipment. In Britain, thousands of women were sent to work on farms as part of the Land Army. By some weapons were made almost entirely by women. In the beginning, women were rarely used in the labour forces in Germany and Japan. The mass evacuation of children also had a major impact on the lives of mothers during the war years. Occupation Edit Germany had two different ideas of how it would occupy countries. The Nazis used their racial policy and murdered a lot of people they thought non-human. The Resistance, the group of people who fought Germany secretly, could not harm the Nazis much until By , it was able to produce up to 50 million barrels of oil in the Dutch East Indies. The war brought new methods for future wars. The air forces improved greatly in fields such as air transport, [] strategic bombing to use bombs to destroy industry and morale , [] as well as radar , and weapons for destroying aircraft. Jet aircraft were developed and would be used in worldwide air forces. Aircraft carriers soon replaced battleships. The British improved weapons for destroying submarines, such as sonar , while the Germans improved submarine tactics. Tanks , which were used to support infantry , changed to a primary weapon. At the start of the war, most commanders thought that using better tanks was the best way to fight enemy tanks. The German idea to avoid letting tanks fight one another meant tanks facing tanks rarely happened.

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Chapter 6 : What Do We Misunderstand about World War I? – The Pietist Schoolman

World War II (WWII or WW2), also called the Second World War and, in the Soviet Union, the Great Patriotic War, was a global war involving fighting in many parts of the world and many countries. Most countries fought but some started fighting in

First under the Imperial British East Africa Company and after under the direct control of the British government, indigenous armed forces under British officers were raised for keeping law and order. Assigned separately to the territories and recruiting from among the local populations, the KAR units each established a distinct territorial identity. Wartime experience established the reliability and combat effectiveness of African colonial forces. At the beginning of World War I Africans had been employed chiefly as laborers attached to regular British forces; by the end of World War II KAR units had the status of regular combat units fully integrated into Commonwealth of Nations military operations in places as far-flung as Burma. As such, they had acquired a distinctive military tradition and a reputation as seasoned fighters. After the outbreak of the Mau Mau uprising in the s, the KAR was employed for a time with the colonial police and British forces in suppressing the insurgency. The British command in East Africa did little during the colonial era to advance Africans into the officer grades. The authorities made a start in when a new grade of effendi warrant officer was created for Africans. A special school for regular African officer candidates opened in Nairobi in , about 10 years behind similar developments in British West Africa. The three KAR battalions transferred to Kenya upon its independence were dependent in the middle and senior ranks almost entirely on regular British officers. By agreement of the two countries, these personnel were seconded to their former units. The desire of the civil leadership to retain the services of British officers appeared to stem in part from the belief that their retention would provide continuity and stability in the new army during the transition period and would give the government time to cope with the political and ethnic strains that Africanization would bring. There was also the pragmatic matter of a dearth of experienced African officers. At independence the Kenyan army had 80 African commissioned officers, who constituted The bulk of these were former effendi, most of whom had been given regular commissions after ; others were noncommissioned officers NCOs who had undergone a short officer training course. The new African officers were nearly all of junior rank, but one African lieutenant colonel commanded a battalion. The disadvantages of British dominance of the officer corps were made clear in the first month of independence when a mutiny broke out among some men of the 11th Battalion on January 24, The immediate cause was disgruntlement over pay and the retention of expatriate British officers. The action may also have been sparked by a similar incident in the army of neighboring Tanzania. At the request of the Kenyan government, the mutiny was quickly quelled with the help of a contingent of British troops in the vicinity. Kenyatta immediately reassured the army and the country of his general confidence in the military but moved decisively against those involved. Some were court-martialed or summarily dismissed from the service; the leaders were sentenced to prison terms of up to 14 years; and the 11th Battalion was disbanded but was reconstituted later as the 1st Battalion. Steps were also taken to remedy the grievances and to step up the professional training of the army. The January mutiny, although a transitory incident that posed no threat to national unity, pointed up the problems of ambivalent loyalty within the army and the urgent need for restructuring a still essentially mercenary colonial force into a national army. Despite increased political pressure to "Kenyanize" the armed forces, the upsurge of guerrilla activity on the part of ethnic Somali in northeast Kenya dictated the retention of experienced British officers. The campaign against the shifta, which continued until late , gave the army the opportunity to cast itself in the role of defender of the national honor and integrity against a threat that had some element of foreign instigation. Although British officers were retained during the shifta conflict, the political fallout of the mutiny did accelerate the Kenyanization of the armed forces. For a time in the mids, a number of young men received specialized officer training in other countries, such as Egypt, China, the Soviet Union, and Bulgaria, under private

