

Treaty Series No. 37 (1931)

# INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

## relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War

Geneva, July 27, 1929

[His Majesty's ratification in respect of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, and India, deposited June 23, 1931]

Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament by Command of His Majesty

# BEWARE OF SPIES!

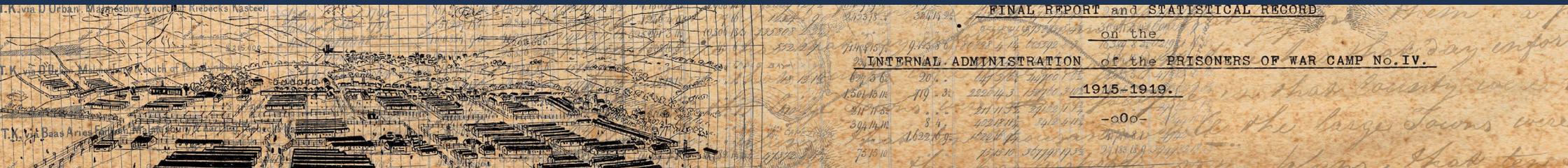
Don't talk about what you have done or are going to do. The enemy has ears



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# BRITISH ONLINE ARCHIVES

## BOA Purchasing Scheme 2026



FINAL REPORT and STATISTICAL RECORD

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION of the PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP No. IV.

1915-1919.

At British Online Archives (BOA), we take great pride in our innovative digital platform and the extensive range of unique primary source collections that it hosts. We are also committed to ensuring that our resources remain accessible and affordable.

We have therefore instituted our annual **Purchasing Scheme**. The mechanics of this are simple—**for a limited period, we are offering a 20% discount on 20 of our most popular primary source collections.**

The scheme allows for further discounts—**the more collections that are purchased, the greater the potential discount that we can offer!** We would also like to highlight that every collection on the scheme is available as a **one-off perpetual purchase.**

To showcase this year's selection, we have compiled this brochure. It provides overviews of each collection.

This year, the scheme runs until **31 July.**

If you would like to know more about, or avail of, the BOA Purchasing Scheme, or wish to request a **free 30-day institutional trial** of any of our collections, please contact us at [sales@britishonlinearchives.com](mailto:sales@britishonlinearchives.com).

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Imperial War Museum



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Findmypast



Illustrated London News



Foreign & Commonwealth Office



Bethlem Museum of the Mind

## Customers

A selection of our customers:



University of Oxford



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London School of Economics



Harvard University



Princeton University



Yale University



University of Michigan

## Britain Under Threat: Civil Defence in the Era of Total War, 1914–1989



One of the defining characteristics of total war is the erosion of the distinction between the home front and the frontline. During the twentieth century, when total war reached its zenith, civilians became direct targets and new technologies threatened enormous destruction, not just on the conventional battlefield, but in Britain itself. As a result, **an entirely new wing of government was brought into being, responsible for civil defence**, and tasked with protecting Britain and its citizens from these new and terrifying threats.

Drawing on hundreds of underused government files at The National Archives (UK), this collection explores civil defence in Britain from 1914 to 1989. Throughout this period, civil defence took on a broad and diverse definition, encompassing everything from building air raid shelters and distributing gas masks to stockpiling medical supplies and issuing propaganda. As a result, **this collection offers a unique window into many aspects of British life between 1914 and 1989.**

The sources shed light on social dynamics, group psychology, design and mass production, concepts of home and family, public relations and propaganda, as well as government intervention. The documentation likewise facilitates exploration of discourses of citizenship, fear and other emotional responses, and the history of everyday life. **This collection offers a major insight into the changing social, political, cultural, and ethical landscapes of modern Britain.**

### Key Data

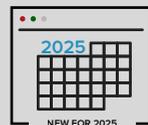
#### Contributor:

The National Archives (UK)



#### Contents:

3 Volumes, 667 Documents (109,709 Pages)



## ***British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910***



This collection surveys 50 years of colonial rule in southern Africa. Settled by the Dutch East India Company in 1652, the Cape colony came under British control in 1806. In 1910, it became a province of the newly formed Union of South Africa. The collection **tracks the administration of the Cape from 1854 to the formation of the Union of South Africa.**

