World War II Novels

Crossing by Night by David Aaron
This spy tale recounts the strange story of a woman heroine who is so intriguing that Ian Fleming used her as a model for one of his characters. It's the beginning of World War II and American Elizabeth Pack is selected by the British Secret Service to steal the German coding machine Enigma, needed desperately by the Allies. Follow Elizabeth on her mission made even more suspenseful because it is a true story. Readers may also enjoy the suspenseful, historically detailed World War II novels of Jack Higgins.

A Game of Spies by John Altman
In England in 1940, a young sleeper agent named Eva Bernhardt, who has a crucial piece of information and is on the run from the Germans and other enemies, finds herself plunged into a deadly game of ruse and counter ruse.

Voices on the Wind by Evelyn Anthony
Years after World War II, Kate Alfrud is recalled to espionage to seek vengeance on Christian Eilenburg, a Nazi SS lieutenant, and Pierrot, a French collaborator who had betrayed Kate and her lover during the war.

Articles of War by Nick Arvin
During his exposure to combat, George "Heck" Tilson, an eighteen-year-old Iowa farm boy sent to Normandy just after D-Day, discovers that he is a coward and, tormented by the perils around him, struggles to survive the horrors of war.

A Farewell to France by Noel Barber
Larry Astell, an American journalist in Paris who grew up in France, tells the story of the occupation of France and the Resistance.

Run Silent, Run Deep by Edward Latimer Beach
Richardson, an Annapolis graduate, takes his submarine Walrus deep while avoiding depth charges of enemy destroyers in World War II.
Blood Alone: A Billy Boyle WWII Mystery by James R. Benn
Billy Boyle awakens in a field hospital in Sicily with amnesia. In his pocket is a yellow silk handkerchief embroidered with the initial L. Gradually he remembers: he has been sent ashore in advance of the troops with this token from Lucky Luciano to contact the head of the Sicilian Mafia. But he must also thwart a murderous band of counterfeiters of Army scrip led by Vito Genovese.

Those Who Save Us by Jenna Blum
A professor of German history begins a long journey back into a past she has pushed aside, returning to Germany to reopen the wounds of her own life—as well as that of her mother—as a child living in Nazi Germany.

Bridge Over the River Kwai by Pierre Boulle
A proud British colonel in a Japanese prison camp builds a bridge with prison labor, and when commandos from his own side arrive to blow up the bridge, he warns the Japanese.

Nuremberg: The Reckoning by William F. Buckley
Sebastian, a young German-American interpreter and interrogator, witnesses the proceedings at Nuremberg’s Palace of Justice in 1945 and finds he must come to terms with his family’s own legacy and national identity.

A Memory of War by Frederick Busch
When a new patient declares that he is his half-brother, psychologist Alexander Lescziak, the son of Polish immigrants, confronts painful truths about his life as he envisions his mother’s relationship with a German prisoner of war.

Street Boys by Lorenzo Carcaterra
In 1943, in Naples, Italy, a handful of abandoned children left behind in the bombed-out city joins forces with Corporal Steve Connors, an American soldier cut off from his unit, to take on the German Army advancing on the city.

The Final Solution by Michael Chabon
An eighty-nine-year-old former detective in rural England becomes involved with a young refugee from Nazi Germany whose sole companion, an African grey parrot, spews out a series of numbers that could hold the key to a dangerous secret.
The Children’s War by Monique Charlesworth
The disintegrating world of Europe in the midst of World War II is seen through the eyes of two youngsters, Ilse, a half-Jewish girl sent out of Germany by her mother to find refuge from the Nazis, and Nicolai, a young boy in Germany who finds refuge from his involvement with the Hitler Youth in his growing attachment to his nurse, Ilse’s mother.

The Secret of Santa Vittoria by Robert Crichton
Germans and Italians clash in the town of Santa Vittoria during World War II, but the townspeople have hidden their one million bottles of wine and refuse to reveal the location.

