



INTERNATIONAL  
TENNIS HALL OF FAME

## Tennis & War: World War II

**Overview:** As students learn about World War II, they will also learn about the tennis players/Hall of Famers who participated in these conflicts, whether on the battlefield or on the home front. The activities that accompany this unit are geared toward students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. These activities encompass review of Common Core Standards mastered at previous grade levels as well as Common Core Standards English Language Arts Standards/Reading: Informational Text to be mastered at the students' current grade level.

### Objectives:

Students will be able to-

- Form an understanding of the way these wars impacted everyday life
- Activate background knowledge regarding World War II
- Gain an understanding of the conflict and how the tennis players' lives were impacted by the conflict

**Lesson Time Suggested:** Two periods



### Don Budge

In 1938, John Donald Budge became the first player in history to accomplish what had previously been considered the unattainable: he won the singles championships at Australia, France, Wimbledon, and the United States, completing the first ever Grand Slam. With those victories came a rarified place among the tennis elite.

1937 to 1938 was a spectacular chapter in Budge's illustrious career. Notwithstanding his Grand Slam, in both 1937 and 1938 Budge won all three Wimbledon championships - singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. In 1938 he crushed the field without losing a set, the first player in history to sweep the field in such a fashion,

and in the final he deposed of Britain's **Bunny Austin**. Afterwards, Austin said, "Donald was unstoppable that afternoon, almost unplayable at times. He was a true great. It was an honor just to be on the same court."

The 1937 and 1938 U.S. National Championships were a near carbon copy as Wimbledon, except Budge lost the 1937 doubles final to Germans Henner Henkel and **Gottfried von Cramm**, the latter a great rival. The Budge-von Cramm matches were historic battles, leading *Time Magazine* to rank their rivalry as one of the Top 10 best of all-time. They began when Budge easily defeated von Cramm at Wimbledon in 1937. It transcended into an epic 1937 Davis Cup Inter-Zonal final, leading tennis pundits to call it the "Greatest Tennis Match Ever Played."

Budge's game was often described as being "heavy" - a big forehand, a punishing serve and one of the greatest backhands the game has ever seen. *Time Magazine* featured a high-flying Budge backhand on its September 2, 1935 cover, one of the greatest tennis action shots of all time. He was mechanically sound, fluid and graceful - what many in the tennis world called the "complete package."

Budge turned professional in 1939 as big paydays were hard to ignore. He made his debut before 17,725 riveted fans at Madison Square Garden in New York, defeating the great **Ellsworth Vines** in straight sets. On tour, Budge had winning records against Vines, Tilden, and **Fred Perry** and defeated **Bobby Riggs** in straight sets for the 1942 United States Pro title. With the termination of the pro tour in the States in 1942, Budge joined the U.S. Army Air Force for the remainder of the war.

Hardly an article is written about Budge that doesn't mention his popularity, his affability and his gentlemanly manner. He was a man of great intelligence, a product of a solid education at the University of California at Berkeley, and was noted for his courage and integrity.

#### Don Budge Objects on Display in the Museum:



#### U.S. National Men's Singles Championship Challenge Trophy, 1937-1969

Black, Starr & Frost - Gorham (American)

Engraved with the names of the U.S. National Men's Singles Champions from 1937 through the beginning of the Open Era in 1969, this trophy serves as a "Who's Who" for amateur tennis. The first champion listed is none other than Don Budge (who won in 1937 and 1938) and the final champion is Stan Smith (1969).

Gift of Mr. Jack Steverman, 1975

75.14

*Location: Grand Staircase, Case 1*



**U.S. National Mixed Doubles Championship Challenge Trophy, 1926-1945**

Black, Starr & Frost (American)

This trophy was retired in 1945 by Margaret Osborne duPont and Bill Talbert after their third consecutive win. Many other Hall of Famers won this championship and are recognized on this trophy. They include: Kitty McKane, Elizabeth Ryan, Jean Borotra, Henri Cochet, Helen Wills, Betty Nuthall, George Lott, Wilmer Allison, Sarah Palfrey, Fred Perry, Ellsworth Vines, Helen Jacobs, Alice Marble, Gene Mako, Don Budge, Harry Hopman, Bobby Riggs, Jack Kramer, Louise Brough, and Ted Schroeder.

