

SOURCE MATERIAL ON WORLD WAR II IN WEST SUSSEX



This was previously published as *Local History Mini-Guide No. 2 West Sussex at War* (West Sussex County Council, 1995) and has been revised for the new website [Wartime West Sussex 1939-45](#)

Main providers of information in the local area:

[West Sussex Record Office](#)

[West Sussex County Council Library Service](#)

[Local museums](#)

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BOOKS

To view a booklist by town or village [click here](#).

BY SUBJECT

AIRFIELDS AND THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

H.R. ALLEN, *Fighter Station Supreme: RAF Tangmere*, Panther Books, 1985

Richard ALMOND, 'A Brief History of Shoreham Airport', in *Sussex Industrial History*, no 14, 1984/5, pp. 11-16

Chris ASHWORTH, *Action Stations 9: military airfields of the central south and south-east*, Patrick Stephens, 2nd ed. 1990

John A. BAGLEY, 'Shoreham and Ford: A history of two Sussex airfields', in *Sussex Industrial History*, no. 6, Winter 1973/4, pp. 25-33

Barbara BEST & George HARPER, *Tangmere: a village with two stories*, Phillimore, 1988

Robin J. BROOKS, *Sussex Airfields In The Second World War*, Countryside Books, 1993

Pat BURGESS & Andy SAUNDERS, *Battle Over Sussex 1940*, Middleton Press, 1990

Hugh DUNDAS, *Flying Start: a fighter pilot's war years*, Stanley Paul, 1988

John GREHAN, *Battles and Battlefields of Sussex, a Military History of Sussex from the Iron Age to the Second World War*, Historic Military Press, 2001

Paul HAMLIN, *Coolham Airfield remembered 1944-1994*, Paul Hamlin, 1994.

Derek LEATHERS, *Front Line 1940*, Derek Leathers, [undated c.1990]

Martin F MACE, *Chanctonbury Crashes, the Story of Five German Aircraft That Never Returned from the Battle of Britain*, Historic Military Press, 1998

Matthew PARKER, *Battle of Britain July-October 1940, An Oral History of Britain's 'Finest Hour'* Headline, 2000

Alfred PRICE, *Battle of Britain: the hardest day 18th August 1940*, Arms and Armour Press, 1988

Ken RIMELL, *Merlin And The Sabre: the story of Royal Air Force Apuldram 1943-1945*, Ken Rimell, 1992

Andy SAUNDERS, *RAF Tangmere In Old Photographs*, Alan Sutton, 1992

Andrew R. SAUNDERS, 'Some of the Few' in *Sussex Life*, vol.11, no.9, September 1975, pp.34-36

AIRCRAFT AND THE AIRFORCE

Henry BOOT, *Gifts of War, Spitfires and Other Presentation Aircraft in Two World Wars*, Tonbridge, Air Britain Historians Ltd, 2005

Rupert MATTHEWS, *Heroes of Fighter Command: Sussex*, Countryside Books, 2007

Kevin MEARS, *Wise Without Eyes, 37 Squadron Royal Air Force 1939-1945*, Hooded Falcon, 2005

David ROWLAND, *Spitfires Over Sussex, the Exploits of 602 Squadron Peacehaven*, Finsbury Publishing, 2000

Dilip SARKAR, *Bader's Tangmere Spitfires, Untold Story, 1941*, Patrick Stephens, 1996

AIR RAIDS (GENERAL)

H.E.BATES (ed. Bob Ogley), *Flying bombs Over England*, Froglets, 1994

Pat BURGESS & Andy SAUNDERS, *Blitz Over Sussex 1941-42*, Middleton Press, 1994

Pat BURGESS & Andy SAUNDERS, *Bombers Over Sussex 1943-45*, Middleton Press, 1995

Bob OGLEY, *Doodlebugs And Rockets: the battle of the Flying Bombs*, Froglets, 1992

The War In East Sussex: a short account of the main war events in East Sussex, September 3, 1939 – May 7, 1945, and the bombing of the County, Sussex Express And County Herald/Cinque Ports Press, 2nd ed. 1985 (NB covers Crawley and Mid Sussex area)

ARTEFACTS

Peter LONGSTAFF-TYRELL, *That Peace In Our Time: the artefacts of World War Two in Sussex*, Gote House Graphics, 1993

BURIAL GROUNDS

War Dead Of The British Commonwealth: the register of the names of those who fell in the 1939-1945 War and are buried in cemeteries and churchyards in Sussex, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2nd ed. 1982

