

**Nancy Wake: The White Mouse - Heroine of World War II**

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Historical Paper

Paper Length: 2500 words

Nancy Wake was living a life of leisure when France fell to Germany on June 22, 1940, near the beginning of World War II. Her pleasant life as a wealthy married woman was about to come to an abrupt end. Nancy took her place in the war as she decided to compromise her ease, comfort, and personal safety to serve for the greater cause of freedom.

As the Allies became engaged in the war, many people started participating in sabotage and guerilla warfare behind enemy lines. Nancy was one of these saboteurs. She became a Special Operations Executive (SOE) agent responsible for training, leading, and providing for the needs of 7,000 men, called the Maquis, who served in the French Resistance against German military forces. In doing so, she placed herself in great danger, but always put the needs of others above her own personal safety. John Alsop, one of her American comrades, once said, “You know, that girl would cheerfully risk her own life to save any one of the men here.”<sup>1</sup> Nancy’s efforts were important as they helped the Allies succeed on D-Day and eventually win the war.

### **The Early Life of Nancy Wake**

Nancy Grace Augusta Wake was born on August 30, 1912, to Charles Augustus Wake and Ella Rosieur Wake in Wellington, New Zealand. As Ella finished giving birth to her sixth child, the *tapuhi*, or midwife, pointed out a fold of extra membrane and said, “This is what we call a *kahu* and it means your baby will always be lucky. Wherever she goes, whatever she does, the gods will look after her.”<sup>2</sup> Although Nancy remembered her mother telling her of her good fortune, growing up she never felt lucky.

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<sup>1</sup> Braddon, Russell. *Nancy Wake: SOE’s Greatest Heroine*. 2009 Edition. Stroud, Gloucestershire: The History Press, 2009

<sup>2</sup> FitzSimons, Peter. *Nancy Wake: A Biography Of Our Greatest War Heroine 1912-2011*. Revised edition. Sydney: HarperCollins Publishers, 2011

Three events and realizations profoundly affected Nancy as a child, allowing her to develop characteristics that benefitted her when she worked against Hitler. The first was when her father left the family. Nancy and her father had an exceptionally strong relationship that no one else, including her mother, experienced. One day, her father left for the United States to help make a movie about the Maori culture, but he never returned. Nancy then realized that if she was not careful of who she trusted, there could be dangerous consequences.

The second realization occurred when her mother began to openly let her daughter know she did not love her. Nancy and her mother often had conflicts, resulting in Nancy never feeling loved. “She was never physically cruel to me or beat me or anything like that, but she gave me no affection, no affection at all,”<sup>3</sup> Nancy remembered. She cooked, cleaned, earned her own money, and became very independent. Nancy’s independence made her realize that she was capable of doing difficult tasks on her own.

The third event that profoundly affected her was an experience with her friend, Jenny. Jenny told Nancy an inappropriate rhyme, and to memorize it, she wrote it down. Once her mother, who was strictly religious, found the inappropriate rhyme she dragged Nancy by the ear into the school building, where she demanded that Nancy be punished. As Nancy panicked from the fury of her mother and teacher, she “pointed at the dear friend who had taught [her] the poem in the first place and tried to deflect the blame on to her.”<sup>4</sup> As Jenny was brought up to be punished too, the hurt in her eyes forever changed Nancy. “‘I swore,’ she recalls, ‘that no matter what, *no matter what*, I would never dob [report a person for wrongdoing] ... again’.”<sup>5</sup> This experience was a constant reminder not to betray those close to her.

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<sup>3</sup> FitzSimons, *Nancy Wake*, 10

<sup>4</sup> FitzSimons, *Nancy Wake*, 19

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

At the age of 16, Nancy ran away and worked as a nurse for two years. After inheriting money from her aunt, Nancy decided to travel to New York, Paris, and London. She fell in love with Paris and later, with Frenchman Henri Fiocca, whom she married. Nancy worked as a journalist, allowing her to travel to Vienna where she witnessed Nazis whipping the Jews. Nancy once said, “If ever the opportunity arose, I would do everything I could to stop the Nazi movement. My hatred of the Nazis was very very deep.”<sup>6</sup> Nancy became determined to stop the horror, no matter the cost of the compromise, which included her life of leisure, wealth, safety, and a blissful marriage to the love of her life.<sup>7</sup>