The Magic of Ordinary Days by Ann Howard Creel
Near the end of World War II, pregnant Olivia Dunne is forced into marriage and banished to a remote Colorado farm, where she develops a relationship with her new husband and with two Japanese-American sisters living in a nearby internment camp.

This Cold Country by Annabel Davis-Goff
Daisy Creed sails to Ireland to meet her in-laws for the first time and finds the family in a spiral of forbidding grandeur and corruption before she resolves to save the family estate by securing her place as its mistress.

Garden of Beasts: A Novel of Berlin 1936 by Jeffrey Deaver
Reputed for his vow to take only morally righteous assignments in 1936 New York City, a German American hit man is forced by the government to pose as an Olympic contender and kill a member of Hitler’s regime.

Corelli’s Mandolin by Louis De Bernieres
Corelli, an Italian army captain, falls in love with Pelagia Iannis on the island of Cephalonia after the Axis forces occupy the island in World War II.

Goodbye, Mickey Mouse by Len Deighton
Two American flyers stationed in England during World War II are superb aviators but have little else in common.
Nazi-Occupied Britain, 1941 by Len Deighton
What if the US hadn’t entered World War II and England had surrendered to the Germans on 2 February 1941? Within this alternative history, Deighton has written a murder mystery focusing on how a Scotland Yard detective tries to solve a murder and keeping the institution of Scotland Yard alive, even under Nazi leadership. Meanwhile, his former mentor and current assistant is still stalwartly opposing the Germans. The murder investigation leads into a twisting plot with four factions, two within the German regime itself, struggling to capture British A-bomb data and to free the King of England from the Tower of London. Throughout, the American government is more interested in playing politics than doing what is honorable. Although the relationship development between the characters is haphazard, the overall result is a compelling adventure story bordering on espionage.

XPD by Len Deighton
Near the beginning of World War II, Winston Churchill proposes a deal to Hitler, which would be detrimental to Churchill's allies, but when it does not occur, some agents want the minutes of the meeting very badly.

A Bed in Heaven by Tessa de Loo
Kata, the daughter of a Jewish father who fled Budapest during World War II, is drawn to a young man named Stefan and later learns that he is her half brother, a situation that is complicated by their mutual attraction.

To the White Sea by James Dickey
After Air Force gunner Muldrow is shot down over Tokyo during World War II, he goes north to a country resembling his Alaskan home where he survives by hunting and trapping game.

Two O’clock, Eastern Wartime by John Dunning
As bombs fall on England during the summer of 1942, a brave group of American actors entertains the nation via radio and scriptwriter Jack Dulaney investigates an unsolved murder and the disappearance of singer Holly Carnahan's father.

Charlotte Gray by Sebastian Faulks
A young Scottish woman, having fallen in love with a World War II RAF pilot shortly before his plane is lost over France, joins the Resistance to find him, only to discover a larger meaning in her new role.
**Loyalties** by Thomas Fleming
In 1941, Ernst von Hoffman destroys an American ship by mistake but saves the skipper, while in Berlin, his wife opposes Hitler and is sent to Spain to contact and seduce the same man that her husband saved.

**Churchill’s Gold** by James Follett
When the British need reserves during World War II, they decide to move gold from South Africa, and the Germans plan to intercept the cargo.

**The Eye of the Needle** by Ken Follett
British Intelligence must thwart Die Nadel, the only spy Hitler trusts, from reaching Hitler to tell about the 1944 invasion of France.

**The Key to Rebecca** by Ken Follett
British Intelligence tries to stop a German spy in Cairo who transmits messages coded from a copy of Du Maurier's Rebecca.

**The Night Sky** by Clare Francis
After Julie Lescaux flees England for France during the war, so that her friends will not know that she is expecting a child out of wedlock, she becomes involved in evacuating Allied servicemen from occupied France.

**Dark Voyage** by Alan Furst
In 1941, Eric DeHaan, the captain of the Noordendam, a Dutch tramp freighter, is recruited by the Dutch Naval Intelligence Section for dangerous secret missions that take the ship and its crew behind enemy lines in Europe and North Africa.