CANADIANS

Peter LONGSTAFF-TYRELL, *The Maple Leaf Army in Britain*, Gote House, 2002

D-DAY

Ian GREIG, Kim LESLIE, Alan READMAN *D-Day West Sussex*, West Sussex County Council, 1994

DEFENCES

John GOODWIN, *The Military Defence Of West Sussex: 500 years of fortification between Brighton and Selsey*, Middleton Press, 1985

Henry WILLS, *Pillboxes: a study of UK defences 1940*, Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, 1985

DUNKIRK

David J KNOWLES, *Escape From Catastrophe: 1940 Dunkirk*, Knowles Publishing, 2000

HOME GUARD AND AUXILIARY UNITS

Paul CROOK, *Sussex Home Guard*, Middleton Press, 1998

Stewart ANGELL, *The Secret Sussex Resistance*, Middleton Press, 1996

LIFEBOATS

Martin F MACE, *They Also Served, the Story of Sussex Lifeboats at War 1939-1945*, Historic Military Press, 2001

RAILWAYS

Bernard DARWIN, *War On The Line: the stories of the Southern Railway in wartime*, Middleton Press, reprint 1984

Bernard J HOLDEN, *Let Smoke Make Steam: An Account of Managing the Railways in Great Britain and India During World War 2*, Off the Rails, 2004

SUBMARINES

Gatwick Submarine Archive *Even More Submarine Memories, More Lesser Known Facts From the Gatwick Submarine Archive* Gatwick Submarine Archive, 2005

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

W. Victor COOK, 'Green Cinderellas of West Sussex' in *Sussex County Magazine*, vol.19, 1945, pp.240-243

Amy DE LA HAYE, *Land Girls, Cinderellas of the Soil*, Royal Pavilion Libraries & Museum, 2009

Bob POWELL, *Women's Land Army*, Sutton, 1997

GENERAL

P. CHAPMAN, *The Colours of the Day*, Country Books, 1999

David J KNOWLES, *With Resolve - With Valour*, Knowles Publishing, 2002

Brock McELHERAN, *V-Bombs and Weathermaps: Reminiscences of World War II*, McGill Queen's University Press, 1995

S.G. MOHRING, *Freedom in Captivity, Personal Recollections of World War II*, Books on Demand, 2001

David NUTTING, (ed.) *Attain by Surprise, Capturing Top Secret Information in World War II*, David Colver, 2003

Arthur WARD and Alexander STILWELL, *Resisting the Nazi Invader*, Constable, 1997

BY PLACE

ARDINGLY

Alex MACLEAN, *Ardingly, Sussex at War 1939-45 and the Evacuee Experience*, Ardingly Evacuee Experience Committee, 1999

BOGNOR REGIS

Daphne BINGHAM (ed.), *Bluebirds Fly Past Bognor Regis*, Woodfield Publishing, 1999

Daphne BYRNE & Ursula ROBERTS, *Recollections of Bognor*, Stylus Press, 1991

Andy SAUNDERS, *Bognor at War*, Middleton Press, 1995

Joyce STATLER (ed.), *Special Relations: trans-Atlantic letters linking three English evacuees and their families 1940-45*, Imperial War Museum, 1990.

Bognor Regis Local History Newsletter has relevant articles in:

issue no.11, July 1984, p.7 (D-Day)

issue no.12, March 1985, pp.30-35 (general)

issue no.25, August 1991, pp.16-18 (bombs)

issue no.31, August 1994, pp.13-16 (general)

BURGESS HILL

Guy VOICE, *Men of Burgess Hill 1939 to 1946, Remembering the Ninety Who Gave their Lives for Peace and Freedom During the Second World War*, Author, 2003

The *Burgess Hill Local History Society Journal* has relevant articles in:

issue no.2, June 1986, pp.3-4 (bomb damage)

issue no.4, December 1987, p.17 (bomb damage)

issue no.6, April 1993, p.19 (bomb damage)

CHICHESTER

Bernard PRICE, *Chichester The Valiant Years*, Phillimore, 1978

CRAWLEY

Rex WILLIAMS, *You Must Remember This*, Rural Rides Publications, 1992

Records: James Longley & Co. Ltd. 1939-1945, Longley & Co. Ltd.,
[undated, c.1946]

DANEHILL

Phil LUCAS, *We Will Remember Them, Men from Our Parish Who Lost Their Lives in the Great World War 1914-1918 & the Second World War 1939-1945*, Philip G. Lucas, c.2001

