[The Works of David Irving]

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David Irving is the son of a Royal Navy commander and a professional illustrator. Incompletely educated at Imperial College of Science & Technology and at University College London, he subsequently spent a year in Germany working in a steel mill and perfecting his fluency in the German language. Among his over thirty books, the best-known include Hitler’s War; The Trail of the Fox: The Life of Field-Marshal Rommel; Accident, the Death of General Sikorski; The Destruction of Dresden; The Mare’s Nest; The German Atomic Bomb (The Virus House); The Secret Diaries of Hitler’s Doctor; The Rise and Fall of the Luftwaffe; Göring; a Biography; Nuremberg, the Last Battle, and of course Churchill’s War.

He has translated several works by other authors including Field-Marshall Wilhelm Keitel, Reinhard Gehlen, and Niki Lauda. He lives in Windsor, England, and has raised five daughters.
IN 1961 Germany’s mass circulation illustrated weekly, Neue Illustrierte, commissioned David Irving, then writing his first book on the Dresden catastrophe (see page 6), to expand his work to include the fiery end of every German city.

The subject had been a taboo in Germany. People were not encouraged to write about it. The series, originally planned to run thirteen weeks, was a major best-seller, and was extended to thirty-seven weeks. The magazine’s weekly sales increased by two million. David Irving interviewed the British and American bomber aircrews, and his German colleague Günter Karweina researched in the German cities for survivors and photo material.

The series was published in 1961 as a lavishly illustrated book by Swiss publishing house Schweizer Druck und Verlagshaus, and went into many later book-club and foreign editions.
THE DESTRUCTION
OF DRESDEN

ON APRIL 30, 1943 David Irving inflicted an upheaval on the history of World War II with his shocking account of the February 1945 British bomber attack on Dresden, which left tens of thousands dead and over 100,000 missing. There were not enough living left to bury the dead. The bodies were cremated on huge pyres in the cordoned-off city centre. The author published grim photos of this atrocity, including many in full colour. After David Irving’s book was published, Dresden joined Auschwitz and Hiroshima in the recital of man’s inhumanity to man – and the global campaign to defame and destroy the author began.

Revised edition published 2002 – see page 31

Serialised in The Sunday Telegraph, London

THE MARE’S NEST

Twelve thousand German scientists and engineers laboured with sixteen thousand slaves to build the secret weapons that would reduce London to ruins: how close they came to success! Here is the full story written from secret Nazi documents, and the private papers of the scientists and war leaders who mounted the British Intelligence counter-offensive.

In Britain the most tempestuous dispute of the war thundered along the corridors of Whitehall and Downing Street, while senior defence scientists waged their personal battles. For a year, the British War Cabinet was led to believe that the German rockets were a well-planned giant hoax, a ‘mare’s nest’ as Lord Cherwell, succinctly put it on October 25, 1943.

Serialised in The Sunday Telegraph, and Der Spiegel

German rocket scientist Wernher von Braun greets top Army generals at Peenemünde (Peenemünde Archive / Deutsches Museum).
THE DESTRUCTION OF CONVOY PQ.17

IN JUNE 1942 the Anglo-American convoy PQ.17 laden with tanks and munitions headed for North Russia escorted by a mighty array of British and American warships. They hoped to lure the mighty German battleship Tirpitz from its lair (above) and into battle.

On July 4 the British Admiralty ordered the convoy to scatter and the escorts to escape. Code-breakers had wrongly put the mighty battleship Tirpitz already at sea. The Germans hunted down and sank almost every ship. It was a disaster.

David Irving chronicled the convoy’s fate, and spoke with the Nazi bomber and submarine crews. He won access to US and British naval records, and to the admirals and politicians too.

The book was a best seller – with consequences. A naval officer won one of the biggest libel awards ever made against the author – but that’s another story.

THE MEMOIRS OF FIELD MARSHAL KEITEL

(TRANSLATOR)

HITLER’S FIELD MARSHAL Wilhelm Keitel wrote these memoirs in the six weeks before he was hanged at Nuremberg. As Chief of the German High Command since 1938, he was second only to Hitler in the direction of the most devastating war of modern times. The fluctuating fortunes of the invasion of Russia are graphically depicted.