## **World War II**

Following World War I and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was “in an economically difficult time, [leaving] many Germans bitter and [causing] them to vote for the Nazi party.”<sup>8</sup> The leader of the Nazi party, Adolf Hitler, “promised to take revenge on the countries that had defeated Germany in the First World War and make Germany the most powerful country in the world.”<sup>9</sup>

“On September 30, 1938 Great Britain, France and Germany signed the Munich Agreement. It gave Germany the right to take over the Sudetenland, a part of Czechoslovakia. The two Allies hoped it would satisfy Hitler and keep them out of the war. The agreement,

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<sup>6</sup> IMDb. *Nancy Wake - Biography*. Accessed December 16, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> FitzSimons, Peter. "The White Mouse Who Roared." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, August 9, 2011. Accessed May 8, 2018

<sup>8</sup> "What Were the Causes of World War II?" *History On the Net*. Last Modified May 25, 2017. Accessed February 17, 2018.

<sup>9</sup> "World War II: The Causes of the War/Axis and Allied Powers/Economic/Problems Before the War." *English Online*. Accessed October 13, 2017.

however, was broken and Hitler not only invaded the Sudetenland but took over all of Czechoslovakia.”<sup>10</sup> After Czechoslovakia, Poland was soon occupied.

In May 1940, Hitler launched Operation Case Yellow, which enabled German troops to cut off Allied units. As “the British and the French saw themselves pushed back by the operation, the British evacuated their BEF or British Expeditionary Force,”<sup>11</sup> leaving the French to fight alone. To further the invasion of France, the Germans launched Operation Case Red, which caused the French government to seek peace with the Germans. This decision led to the French military only partially fighting against German troops as they had no interest in fighting a war and increasing their number of casualties. By “June 22nd, France and Germany [had] signed an armistice...”<sup>12</sup> The fall of France had become official.

The occupation of France did not cause the Allies to lose hope. Instead, it inspired them to stop the German troops from advancing. People participated in undercover movements by transporting refugees out of the country, working with the French Resistance, and participating in espionage, sabotage, and guerilla warfare.

One of the most famous groups created during this time was the British SOE. Created by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill on July 16, 1940,<sup>13</sup> the purpose of the SOE was to “set Europe ablaze,” work with the French Resistance,<sup>14</sup> and “counteract German brutality by means

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> “Fall Of France.” *HistoryNet*. Accessed December 18, 2017.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Morris, Nigel. “History - World Wars: The Special Operations Executive 1940 - 1946.” *BBC*. Last modified February 17, 2011. Accessed November 04, 2017.

<sup>14</sup> Trueman, C. N. “Special Operations Executive.” *History Learning Site*. Last Modified May 18, 2015. Accessed December 18, 2017.

of sabotage and subversion.”<sup>15</sup> As the war went on, individuals from all over Europe participated in the SOE.

Another way French citizens participated in the resistance effort was by forming small local groups called the Maquis. These groups were guerrilla fighters who helped the Allies find the resources they needed to eventually defeat Germany.

### **The Journey of a Saboteur**

Being the wife of a wealthy Frenchman made it easier for Nancy to participate in resistance work without getting caught, owing to the stereotype that wealthy women were unlikely to participate in the resistance efforts. With this sense of security, Nancy asked her husband to get an ambulance that she could use for resistance work. She obtained false identity papers, adding to her sense of security (see Document A). Her work included transporting Dunkirk survivors,<sup>16</sup> Allied soldiers, and Jewish refugees out of France.

As the war continued, Nancy deepened her involvement by paying “exorbitant bribes to prison guards to free those captured by the local authorities and [becoming] a dependable courier for the resistance.”<sup>17</sup> After much resistance work, Nancy became a suspect and was watched by the Gestapo (the German police). She evaded capture by using many identities, earning the name *the White Mouse*.

“By 1943, Wake was No.1 on the Gestapo’s most wanted list, [with] a five million-franc price on her head. It [became] too risky for Wake to stay in France and the Resistance decided

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<sup>15</sup> Zim. "Special Operations Executive (SOE)." *History By Zim*. November 12, 2016. Accessed December 18, 2017.

