

Lancashire Archives

# A Guide to Primary Sources relating to World War Two

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5th County of Lancaster (Preston County)

Battalion (Home Guard), A Section, B Company, 1944 (Ref: HG/2/7)

# 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 experience, but we 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:

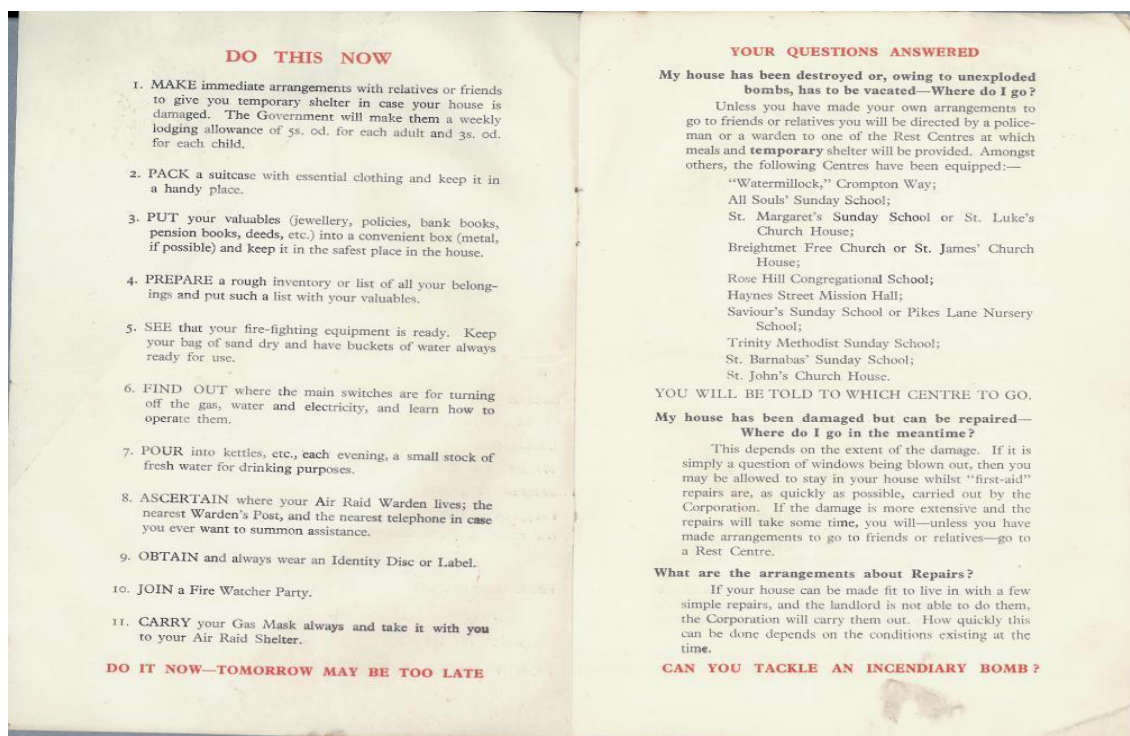
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

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

Much of the material detailed here is in the archive collections of the various Lancashire local authorities who organised the *Home Front*. These include committee minutes and other files relating to wartime activities, especially food shortages, fund-raising and Air Raid Precautions.

Whilst this guide aims to outline all the key primary sources relating to World War Two, it does not contain detail of all the relevant material in our collections. Most documents produced during the war years are likely to include some reference to the impact of the conflict on the local community. Please also refer to our online catalogue:

<http://archivecat.lancashire.gov.uk/calmview/>



# Civil Defence

## General

Description	reference
Blackpool Civil Defence records, 1938-73	CBBL 12/1-21
Plan of Civil Defence installations in Preston inc. military road routes and refuge points, 1942	CBP 83 acc. 6638
Civil Defence Comforts Committee reports, correspondence etc., 1941-45	CC/DCV 3
War damage file containing photos and letters about war damage in 9 areas of Lancashire 1940-44	CC/WDP 1-9
Lancashire Congregational Union correspondence files on refugees, war damage and peace propaganda 1938-54	CUL 9/45-53
Photocopy of the record of service of the Warton Post, Civil Defence Wardens' Service, 1938-45, n.d. [c.1945]	DDX 519/186
Police notices and civil defence pamphlets concerning unexploded bombs etc., 1940-43	DDX 1290
File: "A44: Circular Letters to Wardens" - copies of correspondence and other papers relating to civil defence in Lancaster, 1939-1945	DDX 2743 acc10851
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	DDX 2744 acc10816
Correspondence concerning the War Department's requisitioning of Guttridge Memorial School, 1940-46	MPR 30 acc. 7723
Trawden UDC Emergency Committee minute book, 1939-40	UDTR 5/14/1

