War writing is an ancient genre that continues to be of vital importance. Times of crisis push literature to its limits, requiring writers to exploit their expressive resources to the maximum in response to extreme events. This Companion focuses on British and American war writing, from Beowulf and Shakespeare to bloggers on the “war on terror.” Thirteen period-based chapters are complemented by five thematic chapters and two chapters charting influences. This uniquely wide range facilitates both local and comparative study. Each chapter is written by an expert in the field and includes suggestions for further reading. A chronology illustrates how key texts relate to major conflicts. The Companion also explores the latest theoretical thinking on war representation to give access to this developing area and to suggest new directions for research. In addition to students of literature, the volume will interest those working in war studies, history, and cultural studies.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks to all the contributors to this volume, to the readers of the original proposal and draft, and to Ray Ryan and the team at Cambridge University Press; to Muireann O’Cinneide, Kirstie Blair, and Hester Schadee (“the Crusades”); and, above all, to my true co-editor, Nick Trefethen. I should like to remember my grandfather, Sgt Jack Shipman, veteran of both the First and the Second World Wars, who died fifty years ago last year.
# CHRONOLOGY

(Wars and major texts discussed in the volume)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BCE</th>
<th>Song of Moses in <em>Exodus</em></th>
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<tr>
<td>11th or 12th century</td>
<td>Homer, <em>Iliad</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>c.750</td>
<td>Battle of Marathon</td>
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<tr>
<td>mid-5th century</td>
<td>Herodotus, <em>Histories</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>431</td>
<td>Start of the Peloponnesian War</td>
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<td>415</td>
<td>Euripides, <em>The Trojan Women</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>late 5th century</td>
<td>Thucydides, <em>History of the Peloponnesian War</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>404</td>
<td>End of the Peloponnesian War</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th century</td>
<td>Sun-tzu, <em>The Art of War</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>218–201</td>
<td>Second Punic War (the Hannibalic War)</td>
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<tr>
<td>58–52</td>
<td>Julius Caesar, <em>Commentaries on the Gallic War</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>49–45</td>
<td>Civil War between Julius Caesar and Pompey</td>
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<tr>
<td>late 1st century</td>
<td>Vergil, <em>The Aeneid</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>CE</th>
<th>Lucan begins <em>On the Civil War</em></th>
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<tr>
<td>c.61</td>
<td>Plutarch, <em>Parallel Lives of the Greeks and Romans</em></td>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event/Work</th>
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<tr>
<td>416–22</td>
<td>St. Augustine, <em>Concerning the City of God</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.7th century</td>
<td><em>Dream of the Rood</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>?late 8th century</td>
<td><em>Beowulf</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th century</td>
<td><em>The Wanderer</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>late 10th century</td>
<td><em>The Battle of Brunanburgh</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1095</td>
<td>Pope Urban II launches the First Crusade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-12th century</td>
<td><em>La Chanson de Roland</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>c.1225</td>
<td><em>King Horn</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1270</td>
<td>St. Thomas Aquinas, <em>Summa Theologiae</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1271–2</td>
<td>Ninth and final Crusade</td>
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<tr>
<td>c.1275</td>
<td><em>Havelok the Dane</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>14th century</td>
<td>Alliterative <em>Morte Arthure</em>, Stanzaic <em>Morte Arthure</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Auchinleck Manuscript (including <em>Guy of Warwick</em> and <em>Beves of Hampton</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Gawain and the Green Knight</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1337</td>
<td>Start of the Hundred Years War</td>
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<tr>
<td>?1382–6</td>
<td>Geoffrey Chaucer, <em>Troilus and Criseyde</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>late 14th century</td>
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<td>1413</td>
<td>Battle of Flodden</td>
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<td>1415</td>
<td>Battle of Agincourt</td>
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<td>1428–9</td>
<td>Siege of Orleans</td>
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<td>1453</td>
<td>Battle of Castillon: end of the Hundred Years War</td>
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<td>Conquest of Constantinople by Mehmed II</td>
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<tr>
<td>1455</td>
<td>Start of the Wars of the Roses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
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<td>1461</td>
<td>Battle of Towton</td>
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| 1485 | Battle of Bosworth  
Thomas Malory, *Morte Darthur* |
| 1487 | End of the Wars of the Roses |
| 1503 | Desiderius Erasmus, *Handbook for the Christian Soldier* |
| 1521 | Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Art of War* |
| 1540 | Start of Tudor reconquest of Ireland |
| 1568 | Start of the Revolt of the Netherlands |
| 1575 | George Gascoigne, *The Fruites of Warre* |
| 1587 | English attack on Cadiz  
First performance of Christopher Marlowe’s *Tamburlaine* plays |
| 1588 | Defeat of the Spanish Armada |
| 1590 | Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (completed 1596) |
| 1595 | William Shakespeare, *Richard III* |
| 1596 | John Donne, “‘The Storme,’” “The Calme”  
William Shakespeare, *1 Henry IV* |
| 1598 | William Shakespeare, *2 Henry IV* |
| 1599 | William Shakespeare, *Henry V, Julius Caesar* |
| 1602 | William Shakespeare, *Troilus and Cressida* |
| 1606 | William Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra* |
| 1608 | William Shakespeare, *Coriolanus* |
| 1618 | Start of the Thirty Years War |
| 1630 | Richard Fanshawe, “Ode Upon occasion of His Majesties Proclamation in the yeare 1630” |
