

Diarists of the Second World War

Use the information below to help you in choosing another young diarist to find out about. Use the internet or available research books to add to the information listed here. Record your research on the Diarists of the Second World War Fact File.

Since the amazing success of Anne Frank's diary, a wealth of other diaries from young people caught up in the events of the Second World War have come to light. Here are just a few you might want to find out more about.

Miriam Cheszczewascki

Miriam was 15 years old in 1939, when she began to write about being interred in the Radomsko Ghetto in Poland. She probably died at Treblinka concentration camp in 1942. Her notebooks were given to her old teacher after the war who took them to Israel.

Rut 'Rutka' Laskier (1929 – 1942)

Rut wrote about her teenage years spent in the Bedzin Ghetto in Poland. The diary remained with an old friend for 64 years until finally being published in 2006.

Esther 'Etty' Hillesum

Esther wrote about the persecution of Dutch Jews and her awakening spirituality. She refused to enter hiding, since she was working with those Jews in transit to Westerbork. She was aged 29 when she died at Auschwitz.

Yoko Moriwaki (1932 – 1945)

Yoko was a Japanese citizen who recorded daily life in Hiroshima, Japan during the war. Her diary, started in April 1945, came to an abrupt end on 6th August 1945 with the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. Her brother made publication of the volume possible.

Tatyana 'Tanya' Nikolayevna Savicheva (1930 – 1944)

Tatyana was a young Russian diarist who wrote during the Siege of Leningrad in 1944. She had two diaries, but the larger of these was burned when no more wood was available to keep the family warm. The surviving notebook records simply the dates of her family members' deaths.