

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **WORLD WAR II IN HD COLOUR**
[TV-PGV] [Stereo] [CC]

LENGTH: 13x51

NOLA CODE: WWHD

CATEGORY: Documentary

OFFERED: Spring 2010

EXPECTED RELEASE: August 1, 2010

CONTRACT TERMS: Six releases to be completed by 7/31/2012. A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: IMG Media

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: A new collection of rare and unseen footage of World War II and the very latest colorization techniques come together in **WORLD WAR II IN HD COLOUR**. With satellite-delivered terrain mapping and state-of-the-art graphics, this new series reveals the epic conflict of the 20th century in a fresh light. Narrated by actor Robert Powell, **WORLD WAR II IN HD COLOUR** is a vivid, in-depth experience that provides viewers with new insights and information. Newly divulged documents, files and photographs, code breaking revelations, and recently released government papers on both sides of the Atlantic add a different dimension to our understanding of the strategies and battles of World War II.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: Use above description for guide listings. A press release will be posted to PBS Connect and APTonline.org. Color photography will be available via email and will also be posted on APTonline.org.

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BROADCAST HISTORY: U.S. Broadcast Premiere

RELATED MERCHANDISE: Viewers: No DVD available.

Pledge: No specific arrangements have been made for pledge merchandise. If you're interested in pledging this program, please contact Mike Nadeau at 617-338-4455, ext. 150

VIEWER INQUIRIES: imgworld.com

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PRESS RELEASE

Extraordinary and Rarely-Seen World War II Footage Featured in WORLD WAR II IN HD COLOUR

For six years, the fury and violence of World War II raged across the earth like no other conflict seen before – or since – in human history. Encompassing nearly every major nation, the war claimed millions of lives, produced some of the greatest leaders and most infamous villains in history and introduced dozens of deadly new weapons – from the aircraft carrier to the nuclear bomb – to the world.

The American Public Television-distributed series **WORLD WAR II IN HD COLOUR**, airing on public television stations nationwide beginning August 1, 2010, uses colorized footage combined with newly released documents, photographs, and government files to paint the most accurate picture of WWII to date. Untold stories of heroic resistance and familiar tales of epic battles are brought to life, in a way that will give viewers a whole new understanding of what transpired during the war.

Narrated by English actor Robert Powell, **WORLD WAR II IN HD COLOUR** chronicles the course of the conflict, from Hitler's initial rise to power in post-World War I Germany to the dropping of the atomic bombs and the end of the conflict in 1945. Utilizing

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cutting-edge colorization techniques, the series presents the war in a more captivating fashion than ever seen on television.

Episodes include “Lightning War,” which profiles Hitler’s “Blitzkrieg” military strategy; “Hitler Strikes East,” which follows the German army’s ill-fated invasion of Russia; “Red Sun Rampant,” a look at the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor; “D-Day,” a special on the June 6, 1944 invasion of France; and “The Island War,” a profile of the bloody island-by-island fighting that stymied U.S. progress in the Pacific.

A gripping and timely documentary, **WORLD WAR II IN HD COLOUR** delivers a fascinating, comprehensive and full-color look at the most decisive war of the 20th century.

WORLD WAR II IN HD COLOUR was acquired from IMG Media by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations nationwide.

About American Public Television

American Public Television (APT) has been a leading distributor of high-quality, top-rated programming to America’s public television stations since 1961. In 2009, APT distributed 56 of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles. Among its 300 new program titles per year are prominent documentaries, news and current affairs programs, dramatic series, how-to programs, children’s series and classic movies, including *For Love of Liberty: The Story of America’s Black Patriots*, *A Ripple of Hope*, *Rick Steves’ Europe*, *Newsline*, *Globe Trekker*, *Simply Ming*, *America’s Test Kitchen From Cook’s Illustrated*, *Lidia’s Italy*, *P. Allen Smith’s Garden Home*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Doc Martin*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison*, *The Great American Songbook* and *John Denver: The Wildlife Concert*. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service. In 2006, APT launched Create™ – the TV channel featuring the best of public television’s lifestyle programming. For more information about APT’s programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

WORLD WAR II IN HD COLOUR

Episode #101 – “The Rise of the Dictators”

How could the settlement at the end of World War I, the “war to end all wars,” lead to an even greater conflict just a few years later? The answer is a tale with terrible resonance today. This opening episode shows how the Great Depression sapped the will of the democracies of the West to face up to a new and disturbing political phenomenon — the rise of militaristic dictators, in Germany, Italy, Japan and Spain. As a result, the major powers ignored all the warning signs and allowed the likes of Mussolini, and above all, Hitler to begin the course that would lead the world into catastrophe. The episode ends as Hitler plots his attack upon Poland.

Episode #102 – “Lightening War”

The Nazis developed a terrifying new military tactic — Blitzkrieg — that caught first Poland and then Britain and France utterly unprepared. The fall of Poland and how Hitler then conquered France in just a few weeks is charted. This was an achievement that had eluded Germany throughout all the four years of World War I. Also revealed is how heroic French resistance allowed the British to escape from Dunkirk and live to fight another day.

Episode #103 – “Britain at Bay”

In July 1940, Britain stood alone against the Nazis. Hitler had more troops, a better air force and the better weapons. Britain came extremely close to defeat, as its exhausted air force struggled to fight off the German Luftwaffe. However, because of critical errors by the Luftwaffe commander Hermann Goering, Britain was able to regroup. Then using its brilliant team of code crackers and specially trained spies, Britain began the fight back, working alongside the resistance movements in the occupied territories.