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arrangements between these countries and political factions in Kenya. Many of these hopefuls, however, found upon their return to Kenya that their credentials for a commission were unacceptable to the Ministry of Defence, which regarded their officially unsanctioned foreign training as politically suspect. Israeli-trained personnel were accepted, but only after they retrained in Kenya. The great majority of new officers had to be commissioned from the ranks. A side effect of the rapid production of African officers was a lasting shortage, which became acute in several areas, of the experienced senior NCOs and technical personnel who had been the backbone of the colonial forces. It took much less time to turn NCOs into officers than to produce their replacements. A British army general continued to serve on secondment as army commander and as chief of the Defence Staff until The large British Army Training Team was withdrawn in and finally, in , a Kenyan major took over command of the air force from a British officer to complete the Kenyanization process.

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Chapter 7 : Project MUSE - Military Service and Human Capital Accumulation: Evidence from Colonial Pur

The 70th anniversary of World War II is being commemorated around the world, but the contribution of one group of soldiers is almost universally ignored. How many now recall the role of more than one million African troops? Yet they fought in the deserts of North Africa, the jungles of Burma and.

This made the assumption that Britain could send a fleet to its naval base in Singapore within two or three days of a Japanese attack, while relying on France to provide assistance in Asia via its colony in Indochina and, in the event of war with Italy, to help defend British territories in the Mediterranean. Nazi occupation, the loss of control over the Channel, and the employment of French Atlantic ports as forward bases for U-boats directly threatened Britain itself, forcing a significant reassessment of naval defence priorities. During the 1930s, a triple threat emerged for the British Commonwealth in the form of right-wing, militaristic governments in Germany, Italy and Japan. However, there were differences of opinion within the UK and the Dominions as to which posed the most serious threat, and whether any attack would come from more than one power at the same time. Declaration of war against Germany[edit] Sir Robert Menzies broadcasting to Australia the news of the outbreak of war, On 1 September, Germany invaded Poland. Two days later, on 3 September, after a British ultimatum to Germany to cease military operations was ignored, Britain and France declared war on Germany. Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies immediately joined the British declaration on 3 September, believing that it applied to all subjects of the Empire and Commonwealth. New Zealand followed suit simultaneously, at 9. Hertzog favoured neutrality but was defeated by the pro-war vote in the Union Parliament, led by General Jan Smuts, who then replaced Hertzog. Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King declared support for Britain on the day of the British declaration, but also stated that it was for Parliament to make the formal declaration, which it did so one week later on 10 September. The Irish Free State, which had been a dominion until 1922, remained neutral [10] Empire and Commonwealth contribution[edit] British Empire and Commonwealth forms of government and production c Kenya Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve While the war was initially intended to be limited, resources were mobilized quickly, and the first shots were fired almost immediately. Just hours after the Australian declaration of war, a gun at Fort Queenscliff fired across the bows of a ship as it attempted to leave Melbourne without required clearances. As the fall of France grew imminent, Britain looked to Canada to rapidly provide additional troops to strategic locations in North America, the Atlantic and Caribbean. Following the Canadian destroyer already on station from, Canada provided troops from May to assist in the defence of the British Caribbean colonies, with several companies serving throughout the war in Bermuda, Jamaica, the Bahamas and British Guiana. Fearing the loss of a land link[clarification needed] to the British Isles, Canada was also requested to also occupy Iceland, which it did from June to the spring of 1941, following the initial British invasion. During this period Australia, India, New Zealand and South Africa provided dozens of ships and several divisions for the defence of the Mediterranean, Greece, Crete, Lebanon and Egypt, where British troops were outnumbered four to one by the Italian armies in Libya and Ethiopia. Over the course of the war over 1. By the end of the war, almost a million Australians had served in the armed forces out of a population of under 7 million, whose military units fought primarily in Europe, North Africa, and the South West Pacific. Finances[edit] Britain borrowed everywhere it could and made heavy purchases of munitions and supplies in India and Canada during the war, as well as other parts of the Empire and neutral countries. Canada also made gifts. Just when the money would be made available by London was an issue, for the British treasury was nearly empty by Winston Churchill, who had replaced Neville Chamberlain as British Prime Minister the previous month see Norway debate, ordered that the Middle East and the Mediterranean were of a higher priority than the Far East to defend. In the circumstances envisaged, it is most improbable that we could send adequate reinforcements to the Far East. We should therefore have to rely on the United States of America to safeguard our interests there. The fighting in Singapore lasted from 31 January to 15 February It followed a humiliating naval engagement in December in

