Guide to archive material on the Second World War

held at the Barking and Dagenham Archives and Local Studies Centre

To access any of the material listed below, please email localstudies@lbbd.gov.uk or telephone 020 8227 2033

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Introduction

This guide provides a list of archival material relating to the Second World War held at the Barking and Dagenham Archive and Local Studies Centre. Material within this guide has been organised according to the following subjects: the blitz, evacuation, family life, women, servicemen, veterans and remembrance.

For further information about the contents of any of the collections listed below or to enquire about visiting the reading room, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff by email at localstudies@lbbd.gov.uk or telephoning 020 8227 2033.
Blitz

ARP Warden Collection, 1939-1945
This substantial collection comprises the records of ARP Wardens (1939-1945), including details of air-raids and causalities in Barking during the Second World War. Further information on the contents of this collection is available on request.
14 boxes
(Reference: ARP Collection)

Civilian war dead files of the Borough of Barking, circa. 1939-1950
Correspondence, relating to cases of civilian death due to war operations, compiled by the Town Clerk’s Office of the Borough of Barking (circa. 1939-1945).
6 boxes
(Reference: BD2)

Registers of civilian death due to war operations of the Borough of Barking, 1939-1940
Two registers, recording civilian deaths due to war operations in Barking (8 September 1940-5 March 1945), recording the names and addresses of individuals killed, as well as details of the place of death or finding, the date of death or finding, whether the body was claimed for burial, the name and address of the person claiming the body for burial, the date and place of burial. Also includes an inventory of clothes and effects found with the body.
2 bound volumes
(Reference: BD2)

War Damage Incidents Classification Books of the Borough of Barking, 1940-1950
This collection comprises five War Damage Incidents Classification Books of the Borough of Barking (1940-1944 and 1945-1950), concerning damage caused to property by air-raids in Barking during the Second World War:
5 bound volumes
(Reference: ACQ2012/060)

Report on air raid damage to properties in the Borough of Dagenham, 1939-1945
Report on air raid damage to properties in the Borough of Dagenham, during the Second World War (1939-1945), recording the date, time, grid reference, location and type of bomb, as well as the incident number of casualties, whether the causalities were fatal, serious or slight, and the extent of the damage to the property.
1 bound volume
(Reference: BD1/C/2)

Casualty register of Barking Hospital, 1940-1945
Register of cases admitted to Barking Casualty Hospital (7 September 1940-27 April 1945), recording the name, address, age and sex of each patient, the date of admission, from whom the patient was received, whether it was a civilian or service casualty, the date of transfer, discharge or death and further remarks.
1 bound volume
(Reference: BD176/3)
Papers of W.G. Waller, circa. 1939-1945
Log of air raids over Dagenham during the Second World War, undertaken by W. G. Walker (circa. 1939-1945).
1 folder
(Reference: ACQ2003/009)

Letter sent by Mrs C Roberts, to the Town Clerks Office of the Borough of Dagenham, 1940
Letter from Mrs C Roberts to the Town Clerks Office in Dagenham, complaining of large black beetles in her air raid shelter during the Second World War.
1 item
(Reference: ACQ2011/039)

Evacuation

Reports of the Evacuation Liaison Officer of the Borough of Dagenham, 1939-1940
Reports, with annotations, of John G. O'Leary, the Evacuation Liaison Officer for the Borough of Dagenham (26 September 1939-April 1940), including detailed descriptions of visits undertaken to reception areas and the welfare and health of evacuated children from schools in Dagenham during the Second World War, with particular reference to clothing shortages and Christmas arrangements, interspersed with related correspondence with the parents of evacuees, as well as teachers and Billeting Officers from across the United Kingdom.
1 bound volume
(Reference: BD1/G/1)

Memoir, entitled 'Big Boys Do Cry', written by Dr Charles K. Warren, 1938-1951
Memoir, entitled 'Big Boys Do Cry', written by Dr Charles K. Warren in 1993, relating to his experiences as a child growing up in Barking during the Second World War (1938-1951). Includes detailed descriptions of his evacuation to Maidenhead, Berkshire, as well as the air raids and rationing that he faced on his return home in 1940, with particular reference to his time as a pupil at Barking Abbey Grammar School, interspersed with comments on his perceptions of the political situation in Europe, as well as popular culture, such as games and music.
1 folder
(Reference: BD53)

Correspondence and papers of Colonel Loftus, concerning evacuation, air-raid precautions and the management of the school during the Second World War, 1940-1945
Correspondence, with related papers, on evacuation, emergency arrangements, air-raid precautions and bomb damage at Barking Abbey School during the Second World War, sent to to the headmaster Colonel E. C. Loftus from the Borough of Barking and Essex Education Committee (12 October 1939-21 November 1946). Also includes a lists of pupils evacuated to Weston-super-Mare and equipment destroyed when a V. I. Flying Bomb, also known as a 'Doodlebug' landed behind the Science Block, as well as a timetable of lessons for 1942.
1 folder
(Reference: BD187/6/2)
Letters on the evacuation of pupils during the Second World War, written to the head teacher of Hunters Hall School, 1940
Letters, written to Mr Farren, the Headteacher at Hunters Hall School, from teachers, parents and billeting officers, relating to the evacuation of pupils to Gloucestershire and Norfolk during the Second World War, together with lists of addresses where the children were billeted.
1 folder
(Reference: BD56/3)

