

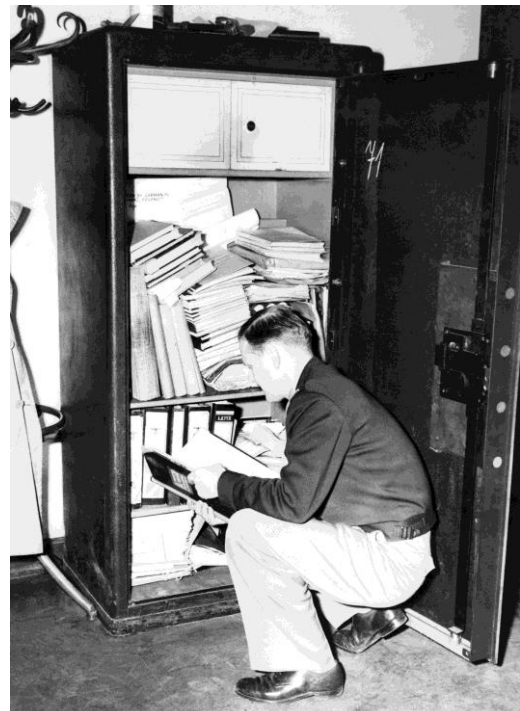
## Foreign Documents

### About the Collection:

The 'Foreign Documents' collection consists of several collections of varying size, format and content, the majority of which can be described as 'captured Axis documents' from the Second World War. IWM holds this as a historical research collection on behalf of the National Archives making them available to members of the public.

### What are the documents?

- Official British sets of the records of the International Military Tribunals at Nuremberg and Tokyo and of the US Military Tribunal at Nuremberg: the major Allied war crimes trials held after the Second World War.
- Captured German and Japanese military records (originals and copies) from the 1930s and 1940s (mainly transferred from the former 'Enemy Documents Section' of the Cabinet Office Historical Section )
- German technical records (originals and copies) concerning aeronautics and armaments (mainly transferred from the former Ministry of Supply, Halstead Exploiting Centre, and Ministry of Technology)
- Anglo-US intelligence reports on the German and Japanese war economies, military-scientific research and development (from the British Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee, Combined [Anglo-US] Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee, Field Information Agency (Technical) [USA] and the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency [USA] )
- Captured documents originating in the 'Speer Ministry' during the Second World War (from the Ministry for Armaments and War Production, headed by Albert Speer)
- Also a number of smaller, subsidiary 'collections' which fall into the same category



Officer in Charge of the Document Room at the Nuremberg Court House, taking out a ledger from the safe where all the original documents to be used as evidence against the Nazi war criminals are kept. (IWM: HU 87403)

### How many items are there within the Collection?

The entire body of material occupies 6,700 archive boxes/bound volumes and around 2,700 microfilm reels. The exact number of individual files/items within the collection as a whole is not known.

**How did the Collection come into IWM's care?**

Under the Public Records Act(s), IWM is an approved place in which public records are deposited for safe keeping, and so this collection was transferred to the IWM by a variety of government departments in much the same way as other public records were and are transferred to the National Archives. Most of the documents were transferred between 1965 and 1975.

**How to search the Collection?**

- Search the Collection using [Collections Online](#)
- For more information please see the [Documents](#) collection pages on the website or contact our [Explore History Centre](#)