<sup>16</sup> Laville, Sandra. "Resistance Heroine's Last Stand." *The Telegraph*, February 11, 2003. Accessed May 8, 2018.

<sup>17</sup> Bernstein, Adam. "Nancy Wake, 'White Mouse' of World War II, dies at 98." *Washington Post*, August 9, 2011. Accessed September 11, 2017.

she should go back to Britain.”<sup>18</sup> Leaving her husband behind, Nancy escaped to Britain by crossing the Pyrenees. However, due to a German counter-agent working in the same network as Nancy, crossing the Pyrenees proved to be difficult. It took six attempts and included “being imprisoned twice, once in France and once in Spain; jumping from a moving train; being shot at by German soldiers; going several days without food; spending some nights in a sheep pen; and almost freezing to death...”.<sup>19</sup>

“When she arrived safely in England, eager to start fighting Hitler, Nancy joined the SOE under the cover of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY). [SOE officials] were eager to recruit her, having already heard about her successful Resistance work in France.”<sup>20</sup> Nancy Wake became one of 39 women in the French Section of the British SOE, led by Colonel Maurice Buckmaster who “worked with local resistance groups to sabotage the Germans in the occupied territories.”<sup>21</sup> After a gruelling training with guerrilla warfare and explosives, Nancy was given her mission: train, lead, and obtain provisions for the Maquis. The work of a saboteur had begun.

### **The Conflict**

“It was an extremely tough assignment: a near-sleepless life on the move, often hiding in the forests, travelling from group to group to train Maquis, motivate, plan and co-ordinate,”<sup>22</sup> but Nancy, dressed in her uniform (see Document B), was only thinking one thing as she jumped out of the airplane: the requirements for landing without getting injured. After landing, Nancy met

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<sup>18</sup> Ward, Paul Stanley. “NZEDGE Legends - Nancy Wake, Resistance Fighter - Warriors.” *NZEDGE*. March 18, 2016. Accessed September 22, 2017.

<sup>19</sup> Atwood, Kathryn J. *Women Heroes of World War II : 26 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Resistance, and Rescue*. 1st ed. Women of Action. Chicago, Illinois: Chicago Review Press, Incorporated, 2013.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

<sup>21</sup> Ward, Paul Stanley. “NZEDGE Legends - Nancy Wake, Resistance Fighter - Warriors.” *NZEDGE*. March 18, 2016. Accessed September 22, 2017.

<sup>22</sup> “The White Mouse : Nancy Grace Augusta Wake (Mrs. Forward).” *Digger History*. January 28, 2004. Accessed February 05, 2018.

up with her SOE partner, John Farmer, along with Frenchman Henri Tardivat. From them she learned discouraging news. “[Nancy] had to admit that things were less encouraging than she had hoped. No [Maurice] Southgate [fellow SOE agent] to introduce them to the Maquis: no wireless operator to keep them in contact with London. But she *did* have her bagful of money and their D-Day plans and she was full of confidence.”<sup>23</sup>

After her wireless operator, Denis Rake, showed up, Nancy started organizing parachute drops with London, using her code name Helene, and was soon supplied with weapons and explosives. By this time, Nancy and Farmer had over 7,000 men that needed to be turned into a disciplined fighting force and trained with the new weaponry. “‘We were trying to turn them into a really disciplined fighting force,’ Nancy [said], ‘and not just a courageous rabble with guns’.”<sup>24</sup> As D-Day approached, the Maquis were ready to perform their tasks with precision.

On June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, Farmer and the Maquis blew up designated targets that were crucial to stopping the movement of German troops. When she got back to camp after picking up a weapons instructor, Nancy began to feel sorry for herself because she felt as if she had missed all of the fun. However, Nancy “stopped feeling sorry for herself because there was simply so much work to do. Just as Rome had not been built in a day, France could not be blown up in one night.”<sup>25</sup> Nancy and her men were blowing up everything from bridges to railway lines to roads. “The immediate focus of the Maquis was to use everything they had to slow down and harass the Hermann Goring Division of the German Army.”<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Braddon, Russell. *Nancy Wake: SOE's Greatest Heroine*. 2009 Edition. Stroud, Gloucestershire: The History Press, 2009

