

Discovering Second World War Records at the Hull History Centre

Worship Street, Hull, HU2 8BG
01482 317500
www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk



Introduction

The Hull History Centre is home to the Hull City Archives, the Hull Local Studies collections and the University of Hull Archives, and between us we hold archive & local studies collections, books, photographs, newspapers, maps and plans.

Finding what you are looking for can prove daunting, so we have created a number of guides to help you.

This guide relates to the City of Hull's Second World War records. Almost all records held at the History Centre dating from the years 1939-1945 contain information relating to the war. Here we refer to records which were created as a direct result of the conflict.

Hull was subject to 86 raids, the first on 19/20 June 1940, and the last on 17 March 1945. Almost 38,000 children were evacuated from the City and an estimated 84,000 houses were damaged in some form or another.

Many of the books in the reading list can be borrowed from our library if you are a member of Hull libraries. If you are not yet a member, you can join when you visit the Centre.

These lists are not exhaustive and our [online catalogue](#) may also help you to find what you are looking for. In addition our website hosts a [suite of pages](#) detailing records held at the Centre relating to the Second World War in Hull and our [Wardens, Welfare and Victory- The Unbroken Spirit of the Hull Blitz](#), is an illustrated guide to sources held at the Hull History Centre and can be referred to in conjunction with this leaflet.

Once you have found what you are looking for you can e-mail or phone us to order the item/s to view in advance of your visit by contacting us on hullhistorycentre@hcandl.co.uk or 01482 317500. Please place your order at least 24 hours in advance of your visit. As some of these items are on microfilm, we may also have to reserve a microfilm for your use.

Hull Local Studies Library reading list

Library reference	Author	Title	Publication Date
L.352.3	Nunn, David & Cook, Brian	<i>The Fire Brigade & Hull Docks: the fire brigade & auxiliaries</i> (reference only)	2012
L.355.13	Mann, Malcolm	<i>Summary of individual air raid casualties: Hull blitz, 26th June 1940-17th March 1945</i> (reference only)	1940-1945
L.9.7085	Various	Several press reports, news cuttings etc., relating to life in Hull during the Second World War, including Mayoral scrap books, Hull Daily Mail publications (Decades, Flashback, City at War etc.) Also <i>The Warden's Post: The official magazine of the City & County of Kingston upon Hull Air Raid Warden Service</i> Jan-Apr 1940 (reference only)	1939-present
L.9.7085	Geraghty, Tom	<i>A north-east coast town: ordeal & triumph : the story of Kingston upon Hull in the 1939-1945 Great War</i>	1978
L.9.7085	Greystone, Philip	<i>The Blitz on Hull, (1940-45)</i>	1991
L.9.7085	Fairfax, Ronald	<i>Hull at War (DVDs):</i> <i>Part 1: The Blitz</i> <i>Part 2: The beginning of the end</i>	1992 2004
L.9.7085	Pratt, Mike	<i>Bishop Wilton: Memories of Sunderland & Hull evacuees</i> (reference only)	2002
L.9.7085	Bilton, David & Mann, Malcolm K.	<i>Hull at War 1939-1945: The Air Raids</i>	2019
L.9.7085	Ulyatt, Michael E.	<i>There is a War on you know: life through the eyes of children living in the Sculcoates area of Hull during the Second World War</i> (reference only)	2015
L.9.7085	Makin, Eric, Nolan, Christopher & Houghton, Christopher	<i>Stories from the Blitz: A Documentary (DVD)</i> <i>Hepcat Productions</i> (reference only)	2015
L.9.7085	Hull City Libraries	<i>Information Pack: Evacuation from Hull 1939-1941</i> Compiled mainly from contemporary accounts in the Hull Daily Mail (reference only)	1999
L. 9.7085	Whiting, Charles	<i>Britain under fire: the bombing of Britain's cities, 1940-1945</i> (Chapter 5 relates to Hull & surrounding area)	1986
L.9.7086	Cooper, Nick	<i>City on Fire: Kingston upon Hull 1940-1945</i>	2017
L.920	Various	Several personal reminiscences by local authors of life during the Second World War, including experiences of ordinary civilian children, evacuation, civilian war service & rescue by the kinder transport	1945-present

The History Centre currently has on loan from The University of East Anglia their microfilmed set of essays written by school children from Hull during The Second World War. The microfilm copies are in black & white and arranged by girls schools, boys schools and mixed schools and then alphabetically by surname. A [list of the schools](#) and how the essays can be accessed can be found on our website.

