

31 Underwater Archaeology of the World Wars

[Get access >](#)

Robert S. Neyland

<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199336005.013.0031> Pages 708–730**Published:** 18 September 2012

Abstract

This article describes shipwrecks from the World Wars. For marine archaeology, there are numerous archaeological sites to dive on, research, and analyze. World War II in Europe resulted in staggering losses of shipping and lives. There were changes in naval warfare that resulted from the technological development of weapons capable of sinking ships. This article highlights archaeological research on world war shipwrecks, which focuses on identifying the locations of wrecks and the causes of sinking. The U.S. Navy's wrecks are distributed in every major body of water and represent many questions formulated in World War archaeology. Furthermore, this article highlights the fact that the shipwrecks of the World Wars pose environmental concerns. Shipwreck finds from the World Wars will undoubtedly continue until all the larger ships and notable aircraft have been found, for such is the fascination with discovery and the history of the lost ships and aircraft of those conflicts.

Keywords: [merchant marine losses](#), [naval warfare](#), [archaeological research](#), [World War archaeology](#), [heritage preservation](#), [World War wrecks](#)

Subject: [Underwater Archaeology](#), [Historical Archaeology](#), [Archaeology](#)

Series: [Oxford Handbooks](#)

Collection: [Oxford Handbooks Online](#)

You do not currently have access to this chapter.

Sign in

[Get help with access](#)[Personal account](#)[Institutional access](#)

- Sign in with email/username & password
- Get email alerts
- Save searches
- Purchase content
- Activate your purchase/trial code
- Add your ORCID iD

Sign in >

Register



Sign in through your institution

[Sign in through your institution](#)

[Sign in with a library card](#)

[Sign in with username/password](#)

[Recommend to your librarian](#)

Institutional account management

[Sign in as administrator](#)

Purchase

Institutions

Flexible purchasing options

[Browse products >](#)

Individuals

[Recommend to your librarian](#)