With one or two weeks to live, Keitel turned to his eye-witness account of the last eighteen days of the Third Reich.
EIGHT-THIRTY A.M. in Gibraltar. The silent crowds of early workers line the narrow streets leading from the Cathedral of Saint Mary the Crowned to the entrance to the naval dockyard. Spaniards and Britons alike shuffle in the rising heat and crane their necks to see past the troops lining the streets. The sun is rising, and high up in the tunnels of the Rock the British sentries stamp to and fro. In the distance the crowds hear the muffled tramp of marching feet, and the clatter of hard wheels on cobble stones. In a simple pine coffin packed with all the ice that the British messes can supply, its sides cracking in the sun’s rays filtering through the Polish colours, lies the body of Poland’s greatest son, General Wladyslaw Sikorski.


UNTIL 1942 Hitler’s atom scientists were ahead of the Allies. Then a German mathematician made a crucial mistake, which LED the team of physicists to believe they must use Heavy Water. The only factory was in the mountains of Norway, vulnerable to bombing – and sabotage by daring British Special Operations teams.

April 1945: Sam Goudsmit of the “Alsos” Mission and M.I.6 experts study captured files of Hitler’s atomic bomb project. Twenty years later David Irving used them to write the first history of the project (Goudsmit / American Inst. of Physics).

The book’s centrepiece is a gripping account of the S.O.E. raid on the secret Heavy Water factory.

The book was highly praised by both Nobel prizewinner Werner Heisenberg, who headed the Nazi effort, and his rival, Lieut.-General Leslie Groves, chief of the US ‘Manhattan Project.'
IN 1967 William Kimber Ltd published David Irving’s *Breach of Security*; it translated a key 1939 document summarising the wiretaps placed by Hermann Göring’s *Forschungsamt* agency on foreign ambassadors in Berlin in 1939, especially Britain’s Sir Nevile Henderson (above). The agency also maintained a skilled codebreaking section. The author appends a list of intercepts shown to Hitler during the early war years. Hitler based many actions on this source. The author’s mentor and long-time colleague Professor Donald Cameron Watt, doyen of British historians, emeritus professor of history at the London School of Economics, wrote the Introduction and amplified the notes.

“This edition has been superseded by our full length history of the *Forschungsamt*. See page 27.

**THE RISE AND FALL OF THE LUFTWAFFE**

LIMELIGHT-SHY Erhard Milch (above) was the tough, James Cagney-style field marshal who created Luftansa, then built the Luftwaffe in Hermann Göring’s name. Granted the exclusive use of Milch’s diaries and papers, David Irving brings him to the centre of the stage as a ruthless, imaginative patriot, narrow but not without humour.

‘The Field Marshal could hardly complain about humiliations in defeat since he had been happy to accept applause in the day of the triumph. There was an element of natural justice about the ten years Milch served as a war criminal even if his trial showed that some Allied judges at Nuremberg . . . were appreciative students of the Nazi Peoples Courts. After considerable vicissitudes David Irving has taken his place in the foremost rank of Britain’s historical chroniclers.’ – The Times, London
IN 1965 David Irving signed for a Hitler biography with Ullstein, part of the Springer empire. Chief editor was Wolf-Jobst Siedler, a noted liberal. Ullstein published Albert Speer’s memoirs, with Siedler as ghostwriter, and the works of Joachim Fest. Fest also wrote a Hitler biography. It apparently benefited from Irving’s research (Fest was never in an archive). Irving’s work appeared in 1975; he then found that Siedler had cut off the pre-war years, and made key changes, e.g., Hitler’s role in the Holocaust. He also deleted the shocking finds made by Heydrich and Canaris in the former Soviet embassy buildings, worried that Moscow might sue for libel! The author banned all sales of his mutilated book two days later. It took 15 years to retrieve the sole typescript from Ullstein.