Episode #104 – “Hitler Strikes East”

When Hitler expounded his intention to invade Russia his generals looked at him in horrified silence. The Soviet Union was vast and had matchless resources. Hitler’s whole plan depended upon striking a swift and decisive knock-out blow. A long, drawn-out war would ensure a loss for Germany. Hitler was certain his forces could do it since no country had yet defeated them, but here had never been a military gamble like this. This episode covers Stalingrad and the battle of Kursk, the biggest tank battle in all history.

EPISODE GUIDE

Episode #105 – “Red Sun Rampant”

December 7th 1941 is “a date that will live in infamy” proclaimed President Franklin Roosevelt. That was the day that Japan entered World War II, with its surprise attack upon the U.S. Fleet in Pearl Harbor. Japan swiftly followed this up with the defeat of a huge British army in Singapore. For a while Japan was rampant in the Pacific. But gradually, America, the sleeping giant, awoke. The war that would follow would be characterized by major innovations. In particular it saw the battleship consigned to history and the emergence of the aircraft carrier as the decisive weapon of the seas.

Episode #106 – “The Mediterranean and North Africa”

Mussolini’s ambition had always been to recreate the old Roman Empire. The trouble was, he was a disaster militarily. After failed attacks in North Africa and Greece, his armies were on the run. Hitler now faced a difficult choice. Did he divert troops needed at other fronts to support his ally, or did he let Mussolini fall? Hitler chose to support him — a decision that would spell disaster for both of them. Hitler would lose hundreds of thousands of troops and Mussolini would lose his life. This episode tells the extraordinary story of the war in North Africa and features the heroics of the tiny island of Malta as it withstood wave after wave of Nazi assault. It ends with the Allies fighting their way up Italy and Germany in retreat.

Episode #107 – “The Hunt for the Knock-Out Blow”

Both the Allies and the Nazis were always looking for a single knock-out blow to end the war. Britain’s Sir Arthur “Bomber” Harris thought the answer might lie in “strategic bombing.” The idea was to bombard Germany’s infrastructure and cities. This, he argued, would cripple the Nazis’ ability to wage a war and the ordinary people would soon lose the will to fight. It led directly, however, to the tragedy of Dresden, when Allied planes firebombed tens of thousands of ordinary Germans. The Germans believed that the knock-out blow would come from their submarines. If they could only cut American supply lines to Britain across the Atlantic, then the Allied effort would collapse. So began a long game of cat-and-mouse between U-Boats and British and American convoys.

Episode #108 – “The Soviet Steamroller”

By July 1943, the full extent of Hitler’s failed gamble in the East had become clear. After failing to deliver knock-out blows at Stalingrad and Moscow, his army was now at the mercy of the vast Soviet war machine. With its huge resources and seemingly limitless numbers of men, the Red Army slowly pushed the Germans back out of Russia through Ukraine, Poland, the Balkans and Hungary. This was war on a monster scale, pitching armies of millions against each other. But it was also a war fought by small bands of partisans, men like Tito in Yugoslavia, leading guerrilla bands against Nazi forces.

EPISODE GUIDE

Episode #109 – “Overlord”

Today it is easy to see D-Day as an inevitable — a straightforward victory against a German army that was already all but defeated. This episode explodes that myth, charting the careful planning of the campaign and the development of specialized equipment needed for the amphibious landing. It reveals the deception plan that wrong-footed Hitler and shows how the Americans were very nearly driven off Omaha beach, which might have spelled failure for the whole operation. The episode ends with the liberation of Paris, as the Free French forces led by Charles de Gaulle marched down the streets of the capital.

Episode #110 – “Closing the Ring”

In 1944 American and Britain in the West and Russia in the East began to close their pincers around Germany. This episode explores the Allied disaster at Arnhem and the tragedy of the Warsaw uprising, when Polish freedom fighters were abandoned to their fate by Stalin. It tells the shocking story of the liberation of the death camps, when the full extent of the Holocaust became clear for the first time. It ends with Hitler’s last great gamble, as he threw all his last reserves against the oncoming Allied forces in the Ardennes.

Episode #111 – “The Island War”

Since December 1941, a vicious war against Japan was being waged in the Pacific. The Japanese were driven back across the ocean, island by island, in savage hand-to-hand fighting. American dominance at sea was finally established in “The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot,” when radar gave the U.S. Navy advance warning of a huge Japanese attack and the last vestiges of Japanese naval air power were destroyed. The war in the jungles is also examined, where in places like Burma, new specialist fighting units such as Ord Wingates Chindits slowly pushed back the Japanese despite horrific conditions.

Episode #112 – “Victory In Europe”

The months of the war in Europe were shocking and desperate. This episode follows the British and the Americans as they cross the Rhine and the Russians as they push through Poland into Germany itself. It covers the horrors of the liberation of Belsen and Buchenwald, and the final terrible street fighting in Berlin. The story culminates in the suicide of Hitler, the carving up of Germany between the Allies and the Nuremberg trials.

Episode #113 – “Victory in the Pacific”

The end of the War in the Pacific is one of the great and most terrible tales of modern history. The Japanese simply would not surrender and continued to fight island by island, foxhole by foxhole. U.S. Air Force commanders tried bombing Japan into submission, firebombing Tokyo. More than 200,000 people died, yet still Japan clung on. In the end, President Truman had to go nuclear and the fates of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were sealed. The series ends with Japan subdued and the revelation of Japanese war crimes.