The documentation evidences significant historical trends, such as **the development of constitutional governance and infrastructure in the region, as well as the growth of key industries, such as mining and the production of cotton, ostrich feathers, and wine.** You will also come across records regarding the use of Robben Island, reports relating to the development of the colony's education system, as well as information on the construction of roads and railways, and on the failed Jameson Raid of 1895. Although the Cape colony was controlled by a minority class of white settlers, the sources nevertheless **provide valuable glimpses into African cultures and communities, including examples of resistance to colonialism.**

This collection will be of interest to students, researchers, and lecturers investigating, and delivering courses on, the social, political, and economic development of South Africa. It should also appeal to those **exploring the broader histories of Africa and European imperialism.**

### **Key Data**

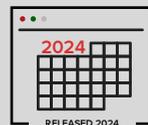
#### **Contributor:**

**British Foreign & Commonwealth Office**



#### **Contents:**

**56 Volumes, 5,812 Documents (146,271 Pages)**



## British Government Information and Propaganda, 1939–2009



Scanned from source at the **British Library**, this collection contains materials produced by the **British Ministry of Information (MOI)** and **Central Office of Information (COI)** during the period **1939–2009**.

This collection contains a diverse range of sources, such as **posters, stickers, pamphlets, and guidance booklets**. The issues covered by this documentation are just as varied—public health, education, social security, civil defence, international politics, race relations, sex discrimination, public sector career opportunities, policing, the environment, and Britain’s membership of the European Economic Community. Most of these sources were published during the post-war period, but some date from the First and Second World Wars.

This documentation provides students and researchers with key insights into **what successive British governments wanted their citizens to know, think, and do**. The sources likewise demonstrate how the measures that governments employed to achieve these aims changed over time. Indeed, this collection illuminates the idealised visions of Britain that its governments projected to the rest of the world.

### Key Data

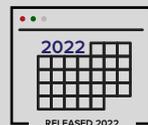
Contributor:

British Library



Contents:

7 Volumes, 1,566 Documents (27,856 Pages),



## British Mercantile Trade Statistics, 1662–1809



Containing over 47,000 images drawn from files at The National Archives (UK), *British Mercantile Trade Statistics, 1662–1809*, charts nearly 150 years of British trade and shipping in remarkable detail. This comprehensive collection includes trade ledgers, registers, and indexes that supply detailed statistical data on trade throughout the “long eighteenth century”, a pivotal era in the development of British and global commerce.

This collection also boasts the official registers of “Mediterranean passes”. From 1662 until the early 1820s, these were issued to British ships by the Lord High Admiral. A form of diplomatic passport, supported by a complex treaty system, passes granted immunity from Barbary privateers patrolling the waters of the Mediterranean, as well as those around North Africa, North America, and throughout the West Indies. The registers detail which vessels were issued passes, their port of embarkation and destinations, as well as additional information on their size, crew, and defences.

*British Mercantile Trade Statistics, 1662–1809*, will appeal to those investigating the colonial, economic, and maritime dimensions of British history throughout this period. It should also interest those exploring broader themes, such as the escalation of global trade and the development of the fiscal-military state.

### Key Data

Contributor:

The National Archives (UK)

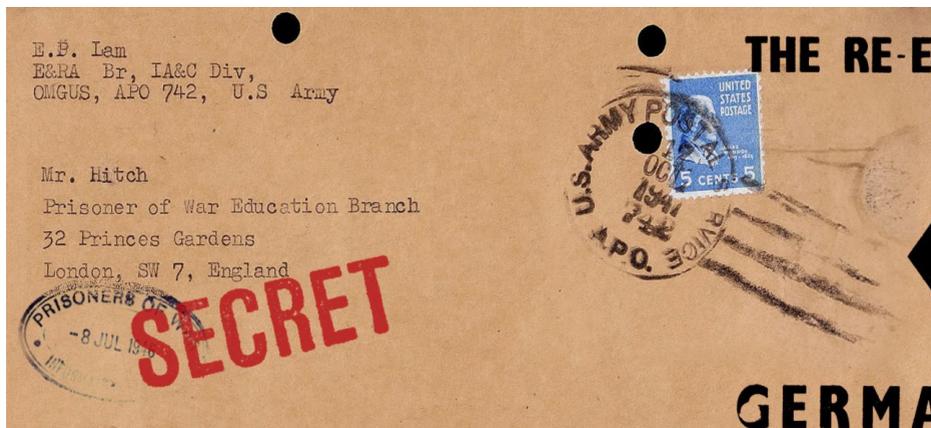


Contents:

4 Volumes, 146 Documents (47,662 Pages)



## *Building a New Germany: Denazification and Political Re-education, 1944–1948*



As the Second World War entered its final year, and the Allied victory looked secure, a growing number of British officials began to consider the future. In particular, they explored ways to ensure that Germany, the administration of which they would share with their allies, emerged as a **stable, peaceful, and democratic nation**. Political re-education of the German people, both Prisoners of War (POWs) and willing civilians, became central to this endeavour. **At special facilities throughout Britain and its empire, large numbers of Germans were subject to a carefully curated course of lectures, film screenings, readings, cultural activities, field trips, and more.** The aim was to instill a set of values and ideas which the British believed would be conducive to the emergence of a safe and prosperous Germany.

*Building a New Germany: Denazification and Political Re-education, 1944–1948*, comprises over **3,700 images**, drawn from **46 files** in the **FO 939 series** at **The National Archives (UK)**. The collection explores the process of denazification from a number of angles. It offers fascinating insights into British perspectives on extreme ideologies, as well as into concepts of brainwashing and indoctrination, including strategies on how to reverse them. *Building a New Germany* surveys a **key transitional period** when the British tried to reshape Germany from foe to friend.

### Key Data

Contributor:

The National Archives (UK)

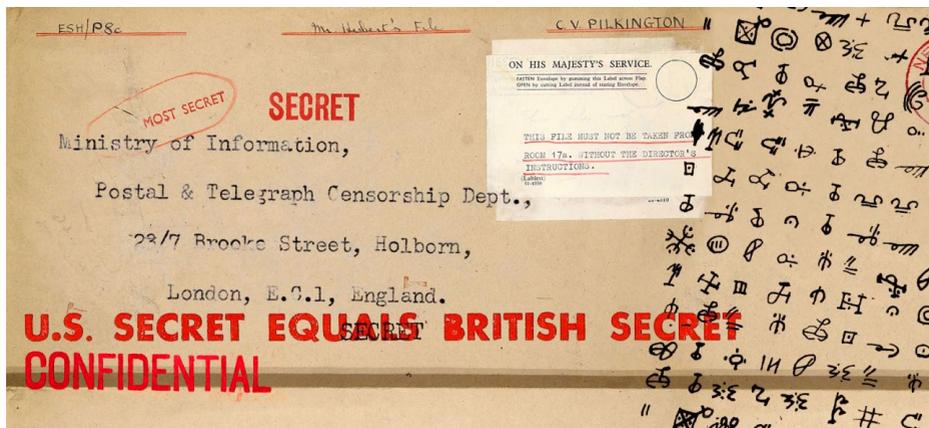


Contents:

1 Volume, 46 Documents (3,701 Pages)



## Censorship: Policy and Practice During the Second World War



This collection explores British postal and telegraph censorship throughout a pivotal era of modern history. It contains over **17,000 images** drawn from **Ministry of Defence files** at **The National Archives (UK)**. The work undertaken by censorship units soon became one of the most important, if somewhat underappreciated, fronts in the so-called “secret war”.

Censorship became a wide-ranging, international endeavour. It involved not just Britain, but also the Dominions, colonies, allies (including the USA), and neutral states, such as Ireland. **Censorship teams sprung up across the globe, typically employing local people, especially women.** Policies, instructions, and official guidance poured out from London with a view to keeping the censorship system **efficient and watertight**. Censors from a wide variety of backgrounds became adept at breaking codes and recognising suspect material, even if it was cleverly concealed.

Towards the end of the war and following the Allied victory, censorship units took on a new responsibility: monitoring communications amongst the populations in occupied territories, including Austria, Germany, and Italy. As this fascinating collection illustrates, **censorship was not only a tool that helped win the war, it was also a vital part of securing the peace which followed.**

### Key Data

Contributor:

The National Archives (UK)



Contents:

1 Volume, 96 Documents (17,397 Pages)



## Colonial Africa in Official Statistics, 1821–1953



The so-called “Scramble for Africa” that occurred during the late nineteenth century involved European powers carving up the continent. The United Kingdom controlled the largest portion of territory. **British colonial regulations required each colony to submit a “Blue Book” to the Colonial Office on an annual basis.** The aim was to standardise statistical reports, primarily those relating to economic development, as well as demographic, ecclesiastical, and public records.

