



Handlist 29 Sources for the study of World War Two



Bomb damage in Eccles, 1941 (Ref: CC/WDP/3)

Introduction

The vast majority of archives held at Lancashire Record Office relating to World War Two relate to the impact of the war on the civilian population in Lancashire, air raid precautions and evacuation in particular, and the subsequent commemoration and remembrance of those who died.

We also have collections of personal papers which tell individual stories of wartime experiences, but do not hold service records of those who fought in World War Two. The National Archives is the best initial point of contact for these:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

The only exception to this is those records of the Home Guard held here (see below).

Much of the material listed here has come from the various Lancashire local authorities who organised the *Home Front*, whose archive collections often include committee minutes and files relating to wartime activities, especially food shortages and Air Raid Precautions. Many, but not all such records are listed here.

| Contents | Page |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Civil Defence | |
| 1.1 General | 4 |
| 1.2 Home Guard | 5 |
| 1.3 Air Raid Precautions (ARP) | 6 |
| 2. Evacuation and Refugee's | 9 |
| 3. Personal accounts, correspondence and other papers | 10 |
| 4. War memorials | 11 |
| 5. Rolls of honour | 12 |
| 6. War production | 12 |
| 7. Law and order | 12 |
| 8. Fundraising | 12 |
| 9. Photographs | 15 |
| 10. Miscellaneous | 16 |



5th County of Lancaster (Preston County)
Battalion (Home Guard), A Section, B Company, 1944 (Ref: HG/2/7)

1. Civil Defence

1.1 General

- CBBL 12/1-21 Blackpool Civil Defence records, 1938-73
- CBP 83 acc. 6638 Plan of Civil Defence installations in Preston inc. military road routes and refuge points, 1942
- CC/DCV 3 Civil Defence Comforts Committee reports, correspondence etc., 1941-45
- CC/WDP 1-9 War damage file containing photos and letters about war damage in 9 areas of Lancashire 1940-44
- CUL 9/45-53 Lancashire Congregational Union correspondence files on refugees, war damage and peace propaganda 1938-54
- DDX 519/186 Photocopy of the record of service of the Warton Post, Civil Defence Wardens' Service, 1938-45, n.d. [c.1945]
- DDX 1290 Police notices and civil defence pamphlets concerning unexploded bombs etc., 1940-43
- DDX 2743 acc10851
- File: "A44: Circular Letters to Wardens" - copies of correspondence and other papers relating to civil defence in Lancaster, 1939-1945
- DDX 2744 acc10816
- Various items relating to civil defence in the Lancaster area, including a bundle in envelope marked 'SECRET. 22 SECTOR DEFENCE SCHEME. TO BE OPENED ONLY UNDER CONDITIONS LAID DOWN IN LETTER TO MR BLAND DATED 4TH APRIL 1945.' Contents of '22 Sector Defence Scheme' includes operation orders for reaction to invasion of Lancaster, map of '22 Sector' Lancashire Coast to West Riding, Diagram for the passing of 'code words and alarms,' 9 Sep 1944

MPR 30 acc. 7723 Correspondence concerning the War Department's requisitioning of Guttridge Memorial School, 1940-46

UDTR 5/14/1 Trawden UDC Emergency Committee minute book, 1939-40

UDWD 6/1, 68/1-30 Walton-le-Dale UDC war records including fire brigade and war damage, evacuation and billeting, air raid precautions and Civil Defence records, 1938-68

1.2 Home Guard

HG Home Guard: nominal rolls, photographs etc. of Home Guard Battalions in Preston, Irlam, Ashton-under-Lyne, Burnley and Rawtenstall 1940-45

CC/CCC 4 LCC Clerk's Department files on Home Guard fire watching, 1941-43

DDX 189/38 Maps of Preston Home Guard defence dispositions, n.d. [c.1940]

DDX 189/39 File of Preston Home Guard and Civil Defence circulars, orders, instructions and certificates concerning courses and exercises, 1944, 1949-55

DDX 752/85/170 Home Guard : East Lancashire Regiment - HQ Colne. Showing area around headquarters at Langroyd Hall, Colne, with platoon responsibilities and sites of road blocks.