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

Description	reference
Home Guard: nominal rolls, photographs etc. of Home Guard Battalions in Preston, Irlam, Ashton-under-Lyne, Burnley and Rawtenstall 1940-45	HG
LCC Clerk's Department files on Home Guard fire watching, 1941-43	CC/CCC 4
Maps of Preston Home Guard defence dispositions, n.d. [c.1940]	DDX 189/38
File of Preston Home Guard and Civil Defence circulars, orders, instructions and certificates concerning courses and exercises, 1944, 1949-55	DDX 189/39
Map showing area around East Lancashire regiment headquarters at Langroyd Hall, Colne, with platoon responsibilities and sites of road blocks.	DDX 752/85/170
73rd County of Lancaster [Maghull] Battalion: Battalion Press Book 1942-1944, correspondence 1941-1944, photograph album	DDX250c9816
1:2500 plan of Galgate for Galgate Home Guard	DDX 2744 acc 10816



Air Raid Information Booklet,  
C1940 – DDX 2739/40/9

## Air Raid Precautions

Description	reference
Air raid information booklet, c1940	DDX 2739/40/9
Lancashire County Council: Air Raid Distress Fund minutes 1940-49	CC/ARD
Preston CB ARP Committee minutes, 1939-45	CBP 53/16
Lancashire County Council ARP Committee minutes, pamphlets, circulars etc, 1938-49	CC/ARP 1-6
Lancashire County Council Education Committee ARP Sub-Committee minute books, 1938-42	CC/ECM 1
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	CC/RC
LCC Public Assistance Emergency Sub-Committee. minutes 1940-43	CC/PEM 1
Plan, bill and other documents concerning air raid shelters, 1939-40	DDX 4/8
Women's Voluntary Services for Air Raid Precautions, agenda, minutes, circulars and letters, 1938	DDX 950/12
List of addresses and telephone numbers in connection with air raid precautions, food control etc in Preston rural district, 1941	DDX 1202/3/9
<i>Bombs On Bolton!</i> Information leaflet Feb 1941	DDX 1101/71/6
Fire Guard records including posters of German incendiary and anti-personnel bombs, 1941-44	DDX 1239/1/1-4
Correspondence relating to South West Lancashire coal workers receiving ARP training	DDX 381/31/12
Fulwood ARP photograph and roll of members 1939-43	DDX 2311
Various printed publications relating to ARP work, including Publications of Air Raid Precautions Committee for City of Lancaster entitled 'Synopsis of	DDX 2744 ,acc10816

Anti-Gas Training' for Air Raid Wardens, Jul 1938 and 'Communal Domestic Shelter Scheme,' Nov 1940	
Papers of Ernest Nield, a Sector Captain in Fulwood Urban District Fire Guard, including lists of duties and equipment issued, details of assembly points and local training exercises [1939-1945]	DDX 3021
Fleetwood MBC ARP records	MBF 23/1-10
Haslingden MBC Air Raid Precautions and wartime records, 1938-45	MBH 48/1-16
ARP papers - agreements with Lancaster City Council for the erection and destruction of air raid shelters and trenches, 1939-46 (Box 35)	MBLA acc. 4797
Nelson MB list of air raid shelters provided for local schools, n.d. [c.1940]	MBNE 49/11
Attendance book of fire-watchers at Preston parish church, with pamphlets and circulars concerning air raids, gas attacks, enemy invasion etc., 1938-42	PR 2845/26/1-2
Tockholes: census of population for Air Raid Precautions, 1938	PR 3006/13
Garstang RDC wartime files, including correspondence relating to war damage, crashed aircraft, recognition of gallantry etc. as well as the usual ARP files	RDG 17/1-226
Brierfield UDC Air Raid Precautions Committee minutes, 1939-45	UDBR 14/1
Hyndburn BC plans of Air Raid Precautions, c.1938-45	UDOS 16/1
Padiham UDC wartime records including ARP and air raid shelter records, 1938-54	UDPA 84/1-9
Poulton-le-Fylde UDC Air Raid Precautions, 1937-39	UDPO 2/22
Skelmersdale UDC ARP Committee, 1936-39	UDSK 3/8
Thornton Cleveleys UDC ARP letter books, 1940-46	UDTH 11/1-4
Church UDC register of accommodation, 1939-45, and register of fire prevention arrangements, 1941-44	UDCH 31
Fulwood U.D. Fire Guard and Wardens, minutes of meetings and photograph album of activities 1939-45	UDFU 14/1-3
Air Raid Distress Fund papers, 1940	UDCL 7/15
Carnforth Urban District Council ARP Civil Defence minute book	UDCA 4/15