<sup>24</sup> FitzSimons, Peter. *Nancy Wake: A Biography Of Our Greatest War Heroine 1912-2011*. Revised edition. Sydney: HarperCollins Publishers, 2011

<sup>25</sup> Ibid

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

In response to the attacks by the Maquis, just four days after D-day, the Germans intensified attacks aimed at Nancy's group. During the commotion of the next few German raids, <sup>27</sup> Denis Rake hid his wireless set and burned his codes because he was worried the Germans would capture him or confiscate his work. Without the wireless set and codes, Nancy had no way to communicate with London. To solve this problem, Nancy decided she would find another operator who could help contact London.

To follow through on her decision, Nancy had to ride a bicycle to Chateauroux, at least 200 kilometers away from camp. "This plan did not meet with the universal accord of the leaders in the group. Some thought it was simply beyond Nancy's physical capabilities to cycle a round trip of four hundred kilometres over mountainous terrain; others thought it crazy for her to spend that long a time defenseless on a bike, without proper identity papers, amid Germans looking for people just like her."<sup>28</sup> It was soon decided Nancy would go since she would have the best chance at succeeding because she was the only woman in her division.

She rode until nightfall, took quick rest in a roadside barn, and then rode again. Nancy tried to focus on anything except how tired she felt. If a German soldier came up to her, Nancy would flirt, and he would eventually let her go without searching her. In just a day and a half in enemy territory, Nancy cycled over 200 kilometers. She found an operator and arranged for a new wireless set to be parachuted into camp, and then got on her bike and began to ride again. "Of all the things she accomplished during the war, Nancy is most proud of this marathon ride, having completed just over four hundred kilometers in seventy-two hours."<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> "Who is Nancy Wake? Everything You Need to Know." *The Famous People: Childhood, Life Achievements & Timeline*. Accessed September 14, 2017.

<sup>28</sup> FitzSimons, Peter. *Nancy Wake: A Biography Of Our Greatest War Heroine 1912-2011*. Revised edition. Sydney: HarperCollins Publishers, 2011

<sup>29</sup> Ibid

During this time, Nancy Wake was also participating in many more incursions against the Germans, including “personally [leading] a raid on Gestapo headquarters in Montlucon, and [killing] a sentry with her bare hands to keep him from alerting the guard during a raid on a German gun factory. She [also] had to shoot her way out [of] roadblocks; and execute a German female spy.”<sup>30</sup> Henri Tardivat, a comrade of Nancy, “perhaps best characterised the guerrilla chieftain: ‘She is the most feminine woman I know, until the fighting starts. Then, she is like five men’.”<sup>31</sup>

### **Legacy**

When Nancy was relieved of her duties, she went to find Henri, but discovered “that her husband, rather than betray her, had been arrested by the Gestapo, tortured and killed.”<sup>32</sup> Nancy would live the rest of her life regretting “her husband’s fate – something she never stopped blaming herself for.”<sup>33</sup> Although Nancy was heartbroken, she eventually was remarried to John Forward in 1957 and settled down. “She was awarded nine medals, [see Document C] including the George Medal from Britain, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, the Croix de Guerre (twice), the Medaille de la Resistance from France, the Medal of Freedom with Palm from America and in 2004 the Companion of the Order of Australia.”<sup>34</sup> Nancy remained a very respected person after the war (see Document D). Nancy died August 7, 2011, in London at the age of 98 due to a chest infection.

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<sup>30</sup>“The White Mouse : Nancy Grace Augusta Wake (Mrs. Forward).” *Digger History*. January 28, 2004. Accessed February 05, 2018.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid

<sup>32</sup> “Nancy Wake.” *The Economist Magazine*, August 13, 2011. Accessed September 12, 2017.

<sup>33</sup> Russell, Shahan. “Nancy Wake - They Called Her The “White Mouse” - Incredible Allied SOE Agent of World War Two.” *WAR HISTORY ONLINE*. September 21, 2017. Accessed May 09, 2018.

<sup>34</sup> “War heroine Nancy Wake honoured by NZ.” *Sydney Morning Herald*, April 28, 2006. Accessed September 28, 2017.