DDX 2506 acc9816 73rd County of Lancaster [Maghull] Battalion: Battalion Press Book 1942-1944, correspondence 1941-1944, photograph album

DDX 2744 acc10816

1:2500 plan of Galgate for Galgate Home Guard

1.3 Air Raid Precautions



Air raid information booklet, c1940 (Ref: DDX 2739/40/9)

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| CC/ARD | Lancashire County Council: Air Raid Distress Fund minutes 1940-49 |
| CBP 53/16 | Preston CB ARP Committee minutes, 1939-45 |
| CC/ARP 1-6 | Lancashire County Council ARP Committee minutes, pamphlets, circulars etc, 1938-49 |
| CC/ECM 1 | Lancashire County Council Education Committee ARP Sub-Committee minute books, 1938-42 |
| CC/RC | Lancashire County Control Centre records, including unexploded bombs record book, ARP key maps showing positions of incidents, files relating to gas bomb cemeteries, record books of Fire Guards at County offices, air raid warnings and incident report books, message books, circulars etc. 1939-45 |

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| CC/PEM 1 | LCC Public Assistance Emergency Sub-Cttee. minutes 1940-43 |
| DDX 4/8 | Plan, bill and other documents concerning air raid shelters, 1939-40 |
| DDX 950/12 | Women's Voluntary Services for Air Raid Precautions, agenda, minutes, circulars and letters, 1938 |
| DDX 1202/3/9 | List of addresses and telephone numbers in connection with air raid precautions, food control etc in Preston rural district, 1941 |
| DDX 1101/71/6 | <i>Bombs On Bolton!</i> Information leaflet Feb 1941 |
| DDX 1239/1/1-4 | Fire Guard records including posters of German incendiary and anti-personnel bombs, 1941-44 |
| DDX 381/31/12 | Correspondence relating to South West Lancashire coal workers receiving ARP training |
| DDX 2311 | Fulwood ARP photograph and roll of members 1939-43 |
| DDX 2744 acc10816 | Various printed publications relating to ARP work, including Publications of Air Raid Precautions Committee for City of Lancaster entitled 'Synopsis of Anti-Gas Training' for Air Raid Wardens, Jul 1938 and 'Communal Domestic Shelter Scheme,' Nov 1940 |
| MBF 23/1-10 | Fleetwood MBC ARP records |
| MBH 48/1-16 | Haslingden MBC Air Raid Precautions and wartime records, 1938-45 |
| MBLA acc. 4797 | ARP papers - agreements with Lancaster City Council for the erection and destruction of air raid shelters and trenches, 1939-46 (Box 35) |
| MBNE 49/11 | Nelson MB list of air raid shelters provided for local schools, n.d. [c.1940] |

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| PR 2845/26/1-2 | Attendance book of fire-watchers at Preston parish church, with pamphlets and circulars concerning air raids, gas attacks, enemy invasion etc., 1938-42 |
| PR 3006/13 | Tockholes: census of population for Air Raid Precautions, 1938 |
| RDG 17/1-226 | Garstang RDC wartime files, including correspondence relating to war damage, crashed aircraft, recognition of gallantry etc. as well as the usual ARP files |
| UDBR 14/1 | Brierfield UDC Air Raid Precautions Committee minutes, 1939-45 |
| UDOS 16/1 | Hyndburn BC plans of Air Raid Precautions, c.1938-45 |
| UDPA 84/1-9 | Padiham UDC wartime records including ARP and air raid shelter records, 1938-54 |
| UDPO 2/22 | Poulton-le-Fylde UDC Air Raid Precautions, 1937-39 |
| UDSK 3/8 | Skelmersdale UDC ARP Committee, 1936-39 |
| UDTH 11/1-4 | Thornton Cleveleys UDC ARP letter books, 1940-46 |
| UDCH 31 | Church UDC register of accommodation, 1939-45, and register of fire prevention arrangements, 1941-44 |
| UDFU 14/1-3 | Fulwood U.D. Fire Guard and Wardens, minutes of meetings and photograph album of activities 1939-45 |
| UDCL 7/15 | Air Raid Distress Fund papers, 1940 |
| UDCA 4/15 | Carnforth Urban District Council ARP Civil Defence minute book |
| WBF 33/1-65 | Fylde Water Board: correspondence on ARP and anti-sabotage precautions for reservoirs and plant/buildings; news cuttings books; photographs, 1935-59 |