Gift of Margaret Osborne duPont, 1991

91.32.2

*Location: Grand Staircase, Case 4*



**Newport Casino Invitation Lawn Tennis Tournament Challenge Cup, 1930-1938**

Howard & Co. (American)

First presented to Bill Tilden in 1930, this trophy was retired by Don Budge in 1938 following his 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 defeat over Sidney Wood. Budge had previously won the tournament in 1935 and 1937.

Gift from the Friends of Don Budge, 1998

98.70.6 a&b

*Location: Area 2: Newport Casino Invitation Tournament*



**Renshaw Cup Awarded to Don Budge, 1937**

Richard Comyns (British)

After reaching the semifinals for two consecutive years, Don Budge defeated Baron Gottfried von Cramm of Germany 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to win the 1937 Wimbledon Gentleman's Singles Championship.

Gift of the Friends of Don Budge, 2000

2000.2.4

*Location: Area 2: Tennis and Tours, 1930s Case*



**U.S. National Men's Doubles Championship Trophy, 1938**

Black, Starr & Frost (American)

Don Budge and Gene Mako were a winning combination in men's doubles. In 1938, at the U.S. National Championships, they defeated the Australian duo John Bromwich and Adrian Quist 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.

Gift of the Friends of Don Budge, 1998

98.70.9

*Location: Area 2: Tennis and Tours, 1930s Case*



**U.S. National Mixed Doubles Championship Trophy, 1938**

Black, Starr & Frost (American)

The top-ranked American players Alice Marble and Don Budge teamed up in mixed doubles and soundly defeated the Australian team of Thelma Coyne Long and John Bromwich 6-1, 6-2.

Gift of the Friends of Don Budge, 1998

98.70.12a&b

*Location: Area 2: Tennis and Tours, 1930s Case*



**Davis Cup Interzone Final Round Program, 1937**

The United States faced Germany at Wimbledon for the chance to meet the defending holders of the Davis Cup, Great Britain. The Americans and the German teams split the first four rubbers. The round depended on the fifth rubber between Budge and von Cramm. Budge prevailed in five sets, clinching the victory for the United States.

ITHF&M Collection

1000.2006.32

*Location: Area 2, Tennis and Tours, Davis Cup Case Drawer 2*



**Alice Marble-Don Budge Professional Tennis Tour Program, 1941**

Signed to the tour by promoter Jack Harris, Alice Marble joined Mary Hardwick, Don Budge and Bill Tilden for approximately 60 matches over five months throughout the United States, Canada, Cuba, and the British West Indies.

Gift of Margaret Osborne duPont, 2000

PUB. 1941.7

*Location: Area 2: Tennis and Tours, Pro Tours Case*



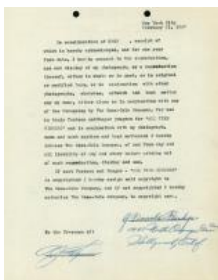
**Coca-Cola Advertisement featuring Don Budge, 1947**

(printer) Snyder and Black

Gift from the Friends of Don Budge, 1998

98.70.5

*Location: Area 2: Tennis and Culture, Pop Culture Case*



**Original Contract between Don Budge and Coca-Cola**

February 21, 1947

ITHF&M Acquisition, 2009

2009.4.1a&b

*Location: Area 2: Tennis and Culture, Pop Culture Case*



*Don Budge*

James Gwynne, Ph.D. (American, 1936- )

Oil on canvas

1996

The artist painted this portrait based on photographs of Don Budge at the 1938 Wimbledon Championships and presented it to the museum and Budge himself during Hall of Fame Weekend in July 1996.

For Don and Loriel Budge, for Friendship and Tennis; Jim Gwynne, 1996

96.14

*Location: Area 3: ATP Back Wall*



### **Renshaw Cup (Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles), 1938**

Birch & Gaydon, Ltd. (British)

Budge cruised through the 1938 Wimbledon Championships without dropping a set, losing only four of twenty-two games in the final against Bunny Austin with a dominating score of 6-1, 6-0, 6-3.