The Local Studies Library at the History Centre holds copies of original essays which are not included in the microfilmed collection from The University of East Anglia. Their details can be found at L DEX/24 below.

Items within the Hull Local Studies Library Archive Collections

Reference	Collection	Description	Covering Dates
L DEX/24	Children's Recollections of the Blitz	Essays about the blitz written by children of Springburn Street School in 1942 recalling their experiences of the air raids of 1940 & 1941	1942
L DIHS	Records relating to air raid alarms in Hull compiled by Henry William Smith.	1 Volume containing a personal list of air raid alarms in Hull	1939-1944
L DIMD	Records of Minnie Gertrude Dunham	Schemes, plans & information regarding air raids & the evacuation of children from Hull. (Please note, these records do not mention individual children by name).	1937-1944
Lp.372MER	Photographs	7 photographs relating to the evacuation of children from Mersey Street School to Helmsley, North Yorkshire	1939
Lp.9.7085	Photographs	Including copies of those photographs used in Tom Geraghty's book. Official photographs of royal & parliamentary wartime visits, victory parades, war damage & evacuees.	1939-1945

Items within the Hull City Archives Collections

Reference	Collection	Description	Covering Dates
C DEBK	Records of Kingston High School, formerly Boulevard Municipal Secondary School	Includes a file listing cyclist messengers recruited from higher education institutions in Hull, a register of ARP first aid volunteers, fire watching rotas & evacuation lists & files relating to the evacuation of children to Bingley & Scarborough.	1895-2004
C DIIP/1	Records relating to the Hull Information Committee	The material includes correspondence relating to the formation of the Hull & East Riding Committee as well as the ongoing activities of the Hull Information Committee. The collection includes Minutes (incomplete run), Secretary's Reports & material on practical arrangements for post-air raid announcements, reporting on home intelligence & specific local issues. It also includes files for activities organised by the Information Committee such as visits to Hull by prominent speakers including Ernest Bevin.	1939-1945

Reference	Collection	Description	Covering Dates
C DING/1	Reminiscences of Norman Grundy of Snaith, East Riding of Yorkshire	' <i>The Times of My Life</i> ': this recounts personal experiences of evacuation to Batley, West Yorkshire	1941-2015
C DMX/242	File of letters, diary extracts & poems containing reminiscences of Hull in the blitz, 1939-1942	Covers events such as the experience of being a German living in Hull, air raids, damage to property, the home guard, attacks on shipping vessels, evacuation, relief parcels, prisoners of war & morale boosting visits by members of the royal family & politicians.	1991
C SRL/R	Publications, Booklets & Research Material	Including first-hand accounts of evacuation, an alphabetical list of Hull's civilian war dead & copies of photographs of the first prefabricated houses built by Robert Tarran in Hull	1938-2017
C TAA	Records of the City Architect's Department- Architectural Drawings	Includes drawings for various first aid posts & the Decontamination Relief Office in Hull.	c.1860-c.1987
C TAH	Records of the City Architect's Department - Housing Section	Includes information relating to building projects undertaken by the Housing Section of the City Architect's Department Including C TAH/1/6: Emergency Services Buildings	c.1880-c.1984
C TAY	City Architects Records relating to the repair of war damaged property & other wartime functions	As well as records relating to the damage & repair of houses (C TAY/AR), these also include returns of labour engaged in the repair of war damaged housing (C TAY/L), paperwork relating to requisitioned property (C TAY/RP) & temporary housing (C TAY/TH) as well as details of contracts with Tarran Industries (C TAY/T).	1939-1960
C TCM	Minutes of the City Council & its Committees	Minutes recording debates & decisions relating to civil defence, control & report services, air raid precautions, war damage & victory celebrations	1835-2002
C TCR	Hull City Council Committee reports	Reports to accompany the council minutes	1839-2006
C TCVC	Records of the Victory Celebrations (Special) Committee	Committee records concerning the organisation of events & activities to celebrate the end of the Second World War, including photographs of the victory parade & lists of Hull's Prisoners of War (These files list the prisoners by surname & indicate which prison camp they were held in, but do not reveal any further information regarding the individuals & do not tell us how long they were held captive).	1941-1946