PUBLISHED in July 1977 by Hodder & Stoughton in London, and The Viking Press in New York, the biography went straight into the best seller lists. It was recognised as the first attempt to describe the catastrophic Second World War ‘from behind Hitler’s own desk.’ Hitler’s War drew massive praise and furious hostility in equal amounts, the critics being polarised down predictable lines. Its hypothesis that there was no proof that Hitler was aware at least until October 1943, if then, of what had only a few years earlier become known as The Holocaust caused outrage, then noisy debate among historians who found themselves unable to disprove the author’s view, and finally cautious acceptance. They split into warring camps – Intentionalism vs, Functionalism. 'The problem with most “-isms,”’ said the author, ‘is the “-ists”.'
THE TRAIL OF THE FOX
ROMMEL: A BIOGRAPHY

“Constantly exciting. . . consistently absorbing.” – Publishers Weekly
“A fascinating study.” – General Mark W. Clark
“A superb character study.” – General Matthew B. Ridgway
“A brilliant biography, almost a great one.” – Christian Science Monitor
“Excellent biography.” – The New Yorker
“Superb narrative history. The central character is drawn with a skill no novelist would disdain. . . Mr. Irving has pictured Rommel in a harsh light, but he has combined his qualities, strengths, weaknesses, and vanities in such a way that he breathes life on every page.” – Thomas Lask, New York Times
“One of the finest, freshest and most vigorous military biographies to appear since the war.” – The Times, London

DAVID IRVING wrote this book entirely from original records. “It is impossible,” he explained to his impatient UK publisher in 1978, “for me to write books just by reading other people’s books. I gather as complete a set of the related documents as possible. This is my metier. Unfortunately, the Hitler biography is a rather larger subject than I had thought. I have thirteen linear feet of diaries, reports, interrogations, etc.; 2,100 pages of Trevor-Roper’s Papers; the private papers of Canaris, Keitel, Koller, Jodl, Milch, von Waldau, Himmler, Assmann, Morell, Goebbels, Hitler (Reichskanzlei), Hewel, Linge, Bormann, Speer (2,000 pages), Hoepner, von Weichs, von Bock, Beck, etc., etc. I went to Washington and read the German Naval Staff War Diary from 1939–1945, over 70 volumes, each containing 400 pages. I have typed 150,000 words onto 600 filing cards.” The book was a resounding success.

Serialised in Der Spiegel, Germany
LEARNING THAT David Irving had obtained access to the private diaries and letters of the chief American prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, Robert H. Jackson, leading German newspaper Die Welt asked him to write a series of articles on the inside story of the tribunal. Originally planned to run for just three weeks, it extended to over seven weeks, as it provided details of the trial which no German historian had dared to investigate – like the involvement of the OSS in staging the trial and manipulating the film evidence, and the mounting frustration of Jackson, an idealist, as the politicians, lawyers, Jews, generals and Allied governments got in the way of a fair trial that would stand the scrutiny of History. Based also on the private papers and letters of most of the defendants. 

Updated in 2006: See page 33

Serialised in Welt am Sonntag, Germany

THIS THRILLING narrative is the autopsy of a failed revolution – the spontaneous 1956 uprising of the Hungarians against rule from Moscow, against the faceless, indifferent, incompetent functionaries who had turned their country into a pit of Marxist misery in one short decade.

Irving’s search for eye-witnesses and documents took him not just to communist Budapest, but to Munich, Geneva, Paris, London, New York, Rome and Madrid. In Moscow he questioned the army commander who crushed the uprising, and in Toronto, Budapest’s ex-police chief. He traced the men who had been kidnapped, exiled, imprisoned and put on trial with the prime minister Imre Nagy, who was sentenced to death, and spoke with Nagy’s family too. A book, with a cast of ten million.
From Guernica to Vietnam

This little monograph by David Irving was planned as a magazine series and published by Wilhelm Heyne Verlag in Germany as a paperback. It documents the evolution of air warfare against civilian targets from World War I through the bombing of Guernica in the Spanish Civil War, where ninety civilians died, to the horrors of World War II and on to Hiroshima (above) and Vietnam.

The perpetrators of these horrors were mostly elderly politicians approaching the end of their careers. Very few of them were ever called to justice.

These methods of warfare have since been outlawed by Geneva Conventions, but modern politicians continue to ignore them, on one pretext or another.