Fylde Water Board: correspondence on ARP and anti-sabotage precautions for reservoirs and plant/buildings; news cuttings books; photographs, 1935-59	WBF 33/1-65
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## Evacuation and Refugees

Description	reference
Preston CB Committee for the Relief of Distress by War minutes 1914-40	CBP 53/11
LCC Public Assistance Emergency Sub-Committee. minutes 1940-43	CC/PEM 1
Lancashire Congregational Union correspondence files on refugees, war damage and peace propaganda 1938-54	CUL 9/45-53
Records of Quaker evacuation school at Yealand Manor, Yealand ,Conyers, 1936-44	DDX 1340 acc4499
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.	DDX 2744 acc10816 DDX 2743 acc10851
Preston RDC evacuation records, 1939-45	RDP 1/16
Edgeworth Wesleyan school admission register includes evacuees' register 14 Sep 1939-1 Apr 1942	SMED 2/4
Fulwood School for Evacuees, Preston: log book for Manchester evacuees 1939-43 and London evacuees 1944-45	SMFU 2/1
Barnoldswick UDC wartime records including premises compensation register, 1941-51, and register of accommodation for evacuees, c. 1939 (no names given)	UDBK 24
Church UDC register of accommodation, 1939-45, and register of fire prevention arrangements, 1941-44	UDCH 31
Walton-le-Dale UDC war records including evacuation and billeting Reports of Medical Officers of Health,	UDWD 6/1, 68/1-30



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	
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## Personal accounts, Correspondence and other papers

Description	reference
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); transcript. Notes concerning WW2, n.d. 1940s? (Box 197)	DDB acc. 6685
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) - <u>See</u> Lancashire Record Office Annual Report 1973	DDFL
2 copies of transcript of " <i>Those terrible years</i> " 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]	DDHU acc. 9301
Account of the experiences of a Prisoner of War in China, 1938-46	DDX 525/6
Extract from a letter from occupied France, 1941	DDX 525/7
Letter giving war news of the Banks family of Penwortham, 1943	DDX 914/2
Recollections (for essay competition) of WW2	DDX 978/29/17

service and civilian life	
Pay book and other official service documents, 1940-46	DDX 1037/2/1-5
Arthur Ransome's soldier's service book 1942-46	DDX 1101/88/2
Manuscript reminiscences by D H Dutton of his life in the army 1937-40, including service in France with the RASC, May 1968	DDX 1127/3/16
MoD letter with details of the war service of Revd T B Reid of Thornton Cleveleys, 1974	DDX 1136/1/16
Personal papers of J Almond including ID cards, Preston ARP/food control papers and miscellaneous wartime information leaflets, 1938-43	DDX 1202/3
Identity cards and ration books of the Cartmell family, Blackpool, 1940-54	DDX 1636
Darwen-related World War 2 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 2379/40
Correspondence concerning the appointment and resignation of Deputy Food Executive Officer for the Preston Rural Area, 1939-45	DDX 1202/3/4
Diaries, photographs and published poems of Philip Spencer, who was killed during RAF Training in Africa, 1930s-1943	DDX 2254
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	DDX 2463 acc 9664
An eyewitness account of the sinking of the HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse by Lawrence Thistleton. Also embroidered handkerchief showing the HMS Repulse and a certificate of	DDX 2938

service, 1940s	
Diaries, military records, dog tags and other personal papers of Jozef Zmudz-Florko, a soldier in the Polish II Corps who served in the Middle East and Italy before settling in Preston [c.1914-1970]	DDX 3026
Papers of George C Kent, a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in India. Included is a volume entitled 'Our Indian Empire' giving instructions to soldiers serving in the Country, and photographs taken at the School of Artillery in Deolali. There is also correspondence from his parents who were moved to Blackpool due to his father's work with the Ministry of Health, 1940-1948	DDX 3053
Ashton on Ribble, St Michael and All Angels: Records of parishioners serving in the Second World War including names, addresses, service details, dates when parcels sent and soldiers' visits home; list of those reported wounded, those discharged, "School List of Members of Forces in England and Not in England", nd; list of men and women in forces; newscutting re-the death of John James Harrison on active service, 6 Jun 1944, telegraphist in the Royal Navy	PR 3280/acc11459
Letters and photographs of bomb damage at Atherton, Bury, Eccles, Freckleton, Horwich, Litherland, Prestwich, Ramsbottom Walton-le-Dale and Warton, 1944	WDP