Evacuation scrapbooks of pupils from Gascoigne School, 1940
Two scrapbook of written accounts, sketches, watercolours and photographs, compiled by Sheila Simmons, Doreen Fuller, Jean Smith, Eileen Prentice, Jean Claydon, Vera Claydon, Gladys Hodgson, Margaret Hodgson and Doris Miller, pupils from Gascoigne Junior School (April-June 1940), relating to their experiences of being evacuated to Twickenham, Somerset during the Second World War, with particular references to their journey and then impressions of the countryside. The first volume also includes an introduction presumably written by a teacher that accompanied them.
2 bound volumes
(Reference: BD57)

Scrapbook of activities at Triptons Girl's School, 1938-1941
Scrapbook, containing newspaper cuttings, watercolour paintings, printed event leaflets and photographs, compiled by Triptons Girl's School (1938-1941), relating to school trips, events, as well as the evacuation of pupils to Suffolk, Norfolk and Wales during the Second World War.
1 bound volume
(Reference: ACQ2012/163)

Oral history recording of an interview with Betty Wright by Leeanne Westwood, 2004 Betty Wright (nee Hopgood) recounts her childhood in Dagenham, as well as her experiences of the Blitz and evacuation during the Second World War. Includes particular references to her time at Hunters Hall School in Dagenham, her preparation for evacuation, the Belgian family billeted at her home, the journey to the evacuee reception area via London Paddington Station and her billet in Chipping Norton, her schooling, a visit by her parents to her billet in Chipping Norton, her transfer to another billet in a nearby village and her return to Dagenham at Christmas, her second evacuation to Walsingham, Norfolk and finally rationing and her returning home to Dagenham.
1 CD-ROM
(Reference: BD5/3)

Oral history recording of an interview with James Lane by Judith Etherton, 2004 James Lane, recounts his daily life in Dagenham, and then his experiences of being evacuated to Lowestoft, Suffolk and later to Headington, Oxfordshire during the Second World War. Includes particular references to wartime Dagenham, his arriving at his billet in Lowestoft, his impressions of the other evacuees and the games the boys played together at school, the birth of his brother, Bert, the lack of schooling he received as a result of being evacuated, his return and the effect of the war on his family and finally his meeting with other evacuees and the changes he witnessed on his later return to Suffolk.
1 CD-ROM
(Reference: BD5/4)
Oral history recording of an interview with Evelyn Beale by Linda Rhodes, 2004
Evelyn Beale (nee Maclaren), recollects her memories of evacuation with her younger sister to Norfolk and the then Cheadle, Staffordshire, with particular references to the resistance to evacuation, her impressions of her billet, clothing and hygiene in Norfolk, life in the country in winter, her schooling, leisure time, billeting difficulties on being moved to Cheadle, Stratfordshire, the new strictly Christian billet, visits from family, schooling and finally her reaction to returning home and the evacuation of younger sister to Ely, Cambridgeshire.
1 CD-ROM
(Reference: BD4/5)

Family life

Papers of the Pool and Behan family, circa. 1914-1981
This collection comprises the personal papers, such as national identity cards, military service records, trade union membership cards, rent books and long service certificates awarded by Samuel Williams and Sons Ltd, of various members of the Pool and Behan families, including James John Pool (1919-1969), Mrs Rose Elizabeth Pool (1945-1959), Micheal Behan (1937-1949) and Mabel Behan (1946-1974), together with photographs of the family during the First World War (1914-1918) and then the Second World War (1939-1945).
1 box
(Reference: BD88)

Papers of the Hillier family, 1907-1958
This collection comprises letters and family photographs of Albert E. Hillier, who was the landlord of the Chadwell Arms Public House and his wife, Edith R. Hillier (1908-1958), together with the army record book concerning the service to their son, Albert R. Hillier during the Second World War, as well as ration books (1947-1948) and a printed leaflet on the Battle of Britain (1940).3 folders
(Reference: BD182)

Papers of the Shadwell family, 1900-1956
Letters and photographs of the Shadwell family (1900-1956), relating primarily to the Boer War and the Second World War.
1 bundle
(Reference: ACQ2008/016)

Women

Diaries of Miss Madge Carter, 1924-1996
This collection comprises 65 diaries, written by Miss Madge Carter (1924-1926, 1928-1959 and 1961-1996), recording her day to day activities, during her time at school and then working as a secretary for a number of different organisations, such as the Hudson Bay Company. Also includes references to her experiences during the Second World War, her involvement with the Barking and District Historical Society, and finally her retirement at Birchwood Residential Home, Ilford.
4 boxes
(Reference: BD87)
Papers of Joyce Reeland, 1937-2000
This collection comprises letters, newspaper cuttings and photographs of Joyce Reeland, relating to her time as drum major for the Dagenham Girl Pipers (1937-2000), with particular reference to her travels abroad with the band, as well as a reunion of the band that she attended on the millennium, accompanied by a printed copy of ‘Piping through the War’. Also includes further photographs, as well as instructions on the role of the drum major, compiled during her service as an officer of the Women's Royal Army Corps (circa. 1950-1957).
3 folders
(Reference: BD7/1)