THE WAR BETWEEN THE GENERALS

They were allies, but they scrapped among themselves for power and prestige. Some of their fiercest battles were fought against each other. At the centre was Eisenhower – sincere, indecisive, desperate to hold the Alliance together. Against him was Britain’s Montgomery. Manoeuvring between them were the others – the outrageous Patton, the dogged Bradley, the bomber barons like Spaatz, Vandenberg, ‘Butcher’ Harris, and Leigh-Mallory. After the war came the cover-up. Not until David Irving began his research did the truth emerge. He found the wickedly candid diary of the obscure general who was Eisenhower’s ‘eyes and ears’. This book shows how the personalities of the men at the top can affect the course of a war – and the lives of the ordinary mortals in the field.
THE SECRET DIARIES OF HITLER’S DOCTOR

DR THEODORE MORELL was Adolf Hitler’s personal physician from January 1937 to the end. His diaries and dossier on “Patient A,” Hitler himself, vanished in 1945, but turned up in 1981 in the National Institutes of Health, Maryland, USA. They transferred them to the US National Archives. They arrived at the very moment David Irving was in the building.

Was Hitler clinically mad? What diseases laid him low in 1941 and 1944 – at crucial moments in his nation’s history?

David Irving has exclusively transcribed, translated, and annotated the long-lost diaries of the infamous Dr Morell; he provides a fascinating medical history of Hitler during his years of power, and refutes several legends surrounding him.

Taken refuge in the country when he knew the German bombers were coming, hurried back to London next morning to be photographed in the ruins (Hulton Picture Library)
“THERE ARE MANY who believe that Irving builds some new shock to public belief into each book he writes. The other side of Irving makes him a most formidable opponent. He is the most assiduous and persistent of researchers into the mountains of documents. He has uncovered enormous quantities of private diaries and papers hidden from Allied investigators.” – Professor Donald Cameron Watt, Sunday Times.

“Irving has an extraordinary talent for digging up otherwise obscure Nazi sources. He does have a real knack of penetrating the ‘mind’ of Nazism.” – Professor Norman Stone, New Statesman.

“Irving’s research effort is awesome.” – Professor Larry Thompson, Chicago Tribune.

“A remarkable researcher, a brilliant discoverer of documents, and a skillful writer, tells the story well.” – Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper, Sunday Telegraph.

GÖRING: A BIOGRAPHY

HESS: THE MISSING YEARS

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GÖRING: A BIOGRAPHY

HESS: THE MISSING YEARS

THIS BOOK reveals what happened after the dramatic flight which Hitler’s deputy Rudolf Hess made in 1941 to Scotland in an attempt to stop the war before the saturation bombing began. If any man deserved the Nobel Peace Prize it was Hess. Intercepted before he could reach King George VI carrying a secret peace offer from Hitler, Hess vanished into the hands of the British Secret Service, where he was held as Winston Churchill’s personal prisoner until October 1945.

The author found in US archives the secret medical diaries relating to Hess’s prolonged imprisonment in Britain. British files relate how Intelligence experts used truth drugs and hidden microphones to try to prise the secrets out of him. Taken to Nuremberg in 1945, Hess outwitted – and eventually outlived – his tormentors.

He died mysteriously, strangled to death in Berlin’s Spandau prison in 1987. He had spent forty-six years in jail.
THE ALLIES treated the history of Hitler’s wiretap and codebreaking agency, the Forschungsamt, as particularly sensitive. Its operatives were rounded up and coerced into Allied post-war agencies, its surviving archives swallowed by the National Security Agency and no doubt GCHQ. It left a thin paper-trail of scattered items through the world’s archives – recognisable only by their characteristic brown paper, mauve ink – and after Breach of Security in 1967 (page 12) David Irving built a dossier on the shadowy but vast organisation. Documents produced by and about the FA were always few and far between, and its former operatives were unusually tight-lipped, perhaps for obvious reasons. He published the first history of the FA in German late 1989, Das Reich hört mit, and has now got round to translating his work into English too.
LARGE areas of eastern Germany were annexed by Poland after World War I. This became an underlying cause of World War II. Unable to learn, the victorious Allied leaders met with Joseph Stalin at Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam from 1943 to 1945 to carve up Europe once again. Germany was forced to give up still more territory to compensate Poland for what the Soviets took in the east. The high principles of the Atlantic Charter were cast aside. David Irving, who lectured on this topic in the 1960s for the Council for Education in World Citizenship, wrote this narrative in German. He explains how these decisions were made – quoting from the secret diaries, protocols, and private diaries written by the participants, and using the Russian and Polish-language archives as well.

ONE OF THE most famous biographies of Adolf Hitler ever written, this book draws not only on secret archives but on David Irving’s personal contacts with the Nazi dictator’s staff and generals, who provided him exclusively with their private letters, diaries, and papers. Irving was the first historian to realise that Hitler was a great warlord, but let other matters drift – Hitler Germany ‘became a Führer-state without a Führer.’