| 1638 | Start of the British Civil Wars |
| 1648 | Peace of Westphalia: end of the Thirty Years War  
End of the Revolt of the Netherlands |
<p>| 1649 | Richard Lovelace, <em>Lucasta</em> |</p>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event/Text</th>
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<tr>
<td>1650</td>
<td>Andrew Marvell, “An Horatian Ode upon Cromwell’s Return from Ireland”</td>
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<td>Henry Vaughan, “Peace”</td>
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<td>1651</td>
<td>Andrew Marvell, “Upon Appleton House, To My Lord Fairfax”</td>
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<td>Thomas Hobbes, <em>Leviathan</em></td>
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<td>1652</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fulke Greville, <em>The Life of the Renowned Sir Philip Sidney</em> (written by 1612)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1667</td>
<td>John Milton, <em>Paradise Lost</em> (reissued in twelve books in 1674)</td>
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<td>1678</td>
<td>John Bunyan, <em>The Pilgrim’s Progress</em></td>
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<td>1682</td>
<td>John Bunyan, <em>The Holy War</em></td>
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<td>1688</td>
<td>Glorious Revolution</td>
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<td>1689</td>
<td>Start of the French and Indian Wars</td>
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<td>1700</td>
<td>Start of the War of the Spanish Succession</td>
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<td>1704</td>
<td>Battle of Blenheim</td>
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<td>1705</td>
<td>Joseph Addison, <em>The Campaign</em></td>
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<td>John Philips, “Blenheim: A Poem”</td>
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<td>1706</td>
<td>George Farquhar, <em>The Recruiting Officer</em></td>
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<td>1713</td>
<td>End of the War of the Spanish Succession</td>
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<td>1715</td>
<td>First Jacobite Rebellion</td>
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<td>1720</td>
<td>Daniel Defoe, <em>Memoirs of a Cavalier</em></td>
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<td>1740</td>
<td>Start of the War of the Austrian Succession</td>
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<td>1745</td>
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<td>1748</td>
<td>End of the War of the Austrian Succession</td>
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<td>Samuel Richardson, <em>Clarissa</em></td>
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<td>1756</td>
<td>Start of the Seven Years War</td>
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<td>1759–69</td>
<td>Laurence Sterne, <em>Tristram Shandy</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event/Author/Publication</td>
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| 1763 | End of the French and Indian Wars  
End of the Seven Years War |
| 1773 | Phillis Wheatley, “On Slavery” |
| 1775 | Start of the American Revolutionary War |
| 1776 | American Declaration of Independence (4 July) |
| 1781 | Anna Seward, *Monody on Major Andrè* |
| 1782 | Abbé Raynal, *The Revolution in America*  
Thomas Paine, *Letter to the Abbé Raynal* |
| 1783 | Treaty of Paris: end of the American Revolutionary War |
| 1789 | Start of the French Revolution; storming of the Bastille (14 July) |
| 1791 | Thomas Paine, *Rights of Man* |
| 1792 | Start of the French Revolutionary Wars |
| 1793 | Britain joins the French Revolutionary Wars |
| 1794 | Susanna Rowson, *Charlotte Temple* |
| 1798 | Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Fears in Solitude” |
| 1799 | End of the French Revolution: Napoleon’s *coup* of 18 Brumaire |
| 1800 | Mason Locke Weems, *Life of Washington* |
| 1802 | End of the French Revolutionary Wars  
Phillis Wheatley, “To the Earl of Dartmouth” |
| 1803 | Start of the Napoleonic Wars |
| 1805 | Battle of Trafalgar |
| 1807 | Start of the Peninsular War |
| 1812 | Anna Laetitia Barbauld, *Eighteen Hundred and Eleven* |
| 1814 | End of the Peninsular War |
| 1815 | Battle of Waterloo: end of the Napoleonic Wars |
| 1825 | G. R. Gleig, *The Subaltern* |
| 1828 | Sir William Napier, *History of the War in the Peninsula*  
(final volume published in 1840) |
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>The Belgian Revolution. The July Revolution in France</td>
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<td>1832</td>
<td>Carl von Clausewitz, <em>On War</em></td>
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<td>1839</td>
<td>Start of the First Afghan War Stendhal, <em>The Charterhouse of Parma</em></td>
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<td>1842</td>
<td>End of the First Afghan War</td>
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<td>1846</td>
<td>Start of the Mexican War</td>
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<td>1848</td>
<td>Revolutions in Sicily, the Italian states, France, the German states, Hungary, Switzerland, Greater Poland, Wallachia, and Brazil End of the Mexican War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>Start of the Crimean War William Howard Russell begins coverage of the Crimean War for the London <em>Times</em> Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “The Charge of the Light Brigade”</td>
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<td>1855</td>
<td>Robert Browning, “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came”</td>
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<td>1856</td>
<td>Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “Maud”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>End of the Crimean War</td>
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<td>1859</td>
<td>Alfred, Lord Tennyson, <em>Idylls of the King</em> (completed 1885)</td>
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<td>1861</td>
<td>Start of the American Civil War “John Brown’s Body”</td>
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<td>1862</td>
<td>Julia Ward Howe, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” Christina Rossetti, “In the Round Tower at Jhansi”</td>
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<td>1864</td>
<td>First Geneva Convention (revised 1949)</td>
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<td>1865</td>
<td>End of the American Civil War Assassination of Abraham Lincoln John Ruskin gives lecture “On War” Leo Tolstoy, <em>War and Peace</em> (final volume published 1869)</td>
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Walt Whitman, *Drum-Taps* (incorporated into the 1867 edition of *Leaves of Grass*)