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which two British capital ships were sunk. It resulted in the fall of Singapore to the Japanese, and the largest surrender of British-led military personnel in history. Italian green with the Axis. French colonies dark blue fought with the Allies until the Fall of France after which some supported Vichy and some the Free French. Portuguese brown and Spanish teal colonies remained neutral. Africa was a large continent whose geography gave it strategic importance during the war. North Africa was the scene of major campaigns against Italy and Germany; East Africa was the scene of a major campaign against Italy. The vast geography provided major transportation routes linking the United States to the Middle East and Mediterranean regions. The sea route around South Africa was heavily used even though it added 40 days to voyages that had to avoid the dangerous Suez region. Lend Lease supplies to Russia often came this way. Internally, long-distance road and railroad connections facilitated the British war effort. The Union of Africa had dominion status and was largely self-governing, the other British possessions were ruled by the colonial office, usually with close ties to local chiefs and kings. France had extensive possessions in Africa, but they played a much smaller role in the war, since they were largely tied to Vichy France. Portuguese holdings played a minor role. Italian holdings were the target of successful British military campaigns. The Belgian Congo, and two other Belgian colonies, were major exporters. In terms of numbers and wealth, the British -controlled the richest portions of Africa, and made extensive use not only of the geography, but the manpower, and the natural resources. Civilian colonial officials made a special effort to upgrade the African infrastructure, promote agriculture, integrate colonial Africa with the world economy, and recruit over a half million soldiers. The Army set up the West Africa Command, which recruited , soldiers. The Southern Command was the domain of South Africa. In addition smaller more localized commands were set up throughout the war. As soon as the war began, newly created African units were set up, primarily by the Army. The new recruits were almost always volunteers, usually provided in close cooperation with local tribal leaders. During the war, military pay scales far exceeded what civilians natives could earn, especially when food, housing and clothing allowances are included. The largest numbers were in construction units, called Pioneer Units, with over 82, soldiers.. The RAF and Navy also did some recruiting. East Africa provided the largest number of men, over ,, chiefly from Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda. They did some fighting, a great deal of guard duty, and construction work. A special effort was made not to challenge white supremacy, certainly before the war, and to a large extent during the war itself. Nevertheless, the soldiers were drilled and train to European standards, given strong doses of propaganda, and learn leadership and organizational skills that proved essential to the formation of nationalistic and independence movements after There were minor episodes of discontent, but nothing serious, among the natives. His government closely cooperated with London and raised , volunteers , were white, or about one-third of the eligible white men. British Raj Serious tension erupted over American support for independence for India , a proposition Churchill vehemently rejected. The American position was based on principled opposition to colonialism. It fought as part of the Japanese invasion of Burma and eastern India. For the first time the Muslim community became politically active, giving strong support for the British war effort. Over 2 million Indians volunteered for military service, including a large Muslim contingent. London used the religious tensions in India as a justification to continue its rule, saying it was needed to prevent religious massacres of the sort that did happen in The imperialist element in Britain was strongly represented in the Conservative party; Churchill himself had long been its leading spokesman. On the other hand, Attlee and the Labour Party favoured independence and had close ties to the Congress Party. The British cabinet sent Sir Stafford Cripps to India with a specific peace plan offering India the promise of dominion status after the war. Congress demanded independence immediately and the Cripps mission failed. Roosevelt gave support to Congress, sending his representative Louis Johnson to help negotiate some sort of independence. Churchill was outraged, refused to cooperate with Roosevelt on the issue, and threatened to resign as prime minister if Roosevelt pushed too hard. Meanwhile, wartime disruptions caused severe food shortages in eastern India; hundreds of thousands died of starvation. To this day a large Indian element blames Churchill for the Bengal famine of The 2 million Indian soldiers were a major factor in British success in the Middle East. Muslim