Hitler, says Irving, did not order or know what Himmler was doing to the Jews. The book is written as though from behind Hitler’s desk. Over 1,000 pages and many b/w and color photos.

‘No praise can be too high for Irving’s indefatigable scholarly industry,’ said Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper in The Sunday Times.
Der unbekannte Dr. Goebbels

(1938 diary transcribed)

LEADING Italian publisher Arnoldo Mondadori commissioned David Irving to transcribe the four-hundred page 1938 diary of Dr. Joseph Goebbels. (Nobody knows how Mondadori got their copy from the secret KGB archives in Moscow).

The historian spent two years studying the almost impossible handwriting and published a fully annotated edition in German with the permission of the copyright owner, the late François Genoud. (The edition published by the Institut für Zeitgeschichte is not annotated.) The diary covers the vital months of the Blomberg–Fritsch crisis, the Anschluss with Austria, the Munich Agreement, the Lída Baarová scandal, and the infamous Night of Broken Glass which Goebbels organised.

Apocalypse 1945: The Destruction of Dresden

IN FEBRUARY 1945 at Yalta, Mr Winston Churchill needed to put on display his bombers’ offensive strength and his willingness to assist the Soviet armies. Dresden became the victim of his desire for a spectacular ‘shattering blow’.

The city was undefended - even the Luftwaffe night fighter force was grounded. There were no proper air raid shelters. The beautiful city on the Elbe river was housing hundreds of thousands of refugees, in addition to its own population of 630,000.

Up to a hundred thousand people, perhaps more, were killed in two or three hours, burned alive, that night. Until the first edition of this book appeared in 1963 the raid scarcely figured in the Allied war histories. A veil had been drawn across this tragedy.
DAVID IRVING is the first to make use of the entire Goebbels Diaries. They lay for fifty years in the KGB’s archives in Moscow. To this extraordinary find Irving added six years’ research in the world’s archives, and narrates the first authentic biography of Hitler’s evil genius, Goebbels. The narrative accompanies him as an impoverished student to Heidelberg, where he wins the university’s most beautiful female student; he fights to win Berlin for the Nazi movement. A Czech actress beguiles him, bringing him to the brink of suicide. In a frenzy he takes revenge on the Jews, triggering the Night of Broken Glass; later, he goads Hitler on toward the hideous Final Solution as Germany is consumed by a rain of fire and slaughter from the air.

IN NOVEMBER 1945 Hitler’s men were put on trial in Nuremberg. The year-long trial was controversial. It was victor’s justice, said some; special laws had been passed, framed to exclude any Allied war crimes and pre-empt possible defences. Chief U.S. prosecutor was Justice Robert H Jackson, a simple, incorruptible lawyer and idealist, who believed that wars could be prevented by international law. From his family, David Irving obtained exclusive access to his diaries and private papers, and found the papers left by the other lawyers and defendants too. Making no use of the (tainted) transcripts, the famous Blue Volumes – having once checked them against the wire recordings – Mr Irving provides a behind-the-scenes account of the trial up to the very moment of the hangings.
CHURCHILL’S WAR, VOL. II: TRIUMPH IN ADVERSITY

DAVID IRVING’S highly praised standard work on the middle years of Winston Churchill and his war based, like his work on Hitler, on documents exclusively available to him and on thirty years of interviews and research in British and foreign archives.

This volume covers the middle years of this disastrous conflict. After the first volume chronicled an almost unbroken series of disasters in his life, from Gallipoli and the Chanak crisis to the defeat of France and the military fiasco in Greece, the second sees him enter happier times, with great naval victories, El Alamein, and the landings in North Africa.

The war ended with Britain in decline, slithering toward the inevitable loss of her Empire, as the third volume will relate.

BANGED UP

Survival as a Political Prisoner in 21st Century Europe

BANGED UP is the unusual story, told without rancour and often with a bitter humour, of a British historian who spends four hundred days in solitary confinement in Austria’s oldest jailhouse, from 2005 to 2006, convicted under a 1945 Stalin-era law because of a lecture on history that he has delivered in Vienna sixteen years before. David Irving has been lured to Austria by secret state police, the Stapo, masquerading as students.