## War Memorials

Description	reference
Colne War Memorial 1939-45	Microfiche
Blacko War Memorial 1939-45	Microfiche
Minutes of War Memorial Committee, Ashton St Andrew's Church, Preston, 1953-54	PR 2971/4/1

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	PR 2861/5, 7
War Memorial including sub-committee agenda and minutes, lists of the fallen, correspondence, commemorative programme 1949	UDCL

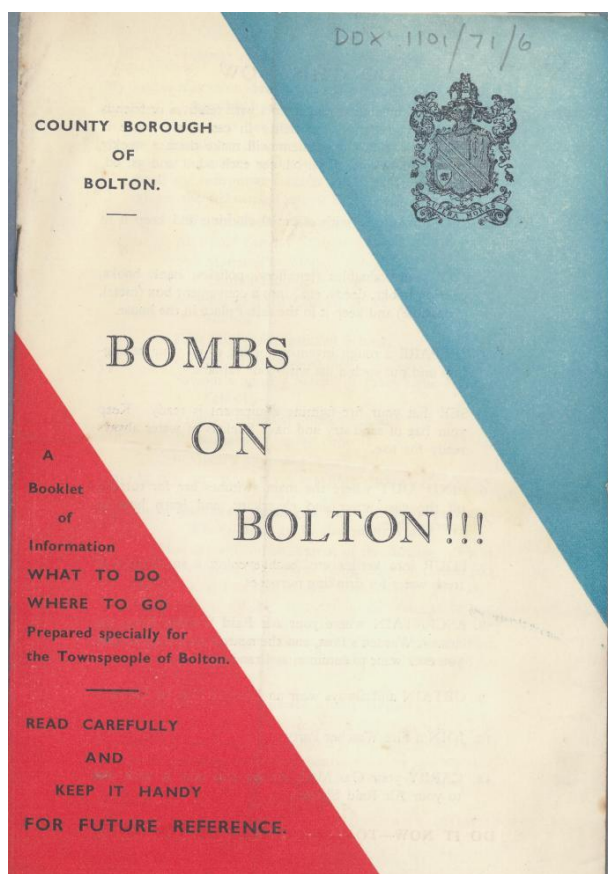
## Rolls Of Honour

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

## War Production

Description	reference
Howard & Bullough Ltd, Accrington, munitions production records 1940-45	DDPSL 3/17/1-3
Blackburn and District Cotton Manufacturers' Association: 6/1-2, 6 <i>et al.</i> Parliamentary and other papers concerning wartime factory work, 1939-4421/1 Correspondence with the Ministry of Supply concerning cotton control, 1940-41 21/2 Blackburn Advisory Panel as to the	DDX 1115

drafting of cotton industry employees: minutes 1942-45	
Lancashire and Cheshire Coal Association war circulars concerning war damage, rationing, transport, coal stocks and other matters related to the war effort, 1938-45	NCLC 5/1-9



*'Bombs On Bolton'* Information leaflet, Feb 1941- DDX 1101/71/6

## Law and Order

Description	reference
Police instructions in the event of a blitz in Radcliffe, c.1940	DDX 1521/2/8
Lancashire Constabulary	PLA
Police HQ "Confidential Security Scheme"	PLA 6/1-12

memorandum books, 1939-42	
Home Office circulars issued by the Ministry of Home Security, 1939-46	PLA 7/1-9
ARP memoranda, 1935-43 Fire Brigade memorandum books, 1938-42	PLA 8/1-3
Police HQ wartime memoranda books 1939-40	PLA 9/1-10
Police & Firemen War Services Act 1939 and Police War Reserve rules 1945	PLA 18/10
Register of enemy aliens, with photographs, c.1940	PLA acc. 6439
Little Lever Constabulary register of special constables, 1936-46 and register of ARP wardens, 1938-42	PLA 50/12-13
Scrapbook containing statutory instruments and official circulars - including those issued by central government in World War Two relating to the procedures for dealing with civilian and armed forces war casualties, plans for the judicial system in the event of the breakdown of law and order in war conditions etc	CR 16/6/2