Looking back on her life, Nancy wondered if the *tapuhi's* prediction given to her as a newborn had been fulfilled, seeing as she was one of 27 of the original 39 women from the French Section of the SOE that made it out alive. Whether she had luck or not, Nancy lived her life to the fullest and left a heroic legacy. She taught that, with enough moral courage and strength, women can do anything. But perhaps Nancy is most revered for believing in and living her greatest legacy: freedom is worth fighting for, no matter the cost of the compromise.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Wake, Nancy. Interview by Mick Joffe. "Nancy Wake: The White Mouse." Mick Joffe Caricatures. August 13, 2011.

Appendix

**Document A**

Picture of Nancy's Fake Identity Card

This picture gives an understanding of what precautions Nancy had to take when she was working with the Resistance in occupied France.

**Document B**

Picture of Nancy in her FANY uniform

This picture shows how and gives an understanding to why Nancy was able to flirt her way out of any dangerous situation involving the Gestapo or German Nazis officers.

**Document C**

Picture of Nancy's medals

This picture gives an understanding of how important Nancy's actions during the war were to individual people and the Allies.

**Document D**

Newspaper article on Nancy Wake

This picture gives an understanding of how much Nancy was respected after she finished fighting in World War II.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

#### **Book**

Wake, Nancy. *Nancy Wake: The White Mouse*. Sydney, Australia: Pan Macmillan Australia, 2011.

This book is an autobiography written by Nancy Wake on her experiences before, during, and after the war. This source was very helpful on understanding the war from Nancy's perspective. It was also very helpful for clarification on what Nancy thought as she was going through all of the challenges she was presented with.

#### **Broadcast**

Advertisement. *Nancy Wake and Harry Potter*. RTE Radio 1. September 2011.

This radio broadcast helped me to understand Nancy's life from her point of view. This source also helped me realize how fearless she was. When asked if she was ever scared, Nancy said "no." It helped me understand that even through hard times, one can be fearless.

#### **Documentary/Film**

Docmate. YouTube. July 06, 2010. Accessed September 27, 2017.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36PtQ3TxZJI>.

This documentary helped me understand how Nancy felt about the war and the tasks she had to perform. I learned that Nancy was too busy to be afraid, because she was being two different people: one person to her friends, and another who was involved in the Resistance.

### **Interviews**

Wake, Nancy. "Nancy Wake: The White Mouse." Interview by Mick Joffe. Mick Joffe Caricatures. August 13, 2011. Accessed September 27, 2017. [http://www.mickjoffe.com/Nancy\\_Wake](http://www.mickjoffe.com/Nancy_Wake)

This interview of Nancy Wake provided me with new information, such as when she cried as Paris fell at the beginning of the war. It was especially interesting to learn things about Nancy's life from her own point of view.

### **Newspaper Articles**

Australian Associated Press. " War heroine Nancy Wake honoured by NZ." *Sydney Morning Herald*, April 28, 2006. Accessed September 28, 2017. <http://www.smh.com.au/news/World/War-heroine-Nancy-Wake-honoured-by-NZ/2006/04/28/1145861522345.html>.

This newspaper article informed me of one of the medals Nancy Wake received from New Zealand in 2006. It also provide information of how many medals Nancy had received, and how she was the most decorative servicewoman of World War II. This newspaper article helped me to understand the importance of the role Nancy played.

"Mrs. Nancy Wake to oppose Dr. Evatt." *The Canberra Times* (Canberra), March 31, 1951. Accessed September 28, 2017. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2825685>

This newspaper article informed me about Nancy being nominated to receive another medal or award for her military service. It also helped me understand that Nancy Wake was a very respected as a military participant and as a private citizen after the war.

### **Photographs**

1945. STUDIO PORTRAIT OF NANCY WAKE, HIGHLY DECORATED WOMAN MEMBER OF THE ALLIED ESCAPE ROUTE ORGANISATION IN OCCUPIED FRANCE 1940 - 1943. FOR HER WORK WITHIN THE FRENCH RESISTANCE SHE WAS KNOWN BY THE GESTAPO AS THE WHITE MOUSE. SHE IS WEARING A BRITISH ARMY UNIFORM, THAT OF THE FIRST AID NURSING YEOMANRY. (DONOR N. FORWARD), France. Personal photograph by author. 1945.