This collection contains **Blue Books and other archival material from thirteen British colonies and protectorates in Africa that were compiled during the period 1821–1953.** The standardised nature of the Blue Books allows for comparisons to be drawn geographically (i.e. between colonies) and over time on key issues and trends, such as the slave trade, economic policy, education, and public health.

The primary sources are accompanied by **two contextual essays.** The essay penned by **Dr Erik Green (Lund University)** surveys European settler agriculture and the exploitation of local labour in colonial Africa. The accompanying essay, written by **Dr Felix Meier zu Selhausen (Utrecht University),** explores the origins and consequences of Christian missionary activities throughout Africa.

### Key Data

#### Contributor:

British Foreign & Commonwealth Office



#### Contents:

13 Volumes, 777 Documents (144,428 Pages)



## Communisms and the Cold War, 1944–1986



This collection contains reports and other records compiled by the **International Department of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) between 1944 and 1986**. This periodisation begins immediately after the dissolution of the Communist International (Comintern) and concludes shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union. As was the case with other Western communist parties, **the CPGB's International Department played an important—near overbearing—role in both the internal and external life of the party.**

The majority of the documents cover **the Sino-Soviet split and the Chinese-Indian disputes of the 1960s and 1970s**. There is also material relating to Soviet satellite states in Eastern Europe, the political left throughout Western Europe, and anti-colonial movements in the developing world. Meetings with various communist leaders are covered in detail, as are the proceedings of international conferences involving communist parties. The documents provide **fascinating insights into the competing power blocs which arose throughout the communist world during the Cold War** and how British communists reacted to the resulting, internecine disputes.

The collection is accompanied by **three contextual essays written by Kevin Morgan**, Emeritus Professor at the University of Manchester.

### Key Data

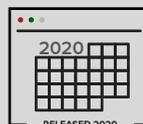
Contributor:

People's History Museum



Contents:

10 Volumes, 178 Documents (14,393 Pages)



## Establishing the Post-War International Order, 1944–1961



This collection, curated in association with **The National Archives (UK)**, provides unparalleled insights into the political, economic, and military foundations of the international order that emerged in the wake of the Second World War (1939–1945). The sources, which are diverse in nature, shed light on key post-war initiatives, such as the **Marshall Plan** and the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**, as well as on the development and outlook of key state and non-state actors during pivotal moments of international cooperation and conflict—the **United Nations (UN)**; the **World Bank**; the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**; the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**; and the **European Economic Community (EEC)**.

In addition to diplomatic files on global agreements, events, and organisations, the collection also contains many records relating to global commodity prices, including gold, oil, and food. Most of the documents are derived from the annals of the **British Board of Trade (BT 64)**, the **Cabinet Office (CAB 128)**, the **Foreign Office (FO 371)**, and the **Treasury (T 274)**. Brought together here for the first time, these files will interest students and researchers situated within the fields of economics, history, international relations, international law, and politics.

### Key Data

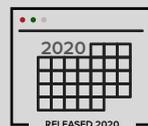
#### Contributor:

The National Archives (UK)



#### Contents:

14 Volumes, 1,275 Documents (231,364 Pages)



## Gender, Feminism, and the British Left, 1944–1991



This collection contains records compiled by the **Women's Department of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) during the period 1944–1991**. During the inter-war years, the CPGB was arguably more enlightened with regard to women's issues than was British society more generally. It was not until 1944, however, that the party established its National Women's Advisory Committee. Its purpose was to coordinate women's activities and attract more female members.

Although seemingly natural allies, the women's liberation movement did not always sit comfortably with the men who dominated the CPGB bureaucracy. In the 1970s, this attitude was **challenged by a group of young, radical feminists inspired by the counter-culture of the previous decade**—a development which caused a great deal of tension and division within the party.