To Vienna’s dismay, however, there is an outcry in the free world’s press. Soon Mr Irving is faced with new charges, carrying a sentence of twenty-years to life, for talking to the BBC.

Then the case comes to the Court of Appeal. . . and a brave new lawyer, a veteran of free speech fights, wins his freedom.
IN THE SUMMER OF 1944 the U.S. Treasury Secretary devised the Morgenthau Plan for Germany. It would have led to the death by starvation of ten million Germans, in addition to the four million who perished in the saturation bombing and the enforced expulsion from Germany’s eastern territories. He was outraged by the Holocaust and looking for revenge. He met President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill in September 1944 in Quebec. Both statesmen unthinkingly initialled the Plan, as these documents show.
In the event, the Plan’s more controversial elements, including Henry Morgenthau’s proposed ‘lynch law’ – orders to liquidate without trial entire classes of suspected Nazi war criminals upon mere identification, were not formally implemented. But it was a close-run thing.

DAVID IRVING’S new book is a thrilling war story of British genius and heroism. It tells the inside story of the low-level bomber attack on Germany’s Ruhr Dams by moonlight in May 1943, immortalised by the movie The Dambusters.
The historian based his account on interviews with Royal Air Force officers, including many of the men who took part, on official British and German documents, and on exclusive access to the private papers and diaries of Barnes Wallis – the British scientist who invented the unique ‘bouncing bomb’ which smashed the dams.
The book reads like a thriller, and will excite readers of all ages.
“W”hen lived to its full extent, a human life is a mansion of many rooms. As British soldiers escorted Heinrich Himmler up the six rain-soaked cement steps outside this patrician house in Lüneburg in northern Germany, and into its octagonal front room, he was only forty-four; but he may well have sensed that this was the last room of all. He cut a wretched figure, clad in grey army shirt, socks, and underpants, and tripping over the grey army blanket he clutched around his waist. Colonel Michael Murphy, who was escorting him, would write that he had brought Himmler over to ‘a house I had prepared for such men.’ Underlying the innocence of those few words there was perhaps a less innocent intent.

The Third and last volume of David Irving’s forty-year study of Churchill’s wartime leadership asks the grim question, Was this man or Hitler the gravedigger of the British Empire? Nearly all the secret files have been released. The author spoke with Churchill’s men, gathered their private diaries and letters, travelled the world’s archives in time – before their governments closed their frontiers to him! – and recorded what really happened and why, from the overthrow of Benito Mussolini in 1943 to the final repugnant events in Yalta and Potsdam. In this final volume, he reveals that Churchill and Truman knew that the Japanese were trying to surrender, but the atom bomb was dropped anyway. Cities were destroyed, millions died: this volume addresses another question, Why?
What the Real Experts said . . .

British historian, David Irving, perhaps the greatest living authority on the Nazi era


On Churchill’s War: Enormous mastery of the sources and ability to maintain a sweep of narrative and command of detail that carry the reader along.

– Professor Donald Cameron Watt

On Hitler’s War: It was thoroughly researched and employed a variety of themes . . . It also confirmed Irving’s reputation as one of the world’s most thorough researchers and an exciting and readable ‘historian’.

– Board of Deputies of British Jews

On Hitler’s War: This ground is traversed with a sense of immediacy and grasp of detail lacking in many of the recent Führer biographies . . . Mr Irving’s mastery of the German sources is superb.

– Professor Hugh Trevor Roper

On Hitler’s War: David Irving has ransacked the world’s archives; he has discovered eye-witness accounts; he has unearthed diaries and correspondence which were thought to have been destroyed. . . a narrative which is, for all its inevitable complexities, remarkably comprehensible and, surprisingly readable.

– Professor J.E. Molpurgo

David Irving Memoirs: “As I Lay There, Drowning”

As I lay there drowning, in my navy jersey and short brown overcoat, face down among the water-lilies and sticklebacks, and knowing nothing of foreshortening and refraction, I found that I still could not touch that bracelet. Feet came running across the field, and hands fished me out. They were just in time, or – were they? Did all that passed before my eyes since then ever really happen—the beatings at school, the prizes, The Phoenix, the blast of the steel furnaces in the Ruhr, the photos of the Dresden pyres, the Pottersman Factor, the field-marshals, the raucous beerhall audiences, my daughter’s coffin and the hate-wreath that came that night, the life-size bronze statue of a racehorse, the handcuffs, the Austrian cops with 9mm Glocks pointed at my head, and the rest? Or were these just kaleidoscopic images in the blink of an eye, the life I nearly had but never did, flashing past in the last mortal second before it was snuffed out and the Lord gathered me up, still only five, into His arms?”