This photograph is a studio portrait of Nancy Wake wearing a British army uniform. This source helped me to understand why people that knew her said that she was very beautiful and very feminine.

1948. Nancy Wake, Australian War Memorial, France. Australian War Memorial. Accessed September 21, 2017. <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C278679>.

This photograph is a picture of the medals that Nancy Wake was awarded for her tremendous performance during World War II. Because of this source, I was able to more fully understand the worth of her performance and expeditions that she made.

Conradi, Peter. "Nancy the Nazi killer's next target: the big screen." *The Times & The Sunday Times*. August 14, 2011. Accessed September 27, 2017. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nancy-the-nazi-killers-next-target-the-big-screen-8r8j6mrjp38>.

This photograph is a picture of Nancy's fake French identification card. This photograph helped me to understand some of the things Nancy had to do in order to avoid capture by the Germans.

## Secondary Sources

### Books

Atwood, Kathryn J. *Women Heroes of World War II : 26 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Resistance, and Rescue*. 1st ed. Women of Action. Chicago, Illinois: Chicago Review Press, Incorporated, 2013.

This book, written by Kathryn J. Atwood, tells the story of Nancy Wake. This book helped me understand how Nancy was recruited, what she went through as she crossed the Pyrenees, and the events that she was involved in as a leader of 7000 Maquis men. This source was helpful because I was specifically able to learn how she got to be part of the French section of the SOE.

Braddon, Russell. *Nancy Wake: SOE's greatest heroine*. Stroud, Gloucestershire: History Press, 2009.

This book is a biography of Nancy Wake written by Russell Braddon. The biography helped me understand, in detail, Nancy's life before the war, how she got involved, what her assignments were during the war, and her life after the war. This source is very helpful because of the amount of detail it included.

FitzSimons, Peter. *Nancy Wake: a biography of our greatest war heroine 1912-2011*. Sydney: HarperCollins Publishers, 2011.

This book is a biography of Nancy Wake written by Peter FitzSimons. The biography helped me understand Nancy's life as a child. I learned that Nancy had a hard life as a child, from being the youngest of her family, her father leaving

them, and her mother being very bitter toward her. These circumstances helped to shape Nancy to become the type of person she was.

Wake, Nancy. *Nancy Wake: The White Mouse*. Sydney, Australia: Pan Macmillan Australia, 2011.

### **Magazine Articles**

"Nancy Wake." *The Economist*, August 13, 2011. Accessed September 12, 2017.  
<http://www.economist.com/node/21525845>.

This magazine article from *The Economist* informed me of the personal qualities Nancy had. I learned that she was very strong, loyal, feminine, and fearless. It also helped me understand that Nancy loved the way she was living during the war, even though she was at a constant risk of being captured.

### **Newspaper Articles**

Bernstein, Adam. "Nancy Wake, 'White Mouse' of World War II, dies at 98." *Washington Post*, August 9, 2011. Accessed September 11, 2017.  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/nancy-wake-white-mouse-of-world-war-ii-dies-at-98/2011/08/08/gIQABvPT5I\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.cbe39238c45d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/nancy-wake-white-mouse-of-world-war-ii-dies-at-98/2011/08/08/gIQABvPT5I_story.html?utm_term=.cbe39238c45d).

This obituary on Nancy Wake, written by Adam Bernstein, helped me understand how sly Nancy was. From bluffing her way into journalism to bribing prison guards to set prisoners free, Nancy was known to be very cunning. This also helped me comprehend why she was able to elude capture six times.

FitzSimons, Peter. "The White Mouse Who Roared." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, August 9, 2011. Accessed May 8, 2018  
<https://www.smh.com.au/world/the-white-mouse-who-roared-20110808-1ij2o.html>.

This was a newspaper written by Peter FitzSimons. This newspaper helped me understand how Nancy had to gain respect from the 7000 men she was leading. In order to earn their respect, Nancy would challenge them in drinking bouts and showed them, that as a warrior, she was fearless. As Nancy taught them respect, the challenge of leading 7000 men became easier. This newspaper article also showed how Nancy's life after the war was never far from excitement and adventures.