2. Evacuation and Refugees

- CBP 53/11 Preston CB Committee for the Relief of Distress by War minutes 1914-40
- CC/PEM 1 LCC Public Assistance Emergency Sub-Cttee. minutes 1940-43
- CUL 9/45-53 Lancashire Congregational Union correspondence files on refugees, war damage and peace propaganda 1938-54
- DDX 1340 acc4499 Records of Quaker evacuation school at Yealand Manor, Yealand Conyers, 1936-44
- DDX 2744 acc10816
DDX 2743 acc10851
A large amount of material relating to the evacuation of children and other displaced persons from Salford and London to Lancaster, including records of individual evacuees.
- RDP 1/16 Preston RDC evacuation records, 1939-45
- SMED 2/4 Edgeworth Wesleyan school admission register includes evacuees' register 14 Sep 1939-1 Apr 1942
- SMFU 2/1 Fulwood School for Evacuees, Preston: log book for Manchester evacuees 1939-43 and London evacuees 1944-45
- UDBK 24 Barnoldswick UDC wartime records including premises compensation register, 1941-51, and register of accommodation for evacuees, c. 1939
- UDCH 31 Church UDC register of accommodation, 1939-45, and register of fire prevention arrangements, 1941-44
- UDWD 6/1, 68/1-30 Walton-le-Dale UDC war records including evacuation and billeting

Reports of Medical Officers of Health, produced for local authorities throughout Lancashire, usually contain a section on evacuated children, especially during the first phase of evacuation. These often contain information on the health of children, their state of hygiene and dress etc and the numbers involved and can be found in the individual local authority archive collections held here.

3. Personal accounts, correspondence and other papers

- DDB acc. 6685 Papers of Col. R G Parker: concerning the Parachute Regt., 1940s (Box 63) [closed]; concerning the British Military Mission to Archangel, 1940s (Box 64) [closed]; notes on his action in 1944 (Box 72); ts. notes concerning WW2, n.d. 1940s? (Box 197)
- DDFL Diaries, letters etc. of Thomas Hope Floyd (1896-1973) of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, including wartime service on Home Defence in the Bristol Channel area, 1940-42, and as a full-time firewatcher in Manchester, 1943-45 (1, 3, 4, 7); notebook of a Private in the Gloucester Regt., concerning his capture and escape 1940 (15)
- See Lancashire Record Office Annual Report 1973
- DDHU acc. 9301 2 copies of tss of "*Those terrible years*" by Sir Geoffrey Hulton, on his time as a POW, with correspondence of Sir Geoffrey from during and after WW2, including letters from Robert Graves [poet]
- DDX 525/6 Account of the experiences of a Prisoner of War in China, 1938-46
- DDX 525/7 Extract from a letter from occupied France, 1941
- DDX 914/2 Letter giving war news of the Banks family of Penwortham, 1943
- DDX 978/29/17 Recollections (for essay competition) of WW2 service and civilian life
- DDX 1037/2/1-5 Pay book and other official service documents, 1940-46
- DDX 1101/88/2 Arthur Ransome's soldier's service book 1942-46
- DDX 1127/3/16 Ms. reminiscences by D H Dutton of his life in the army 1937-40, including service in France with the RASC, May 1968
- DDX 1136/1/16 MoD letter with details of the war service of Revd T B Reid of Thornton Cleveleys, 1974
- DDX 1202/3 Personal papers of J Almond including ID cards, Preston ARP/food control papers and miscellaneous wartime information leaflets, 1938-43
- DDX 1636 Identity cards and ration books of the Cartmell family, Blackpool, 1940-54

- DDX 2379/40 Darwen-related Second World War ephemera 1942-1944, including registration cards; civil defence card; ARP card; ration book; clothing book; programme and photographs for "Warship Week" and "Wings for Victory Week"; company group photograph marked "A.L.Chopra, Solan 25.7.44".
- DDX 1202/3/4 Correspondence concerning the appointment and resignation of Deputy Food Executive Officer for the Preston Rural Area, 1939-45
- DDX 2463 acc 9664 Journal/photograph album of wartime service of Frank Thompson of Lytham in various parts of UK 1940-44, and album relating to his service in India 1945
- WDP Letters and photographs of bomb damage at Atherton, Bury, Eccles, Freckleton, Horwich, Litherland, Prestwich, Ramsbottom, Walton-le-Dale and Warton, 1944