**Red Gold** by Alan Furst
Jean Casson, an anti-hero sought by the Gestapo, becomes involved in an ill-fated 1941 plot to smuggle arms to the Communist Resistance, in a tale of espionage and intrigue set against the backdrop of occupied France.

**The Charmed Circle** Catherine Gaskin
The Seymour family seems idyllic to outsiders, but its members face repeated tragedies during and after World War II.
Praetorian by Thomas Gifford
At Churchill's request, Rodger Godwin, a journalist, goes with General Max Hood, after an affair with Hood's wife, to kill Rommel in North Africa.

The Neptune Strategy by John J. Gobbell
When his destroyer is attacked by Japanese dive bombers, commander Todd Ingram is inadvertently thrown overboard and rescued by a Japanese submarine.

That Year of Our War by Gloria Goldreich
On D-Day, 1944, Sharon Grossberg’s mother dies, and since her physician father is overseas, she lives with various members of her family, but as they go through their daily lives, they are always thinking of the war.

Night Train to Lisbon by Emily Grayson
Embarking on her first trip abroad when World War II breaks out, an idealistic young American woman reluctantly agrees to spy on her new lover after learning that he is providing information to Germany.

The Tenth Man by Graham Greene
This recently recovered novel, written in 1944, focuses on Jean-Louis Charlot, who returns to his home after a four-year absence knowing that strangers live there and that one moment of panic has cost him the right to call it his own.

Many novels by W.E.B. Griffin (definitely for the men)

Enigma by Robert Harris
Tom, a mathematical genius who is somewhat delicate, has a mental breakdown from working at code breaking in World War II, but his supervisor lures him back to work on the Enigma code of the Germans.

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
Presents the contemporary classic depicting the struggles of a United States airman attempting to survive the lunacy and depravity of a World War II airbase.
A *Bell for Adano* by John Hershey
An American major attempts to rebuild ravaged Italian town during the World War II occupation.

*The Keeper’s Son* by Homer Hickam
Separating himself from his family of lighthouse keepers in order to work for the Coast Guard, World War II Outer Banks resident Josh Thurlow searches for his brother, lost at sea twenty years earlier, in the wake of invading U-boats.

*The Eagle Has Flown* by Jack Higgins
Germans ask a man to parachute into England and free a prisoner while the British thwart a plot to assassinate Hitler in fear that Himmler will take over.

*Flight of Eagles* by Jack Higgins
During World War II, American-born twins Max and Harry Kelso divide loyalties, one flying for the British, one for the Germans and both earning distinction.

*Luciano’s Luck* by Jack Higgins
Lucky Luciano, released from prison, goes into Sicily during 1943 to request help from the Sicilian Mafia for an Allied invasion.

*When the Elephants Dance* by Tess Uriza Holthe
In the final weeks of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines during World War II, three different Filipino narrators recount the experiences of a people desperately struggling in the midst of the horrors of war.

*A Song for Summer* by Eva Ibbotson
Suffragists raise Ellen, who travels to Austria to transform a boarding school and meets Marek, a school handyman and composer, but the war separates them.

*Black Cross* by Greg Iles
A physician from Georgia and a German Jew, in a risky maneuver, attempt to destroy a poison nerve gas laboratory in Hitler's Germany.
**Spandau Phoenix** by Greg Iles

Sergeant Hans Apfel of the German police discovers papers revealing that the man who died in **Spandau** Prison in 1987 was not Rudolf Hess but an imposter, and Hans finds himself at the center of international intrigue.

**Home Fires Burning** by Robert Inman

Jake Tibbetts, editor of a southern town's newspaper, harbors a grudge against his son Henry for killing Jake's best friend's daughter in a car accident and escaping to World War II, but when Henry dies and the coffin comes **home**, Jake tears off the top in anguish, only to find that the body inside is not Henry.

**From Here to Eternity** by James Jones

Two soldiers have love affairs in the early months of 1941.

**The Thin Red Line** by James Jones

In a companion novel to From Here to Eternity, Company C engages in the Guadalcanal campaign of World War II.