Laville, Sandra. "Resistance Heroine's Last Stand." *The Telegraph*, February 11, 2003. Accessed May 8, 2018.  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1421652/Resistance-heroines-last-stand.html>.

This source is a newspaper article written by Sandra Laville. This newspaper article helped me understand how recognized Nancy was in London. She was invited to have tea with Prince Charles, Queen Elizabeth, and the Queen Mother. Nancy also has her picture on the wall with other famous guests at the hotel she was staying at. This information was very helpful on giving a better understanding of how people treated like the war heroine she was.

Vitello, Paul. "Nancy Wake, Proud Spy and Nazi Foe, Dies at 98." *The New York Times*, August 13, 2011. Accessed September 13, 2017.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/14/world/europe/14wake.html?mcubz=0>.

This newspaper article, written by Paul Vitello, helped me understand that Nancy Wake was a very respected woman who was held in high regard. Because of her outstanding performance during World War II, Nancy was awarded Britain's and the United States's second-highest civilian honor and the highest military honor from France.

Wilsher, Kim. "Farewell to Nancy Wake, the Mouse Who Ran Rings Around the Nazis." *The Guardian*, August 8, 2011. Accessed May 8, 2018.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/aug/08/nancy-wake-white-mouse-gestapo>.

This source is a newspaper article that was written by Kim Wilsher. This source helped me understand how Nancy's life after World War II was never the same. Nancy had a fighting spirit up until her death, causing a few problems with some who verbally disagreed with Nancy's views on the Germans. This source was also very helpful to understand how much of a warrior Nancy was during the war.

### **Websites**

"Biography." IMDb. Accessed December 16, 2017.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1196877/bio>.

This website by IMDb was very helpful in finding quotes. I learned that Nancy regretted not killing more Germans during World War II. I was also informed that Nancy felt bad about killing but had no choice.

Cohen, Jennie. "World War II Resistance Heroine, Savior of Thousands, Dies at 98."

History.com. August 09, 2011. Accessed May 09, 2018.  
<https://www.history.com/news/world-war-ii-resistance-heroine-savior-of-thousands-dies-at-98>.

This source was a website article, written by Jennie Cohen. This website helped me understand of how much people appreciated Nancy Wake and what she did during the war. Not only did she receive nine medals from countries around the world, many prestigious benefactors helped pay Nancy's bills in her declining years. This realization gives an understanding of how much people appreciate the work Nancy did during World War II.

"D-Day." History.com. Accessed November 04, 2017. <http://www.history.com/D-Day>.  
History.com. Accessed November 04, 2017. <http://this-day-in-history/d-day>.

This secondary source by History.com was very informative about D-Day. I learned that D-Day marked the beginning of the end of the Second World War. I also learned that D-Day was the codename for Operation Overlord, which was the largest amphibious military operation in history.

"English Online." World War II | The Causes of the War | Axis and Allied Powers | Economic Problems Before the War. Accessed October 13, 2017.  
<http://www.english-online.at/history/world-war-2/causes-of-world-war-2.htm>

In this website article by English Online, I learned the causes and effects of World War II. I also learned the reasons that started the war. This was very helpful because I was able to learn the historical background that Nancy Wake had to fight in.

"Fall Of France." HistoryNet. Accessed December 18, 2017.<http://www.historynet.com/fall-of-france>.

This website by HistoryNet was very helpful in learning more about the war itself. I learned more about the Battle of France, which is also known as the Fall of France. I also learned how Hitler and his troops took over France. This was helpful because it helped me to understand what Nancy Wake was going through as she worked with the French Resistance.

History.com Staff. "Potsdam Conference." History.com. 2009. Accessed October 13, 2017. <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/potsdam-conference>.

This secondary source by History.com was very critical for me to understand what occurred at the Potsdam Conference where talks about what Germany would have to do after World War II ended. This very helpful because I was able to understand the conflict and compromises Nancy and others had to face after the war.

Morris, Nigel. "History - World Wars: The Special Operations Executive 1940 - 1946." BBC. February 17, 2011. Accessed November 04, 2017. [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/soe\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/soe_01.shtml).