Thus begin the memoirs which David Irving has been writing, and adding to, about fifty years of meeting the famous names of the Twentieth Century and recording its Real History, and his fight, described without rancour or bitterness, to thwart the efforts of a few who try to stop him.
On Goebbels. Mastermind of the Third Reich: Irving does not deny that Jews were horribly butchered or just kept in such conditions as to die in their millions. Nevertheless, the book has received execration in some American pre-publication reviews for its alleged denials of the Holocaust and exculpations of Hitler. . . . There is no truth in these accusations.

– Professor Professor Norman Stone, The Sunday Times, April 14, 1996.

On Goebbels. Mastermind of the Third Reich: David Irving knows more than anyone alive about the German side of the Second World War. He discovers archives unknown to official historians ... His greatest achievement is Hitler's War ... indispensable to anyone seeking to understand the war in the round. Irving as usual, knows more than anyone of the details [of the death of Goebbels family in 1945]. He does not spare us.

– Professor Sir John Keegan, The Daily Telegraph, April 20, 1996

On Göring: At the Nuremberg trials he defended himself with vigour and rebutted some of the charges that had wrongfully been made against him. It also came out in matters of art, on which David Irving is rather good.


On Goebbels. Mastermind of the Third Reich: Some critics, including Deborah Lipstadt of Emory University, have accused Irving of ‘trying to destroy the memory of those who . . . perished at the hands of tyrants.’ Even a cursory inspection of this new, 700-page plus account [Goebbels] does not support that assertion.

– Professor Francis L. Loewenheim

On Goebbels. Mastermind of the Third Reich: Mr Irving would be a high price to pay for freedom from the annoyance that he causes us. The fact is that he knows more about National Socialism than most professional scholars in his field, and students of the years 1933-1945 owe more than they are always willing to admit to his energy as a researcher and to the scope and vigor of his publications.

– Professor Gordon A Craig

On Göring: Irving’s research effort is awesome.

– Professor Larry Thompson in The Chicago Tribune

David Irving … has mastered his material and written a very readable biography.

– Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper (Lord Dacre) in The Sunday Telegraph, August 20, 1989.
On Göring: A VERY readable book, for Irving has always written with verve and energy. . . It tells us a great deal that we did not know. . . Highly interesting. . . Marvellous stuff. . . An absorbing account. . . Most intriguing.

– Professor Gordon A Craig

David Irving’s full study The Rise and Fall of the Luftwaffe: therefore deserves a warm welcome . . . Mr. Irving has made splendid use of the Milch papers and other German records which he has been able to study.

– Capt. Stephen Roskill, UK official historian

On Churchill’s War: A vivid portrait accompanied by much striking and original analysis. It is certainly no mere repeat of the usual hagiography. Once again David Irving shows himself a master of documentation.

– Prof. John Erickson, April 30, 2001

Most of Irving’s books are big, solid works like this. All are well written, exciting, fun to read, and all contain new information based on sensational discoveries.


On Rommel: David Irving has been so successful in building up a reputation as The Man You Love To Hate that his merits as an historian are too easily forgotten. . . But professional historians have always envied him his immense capacity for work and his astonishing luck in finding new documents; and they should be grateful to him. . . But his fellow historians can take nothing but pleasure in [this] work.

– Professor Michael Howard

David Irving specialises in the blunders of war. He also knows how to appraise the unassuming heroism of the ordinary man. From both points of view, his present book on the destruction of convoy PQ.17 is even better than the one which made his name on the bombing of Dresden. It is a melancholy story, with many separate strands leading to disaster.

– Professor A. J. P. Taylor, The Observer

A fascinating study of the brilliant Rommel. It enables the reader to experience the emotions of a warrior in battle.

– Mark W. Clark, General, U.S. Army (retired)

The result is a biography of Milch, slanted as it were towards the Luftwaffe. . . This one is scholarly, fair and highly informative.

Professor A. J. P. Taylor, The Observer