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support for the British war effort proved decisive in the British decision to partition the Raj, forming of the new state of Pakistan. The formal surrender of the occupying German forces in the Channel Islands was not until 9 May. The signing of the surrender document occurred on 2 September. Most of these military administrations were handed over to old European colonial authorities or to new local authorities soon after the end of the hostilities. Commonwealth forces administered occupation zones in Japan, Germany and Austria until World War II confirmed that Britain was no longer the great power it had once been, and that it had been surpassed by the United States on the world stage. The image of imperial strength in Asia had been shattered by the Japanese attacks, and British prestige there was irreversibly damaged. The deployment of Africans overseas from British colonies, and the stationing of white troops in Africa itself led to revised perceptions of the Empire in Africa. In addition, the colonies mobilized over a million uniformed personnel who served primarily inside Africa. Further information about their involvement can be found in the military histories of the individual colonies and dominions listed below.

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Chapter 8 : War | The Dictionary of Sydney

History A Colossus Astride the World – Great Britain led a Commonwealth of nations, as well as a collection of dominions and major colonial possessions spread across every continent except Antarctica.

For more about Australian military history before the withdrawal of British forces, see: Colonial forces of Australia. For more than 80 years after the first British settlement, the only professional soldiers in Australia were members of British Army garrisons. The first conflicts in which large numbers of Australian-born soldiers fought overseas were the Maori Wars, between 1845–72, although almost all of these – about 2,000 – served in New Zealand colonial units, or the British Army. The colonial governments began to raise professional artillery units, to staff coastal batteries. From onwards, the British sent officers to advise the colonies on defence matters, and in the early 1850s, the first inter-colonial defence conferences were held. During 1855, the government of New South Wales sent an infantry battalion, with artillery and support units to the short-lived British campaign in Sudan. This was very unpopular and led to successful and historically-significant campaigns against the formation of standing, regular forces. The "two armies" system was established whereby the only infantry units would be militia, although permanent artillery and other support units remained. As Federation of the colonies approached, on 24 August the colonial artillery units were merged into the first Australia federal army unit. Boer War – Main article: Military history of Australia during the Second Boer War Before Federation of Australia and the forming of the national army, the six self-governing and independent Australian colonial governments sent contingents to South Africa to serve in the Second Boer War. The first offer of mounted troops came from the new colony of Queensland in July, some months before the declaration of war. A detachment, sent from Australia in October, was known as The Australian Regiment and was an infantry unit, made up mainly of volunteers from the Colonies of Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia, who left on one ship for Cape Town. Due to the way the war developed, these troops were converted from infantry to mounted infantry. Strong resistance from the Boer Afrikaner forces led to further recruiting in the Australian colonies. After Federation in 1901, eight Australian Commonwealth Horse battalions were sent. Many of the Australian units had a short tour of duty and some were subject to restructuring. Later Australians transferred to, or enlisted into multinational units, such as the Bushveldt Carbineers, in which Harry "Breaker" Morant and Peter Hancock served, before their court martial and execution for alleged war crimes. Australians were there for the capture of Johannesburg and were first into Pretoria. Later they participated at Diamond Hill. In all, 16, Australians, with 16, horses, served in the Boer War; were killed in action, died of other causes and 43 went missing in action. Six Victoria Crosses were awarded to Australians, five serving with Australian contingents and one serving with the South African Constabulary. Many Australians did more than one tour of duty and a number remained after the war and settled in-country; while others returned to Australia then returned to South Africa. In June, the British government sought permission from the Australian colonies to dispatch ships from the Australian Squadron to China with Naval Brigade reservists, who had been trained in both ship handling and soldiering to fulfil their coastal defence role. Amongst the naval contingent from New South Wales were naval officers and sailors and 50 soldiers headquartered at Victoria Barracks, Sydney who originally enlisted for the Second Boer War. The soldiers were keen to go to China but refused to be enlisted as sailors. On 1 March, 28, colonial soldiers, being 1, professional soldiers, 18, paid militia and 8, unpaid volunteers, were transferred to the new Australian Army. However, the individual units continued to be administered under the various colonial Acts. Sir Edward Hutton, a former commander of the New South Wales Military Forces, became the first commander of the Commonwealth Forces on 26 December and set to work devising an integrated structure for the new army. In 1902, two significant changes followed a report by Lord Kitchener: This was considered to be expected by the Australian public, because of the very large number of British-born citizens and first generation Anglo-Australians at the time. Because existing militia forces were unable to serve overseas, an all-volunteer