This website on BBC by Nigel Morris is very helpful in understanding the SOE. After reading this website article, I learned that SOE agents had to go through gruelling training before actually becoming an agent.

"Nancy Grace Augusta Wake." The Australian War Memorial. Accessed September 18, 2017.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P332>.

This war memorial was very informative about Nancy's life. I learned more about the details and timeline of her life. The website gave information of how Nancy, slowly but surely, got involved World War II.

"Nancy Wake." *Gale Biography in Context*, Gale, 2011. *Biography in Context*, [link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/K1650007974/BIC1?u=pioneer&xid=5458f90f](http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/K1650007974/BIC1?u=pioneer&xid=5458f90f) Accessed 11 Sept. 2017.

This website informed me of Nancy's time in the Resistance. Even though it is very detailed, I learned how Nancy lost her first husband, Henri Fiocca. Even though Nancy was devastated by the execution of her husband, she still did not give up on the war with the Germans. This source also helped me to realize how determined Nancy was to stop the Germans.

"NZEDGE Legends - Nancy Wake, Resistance Fighter - Warriors." NZEDGE. March 18, 2016. Accessed September 22, 2017. <http://www.nzedge.com/legends/warriors/nancy-wake/>.

This secondary source sheds light on how Nancy cycled 500 kilometers in 71 hours to replace codes her wireless operator had been forced to destroy. I also better understood the physical, mental, and emotional hardships Nancy felt during the war, especially after she lost her first husband and had many tough missions in front of her, including cycling the 500 kilometers.

Russell, Shahan. "Nancy Wake - They Called Her The "White Mouse" - Incredible Allied SOE Agent of World War Two." WAR HISTORY ONLINE. September 21, 2017. Accessed May 09, 2018.

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/instant-articles/mouse-threatened-germans-france.html>.

This source was a website written by Shahan Russell. This source was very helpful when trying to understand how Nancy felt of her husband's death. The article explains how Nancy felt guilty and blamed herself for Henri's death - something she would have to live with forever. This helped me understand more of how the war had a negative effect on Nancy.

"Special Operations Executive (SOE)." History By Zim. November 12, 2016. Accessed December 18, 2017. <http://www.historybyzim.com/2011/06/soe/>.

This source gave me information about how the SOE was involved in World War II. I also learned the contributions of the SOE. This helped me to better understand what the SOE did as Nancy was working with the French Resistance.

"The White Mouse : Nancy Grace Augusta Wake (Mrs. Forward)." The White Mouse; our most decorated female. January 28, 2004. Accessed February 05, 2018. [http://diggerhistory.info/pages-heroes/white\\_mouse.htm](http://diggerhistory.info/pages-heroes/white_mouse.htm)

This secondary source was exceptionally helpful. It gave many pieces of information, but the section on Nancy Wake's involvement in the war was the most helpful. It helped me understand specifically and in detail of what Nancy Wake did during the war.

Trueman, C. N. "Special Operations Executive." History Learning Site. May 18, 2015. Accessed December 18, 2017. <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/world-war-two/resistance-movements/special-operations-executive/>.

This website gave me information about the SOE program and how it came to be.

This helped me understand how the rise of the SOE helped the Allied forces to win World War II.

"United States History." D-Day, the Battle of Normandy. Accessed November 10, 2017.  
<http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1749.html>.

This website gave me information about when the Battle of Normandy started and ended and what happened during that battle. I learned how Nancy Wake participated in events such as D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

"What Were the Causes of World War II?" History. May 25, 2017. Accessed February 17, 2018.  
<https://www.historyonthenet.com/what-were-the-causes-of-world-war-ii/> .

This website by History on the Net covered the topic of World War II and the events that cause the war to take place. The article gave examples of different events and how they contributed to the start of the war. From this article I learned that some of the causes came from the Treaty of Versailles and the ideas of expansionism. This source helped me develop the introduction or the beginning of my paper.

"Who is Nancy Wake? Everything You Need to Know." Childhood, Life Achievements & Timeline. Accessed September 14, 2017.  
<https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/nancy-wake-6975.php>.

This website page by The Famous People was very informative. It gave me facts on Nancy's life, such as where she was born and where she died. Even though this source was not very detailed, it gave me some crucial facts that I needed.