

## Researching WWII with Primary and Secondary Sources

There are many ways and types of materials that you can use to conduct historical research. These materials are divided into two types of sources, Primary and Secondary.

### Primary Sources

Can be...

**Diaries**

**Letters**

**Newspapers**

**Speeches**

**Photographs**

**Oral histories**

### What is a Primary Source?

A primary source is an original document that was produced during the time you are researching. In this case, it would be a document that was produced during World War II. A primary source tells a person's ideas in his or her own words. They provide eyewitness accounts to events. Sometimes this is called a first-hand account.

### What is a Secondary Source?

A secondary source is written by someone who did not experience what they are writing about. Secondary sources gather facts from primary sources in order to tell a story or create discussion about an event. Sometimes this is called a second-hand account.

### Secondary Sources

Can be...

**Textbooks**

**Documentaries**

**Research Papers**

**Movies**

**Articles**

Complete the activities below.

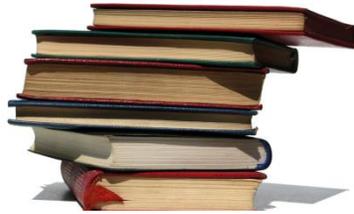
1. You have been tasked with writing a research report on the cadet morale at the 63rd Army Air Forces Flying Training Detachment (AAFFTD). List at least three specific primary sources that would be helpful to you and explain why.

**BONUS:** A newspaper usually is a primary source, but in some instances it could be a secondary source. What type of article would make it a secondary source?

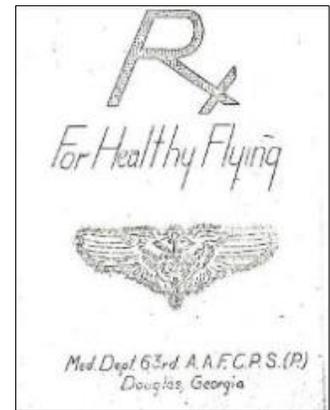
2. Examine the sources below and decide if they are primary or secondary sources. Circle the primary sources.



a. First Solo Flight certificate



b. Military history and tactics textbooks



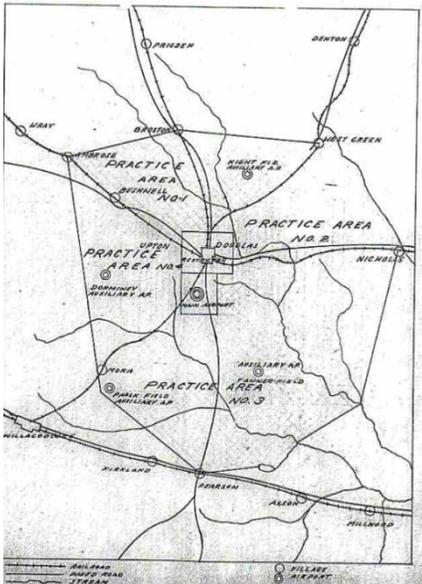
c. RX for Healthy Flying pamphlet from medical department at 63rd AAFSTD. Douglas, GA



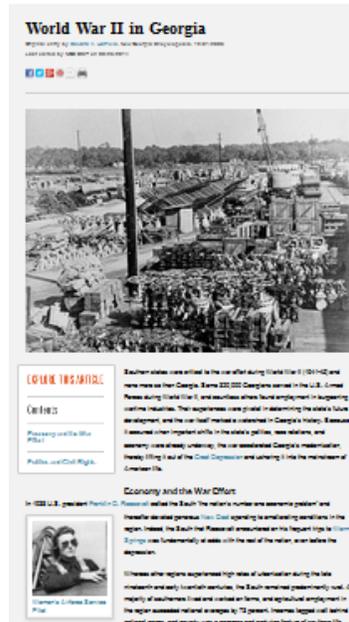
d. Photograph of a cadet at 63rd AAFSTD. Douglas, GA



e. Documentary about Army Air Force Battles



f. Airfield Map



g. New Georgia Encyclopedia article



h. Letters from cadet while at 63rd AAFSTD. Douglas, GA



i. WWII veteran oral history

Answers:  
P: a, c, d, f, h, i S: b, e, g