Gift of Don Budge, 1989

89.12.2

*Location: Area 3: Grand Slam Gallery, Center Case*



### **U.S. National Men's Singles Championship Trophy, 1938**

Black, Starr & Frost (American)

Budge capped off the first Grand Slam with a win at the U.S. Nationals in September. He swept through the tournament, losing only one set along his path to victory in the finals over his doubles partner Gene Mako 6-3, 6-8, 6-2, 6-1.

Gift of the Friends of Don Budge, 1998

98.70.10

*Location: Area 3: Grand Slam Gallery, Center Case*



**International "Don Budge" 12-Ball Can, ca. 1955**

Wilson Sporting Goods Co. (American)

Gift of Ira T. Swartz, 2003

2003.9.263a-e

*Location: Area 3: Tennis Ball Can Display Case, Row 4*



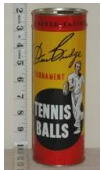
**Don Budge (endorsed) International 3-Ball Can, 1940s**

Wilson Sporting Goods Co. (American)

Gift of Ira T. Swartz, 2003

2003.9.325

*Location: Area 3: Tennis Ball Can Display Case, Row 5*



**"Don Budge" Tournament 3- Ball Can, 1950s**

Regent Sports Co. (American)

Gift of Ira T. Swartz, 2003

2003.9.68

*Location: Area 3: Tennis Ball Can Display Case, Row 5*



## Gottfried von Cramm

At 6-foot, with blonde hair, green eyes, and a sleek, athletic build, Gottfried von Cramm had the type of magnetism and persona that drew a legion of admirers. In the 1935 Davis Cup Inter-Zonal Final between Germany and the United States, von Cramm placed sportsmanship above victory. In a key doubles match against Wilmer Allison and John Van Ryn, von Cramm and partner Kai Lund had apparently won the match when both German players went for the same ball, von Cramm missing his swipe, but Lund connecting on his and nailing home a winner. When the umpire had announced Germany's victory, von Cramm made a startling and astonishing confession. He said the ball had ticked his racquet before Lund's shot, awarding the point to the Americans. The U.S. squad won the decisive set, 8-6. German captain Heinrich Kleinschroth was not pleased with von Cramm's honorable decision, shouting, "You've disgraced your country." Von Cramm had a stoic and non-committal response.

"When I chose tennis as a young man," von Cramm was quoted in a 1993 *Sports Illustrated* article, "I chose it because it was a gentlemen's game, and that's the way I've played it ever since I picked up my first racquet. Do you think that I would sleep tonight knowing that the ball had touched my racquet without my saying so? Never, because I would be violating every principle I think this game stands for. On the contrary, I don't think I am letting the German people down. As a matter of fact, I think I am doing them credit."

Von Cramm's elongated strokes off both sides, a common technique for European players during the era, earned him a pair of French Championships in 1934 and 1936. Both of von Cramm's victories were titanic, marathon matches that went five sets.

Von Cramm played 111 Davis Cup matches for Germany. He won six German Championships titles, the last coming in 1949 at age 40. Von Cramm and partner Henner Henkel won two Grand Slam doubles titles, one at the French and one at the U.S. Nationals in 1937, the U.S. victory achieved over Budge and [Gene Mako](#), 6-4, 7-5, 6-4. He won the 1933 Wimbledon Mixed Doubles championship with compatriot Hilde Krahwinkel.

#### Gottfried von Cramm Objects on Display in the Museum:



**“Deutscher Sport” Cigarette Trading Card featuring Gottfried von Cramm, ca. 1930s**

Josetti (German)

Gift of Paul Monaghan, Jr., 1983

83.6.98b

*Location: Area 2: Tennis and Tours, 1930s Case*



**Davis Cup Interzone Final Round Program, 1937**

The United States faced Germany at Wimbledon for the chance to meet the defending holders of the Davis Cup, Great Britain. The Americans and the German teams split the first four rubbers. The round depended on the fifth rubber between Budge and von Cramm. Budge prevailed in five sets, clinching the victory for the United States.

ITHF&M Collection

1000.2006.32

*Location: Area 2: Tennis and Tours, Davis Cup Case*



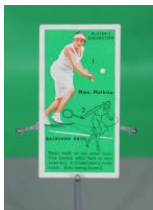
### **Simonne Mathieu**

A former French junior champion in 1926, France's Simonne Mathieu won 13 major titles, all but two in doubles. She was a six-time French Championships finalist and it wasn't until her 13<sup>th</sup> trip to the tournament in 1938 that she won her first singles trophy. Her specialty was doubles and in 1938 earned a rare "triple" at Roland Garros, sweeping the singles, doubles, and mixed doubles competitions.