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expeditionary force, the Australian Imperial Force AIF was formed from 15 August. The Australian government had pledged to supply 20,000 men, organised as one infantry division and one light horse brigade plus supporting units. The first commander of the AIF was General William Bridges, who also assumed direct command of the infantry division. However, the first target for Australian action was close to home, seizing German colonial outposts in the south-west Pacific and New Guinea. Departing from Western Australia on 1 November, the AIF was sent initially to British-controlled Egypt, to pre-empt any attack by the Ottoman Empire, and with a view to opening another front against the Central Powers. The AIF had four infantry brigades with the first three making up the 1st Division. The Battle of Gallipoli would last for eight months of bloody stalemate. By the end of the campaign, Australian casualties were 8,000 killed and 19,000 wounded or sick. The original AIF contingent had continued to grow with the arrival of the 2nd Division which was formed in Egypt and went to Gallipoli in August. After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the infantry underwent a major expansion with the first four brigades, the 1st Division and the 4th Brigade being split to create the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th Brigades. The four new brigades together with the 4th and 8th Brigades formed two additional divisions 4th and 5th. The 3rd Division was formed in Australia and sailed directly to England for further training before moving to the Western Front, in November. The light horse brigades had served dismounted at Gallipoli. In Egypt, they were reunited with their horses and formed into the 1st Anzac Mounted Division in Egypt to campaign against Turkish forces in the Sinai and Palestine. Australia also supplied the majority of troops for the newly formed Imperial Camel Corps Brigade. The first Australian division to mount a major attack on the Western Front was the 5th Division. The attack, the Battle of Fromelles, was a disaster with the division suffering 5,000 casualties for no gain. During 1918, the five divisions in France fought in three Allied offensives: Meanwhile the light horse had entered southern Palestine. After two attempts to break through the Turkish defences at Gaza, the decisive victory was achieved in the Third Battle of Gaza in which the Australians captured the town of Beersheba in a dramatic cavalry charge. By the end of the year, British forces had captured Jerusalem. The five Australian divisions which had been formed into the Australian Corps on 1 November, were moved south to help halt the German advance. In May, Australian General John Monash was given command of the Australian Corps and the first operation he planned as a corps commander, the Battle of Hamel, is widely regarded as the finest set-piece strategy of the war on the Western Front. By the end of September, the Australian divisions were severely depleted, with only the 3rd and the 5th fit for immediate action. On 5 October the Australian Corps was withdrawn to rest and saw no more fighting before the war ended. In the Middle East, the light horse had endured summer in the Jordan Valley before leading the British offensive in the final Battle of Megiddo. About 2,000 women served with the 1st AIF, mainly as nurses. The AIF remained a volunteer force for the duration of the war – the only British or Dominion force to do so. Two referendums on conscription had been defeated, preserving the volunteer status, but stretching the reserves towards the end of the war. The AIF also had a desertion rate larger than Britain, mainly because the death penalty was not in force. There was still a large pool of volunteers to choose from, and due to the Great Depression vacancies were quickly filled, as they were steady, relatively well paying jobs. In the first moves towards the establishment of a regular infantry force were undertaken with the establishment of the Darwin Mobile Force. Due to the provisions of the Defence Act this force was raised as part of the Royal Australian Artillery, even though it consisted of a large number of infantry. Thomas Blamey was appointed commander of the 2nd AIF. Compulsory military service was introduced: However, to ensure home defences, Militia members were barred from joining the AIF. From late 1918, the individual divisions faced Italian and German forces in North Africa. The 6th Division then experienced many casualties in mainland Greece, and on Crete, and 3,000 of its personnel were taken prisoner in this campaign. The 7th Division formed the body of the successful Allied invasion of Vichy French-controlled Lebanon and Syria in 1918. The 9th Division and part of the 7th played a celebrated defensive role at the Siege of Tobruk. Following short but bloody campaigns in Malaya and the islands, virtually all of the 8th division was lost, when stronger Japanese forces swept through South East Asia, in early 1942. In the Fall of Singapore alone, more than 15,000 Australians were taken prisoner. The