EAST GRINSTEAD

Edward BISHOP, *Guinea Pig Club*, Macmillan, 1963

T. KEAN, *Story of the Guinea Pig Club*, Lisek, 1992 (and supplement 1994)

Peter WILLIAMS & Ted HARRISON, *McIndoe's Army: the injured airmen who faced the world*, Pelham Books, 1979

The *Bulletin Of The East Grinstead Society* has relevant articles in:

issue no.8, January 1972, p.9 (war memorial)

issue no.23, January 1978, pp.5-6 (ARP warden)

issue no.24, May 1978, p.11 (general)

issue no.47, 1990, pp.11-16 (evacuees)

GOODWOOD

We Just Got On With It! Recollections from the Goodwood Villages World War 2 1939-1945, Goodwood Villages Together, 2005

HARTING

Anthony ARMSTRONG, *Village At War*, Collins, 1941

HENFIELD

Lucie BISHOP, *Henfield In Battledress: pages from a scrap book*, Lucie Bishop, 2nd ed. 1981

HORSHAM

Jeremy KNIGHT (ed.), *Memories From A Town That Disappeared: Horsham during World War II*, Horsham Museum, 1989

Cliff WHITE, *Horsham 1939-1945: the air war, the story of the men & women, their machines and the incidents in and around the town of Horsham, Sussex*, Author, 1991

Cliff WHITE, *Horsham, the War Years in Pictures*, Author, 1998

LANCING

Mrs BARROW, *Mrs Barrow's War Diary*, Lancing & Sompting Pastfinders History Group, 2005

Ted WALKER, *The High Path*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982

LINGFIELD

Janet BATESON, *Around Lingfield at War, wartime experiences in South-east England 1939-1945*, Amberley Publishing, 2010

LITTLEHAMPTON

Alfred H. BOWERMAN, *Tales of a Grandfather*, A.H. Bowerman, 1980

Iris JONES, *Wartime Littlehampton 1939-40*, Arun District Council, 1989

H.J.F. THOMPSON, *The Littlehampton Story No. 1: Littlehampton through the wars*, Author, 1978

LYMINSTER

George COOPER, *And Hitler Stopped Play, Cricket and War at Lyminster House, West Sussex (1931-1946)*, Vanguard Press, 2001

MIDHURST

They Also Served, a Collection of World War Two Memories of Men and Women of the Midhurst Area, Royal British Legion, 2000

PETWORTH

The *Petworth Society Bulletin/Magazine* has relevant articles in:

issue no.22, December 1980, pp16-20 (artefacts)

issue nos.24-27, 1981-2 (Budham bomb)

issue no.29, September 1982, pp.15-17 (evacuee)

issue no.37, September 1984, pp.19-21 (home guard)

issue no. 39, March 1985, pp.13-16 (Canadians)

issue no.40, June 1985, pp.7-28 (Canadians)

issue no.42, December 1985, pp.21-26 (home guard)

issue no. 43, March 1986, pp.32-34 (general)

issue no. 54, December 1988 (evacuee)

issue no.69, September 1992, pp.4-14 (school bombing)

issue no.74, December 1993, pp.39-40 (evacuees) pp.42-43 (Americans)

issue no.75, March 1994, pp.23-27 (evacuee)

issue no.76, June 1994, pp.27-32 (Byworth ARP)

issue no.78, December 1994, pp.14-16 (Canadians)

issue no.79, March 1995, pp.29-31 (evacuees)

PULBOROUGH

David W. MORRIS, *Pulborough In Wartime 1939-1945*, David Morris, 1995

Norman WYATT, *An Ever-Rolling Stream*, SMH Books, 1993

RUSPER

Paul REED, *The Men Who Marched Away: a remembrance of the men whose names are recorded on the Rusper War Memorial*, Averys Press, 1991

RUSTINGTON

Mary TAYLOR, *This Was Rustington: No.3: in times of war*, Mary Taylor, 1981

SELSEY

Clifford J.M. FIDLER, *Selsey at War, or A Village Faces the Nazis 1939 to 1945*, Fidelity Processes, 2000

Clifford J.M. FIDLER, 'Selsey At War 1939-1945' in *Sussex History*, no.28, 1989 (2). pp.2-25

L. HARRIS, *War Diary: Selsey 1939-1945*, Author, 1945

Selsey And The D-Day Story, Selsey Society, 1994

SOUTHWICK

Nigel F DIVERS, *Southwick at War 1939-45*, Southwick (Sussex) Society, 1997

STEYNING

Jane HOGG et al. (ed.), *Steyning At War*, Steyning Museum Trust, 1993

SUSSEX

Michael G BUTCHER, *Paraffin Lights - Water from the Well, A Rural Ride of Growing up in Sussex - Before, During and After World War II*, Knowles Pubs, 2000