4. War Memorials

- Microfiche Colne War Memorial 1939-45
- Microfiche Blacko War Memorial 1939-45
- PR 2971/4/1 Minutes of War Memorial Committee, Ashton St Andrew's Church, Preston, 1953-54
- PR 2861/5, 7 Correspondence concerning the care of Billington War Memorial, including the addition of a plaque to the dead of 1939-45 and a schedule of their names, 1947-52
- UDCL 31/17 War Memorial including sub-committee agenda and minutes, lists of the fallen, correspondence, commemorative programme 1949

5. Rolls of Honour

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| MBP 23/5 | Preston, Ribbleson Avenue Methodist Church roll of honour 1939-45, compiled 1980 |
| NCLA 9/2 | List of employees of Lancashire Associated Collieries serving with HM Forces, 1939-49 |
| PR 3007/5/8 | Roll of Longton men in the armed forces, 1940 |
| RCPE acc 9408 | Roll of Honour for Preston, English Martyrs RC Church, 1940-1942 |
| SML 20/11/3-4 | Nelson Secondary School, Nelson: lists of old boys and staff in armed services and killed in action |

6. War Production

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|----------------|---|
| DDPSL 3/17/1-3 | Howard & Bullough Ltd, Accrington, munitions production records 1940-45 |
| DDX 1115 | Blackburn and District Cotton Manufacturers' Association: 6/1-2, 6 <i>et al.</i> Parliamentary and other papers concerning wartime factory work, 1939-44 21/1 Correspondence with the Ministry of Supply concerning cotton control, 1940-41 21/2 Blackburn Advisory Panel as to the drafting of cotton industry employees: minutes 1942-45 |
| NCLC 5/1-9 | Lancashire and Cheshire Coal Association war circulars concerning war damage, rationing, transport, coal stocks and other matters related to the war effort, 1938-45 |

7. Law & Order

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|--------------|--|
| DDX 1521/2/8 | Police instructions in the event of a blitz in Radcliffe, c.1940 |
| PLA | <u>Lancashire Constabulary</u> |
| PLA 6/1-12 | Police HQ "Confidential Security Scheme" memorandum books, 1939-42 |

- PLA 7/1-9 Home Office circulars issued by the Ministry of Home Security, 1939-46
- PLA 8/1-3 ARP memoranda, 1935-43
Fire Brigade memorandum books, 1938-42
- PLA 9/1-10 Police HQ wartime memoranda books 1939-40
- PLA 18/10 Police & Firemen War Services Act 1939 and Police War Reserve rules 1945
- PLA acc. 6439 Register of enemy aliens, with photographs, c.1940
- PLA 50/12-13 Little Lever Constabulary register of special constables, 1936-46 and register of ARP wardens, 1938-42

8. Fundraising



Darwen warship week, 1942 (Ref: DDX 2739/40/13)

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|----------------|---|
| CC/WRM 1 | LCC War Charities Act Committee minute book, 1940-47 |
| CC/WR | War Charities Act Committee minutes 1940-47 |
| CBP 53/11 | Preston CB Committee for the Relief of Distress by War minutes 1914-40 |
| | Borough of Lytham St Annes council files: |
| MBLS 7/4 | Local Battery Fund [M29/01/6], 26 Oct 1939 - 15 Jul 1944 |
| MBLS 7/5/1-6 | Army Welfare Scheme [M29/01/7], 1939 – 1944 |
| MBLS 7/6 | National Savings [M29/01/9], 11 Dec 1939 - 17 Feb 1947 |
| MBLS 7/7/1-4 | Mayoress's Comforts Fund [M29/01/10], 1940 – 1942 |
| MBLS 7/8 | Volunteer Defence Corps Fund [M29/01/11], 1 May 1940 - 20 May 1943 |
| MBLS 7/9 | YMCA War Fund [M29/01/12], 16 Jul 1940 - 3 Jan 1941 |
| MBLS 7/10 | National Youth Services [M29/01/13], 19 Jul 1940 - 6 Jun 1941 |
| MBLS 7/11/1-5 | Spitfire Fund [M29/01/14], 1940 – 1941 |
| MBLS 7/12 | RAF Benevolent Fund [M29/01/23], 10 Aug 1942 - 20 Jan 1943 |
| MBLS 7/13 | National Day of Prayer at Lytham Parish Church: 3 September 1944 [M29/01/26], 19 Mar 1941 - 9 Sep 1944 |
| MBLS 7/14/1-2 | Polish Relief Fund [M29/01/28], 1942 – 1944 |
| MBLS 7/15/1-4 | Wings for Victory Week 5-12 June 1943 [M29/01/31] |
| MBLS 7/16/1-15 | Salute the Soldier, 3-10 June 1944. £700 000 [M29/01/33], 1944 – 1945 |
| MBLS 7/17/1-7 | Thanksgiving Week, 6-13 October 1945. £700 000 |
| UDBR 5/2 | Brierfield U.D.C.: file labelled "YMCA Invasion Committee"; Information booklets; YMCA correspondence/minutes; posters, 1942-45 |