**Whistle** by James Jones

In the sequel to The Thin Red Line, four soldiers from an infantry company in the Pacific receive treatment in a Tennessee hospital before being released in an insecure world.

**Los Alamos** by Joseph Kanon

A Manhattan Project security officer is murdered in **Los Alamos** near the end of World War II, and a civilian intelligence officer, reporting directly to J. Robert Oppenheimer, investigates the crime.

**The Good German** by Joseph Kanon

This compelling thriller is both a touching love story and a masterful portrayal of the struggle for geopolitical control of postwar Germany. Network correspondent Jake Geismar, who covered Berlin before the war, has returned to the devastated city, ostensibly to cover the Potsdam Conference but actually to find the woman he loves. When the bullet-ridden body of an American soldier washes up on the shores of Potsdam, Jake is plunged into a maelstrom of intrigue, corruption, and betrayal.
**The Judas Kiss** by Norman Katkov

An Austrian baroness helps downed Allied pilots escape from Austria because her first love was an American movie producer, whom she presumes is dead, while her husband plans tortures for concentration camp inmates.

**Hart’s War** by John Katzenbach

When all evidence points to fellow prisoner of war Lieutenant Lincoln Scott, an African American pilot, Lieutenant Tommy Hart is asked to defend Scott, who claims he is innocent.

**Schindler’s List** by Thomas Keneally

Oskar Schindler, a German-Catholic industrialist, erects a concentration camp-cum-factory in order to employ and hide thousands of Jews from Nazi persecution.

**This Shining Land** by Rosalind Laker

Johanna Ryen meets Steffen Larsen as the Germans invade Normandy, and later when they join the resistance in Oslo, they reunite in dangerous circumstances.

**Second Violin** by John Lawton

With Europe on the brink of war, Frederick Troy, recently promoted to Scotland Yard's Murder Squad, is put in charge of rounding up a list of German and Italian enemy aliens, but as the bombs begin to fall on London, he finds himself investigating a series of murdered rabbis.

**Consequences** by Penelope Lively

A love story that connects the lives of three generations, Lorna and Matt who experience heartache during World War II, their daughter Molly, and their granddaughter Ruth, who begins a journey that takes her back to 1941.

**Breaking the Tongue** by Vyvyane Loh

As the Japanese prepare to invade Singapore, an Anglophile Chinese family struggles to survive and preserve its dignity in the face of shifting loyalties of spies, expatriates, and nationalists.
Miracle at St. Anna by James McBride
Set in Italy during World War II, Miracle of St. Anna is the story of four African-American soldiers in the 92nd all-black, segregated Buffalo Division. Sam Train, one of these soldiers, befriends a six-year-old Italian boy who leads the soldier and his squad into the Serchio Valley and the site of a tragic massacre.

The Advocate by Bill Mesce
Searching for the truth behind the mysterious crash of an American P-47 Thunderbolt in 1943, Judge Advocate lawyer Harry Voss must weave through a world of secretive soldiers and powerful, political men who may kill to keep the truth hidden.

Officer of the Court by Bill Mesce
When the body of a much disliked American officer washes up on the shore of a remote Scottish island, Major Harry Voss, an attorney with the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate's office, is given the task of finding out who killed him and why.

Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky
A story of life in France under the Nazi occupation includes two parts—"Storm in June," set amid the chaotic 1940 exodus from Paris, and "Dolce," set in a German-occupied village rife with resentment, resistance, and collaboration.

In Cairo, a man meets a married woman with whom he falls in love, but the war keeps them apart and destroys her while he, severely burned, lives to tell their story to a nurse caring for him in an abandoned Tuscan villa.

When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka
A story told from five different points of view, chronicles the experiences of Japanese Americans caught up in the nightmare of the World War II internment camps.

The Dark Side of the Sun Elizabeth Palmer
Mary Fox grows up in the highly dysfunctional Harding family's country house as the governess's daughter, and her life remains intertwined with the Hardings even as World War II changes everyone's lives, and as she searches for the secret of her own origins.
To Catch a King by Harry Patterson
Walter Schellenberg, a German officer, goes to Lisbon to persuade the Duke and Duchess of Windsor to join the Third Reich in 1940.