## Fundraising

Description	reference
Darwen warship week, 1942	DDX 2739/40/13
LCC War Charities Act Committee minute book, 1940-47	CC/WRM 1
War Charities Act Committee minutes 1940-47	CC/WR
Preston CB Committee for the Relief of Distress by War minutes 1914-40	CBP 53/11

***Borough of Lytham St Anne's council files:***

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



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



Darwen Warship Week – DDX 2739/43/13

## Photographs

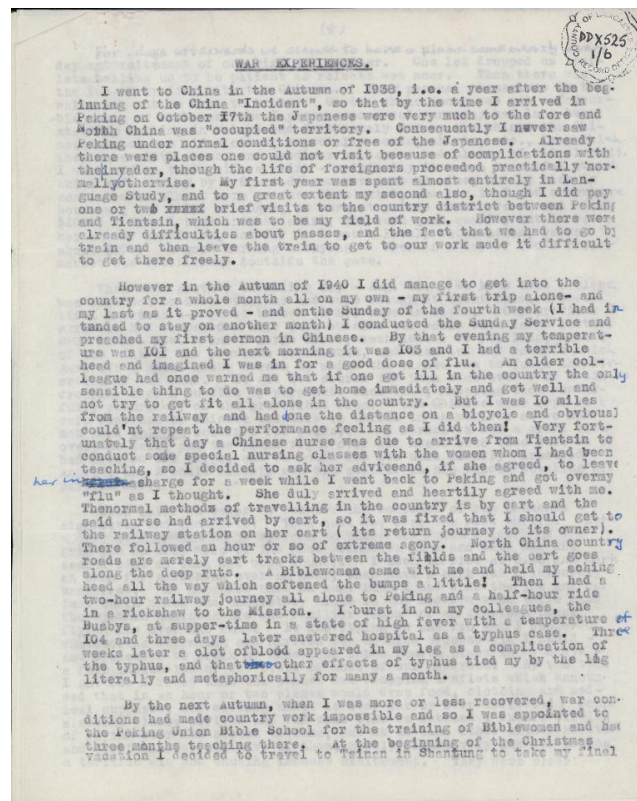
Description	reference
Photographs of bomb damage at Atherton, Bury etc. 1944	CC/WDP 1-9
German aerial photographs, target plans and flying instructions for raids on Flookburgh, Formby and Warton, 1942-43	DP 415/1-3
73 <sup>rd</sup> County of Lancaster (Maghull) Battalion Press Book 1942-1944, correspondence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

## Miscellaneous

Description	reference
" <i>The Story of Lancashire</i> " (Photography magazine, 1944), inc. articles on Lancashire regiments, auxiliary forces and civil defence	CC/CC/CCV 117
Report by the County Medical Officer of Health on Lancashire health statistics during the war,	CC/PHV 3

1939-45	
German aerial photographs, target plans and flying instructions for raids on Flookburgh, Formby and Warton, 1942-43	DP 415/1-3
Luftwaffe map of Oldham	DDPSL 15/4/9
Handbill advertising the visit to Lancaster of King's Scouts decorated for bravery in blitzes, 1942	DDX 950/6
" <i>Clear out Hitler's agents</i> ", a CPGB anti-Trotskyist propaganda pamphlet, 1942	DDX 1137/2/119
Address to Lancashire UDC Association concerning post-war problems of local government, with Ministry of Information pamphlet <i>The Outbreak of War</i> and Ministry of Education circulars, 1939-45	DDX 1146/1
<i>London Gazette</i> supplements concerning WW2 naval actions 1947-48	DDX 1242/21/1
News cuttings covering sinking warships in 1914 and ' <i>The Real Nazi War Aims</i> ' by G Ward Price	DDX1320/1/12
Notes on the shooting down of JU88 over Banks Marsh, Apr. 1941, and photograph of RAF aircrew at Gravesend, 1940	DDX 1613/1-2
73 <sup>rd</sup> County of Lancaster (Maghull) Battalion Press Book 1942-1944, correspondence 1941-1944, photograph album	DDX 2506 acc 9816
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	DDX2744 acc10816

evacuees, and to civilian evacuation; Report entitled 'Experience During an Eight Day Blitz'.	
Stretford MB, record of civilian deaths due to war operations, 1939-45, with related files	MBS 3/1-13
Ormskirk UDC Army Social Welfare Committee minute book,	UDOR 15/44



Account of the experiences of a Prisoner of War in China, 1938-46 - DDX 525/6