Reference	Collection	Description	Covering Dates
C TCY	Town Clerk's records relating to the Second World War	Committee & administrative records, including those relating to war damage to corporation property, the positioning of static water sites & air raid shelters as well as a file relating to the rescue service & the closure of first aid depots & the restoration of buildings commissioned during the course of the war.	1940-1960
C TED/1	Hull City Council's Education Department Administrative records	Including files relating to the evacuation of school children. There are separate files for each authority that the children were sent to. Some contain a list of children, giving, in some instances, their name, Hull address, Hull School & school in the evacuation area (1939-1947)	1864-1983
C TLW	Town Clerk's Second World War Records	Including C TLW/W: Records relating to Air Raid Welfare.	1939-1952
C TSCD	City Engineer's Department, Civil Defence records	These records include volunteer services, the provision & fitting out of shelters & depots, & the protection of Corporation property. Some of the records contain graphic details & descriptions of conditions found after the various air raids. C TSCD/17 relates specifically to the evacuation of children.	1935-1971
C TSP	City Engineer's Department, photographs	A comprehensive series of photographs showing the damage sustained to properties. There are also photographs of mobile units, search & rescue parties, control & report centres & visits to Hull by members of the royal family & politicians.	c.1938-c.1995
C TSWD	City Engineer's Department, war damage records	They were responsible for war damaged buildings including the assessment, removal & demolition of fire risks & dangerous structures, maintenance & repairs of utilities & the salvage of belongings from houses & of building materials that could be reused.	1939-1968
C TSY	Maps & plans relating to the Second World War	At C TSY/2/2 is a set of 12 maps showing where bombs fell on the city between 1940-1943. At C TSY/2/3 are a set of 1928 Ordnance Survey sheets indicating war damaged properties compiled just after the Second World War. They are colour & letter coded in order to distinguish between houses, public buildings, shops & industries	1939-1945

Reference	Collection	Description	Covering Dates
C TYA	Air Raid Precautions & Civil Defence report services	Contains papers relating to individual air raids, including messages received during the raids & subsequent reports filed in chronological order of raid. Also includes 2 personal files of Alderman L. Schultz from Sep 1941 to Oct 1942 reflecting the work he was involved with during the war.	1940-1945
C TYC	Casualty Lists	Casualty Lists which for each incident (raid) gives the names, ages & addresses (or unit in the case of service personnel) of casualties under headings including Mortuary (dead) Hospital (seriously injured) & First Aid Post (slightly injured)	1940-1945
C TYG	Recommendations for acknowledgements & Gallantry awards	Letters notifying the authorities of outstanding conduct performed by men & women, both civilians & members of the Civil Defence Service, in some cases including detailed reports, witness statements & dates of the incident concerned. Also includes recommendations for Gallantry Awards, though not all were successful.	1941-1944
C TYR	Registration of personnel for Civil Defence Service	91,615 index cards forming a record of persons registered for services of the Civil Defence Service; including cyclist messengers, fire guards, fire watchers & first aid service personnel cards. Searchable by name on our online catalogue .	1935-1947
C TYW	Warden Service Records	Records include organisational files, maps, records relating to the movement of people after their homes had suffered bomb damage, informational posters, index cards relating to fire watching & air raid shelters.	1938-1952

Items within the University of Hull Archives Collections

Reference	Collection	Description	Covering Dates
U DX/238	A collection of records relating to Aeronautics training	The University of Hull established a faculty of Aeronautics in 1934. Records include copies of a prospectus for the Diploma in Aeronautics; a photograph of staff & students [1945] & a pamphlet promoting the apprenticeship training offered by Blackburn Aircraft Ltd., and a brochure produced by the University to celebrate the Aeronauts.	c.1938-1996

Reference	Collection	Description	Covering Dates
U ORP	University of Hull Official Reports & Publications	Includes copies of annual reports, calendars & congregation programmes for University College Hull & the University of Hull, as well as copies of the University of Hull Gazette.	1925-2012
U PHO	University of Hull Photographer's records	Includes photographs of students digging trenches for air raid shelters in the grounds & at their halls of residence & photographs of sport & society events that carried on in spite of the war.	1938-1945
U SUH	Student Union records	Including publications such as the student journal 'Torch' which was issued three times per year. Society & Union events raised money for those involved in the war. Some students donated blood, undertook fire watching, home guard duties & air raid precaution work whilst others went to fight.	1931-2012