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Sir Francis Hastings Doyle, “The Red Thread of Honour”  
Herman Melville, *Battle-Pieces*

1867  
William Wells Brown, *Clotelle; or, The Colored Heroine. A Tale of Southern States*  
John W. De Forest, *Miss Ravenel’s Conversion from Secession to Loyalty*  
Ouida, *Under Two Flags*

1870–1  
Franco-Prussian War

1878  
Start of the Second Afghan War

1879  
Anglo-Zulu War  
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “The Defence of Lucknow”

1880–1  
First Boer War

1881  
End of the Second Afghan War

1882  
Start of British occupation of Egypt

1884–5  
Siege of Khartoum

1887  
Walt Whitman, *Specimen Days in America*

1891  
Ambrose Bierce, *Tales of Soldiers and Civilians*

1892  
Rudyard Kipling, *Barrack-Room Ballads* (second series in 1896)

1895  
Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*

1897  
Greco-Turkish War  
Henry Newbolt, “Vitaï Lampada”

1898  
Spanish-American War  
Mahdist Rebellion  
Thomas Hardy, *Wessex Poems*

1899  
Start of the Second (“Great”) Boer War

1901  
Thomas Hardy, *Poems of the Past and the Present*

1902  
End of the Second (“Great”) Boer War
1914
Start of the First World War (Britain declares war on Germany on 4 August)
Rupert Brooke, “Peace,” “The Soldier”
Richard Harding Davis, With the Allies

1915
Sinking of the Lusitania
Joyce Kilmer, “The White Ships and the Red”
Siegfried Sassoon, “A Night Attack”
Alan Seeger, “The Aisne”