The records in this collection include **agendas, minutes, and promotional material drawn from, and relating to, various women's campaigns, conferences, and events**. The collection also includes copies of *Link*, the CPGB's women's magazine, as well as back issues of *Red Rag*, a controversial journal published by the party's more militant feminist members. This documentation supplies unique insights into the **relationship between Western communism and the women's liberation movement during the post-war era**.

### Key Data

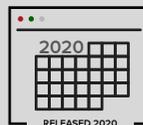
Contributor:

People's History Museum



Contents:

9 Volumes, 38 Documents (6,247 Pages)



## The Graphic, 1869–1932



*The Graphic*, founded by artist and social reformer William Luson Thomas, appeared on 4 December 1869. Initially, it was a competitor of *The Illustrated London News (ILN)*, but it ultimately became one of the *ILN*'s sister publications. *The Graphic* drew attention to poverty, homelessness, and public health—Thomas encouraged his illustrators to wander London in search of authentic scenes and subjects. This collection collates over 90,000 images from over 2,600 issues of *The Graphic*, published between December 1869 and April 1932.

*The Graphic* featured articles on politics, international relations, religion, and science. It played an important role in the development of the arts, printing innovative literature, theatre reviews, and some of the most beautiful illustrations in contemporary print media. Vincent van Gogh was much influenced by the strain of socially-conscious art that appeared in the paper.

*The Graphic* published the work of celebrated writers and artists. Given the quality and quantity of its artistic content, its wide-ranging commentary, and its vivid and determinedly-realistic depictions of everyday life (at home and abroad), this extensive collection captures the dramatic transformations that occurred within British society throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### Key Data

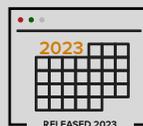
Contributor:

Illustrated London News (ILN)

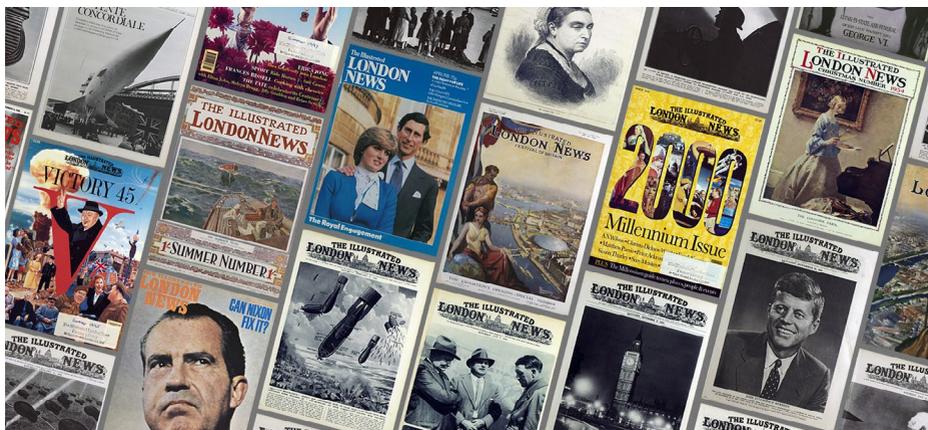


Contents:

60 Volumes, 2,684 Documents (90,218 Pages)



## The Illustrated London News, 1842–2003



*The Illustrated London News (ILN)* was founded in 1842 by Herbert Ingram. Whilst working as a newsagent and printer, he noticed two trends: papers featuring woodcut engraved illustrations tended to sell better and people frequently requested “London news”, as opposed to a specific publication. Advancements in printing technology, such as faster rotary presses, helped Ingram translate his vision of “illustrated news” into a reality. This vision proved timely and lucrative. **The first edition of the *ILN*, which appeared on 14 May 1842, sold 26,000 copies.** Priced at sixpence, it carried 32 illustrations and covered the “Great Fire of Hamburg” along with Queen Victoria’s first Masquerade Ball.

**By 1855, 130,000 copies were being sold weekly**, a figure that had more than doubled by the early 1860s. The paper targeted a broadly middle class readership, with Ingram’s embrace of liberalism ensuring that it backed reformist agendas, such as the plight of industrial workers and the need for better public amenities and urban infrastructure. Yet because Ingram embodied the Victorian ideal of the “self-made man”, the *ILN* was equally capable of sympathising with big business. It likewise espoused Britain’s imperial project. **Containing over 257,000 images**, this impressive resource enables students, educators, and researchers to explore an almost endless variety of historical events, concepts, and trends, British and otherwise.