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6th and 7th Divisions were recalled to Australia, as the country faced the prospect of invasion. Blamey was appointed Commander-in-Chief in March ; in April a major re-organisation took place: Conscription was effectively introduced in mid, when all men 18â€”35, and single men aged 35â€”45, were required to join the CMF. At the time, the CMF were often scorned as "chocolate-tin soldiers", or "chockos", because it was thought they would melt in the heat of battle. Nevertheless, Militia units distinguished themselves and suffered extremely high casualties during , in New Guinea, which was then an Australian territory. The prime example was the 39th Militia Battalion , many of them very young, untrained and poorly equipped, who distinguished themselves and suffered heavy casualties, in the stubborn rearguard action on the Kokoda Trail. By late , the 7th Division was beginning to relieve the Militia in New Guinea. In August, as the Kokoda battles raged, Militia and 7th Division units formed the bulk of Australian forces at the Battle of Milne Bay , the first outright defeat inflicted on Japanese land forces. The 6th and 7th Divisions, with Militia units and elements of the 1st Armoured, formed a large part of Allied forces which destroyed the major Japanese beachhead in New Guinea, at the Battle of Buna-Gona. The 9th Division remained in North Africa and distinguished itself at the Second Battle of El Alamein , after which victory over Rommel was assured, and returned to Australia in . Later that year it was pitched into battle against Japanese forces in New Guinea. As US forces re-built, however, he increasingly used Australian units for secondary assignments. The campaign on Bougainville after the departure of US forces is considered to be an example of this. Australian units were also responsible for the last phase of amphibious assaults during the Pacific War: Meanwhile, Australian prisoners of the Japanese, were often held in inhumane conditions, such as Changi prison, or in Japan itself. Some were also subject to severe forced labour, including the Burma Railway , or forced long distance marches, such as on Sandakan. There was a very high death rate among Allied prisoners of the Japanese. The operation never proceeded as Japan surrendered prior. Compulsory military service ended in , and most Australian personnel had been demobilised by the end of . Out of more than , army personnel during World War Two, almost , served outside Australia. More than 18, died; 22, were wounded and more than 20, became prisoners of war. The three battalions in the Brigade were redesignated to form the Royal Australian Regiment in . BCOF headquarters was at Kure. According to the AWM: The Intelligence Sections of the Australian battalions were given targets to investigate by BCOF Headquarters, in the form of grid references for dumps of Japanese military equipment.