1916
Battle of the Somme
Henri Barbusse, Under Fire
Alan Seeger, “I Have A Rendezvous With Death”

1917
USA enters the First World War (declares war on Germany on 6 April)
Ivor Gurney, “Strange Hells”
Wilfred Owen, “Dulce et Decorum Est”
Isaac Rosenberg, “Dead Man’s Dump”
Siegfried Sassoon, The Old Huntsman

1918
End of the First World War (11 November)
Enid Bagnold, A Diary Without Dates
Joyce Kilmer, “Rouge Bouquet”
Wilfred Owen, “Strange Meeting,” “Mental Cases,” “The Parable of the Old Man and the Young”
Siegfried Sassoon, Counter-Attack and Other Poems
Rebecca West, The Return of the Soldier
Edith Wharton, The Marne

1919
Third Afghan War
Rudyard Kipling, “Epitaphs of the War”

1920
John Dos Passos, One Man’s Initiation: 1917
Ernst Jünger, Storm of Steel
Ezra Pound, “Hugh Selwyn Mauberley”

1921
John Dos Passos, Three Soldiers

1922
c. e. cummings, The Enormous Room

1923
Thomas Boyd, Through the Wheat

1924
Ford Madox Ford, Parade’s End tetralogy (final volume published 1928)
Chronology

R. H. Mottram, *The Spanish Farm Trilogy* (final volume published 1926)
Laurence Stallings, *Plumes*

1925
Edmund Blunden, “The Ancre at Hamel: Afterwards”
Ivor Gurney, “War Books”

1926
e. e. cummings, “my sweet old etcetera”
William Faulkner, *Soldier’s Pay*
Allen Tate, “Ode to the Confederate Dead”

1928
Stephen Vincent Benét, *John Brown’s Body*
Edmund Blunden, *Undertones of War*
R. C. Sherriff, *Journey’s End*

1929
Richard Aldington, *Death of a Hero*
Mary Borden, *The Forbidden Zone*
Robert Graves, *Goodbye to All That*
Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*
Frederic Manning, *The Middle Parts of Fortune*
Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

1930
Siegfried Sassoon, *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer*
Helen Zenna Smith, *Not So Quiet: Stepdaughters of War*

1933
John Peale Bishop, “In the Dordogne”
Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*
William March, *Company K*

1936
Start of the Spanish Civil War
John Cornford, “Heart of the heartless world”
Margaret Mitchell, *Gone with the Wind*

1937
Bombing of Guernica
W. H. Auden, “Spain” (revised as “Spain 1937” [1940])
*Authors Take Sides on the Spanish War*
Franz Borkenau, *The Spanish Cockpit*
Margot Heinemann, “Grieve in a New Way for New Losses”
David Jones, *In Parenthesis*
Arthur Koestler, *Spanish Testament*
Wyndham Lewis, *Blasting and Bombardiering*
André Malraux, *Days of Hope*
John Sommerfield, *Volunteer in Spain*

1938
Georges Bernanos, *A Diary of My Times*
William Faulkner, *The Unvanquished*
Ernest Hemingway, *The Fifth Column*
Antonio Machado, “The Crime Took Place in Granada”
George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*
G. L. Steer, *The Tree of Gernika*
Evelyn Waugh, *Scoop*
Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*

1939
End of the Spanish Civil War
Start of the Second World War (Britain declares war on Germany on 3 September)
Louis MacNeice, *Autumn Journal*
Dalton Trumbo, *Johnny Got His Gun*

1940
Battle of Britain
Start of the Blitz
Ernest Hemingway, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*
Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*
Gustav Regler, *The Great Crusade*

1941
Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (7 December). USA enters the Second World War (declares war on Japan on 8 December, and on Germany and Italy on 11 December)
Final attacks of the Blitz
Lillian Hellman, *Watch on the Rhine*

1942
Richard Hillary, *The Last Enemy*

1943
Keith Douglas, “Desert Flowers,” “Landscape with Figures”
David Gascoyne, “Ecce Homo”
Graham Green, *Ministry of Fear*
Henry Green, *Caught*

1944
Operation Overlord (D-Day invasions) (6 June)
*Henry V* (dir. Laurence Olivier)
Harry Brown, *A Walk in the Sun*
John Hersey, *A Bell for Adano*

1945
Bombing of Dresden (February)
Dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima (6 August) and Nagasaki (9 August)
End of the Second World War (VE Day 8 May; VJ Day 16 August)
Richard Eberhart, “The Fury of Aerial Bombardment”
Randall Jarrell, “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner”
CHRONOLOGY