Mathieu was ranked in the World Top 10 eleven times and reached No. 3 in 1932 behind Moody and Helen Hull Jacobs. In 1928, she became the number one player in France, a status she held through 1940.

In the post-war period, Mathieu ran *Smash* (a tennis magazine that had been founded by her husband), and published yearly tennis guidebooks. The trophy awarded to the winners of the Women's Doubles competition at the French Open is named Coupe Simonne-Mathieu after one of the country's greatest players.

### **Simonne Mathieu Objects on Display in the Museum:**



#### **John Player & Sons Cigarette Card of Simonne Mathieu, ca. 1935**

Imperial Tobacco Co. (British)

Mathieu was instrumental in the creation of the Corps Feminin Francais, a volunteer force of women in the Free French Forces.

Gift of Mr. Paul Monaghan, Jr., 1983

83.6.58b

*Location: Area 2: Tennis and Tours, WWII & Olympics Case*



### French Open Women's Doubles Championship Trophy, 1998

Mellerio dits Meller (French)

Martina Hingis and Jana Novotná defeated Lindsay Davenport and Natasha Zvereva 6-1, 7-6 (4) to win the "Coupe Simonne Mathieu" at Stade Roland Garros.

Loan courtesy of Martina Hingis, 2013

L2013.6.4

Location: Area 3: Grand Slam Gallery, Center Case



### Yvon Petra

Yvon Petra's career success came at a difficult time, straddling World War II. A talented player going into the war, Petra was held as a POW for five years, during which time he was forced to play exhibition matches to give an appearance that all was ok in the world. Remarkably, after his release, Petra went on to win the 1946 Wimbledon title. He is the last French man to have done so. Born in 1916, Petra passed away in 1984.

### Yvon Petra Objects on Display in the Museum:

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### Possible Sources:

- Copy of the ITHF exhibit *Tennis and War*, which was developed for the US Open in 2011

### Materials Needed:

- Knowledge Rating Chart
- Davis Cup history/clips from Davis Cup matches
- World War II video <https://study.com/academy/lesson/world-war-ii-the-start-of-the-second-world-war.html>
- Bios of Budge, von Cramm, Mathieu, and Petra
- WWII pages from ITHF exhibit *Tennis and War*
- Press release for *A Terrible Splendor* by Marshall Jon Fisher

- Blurb about Simonne Mathieu during World War II
- Blurb from <http://www.tennis.com/pro-game/2016/12/tennis-hall-fame-inducts-wwii-veteran-wimbledon-champ-yvon-petra/62482/>
- Guided questionnaire

## Common Core Standards:

### *English Language Arts Standards/Reading: Informational Text:*

- **Key ideas and details**
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.2 Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.3 Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.
- **Craft and Structure**
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.4 Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 5 topic or subject area*.
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.5 Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.6 Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent
- **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:**
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7 Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.9 Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- **Research to Build and Present Knowledge**
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.8 Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work and provide a list of sources.
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

## Lesson & Activity

### Teaching/Model

1. Teacher will present students with a Knowledge Rating Chart to assess their knowledge of two events and four people (Davis Cup, World War II, Don Budge, Baron Gottfried von Cramm, Simonne Mathieu, and Yvon Petra).
2. Students will watch a 'best of Davis Cup' compilation.
3. Students will watch a short video on the causes of WWII.
4. Students will read about Don Budge and Gottfried von Cramm, Simonne Mathieu, and Yvon Petra.
5. Students will then get into groups and read either a press release about *A Terrible Splendor*, a blurb about Simonne Mathieu and the Free French Forces, or an article about Yvon Petra's life during WWII and after.
6. Students will answer the guided questionnaire based on what they read.

### Knowledge Rating Chart

How much do you know about these people or events?

