

## World War II Places

Below is a list of WWII places and battles. Choose one as the setting for your historical fiction piece. This place must be a place the real person you choose was really at (it can be proven historically).

Los Angeles (Zoot Suit Riot)

Tule Lake (or any of the Japanese Internment Camps)

Pearl Harbor

Normandy (or any city on the European battlefront)

Iwo Jima (or any city on the Pacific battlefront)

Hiroshima and/or Nagasaki

Auschwitz (or any of the concentration camps)

Any places on the African, Mediterranean, or Middle Eastern fronts....

Los Alamos

...or some other historically accurate spot (with teacher approval).

Write your historical place choice here: \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary

Here's some World War II vocabulary. Circle and commit to eight terms to use in your story. Make sure to UNDERLINE these words in your story!

Circle 8 below (you may use more):

Holocaust

genocide

concentration camp

Naval base

swing music

zoot suit

Ration

war bond

victory campaign

WAC

internment

front

Allied powers

Axis powers

dictator

Resistance

propaganda

segregation

## World War II Era Slang

In order for historical fiction to be convincing, the characters must speak in the way the people of that time period would have spoke. In everyday life, most people speak at least some slang. Here's a list of some WWII era slang that you might consider using in your story.

*Commie*-slang abbreviation of Communist

*Crud*-a despicable or undesirable thing or person; nonsense, rubbish

*Girl Friday*-a resourceful young woman assistant

*Gussy*-to smarten up or dress up

*Hiya*-a word of greeting

*Scrooge*-the name for a cheap employer, miserly, a kill joy (from Charles Dicken's story)

*Shazam*-a magic word used like 'abracadabra' or 'presto' to introduce an extraordinary deed or story

*Stash*-moustache

*Super-duper*- especially splendid, powerful, exceptional, particularly good

*Wedgie*-a wedge heeled shoe

*Whammy*-evil influence or hex

(taken from <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma04/hess/Slang/1940/> )

*All Wet* - Describes an erroneous idea or individual, as in, "he's all wet."

*Applesauce* - an expletive; same as horsefeathers, As in "Ah applesauce!"

*Big Cheese* - The most important or influential person; boss. Same as big shot.

*Carry a Torch* - To have a crush on someone.

*Cat's Meow* - Something splendid or stylish; The best or greatest, wonderful.

*Darb* - An excellent person or thing (as in "the Darb" - a person with money who can be relied on to pay the check).

*Dame*- A Woman

*Flat Tire* - A dull witted, insipid, disappointing date. Same as pill, pickle, drag, rag, oilcan.

*Frame* - To give false evidence, to set up someone.

*Hard Boiled* - a tough, strong guy.

*Heebie-Jeebies* - The jitters.

*High-Hat* - To snub.

*Hooper* - Dancer.

*Horsefeathers* - an expletive; same usage as applesauce.

*Jalopy* - Old car.

*Keen* - Attractive or appealing.

*Kisser* - Mouth.

*Pinch* - To arrest.

*Pushover* - A person easily convinced or seduced.

*Ritzy* - Elegant (from the hotel).

*Scram* - Ask someone to leave immediately.

*Soitently*- Sure!

*Spiffy* - An elegant appearance.

*Spread Out!*- Get out of the way! Give me some room! Stop crowding me!

*Stuck On* - Having a crush on.

*Swanky* - Ritzy.

*Swell*- Wonderful.

*Whoopee* - To have a good time.

(taken from <http://www.angelfire.com/comics/howardfineandhoward/20sTo40sPhrases.html> 1920's to 1940's Phrases and Slang

## **MILITARY SLANG**

*Ack-ack*- (allied term) anti-aircraft

*Buck*-the lowest in the hierarchy-example-buck private

*Burp gun*-the US M3 machine gun

*Dogface*-(US) American soldier, infantrymen

*Dog tags*-two metal identification tags-one to be taken, one to be left with the body after death.

*Fly boy*-US pilot

*Gung ho*-(US) Chinese for "work together"

*Looie*-US lieutenant

*Million dollar wound*-a wound that would take a soldier out of combat

*Over the hill*-desertion from the military

*Pineapple*-fragmentation grenade

*Repple-depple*-replacement depot from where new soldiers were assigned and wounded men returned from combat

*Tell it to the chaplain*-I don't care about your problem.

*V for Victory*-"V" was symbol of the Allied war effort (part morale booster, part propaganda)

*Walkie-talkie*-a small portable radio with limited range

(taken from <http://www.geocities.com/faskew/WW2/Glossary/WW2-SoldierSlang.htm> -Askew's World War 2 slang)

*To bust*-to demote

*Sears-Roebuck*-a new lieutenant

*Belly-robber*-mess sergeant (cook)

*Gold-fish*-canned salmon

*Punk*-bread

*Corp*-corporal

*Sarge*-sergeant

*Chow*-food

*Submarine*-bed pan

(taken from <http://www.bartleby.com/185/53.html> H.L. Mencken (1880-1956) *The American Language*. 1921.  
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