Photocopy of a memoir by Audrey Robinson, circa. 1930-1990
Photocopy of a handwritten memoir by Audrey Robinson (nee Thomas), describing her life growing up in Dagenham, and the time she spent as a child with her grandparents in Lavenham, Suffolk, as well as her experiences of air-raids and evacuation during the Second World War. Also contains references to how she went ballroom dancing in the blackout with friends at the Hammersmith Palais, her work in an office in London, her wedding to Richard Frederick Robinson in 1949, their married life together, the birth of their three children called Linda, Paul and Clive and the home they shared on Queensborough Road, interspersed with details of the lives of various family members, including her three siblings Beryl, Roy and Gordon. She proceeds with the an account of what her children went on to do in adulthood, and her time looking after her grandson James, and finally how in later life she was diagnosed with breast cancer, while her husband suffered from dementia.
1 envelope
(Reference: BD296)

Servicemen

Papers of E. R. Cooper, 1927-1949
Papers relating to the military career of E. R. Cooper with the Somerset Light Infantry during the Second World War, including his soldiers service and pay book, ration book, clothing coupons, release book, discharge papers and medals (1940-1946), also accompanied by a swimming certificate, awarded to him by Barking Education Committee (1927) and a related photograph, as well as printed material that he collected throughout his life, such as copies of the Barking Book of Remembrance (1946), a leaflet on the inaugural loan exhibition at Eastbury Manor (1935-1936) and the honorary freedom of the Borough of Barking 1949. Also includes scanned copies of family photographs, with annotations.
1 folder
(Reference: BD37)

Papers from B. P. Mansfield, 1940-1980
This collection comprises letters, printed ephemera and photographs (1940-1980), relating to the career of Basil Patrick Mansfield as the captain of a tug boat for Samuel Williams & Sons Ltd at Dagenham Dock, with references to his participation in the evacuation of soldiers from Dunkirk during the Second World War.
6 volumes and 13 folders
(Reference: BD27)
Veterans

**Minute book of Dagenham Employment Exchange, 1937-1944**

Minute book of Dagenham Employment Exchange (7 October 1937-17 October 1944), recording the members present, correspondence received and the subsequent discussions that took place on rates of unemployment and welfare claims immediately before and then during the Second World War, with particular references to the employment of disabled war veterans. Also interspersed with related minutes of the Minister of Labour Employment and Insurance Department, as well as reports, including statistics on rates of unemployment and job vacancies.

1 bound volume
(Reference: BD33)

**Oral history recording of an interview with Charles Mederaft by Brian Bilverstone, 2005**

Charles Mederaft talks of his memories as a veteran of the Second World War.

1 CD-ROM
(Reference: BD5/27)

**Oral history recording of an interview with Sidney Westbrook by Judith Etherton, 2005**

Sidney Westbrook talks of his memories as a veteran of the Second World War.

1 CD-ROM
(Reference: BD5/28)

**Oral history recording of an interview with Fred Rook by Judith Etherton, 2005**

Fred Rock talks of his memories as a veteran of the Second World War.

1 CD-ROM
(Reference: BD5/29)

**Oral history recording of an interview with Ron George by Judith Etherton, 2005**

Ron George talks his memories as a veteran of the Second World War.

1 CD-ROM
(Reference: BD5/30)

**Oral history recording of an interview with Lily Dawe by Gaye Thomas, 2005**

Lilly Dawe remembers veterans following the Second World War.

1 CD-ROM
(Reference: BD5/32)

Remembrance

**Photograph album for the unveiling of the Second World War Memorial at Barking Abbey School, 1949**

Photograph album, containing portrait photographs of the following former staff and pupils that were killed in action during the Second World War, compiled in conjunction with the unveiling of the Barking Abbey School War Memorial (1949): Robert Percy McMillan Bagg, Alfred Jack Bains, George Keech Bass, George Bellett, Sidney John Day, Stanley Robert Farley, Anthony Francis Flynn, Phillip Bertie Ford, George Herbert Alexander Hamilton, Donald Charles Handley, Charles William Harris, Donald Owen Hedges, Stanley Percival Jenkins, John Stanley Edward Locock, Charles William Peck, Alan Johnstone Reid, Bernard Leonard Smith, Frederick James Spencer, Ronald Henry Tozer, John
Donald Vaizey, Ernest Joseph Winters and George Henry Wood. Also includes photographs of David R. Pritchard and Iris Bentley, children from the school that were killed by air-raids in Ilford.
1 bound volume
(Reference: BD187/13/3)