Person/ Event	I know about the person/event and can tell you something about them/it.	I have heard of the person/event but I can't tell you anything about them/it.	I have never heard of the person/event.
Davis Cup			
World War II			
Don Budge			
Baron Gottfried von Cramm			
Simonne Mathieu			
Yvon Petra			

*Blurb about A Terrible Splendor by Jill Browning*

Before the rivalries of Federer and Nadal and Borg and McEnroe, the most intense and hard-fought tennis match ever was played on the hallowed grounds of Wimbledon between the world champion, Don Budge, and the world's most popular and dashing player, Baron Gottfried von Cramm, on July 20, 1937. This match for the Davis Cup, recounted in *A Terrible Splendor* by Marshall Jon Fisher, not only pitted America against Germany and democracy against Nazis, but it also set two [invincible] athletes against each other, one of whom was literally playing to save his life.

At a time when big-time tennis was played for glory, not money, and the Davis Cup was one of the crown jewels of sport, millions around the world listened to the match on the radio. Budge, who eventually would become the first winner of tennis's Grand Slam, had only recently figured out the game of his arch-rival von Cramm, runner-up in the three previous Wimbledons. The American was favored to win, but early in the match it became apparent that von Cramm was raising his game to a superhuman level, motivated, some said, by pressure from Hitler himself. A dashing, cultivated man whose royal family had been a presence in Germany for 800 years, renowned for his incredible sportsmanship and ability to make women swoon, von Cramm...refused to defend Nazism and confessed to his mentor, tennis legend Bill Tilden—who watched the great match ringside as an unofficial coach of the German team—that he was "playing for his life," moving from tournament to tournament, trying constantly to remain on top and in the public eye to avoid Nazi [revenge].

*Blurb about Simonne Mathieu by the International Tennis Hall of Fame*

In 1940 Simonne Mathieu presented herself to General de Gaulle of France, convincing him to establish a women's auxiliary to the Free French forces, and she herself enrolled in January 1941. By 1941 the organization had over 100 female volunteers. During the terrible years of conflict she fought with the same determination she showed on the tennis court, ending the war with the rank of Captain. She marched down the Champs Elysees alongside de Gaulle when Paris was liberated in August of 1944. After a separation of four years, she was reunited with her family—and with tennis. She served as umpire for the “liberation match” between Henri Cochet and Petra at Stade Roland Garros on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1944 wearing her uniform as an officer in the French forces.

## THE STORY OF HALL OF FAME YVON PETRA, FROM A POW CAMP TO SW19

### COURTS

by: **PHILIP PETRA AS TOLD TO ED MCGROGAN** |

Petra was posthumously inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I. His son, Philip, accepted the honor. (International Tennis Hall of Fame)

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My dad, Yvon, had a very difficult life. He came at the wrong time, frankly.

By 1936, my dad was the 17th-ranked player in France. Two years later, just before the beginning of World War II, he was No. 1 in the country. His big victory came not in singles, but in doubles. At Roland Garros in 1938, he and his partner, Bernard Destremau, beat Don Budge and Gene Mako, the No. 1 team in the world.

He was about 20 years old when he started military service. By the time he was 25—an age when most people peak as tennis players—he was in the middle of the Second World War. He spent two of his peak years in a prison camp in Germany. That was unbelievable for him, since he wanted to become champion of the world in tennis. It was his ambition.

When his company got caught on the front lines of Alsace in early 1940, Adolf Hitler's army was invading France. They sent the soldiers to Germany. Forced to walk for miles, my dad's left knee was injured badly.

They left my dad at the camp, but after a number of months, word got out that he was still there. People knew him, as he had played in Germany before the war. The Germans actually sent a surgeon from Berlin to operate on him.

Finally, after two years, in 1942—after a lot of effort—he was sent home. Then he started his recovery.

My dad got his strength back after approximately a year at home. The reason why great players are champions is because they have so much confidence. They think they can beat anybody. My dad had that belief. It helped him before, during and after the war.

From 1941 through 1945, the French Championships were not held, but the Tournoi de France was still contested at Roland Garros. My dad won it three times, beating Cochet twice. He had so much confidence and a fighting spirit.

## Guided Questionnaire

Directions: Each group will be given a different text about WWII. Please answer the following questions using evidence from the text that you've been given.

What is one fact you've learned about Gottfried von Cramm and Don Budge's Davis Cup Match, Simonne Mathieu, or Yvon Petra?

Who wrote the text that you read?

In no more than three sentences, please describe what the text was about.

Please describe one an obstacle that von Cramm and Budge, Mathieu, or Petra had to overcome.