The End of War: A Novel of the Race for Berlin by David L. Robbins
In the trenches of Eastern Europe, in the bomb-ravaged halls of Berlin, and along the speeding Western front, Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt strive for private victories as the final months of World War II approach.

The Last Citadel by David L. Robbins
Soviet and German forces prepare for a vicious standoff with their powerful armored divisions, desperate for a victory that could determine the fate of the European theater of World War II, in an epic fictional account of the pivotal 1943 Battle of Kursk.

Liberation Road by David L. Robbins
In the wake of the Allied invasion on D-Day, the Allied forces confront a new challenge, a lack of supplies for American forces as they sweep westward to push the Germans out of France and back toward Berlin, and the Red Ball Express, primarily manned by African-American troops, becomes a lifeline to soldiers battling to end the war.

Falcons by Ray Rosenbaum
Ross Colyer’s assignment is to lead a group of officers and enlisted men into Romania, flying at a low altitude, to destroy a refinery complex during World War II.

You Are My Sunshine by Judith Saxton
With her fiance about to leave England and her own duty with the WAAF about to start, Kay Duffield seizes happiness by getting married quickly and cultivating friendships with her coworkers.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
In 1946, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next book in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey, who tells her about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club born as an alibi during German occupation.
*Resistance* by Anita Shreve

A Belgian farm wife cares for an American pilot downed in the area, and he begins an affair with a local woman involved in the *Resistance*, each thinking that any day might be their last.

*The Unlikely Spy (Large Print)* by Daniel Silva

Mata Hari and one of her colleagues become the foil for catching the German forces during World War I.

*December 6* by Martin Cruz Smith

Harry Niles, a disreputable American businessman with an unknown agenda, seeks to abandon his life in Tokyo while fleeing to the west on the last flight out before the Pearl Harbor attack.

*S-Day* by James S. Thayer

Jack Ross, aide to Gen. Wilson Clay, recounts the American general's role in countering the Nazi invasion of England in 1942.

*Snow Island* by Katherine Towler

Tells the story of sixteen-year-old Alice Daggett and the inhabitants of an island in Narragansett Bay during World War II.

*Sophie and the Rising Sun* by Augusta Trobaugh

When Mr. Oto arrives in Salty Creek, Georgia, kind Miss Anne takes him in and widow Sophie rediscovers new joy after meeting him, but the relationships are tested after the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor and Mr. Oto's new life is besieged.

*Winter Fire* by William R. Trotter

Erich Ziegler, a German intelligence officer in Finland during World War II, meets Jean Sibelius and finds that his eighth symphony may exist, and Ziegler, a conductor, wants to present the work to the world.

*Ordinary Heroes* by Scott Turow

Stewart Dubinsky plunges into the mystery of his family's secret history when he discovers his deceased father's wartime letters to his former fiancee, revealing his court-martial and imprisonment during World War II.
Mila 18 by Leon Uris
From their command post at Mila 18, several Warsaw Jews fight off the Germans in the ghetto with homemade weapons.

The Gardens of Kyoto (Large Print) by Kate Walbert
A coming-of-age story set during wartime retraces one woman's struggles with romance as her favorite cousin Randall is called away to the battlefields of the South Pacific.

The Caine Mutiny by Herman Wouk
An American mine sweeper, the Caine, patrols in the Pacific during World War II under a tyrannical skipper until an ensign leads a mutiny against him.

War and Remembrance by Herman Wouk
In the sequel to The Winds of War, as the father of the Henry family becomes an admiral in World War II, but other aspects of his life unravel.

The Winds of War by Herman Wouk
Pug Henry and his family prepare for World War II as he progresses toward his own command and interaction with Franklin Roosevelt and Hitler.

Songbird by Walter Zacharius
Losing her family and her home in Lodz during World War II, Jewish teenager Mia embarks on a journey through Poland to join the ranks of a secret cadre of militia to help save Jewish citizens, and subsequently works as a double agent.