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Chapter 9 : How Filipino WWII Soldiers Were Written Out of History

War Memorials to World War II and later conflicts While memorials honouring the dead of the Great War were adapted to mark the sacrifice of those lost in World War II, the losses of a new generation led to innovations in memorialisation.

Prisoners captured by Japanese forces during this and the First Sino-Japanese War and World War I were also treated in accordance with international standards. While Japan signed the Geneva Convention covering treatment of POWs, it did not ratify the agreement, claiming that surrender was contrary to the beliefs of Japanese soldiers. This attitude was reinforced by the indoctrination of young people. The Australian soldier on the beach had called on him to surrender. This document sought to establish standards of behavior for Japanese troops and improve discipline and morale within the Army, and included a prohibition against being taken prisoner. During the war, this led to wounded personnel being either killed by medical officers or given grenades to commit suicide. Always think of [preserving] the honor of your community and be a credit to yourself and your family. Redouble your efforts and respond to their expectations. Never live to experience shame as a prisoner. By dying you will avoid leaving a stain on your honor. In the Army amended its criminal code to specify that officers who surrendered soldiers under their command faced at least six months imprisonment, regardless of the circumstances in which the surrender took place. This change attracted little attention, however, as the Senjinkun imposed more severe consequences and had greater moral force. During the Pacific War, there were incidents where Japanese soldiers feigned surrender in order to lure Allied troops into ambushes. In addition, wounded Japanese soldiers sometimes tried to use hand grenades to kill Allied troops attempting to assist them. Not all Japanese military personnel chose to follow the precepts set out on the Senjinkun. Those who chose to surrender did so for a range of reasons including not believing that suicide was appropriate or lacking the will to commit the act, bitterness towards officers, and Allied propaganda promising good treatment. Many of these men were recently conscripted members of Boeitai home guard units who had not received the same indoctrination as regular Army personnel, but substantial numbers of IJA soldiers also surrendered. In these reports Americans were portrayed as "deranged, primitive, racist and inhuman". However, a factor equally strong or even stronger to those, was the fear of torture after capture. This fear grew out of years of battle experiences in China, where the Chinese guerrillas were considered expert torturers, and this fear was projected onto the American soldiers who also were expected to torture and kill surrendered Japanese. The Western Allies sought to treat captured Japanese in accordance with international agreements which governed the treatment of POWs. The Japanese soldier on the left is reading a propaganda leaflet. Despite the attitudes of combat troops and nature of the fighting, Allied militaries made systematic efforts to take Japanese prisoners throughout the war. Each US Army division was assigned a team of Japanese Americans whose duties included attempting to persuade Japanese personnel to surrender. These programs highlighted the intelligence which could be gained from Japanese POWs, the need to honor surrender leaflets, and the benefits which could be gained by encouraging Japanese forces to not fight to the last man. The programs were partially successful, and contributed to US troops taking more prisoners. In addition, soldiers who witnessed Japanese troops surrender were more willing to take prisoners themselves. Survivors of ships sunk by Allied submarines frequently refused to surrender, and many of the prisoners who were captured by submariners were taken by force. US Navy submarines were occasionally ordered to obtain prisoners for intelligence purposes, and formed special teams of personnel for this purpose. The submarines which took prisoners normally did so towards the end of their patrols so that they did not have to be guarded for a long time. Estimates of the numbers of Japanese personnel taken prisoner during the Pacific War differ. Doyle gives a figure of 38, Japanese POWs in captivity in camps run by the western Allies at the end of the war. Gilmore has also calculated that Allied forces in the South West Pacific Area alone captured at least 19, Japanese. The conditions these POWs were held in generally did not meet the standards required by international law. The Japanese government expressed no concern for these abuses, however, as it did not

