

Wanna be drafted?

Sit back and see history unfolding before you!

Discovery Channel's *World War II Suite* gives macro and micro view of the War. Comprising three titles, *London Blitz to Pearl Harbour*, *Midway to Hiroshima* and *Normandy-The Great Crusade*, the suite unfolds the war with vivid multimedia effects.

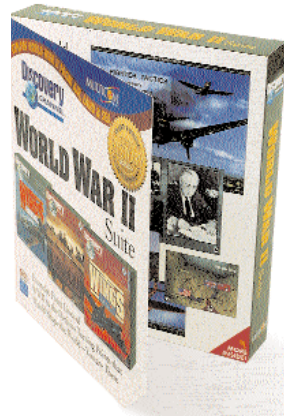
Boot your PC, load the title *London Blitz to Pearl Harbour* and take off. The olive-green instrument panel interface with a clearly defined menu lets you explore the CD through six different topics. Navigation buttons allow you complete control over the exploration. You can move back and forth with ease; zoom in and out of any part of a picture and move 360 degrees within the display window with arrow keys or the mouse.

Closely examine the Tomahawks, the RAF Hurricanes, the Luftwaffes and 720 other planes from all angles in 3D. Zoom into any part and examine every minute detail. Check the weapons and ammunitions. Move on to inspect the airfields rendered in virtual reality.

Once you know the logistics, browse through the animated maps and the war strategies via interactive 3D graphics, realistic sound effects, archival photos, historic film footage and voice-over narration. Smoothly animated air combat tactics reveal how the pilots used their planes' capability to gun down the enemy. The tumultuous journey to Pearl Harbour excites you to ask for more.

Midway to Hiroshima has the same menu and interface as the first CD. As you manoeuvre through title, you can feel the agony and glory of the Germans, the British, the Russians, the French, the Canadians and the Americans. Take a break and read through the chronology of events to make the rest of the exploration more meaningful.

And if you just want to relax, get a bowl



of peanuts, load the third CD, find the autopilot button, and switch it 'on' for over 40 minutes of compelling video. Video clips appear along with a dramatic narration of the Allied Force closing in on the Germans.

And if you want action, slide behind the controls and take off with three flight stimulators (available in all three CDs). Pick a fighter plane of your

choice and bomb the Nazis. But be careful with the controls and other fighters shooting at you or you could end up as a Kamikaze! Give full throttle, gear up, put out the flaps, zip through the sky... but wait a minute!

This is war. Not a game. Millions of people met gory death in the prime of their youth. This is a war that was fuelled by greed, hatred and fear. The brilliantly executed CDs inadvertently appeal to the same instinct that appeals to the fans of WWF wrestling. The developers have captured the facts and mechanics of the War, but have failed to bring out the human aspects.

The most unpardonable omission in the suite is the Holocaust—not a single mention of the mass murdering of millions of Jews in concentration camps. While technology is allowing you to learn history with utmost ease and interest, take care. Because in war, nobody wins.

System requirements: 33 MHz 486DX or better, 8MB RAM, Windows 3.1 or 95, 2X CD-ROM drive, SVGA monitor/display at 256 colours and Sound-Blaster compatible audio board.

P. RAGHUNATH

Rating: HHH

Discovery Channel The World War II Suite

Contact: Microware Computer Services

Price: Rs 850

Phone: 022-8126565

Tabla-The Rhythm Experience

Price: Rs 1,500

For music lovers and students, this CD from Virtual Wizards offers a rich insight into Indian Classical Music and its *Gharanas*. Browse through the sections Indian Instrumental Music, Percussion in Music, History of Tabla, Tabla Tutor and lastly, the Tabla Composer and you are bound to feel the itch in your palms. The CD will serve its purpose if it inspires you to get started on the Tabla—and it might.

Rating: HHH

Shakhal

Price: Rs 599

Phoenix Story Times' *Shakhal* presents a fun-filled edutainment title for kids that even grown-ups will love. Lively animation keeps you engrossed right from the start, taking

you through musical stories from the *Panchatantra*, *Jataka Tales* and *Hitopadesha*. Meanwhile, the colourful characters in the stories present a variety of games and activities.

Rating: HHHH

Phone: 080-6674516, Fax: 080-6674515

Tiruppavai

Price: Rs 200

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams of



Tirupati and the Institute of Sri Ramchandra Consciousness, Hyderabad presents the 30 melodious song-sequence

dedicated to Sri Ranganatha of Sriviliputhur, by Sri Andal.

For most South Indians studying religion or priesthood, this rich piece of Tamil literature will prove to be very helpful, and an enlightening experience for others.

Rating: HHH

Phone: 044-6268811