?1945 Start of the Cold War

1946 Keith Douglas, *Alamein to Zem Zem*
John Hersey, *Hiroshima*
Henry Reed, “Lessons of the War” (completed 1970)

1947 John Horne Burns, *The Gallery*
Arthur Miller, *All My Sons*

1948 James Gould Cozzens, *Guard of Honor*
Norman Mailer, *The Naked and the Dead*
Irwin Shaw, *The Young Lions*

1949 Fourth Geneva Convention
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*
Alfred Hayes, *The Girl on the Via Flaminea*
George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
Louis Simpson, “Carentan O Carentan”

1950 Start of the Korean War
e. e. cummings, “whose are these (wraith a clinging with a wraith)”

1951 James Jones, *From Here to Eternity*
Herman Wouk, *The Caine Mutiny*


1953 End of the Korean War
James Michener, *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*

1956 Ian Fleming, *From Russia with Love*
Primo Levi, *If This Is A Man* (written by 1946)

1960 Robert Lowell, “For the Union Dead”
Elie Wiesel, *Night*

1961 Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*
Kurt Vonnegut, *Mother Night*

1962 Len Deighton, *The Ipcress File*
James Jones, *The Thin Red Line*
Peter Porter, “Your Attention Please”

1964 Len Deighton, *Funeral in Berlin*
<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>William Eastlake, <em>Castle Keep</em></td>
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| 1967 |       | David Halberstam, *One Very Hot Day*  
|      |       | Norman Mailer, *Why Are We In Vietnam?*  
|      |       | Mary McCarthy, *Vietnam*  
| 1968 |       | Richard Hooker, *M*A*S*H*  
|      |       | Norman Mailer, *Armies of the Night*  
|      |       | Navarre Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn*  
| 1969 |       | Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five*  
| 1972 |       | Frederick Forsyth, *The Odessa File*  
|      |       | Larry Rottmann, Jan Barry, and Basil T. Paquet (eds.), *Winning Hearts and Minds*  
|      |       | Art Spiegelman begins comic strip, *Maus* (ended in 1977)  
| 1973 |       | Tim O’Brien, *If I Die in a Combat Zone*  
|      |       | Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity’s Rainbow*  
| 1976 |       | Jan Barry and W. D. Ehrhart (eds.), *Demilitarized Zones*  
| 1977 |       | Philip Caputo, *A Rumor of War*  
|      |       | Larry Heinemann, *Close Quarters*  
|      |       | Michael Herr, *Dispatches*  
|      |       | Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*  
| 1978 |       | Graham Greene, *The Human Factor*  
|      |       | Tim O’Brien, *Going After Cacciato*  
|      |       | James Webb, *Fields of Fire*  
| 1979 |       | William Styron, *Sophie’s Choice*  
| 1981 |       | Claude Simon, *Les Géorgiques*  
| 1982 |       | Falklands War  
|      |       | John del Vecchio, *The 13th Valley*  
| 1986 |       | Larry Heinemann, *Paco’s Story*  
| 1990 |       | Start of the First Gulf War  
|      |       | Gustav Hasford, *The Phantom Blooper*  
|      |       | Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*  

Dissolution of the USSR: end of the Cold War
End of the First Gulf War
Pat Barker, *Regeneration* trilogy (final volume published 1995)
Don DeLillo, *Mao II*
Norman Mailer, *Harlot’s Ghost*

Jean Baudrillard, *The Gulf War Did Not Take Place*
Sebastian Faulks, *Birdsong*

Don DeLillo, *Underworld*
Robert Edric, *Desolate Heaven*
W. D. Ehrhart (ed.), *I Remember: Soldier Poets of the Korean War*
Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain*

NATO bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
W. D. Ehrhart and Philip K. Jason (eds.), *Retrieving Bones: Stories and Poems of the Korean War*

Al-Qaeda attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (11 September)
Declaration of the “war on terror”
Start of the war in Afghanistan
Ian McEwan, *Atonement*
Alice Randall, *The Wind Done Gone*

Tom Paulin, *The Invasion Handbook*

Start of the Second Gulf War

John le Carré, *Absolute Friends*

Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

Don DeLillo, *Falling Man*

Martin Amis, *The Second Plane*