### Key Data

Contributor:

Illustrated London News (ILN)



Contents:

162 Volumes, 7,113 Documents (257,048 Pages)



## The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News, 1874–1970



After its establishment in 1874, *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* became **one of several “sister” publications owned by *The Illustrated London News (ILN)***. Renamed *Sport and Country* in 1943, and *Farm and Country* in 1957, this magazine concentrated on **agriculture, hunting, and sports**. Though it developed a particularly strong focus on farming, it also printed articles on theatre, literature, and music, featuring **contributions from some of Britain’s most prominent artists and writers**. This collection boasts nearly **170,000 images drawn from more than 3,800 issues**.

For almost a century, *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* reported on **sports, rural life, and the leisure activities of Britain’s landowning classes**. For example, it featured articles on foxhunting, shooting, polo, yachting, and golf, as well as on the annual Oxford-Cambridge boat race. Over time, its coverage evolved, with later editions highlighting **the gradual modernisation of farming, and the development of new agricultural machinery and digital technology**. Due to its eclectic coverage and longevity, *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* provides key material for students and researchers exploring **the history of the British countryside, as well as developments in agriculture, sport, and science and technology**.

### Key Data

Contributor:

Illustrated London News (ILN)



Contents:

97 Volumes, 3,870 Documents (169,230 Pages)



## The Illustrated War News, 1914–1918 & 1939



Released during the First World War, *The Illustrated War News* (*IWN*) was an offshoot of *The Illustrated London News* (*ILN*). Published weekly between 1914 and 1918, the *IWN* re-appeared briefly throughout November 1939, the opening year of the Second World War. Staunchly patriotic, its coverage related, naturally, to military matters, focusing on Britain's armed forces and on national defence. **This collection brings together over 9,000 images drawn from 195 issues of the *IWN*.** These shed light on the British war efforts and their portrayal in the media.

The *IWN* covered a wide range of topics related to warfare, such as the development of new military technologies, humanitarian aid efforts, armament manufacturing, as well as the experiences of combatants and Prisoners of War. It reported on multiple fronts (air, land, and sea) and on pivotal theatres of war (including Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific). The paper also **published the work of many well-known war artists, such as Richard Caton Woodville Jr, Henry Charles Seppings Wright, Charles Eddowes Turner, and Bryan de Grineau.**

This collection contains valuable material for students and researchers interested in **colonialism, military history, international history, and social and cultural history.**

### Key Data

Contributor:

Illustrated London News (ILN)



Contents:

6 Volumes, 195 Documents (9,176 Pages)



## The Laws of War: Justice, Rights, and Ethics in Military Contexts



The experience of warfare, for combatants and civilians alike, is often horrific. As a result, alongside grander endeavours to end war altogether and to create lasting peace, more pragmatic efforts have emerged to impose laws, rules, and ethical frameworks upon the conduct of war so as to mitigate the collateral damage that it causes.

These efforts have increased exponentially since the end of the eighteenth century. **As conflicts grew in scale and impact, as mass citizen armies took to the field, and as questions of human rights gained traction, the need for robust laws of war became ever clearer.** By appearing to regulate warfare, these rules also served to legitimise, and even to justify, military action in increasingly democratic societies.

Comprising over 100,000 images from The National Archives (UK), this collection shows that the laws of war could take many forms. These range from overarching ideas about when it is, or is not, legitimate to declare war, through policies designed to safeguard civilians, and down to the mechanisms of courts martial, which have sought to apply a distinctive conception of justice to the relative mayhem of warzones. **This collection will interest historians, legal scholars, criminologists, and defence and strategic studies experts**—its contents reveal much about attitudes towards warfare over the last 300 years and the extent to which efforts to regulate it have succeeded or failed.

### Key Data

Contributor:

The National Archives (UK)



Contents:

1 Volume, 580 Documents (100,575 Pages)



## Paris Peace Conference and Beyond, 1919–1939



A significant event in modern history, the Paris Peace Conference was a meeting of Allied leaders and diplomats that took place in the aftermath of the First World War (1914–1918). Its purpose: to impose peace terms on the vanquished Central Powers and establish a new international order.

