



Advanced Military Research - 20th Century Conflict

Course Book List

Students often ask us for suggested additional reading for our courses. For most of our courses any additional reading is up to you. For our Intermediate and Advanced Certificate courses, students generally attain higher marks when demonstrating evidence of additional reading and there are some compulsory texts for our Advanced Certificate courses.

Here is some optional further reading for this course, in the form of books that you may want to source before your course starts. There may be additional reading material referenced in the course notes. Note that some of these publications may no longer be in print, but can sometimes be found available from second hand book sellers online, or available to borrow from public libraries.

General titles for military genealogy:

- Richard Brookes and Matthew Little, *Tracing Your Royal Marine Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2009)
- Ken Divall, *My Ancestor was a Royal Marine* (SoG, 2008)
- Peter Duckers, *British Campaign Medals 1914-2005* (Shire, 2006)
- Peter Duckers, *British Gallantry Awards 1855-2000* (Shire, 2005)
- Peter Duckers, *British Military Medals: A Guide for Collectors and Family Historians* (Pen & Sword, 2009)
- David Fletcher and Janice Tait, *Tracing Your Tank Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2011)
- Simon Fowler, *Tracing Your Army Ancestors* (3rd edition, Pen & Sword, 2018)
- Simon Fowler, *Tracing Your Naval Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2011)

- Emma Jolly, *Tracing Your British Indian Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2012)
- Bruno Pappalardo, *Tracing Your Naval Ancestors* (The National Archives, 2002)
- William Spencer, *Air Force Records: a Guide for Family Historians* (The National Archives, 2008)
- William Spencer, *Medals: The Researchers' Guide* (The National Archives, 2008)
- Phil Tomaselli, *Tracing Your Air Force Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2007)
- Phil Tomaselli, *Tracing Your Secret Service Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2009)
- Chris Watts, *My Ancestor was in the British Army* (SoG, 2009)

FIRST WORLD WAR:

- Simon Fowler, *Tracing your First World War Ancestors* (2nd edition, Pen & Sword, 2020)
- There are also more detailed volumes for Gallipoli, the Somme and Ypres, all of which were published by Pen & Sword in 2015.
- Geoff Bridger, *The Great War Handbook* (Pen & Sword, 2009)
- Peter Duckers, *British Campaign Medals of the First World War* (Shire, 2011)
- Keith Gregson, *A Tommy in the Family: First World War Family Tales and Research Tips* (History Press, 2014)
- Norman Holding, *World War I Army Ancestry* (FFHS, 2003)
- Norman Holding, *The Location of British Army Records 1914-1918* (FFHS, 1999)
- Mary Ingham, *Tracing Your Service Women Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2012) [despite the title it only covers the First World War]
- Sarah Paterson, *Tracing Your First World War Prisoners of War* (Pen & Sword, 2012)
- Paul Reed, *Great War Lives: A Guide for Family Historians* (Pen & Sword, 2010)
- William Spencer, *Army Service Records of the First World War* (The National Archives, 2008)

Background reading

There are thousands of books on the two world wars, so it is impossible to choose the best. Here are a few personal favourites:

- Margaret Macmillan, *War: how conflict shaped us* (Profile, 2020)

- Richard Holmes, *Tommy: The British Soldier on the Western Front* (Harper, 2005).
- Richard van Emden, *The Soldier's War: The Great War Through Veterans' Eyes* (Bloomsbury 2009)
- Richard van Emden, *Britain's Last Tommies* (Abacus, 2006)
- Dennis Winter, *Death's Men* (Penguin, 1979)
- Plus various books by Richard Holmes, Lyn Macdonald and Martin Middlebrook

Memoirs

Here are few of the best:

- Robert Graves, *Good Bye to all That*
- Cecil Lewis, *Sagittarius Rising*
- Frederic Manning, *Her Privates We* [look out for the unexpurgated version!]
- Frank Richards, *Old Soldiers Never Die*

SECOND WORLD WAR:

- Simon Fowler, *Tracing Your Second World War Ancestors* (Countryside Books, 2006)
- James Gouty, *Second World War Lives* (Pen & Sword, 2012)
- Phil Tomaselli, *Tracing Your Second World War Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2011)

Background

- Alan Allport, *Browned Off and Bloody-Minded: the British soldier goes to War 1939-1945* (Yale University Press, 2015)
- Stephen Bungay, *The Most Dangerous Enemy: A History of the Battle of Britain* (Aurum, 2009)
- Peter Doyle, *The British Soldier of the Second World War* (Shire, 2009)
- Max Hastings, *All Hell Let Loose: The World at War 1939-1945* (Viking, 2011)
- Max Hastings, *Bomber Command* (Pan, 2010)
- Glyn Pryor, *Citizen Sailors: the Royal Navy in the Second World War* (Viking, 2011)
- Plus the Forgotten Voices series by Max Arthur and others.