- UDLL Leyland U.D.C. files: War Savings Cttee. minutes 1943 (7/1), Wings for Victory Week 1943 (7/4), Salute the Soldiers Week 1944 (7/5) and Thanksgiving Week 1945 (7/6)
- UDTR 10/6/1-6 Trawden UDC "war comforts" records, 1939-48
- UDLI 6/7 Littleborough UDC: Lord Mayor of London's National Air Raid Distress Fund, 1941
- UDCL 7/9 Clayton-le-Moors U.D.C.: Papers relating to a variety of war charities in the area, 1941-45

9. Photographs

- CC/WDP 1-9 Photographs of bomb damage at Atherton, Bury etc. 1944
- DP 415/1-3 German aerial photographs, target plans and flying instructions for raids on Flookburgh, Formby and Warton, 1942-43
- DDX 2506 acc 9816
73rd County of Lancaster (Maghull) Battalion Press Book 1942-1944, correspondence 1941-1944, photograph album
- DDX 1613/1-2 Notes on the shooting down of JU88 over Banks Marsh, Apr. 1941, and photograph of RAF aircrew at Gravesend, 1940
- UDFU 14/1-3 Fulwood U.D. Fire Guard and Wardens, minutes of meetings and photograph album of activities 1939-45
- UDOR 15/45 Ormskirk "*Salute the Soldier*" week, photographs of inaugural ceremony and parade, 1944
- WDP Letters and photographs of bomb damage at Atherton, Bury, Eccles, Freckleton, Horwich, Litherland, Prestwich, Ramsbottom, Walton-le-Dale and Warton, 1944

10. Miscellaneous

- CC/CCV 117 "The Story of Lancashire" (Photography magazine, 1944), inc. articles on Lancashire regiments, auxiliary forces and civil defence
- CC/PHV 3 Report by the County Medical Officer of Health on Lancashire health statistics during the war, 1939-45
- DP 415/1-3 German aerial photographs, target plans and flying instructions for raids on Flookburgh, Formby and Warton, 1942-43
- DDPSL 15/4/9 Luftwaffe map of Oldham
- DDX 950/6 Handbill advertising the visit to Lancaster of King's Scouts decorated for bravery in blitzes, 1942
- DDX 1137/2/119 "Clear out Hitler's agents", a CPGB anti-Trotskyist propaganda pamphlet, 1942
- DDX 1146/1 Address to Lancashire UDC Association concerning post-war problems of local government, with Ministry of Information pamphlet *The Outbreak of War* and Ministry of Education circulars, 1939-45
- DDX 1242/21/1 *London Gazette* supplements concerning WW2 naval actions, 1947-48
- DDX1320/1/12 News cuttings covering sinking warships in 1914 and 'The Real Nazi War Aims' by G Ward Price
- DDX 1613/1-2 Notes on the shooting down of JU88 over Banks Marsh, Apr. 1941, and photograph of RAF aircrew at Gravesend, 1940
- DDX 2506 acc 9816
73rd County of Lancaster (Maghull) Battalion Press Book 1942-1944, correspondence 1941-1944, photograph album
- DDX2744 acc10816
Morecambe Library collection; Items related to evacuation schemes; publications of ARP committee; operation orders for reaction to invasion of Lancaster; Diagram for the passing of 'code words and alarms,; Bundle of documents relating to 22 Sector including lists of officers serving with 3rd and 4th Battalions; Souvenir Programme for 'Wings for Victory Week;

Civil Defence Public Information Leaflet No. 1 'Some Things You Should Know if War Should Come; Correspondence regarding Evacuation Scheme including Lancaster City Transport Department, Transport arrangements in regard to transporting evacuees, and to civilian evacuation; Report entitled 'Experience During an Eight Day Blitz'.

MBS 3/1-13 Stretford MB, record of civilian deaths due to war operations, 1939-45, with related files

UDOR 15/44 Ormskirk UDC Army Social Welfare Committee minute book, 1940-50