This collection contains archival material on this complex and tumultuous era in world history. The documentation relates to the **key treaties of the period—Versailles, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Neuilly-sur-Seine, Trianon, Sèvres, Lausanne, and Locarno**. The sources likewise shed light on the **foundation of the League of Nations**. These developments curtailed German power and influence, redrew national boundaries throughout Europe and the Middle East, and led to the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire.

Most of the files in this collection are drawn from **The National Archives (UK)**. It also contains the papers of **Lord Robert Cecil** and **Sir Arthur Balfour**, which were provided by the **British Library**.

### Key Data

#### Contributor:

The National Archives (UK); British Library



#### Contents:

9 Volumes, 113 Documents (52,343 Pages)



## *Prosecuting the Holocaust British Investigations into Nazi Crimes, 1944–1949*



During the Second World War (1939–1945), the Nazi state was responsible for the systematic enslavement and extermination of millions of Jews. Other groups, such as Russian Prisoners of War, Slavs, homosexuals, the disabled, and political opponents of the regime, were also targeted. After Germany's surrender, **Allied forces established a series of military tribunals, known as the Nuremberg Trials, to bring the architects and perpetrators of these crimes to justice.**

Drawn from files at **The National Archives (UK)** and the **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**, this collection contains a wealth of information regarding the British government's efforts to investigate and prosecute Nazi crimes during the period 1944–1949. The evidence gathered sheds light on almost every aspect of the Holocaust, from the concentration camp system to the mass murder of the “incurably sick” in psychiatric hospitals. Crucially, the sources in this collection **give a voice to the victims** of these atrocities, many of whom testified about their experiences immediately after the war.

### Key Data

#### Contributor:

The National Archives (UK)

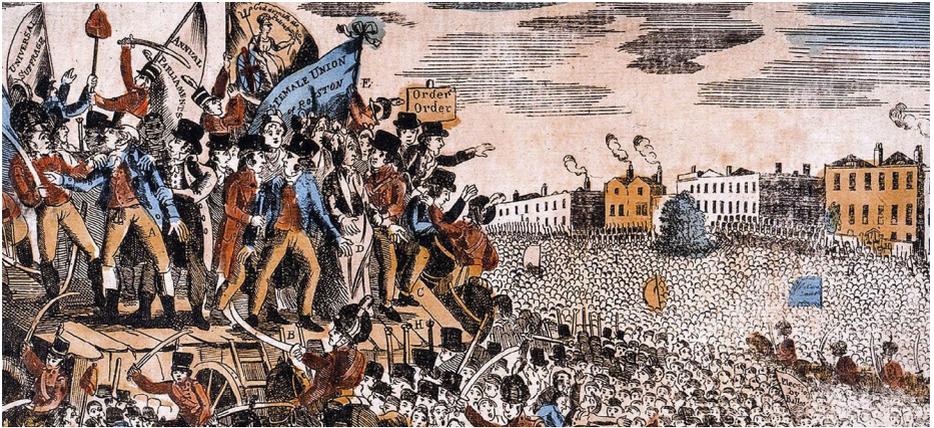


#### Contents:

8 Volumes, 144 Documents (180,875 Pages)



## Radicalism and Popular Protest in Georgian Britain, c. 1714–1832



Comprising over 90,000 images sourced from The National Archives (UK) and the Working Class Movement Library (UK), this collection surveys Georgian Britain, exploring stories of protest and dissent, activism and unrest, conspiracies and plots, as well as acts of treason and rebellion against the government and the monarchy.

The collection contains a broad range of key sources, such as pamphlets and “seditious” publications and papers; posters, broadsides, and handbills; poetry, songs, and ballads; as well as satirical prints and cartoons. These are drawn from government papers, including King’s Bench and Treasury Solicitor files that document riots, instances of sedition, and state trials.

Interdisciplinary in approach and ethos, *Radicalism and Popular Protest in Georgian Britain, c. 1714–1832*, will appeal to students, educators, and researchers studying social and cultural history, particularly those interested in popular politics and social movements, print culture, legal history, and the history of ideas. Those situated within the fields of criminology, sociology, and associated branches of the social sciences will likewise find much of value in this collection.