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want IJA soldiers to even consider surrendering. The government was, however, concerned about reports that POWs had joined the Chinese Communists and had been trained to spread anti-Japanese propaganda. While the Bureau cataloged information provided by the Allies via the Red Cross identifying POWs, it did not pass this information on to the families of the prisoners. When individuals wrote to the Bureau to inquire if their relative had been taken prisoner, it appears that the Bureau provided a reply which neither confirmed or denied whether the man was a prisoner. The lack of communication with their families increased the POWs feelings of being cut off from Japanese society. Because they had been indoctrinated to believe that by surrendering they had broken all ties with Japan, many captured personnel provided their interrogators with information on the Japanese military. Few Japanese were aware of the Geneva Convention and the rights it gave prisoners to not respond to questioning. Moreover, the POWs felt that by surrendering they had lost all their rights. The prisoners appreciated the opportunity to converse with Japanese-speaking Americans and felt that the food, clothing and medical treatment they were provided with meant that they owed favours to their captors. As a result of these factors, Japanese POWs were often cooperative and truthful during interrogation sessions. Most Japanese soldiers were interrogated by intelligence officers of the battalion or regiment which had captured them for information which could be used by these units. Following this they were rapidly moved to rear areas where they were interrogated by successive echelons of the Allied military. These interrogations were painful and stressful for the POWs. The wording of this material sought to overcome the indoctrination which Japanese soldiers had received by stating that they should "cease resistance" rather than "surrender". The United States provided these countries with aid through the Lend Lease program to cover the costs of maintaining the prisoners, and retained responsibility for repatriating the men to Japan at the end of the war. Prisoners captured in the central Pacific or who were believed to have particular intelligence value were held in camps in the United States. This photograph was taken with the intention of using it in propaganda leaflets, to be dropped on Japanese-held areas in the Asia-Pacific region. After arriving in these camps, the prisoners were interrogated again, and their conversations were wiretapped and analysed. Some of the conditions at Camp Tracy violated Geneva Convention requirements, such as insufficient exercise time being provided. However, prisoners at this camp were given special benefits, such as high quality food and access to a shop, and the interrogation sessions were relatively relaxed. The continuous wiretapping at both locations may have also violated the spirit of the Geneva Convention. The POWs then attacked the other guards, who opened fire and killed 48 prisoners and wounded another. Conditions at the camp were subsequently improved, leading to good relations between the Japanese and their New Zealand guards for the remainder of the war. This tactic was initially rejected by General MacArthur when it was proposed to him in mid on the grounds that it violated the Hague and Geneva Conventions, and the fear of being identified after surrendering could harden Japanese resistance. MacArthur reversed his position in December of that year, however, but only allowed the publication of photos that did not identify individual POWs. He also directed that the photos "should be truthful and factual and not designed to exaggerate". Millions of Japanese military personnel surrendered following the end of the war. Soviet and Chinese forces accepted the surrender of 1. While this measure was successful in avoiding unrest, it led to hostility between those who surrendered before and after the end of the war and denied prisoners of the Soviets POW status. In most instances the troops who surrendered were not taken into captivity, and were repatriated to the Japanese home islands after giving up their weapons. Dower has attributed these deaths to the "wretched" condition of Japanese military units at the end of the war. While the Japanese feared that they would be subjected to reprisals, they were generally treated well. The nationalists retained over 50, POWs, most of whom had technical skills, until the second half of , however. Tens of thousands of Japanese prisoners captured by the Chinese communists were serving in their military forces in August and more than 60, were believed to still be held in Communist-controlled areas as late as April. Following the war, the victorious Chinese Communist government began repatriating Japanese prisoners home, though some were put on trial for war crimes and had to serve prison sentences of varying length before being allowed to return. The last Japanese prisoner returned from China in . The Soviet Union claimed to have

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taken , Japanese POWs, of whom 70, were immediately released, but Japanese researchers have estimated that , were captured. Japanese POWs were forced to undertake hard labour and were held in primitive conditions with inadequate food and medical treatments. They were gradually released under a series of amnesties between and After the last major repatriation in , the Soviets continued to hold some POWs and release them in small increments. Some ended up spending decades living in the Soviet Union, and could only return to Japan in the s. Some, having spent decades away and having started families of their own, elected not to permanently settle in Japan and remain where they were.