### Key Data

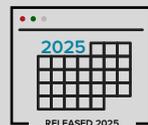
#### Contributor:

The National Archives (UK), Working Class Movement Library (UK)

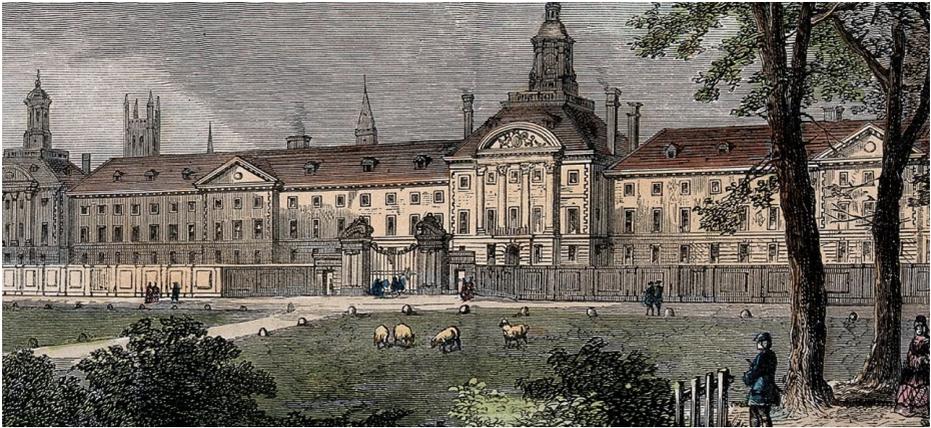


#### Contents:

2 Volumes, 2,303 Documents (100,447 Pages)



## Records from Bethlem Royal Hospital, 1559–1932



Bethlem Royal Hospital is a psychiatric facility in London. It was established as a priory of the Order of St Mary of Bethlehem in 1247. It set about caring for mentally ill patients during the fourteenth century. Often referred to colloquially as “**Bedlam**”—and generally accepted to be the origin of this term—past incarnations of the institution were infamous for their **questionable diagnoses of mental illness and poor treatment of patients**.

This collection, curated in association with Findmypast and the Museum of the Mind, contains **130,000 archival images, spanning four centuries, that illuminate the history of Bethlem**. The records are diverse, both in form and in terms of subject matter. They include voluntary and criminal admission registers, discharge and death registers, male and female patient casebooks, minutes of the Court of Governors, and staff salary books.

These records provide unique insights into the **development of the so-called “lunacy laws”, and shed light on the broader history of mental healthcare in Britain**. Significant historical trends are conspicuous throughout, such as the shift from reliance on control of the mentally ill through coercion and restraint, to the emergence of doctrines of self-discipline and moral management.

### Key Data

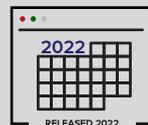
Contributor:

Bethlem Museum of the Mind, Findmypast Ltd

**BETHLEM** MUSEUM OF THE MIND  
**Find my past**

Contents:

7 Volumes, 329 Documents (131,209 Pages)



## Secrecy, Sabotage, and Aiding the Resistance: How Anglo-American Cooperation Shaped World War II



In the summer of 1940, Britain and its empire appeared to stand alone against the onslaught of Nazi Germany. The opportunity to fight back using conventional forces had, for the time being, disappeared. Instead, a **new front in the war opened up—one of secrecy, sabotage, and resistance**. This new front encompassed a huge variety of different clandestine activities and a number of different agencies.

One of these was the **Special Operations Executive (SOE)**, authorised by the War Cabinet in July 1940, and exhorted by Winston Churchill to “set Europe ablaze”. In late 1941, this became a joint Anglo-American effort. SOE and its American counterpart, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), worked closely together, sharing information and jointly training recruits. Documents in this collection cover activities in Africa, East and South Asia, Central and South America, the Middle East, and even inside the USA itself.

This collection, drawn from files at **The National Archives (UK)**, covers intelligence-gathering on “hostile” elements at home and abroad, guidance and training for agents in the field, diplomacy of Anglo-American cooperation, and support for Prisoners of War. It also contains reports on Axis industrial output and weapons production. Taken together, **these documents offer invaluable insights into how the British and Americans worked together to fight the “secret war” between 1939 and 1945.**

### Key Data

#### Contributor:

The National Archives (UK)



#### Contents:

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