Chris COMBER, *Mid-Sussex Parish War Memorials. Vol. 2* Author, 2002

Stuart HYLTON, *Kent and Sussex 1940, Britain's Front Line*, Pen & Sword, 2004

David KNOWLES, *J Bittersweet Seasons 1947 in Sussex, with Wartime and Other Excerpts*, Knowles Publishing, 1999

Peter LONGSTAFF-TYRELL, *Barracks to Bunkers, 250 Years of Military Activity in Sussex*, Sutton, 2002

Peter LONGSTAFF-TYRELL, *Front-Line Sussex, Napoleon Bonaparte to the Cold War*, Sutton, 2000

Peter LONGSTAFF-TYRELL, *Tyrell's List. An Amalgam, the Artefacts of Two Great Wars in Sussex*, Gote House, 1998

Martin F MACE, *Sussex Wartime Relics and Memorials, Wrecks, Relics & Memorials From Sussex at War 1939-1945*, Historic Military Press, 1997

James ROFFEY, *Schoolboy's War in Sussex*, History Press, 2010

TANGMERE

Tangmere Village Day & D-Day Commemoration 1944-1994 Souvenir Programme, Tangmere Parish Council, [undated, 1994]

TURNERS HILL

Alex J. MACLEAN, *The Voice Of A Wealden Village: and oral survey of Turners Hill, Sussex*, [unpublished MA Dissertation, Brighton Polytechnic, 1990]

WESTBOURNE

Tom EDWARDS, *Westbourne's War 1939-1945*, Westbourne Local History Group, 1998

Westbourne and D-Day, Westbourne Local History Group, [undated, 1994]

WORTHING

Keith ANDRETTI (ed.), *Wartime Voices: memories of the Home Front in Worthing*, Worthing Museum, 1989

Colin CLARK & Rupert TAYLOR, *Worthing At War: the story of how a seaside town faced up to the horror of Hitler's bombers*, Becket Features, 1989

Keith DOWNER, *Worthing In Wartime 1939-1945: a history of events of a south coast town during the Second World War 1939-1945*, Keith Downer [undated, unpublished typescript, c.1989]

Chris HARE, *Worthing Under Attack, Eye witness story of Worthing during the 1930s and 40s*, Guild Care, 2011

C.F. HARRISS, *Hotchpot: a domestic journal of the war years from 1st September 1939 to 10th May 1945*, [unpublished manuscript in 4 parts bound in one volume]

Paul HOLDEN (ed.), *Worthing at War: The Diary of C.F. Harriss*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 2010

Joan STRANGE (edited by Chris McCooey), *Despatches From The Homefront: the war diaries of Joan Strange 1939-1945*, Monarch Publications, 1989

NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers are of exceptional importance, despite censorship. Also valuable are anniversary issues and special supplements on the war.

Titles held for 1939-1945 include:

Bognor Regis Observer (at Chichester Library on microfilm; Crawley, Horsham & Worthing libraries searchable PDF files on DVD; West Sussex Record Office, originals & searchable PDF files on DVD)

Bognor Regis Post (at Bognor Regis Library on microfilm; West Sussex Record Office, originals)

Chichester Observer (at Crawley, Horsham & Worthing libraries searchable PDF files on DVD; West Sussex Record Office, originals & searchable PDF files on DVD)

Chichester Post (at West Sussex Record Office, originals)

Crawley Observer, see Sussex and Surrey Courier

Littlehampton Post (at West Sussex Record Office, originals)

Mid-Sussex Times (at Burgess Hill Library, microfilm)

Shoreham Herald (at West Sussex Record Office, originals)

Sussex and Surrey Courier (at Crawley Library on microfilm & searchable PDF files on DVD; Horsham & Worthing libraries searchable PDF files on DVD; West Sussex Record Office, originals & searchable PDF files on DVD)

Sussex Daily News (at Worthing Library, microfilm)

West Sussex County Times (at Horsham Library, microfilm & searchable PDF files on DVD; Crawley & Worthing libraries searchable PDF files on DVD; West Sussex Record Office, originals & searchable PDF files on DVD)

West Sussex Gazette (at Chichester Library on microfilm; Crawley, Horsham & Worthing libraries searchable PDF files on DVD; West Sussex Record Office, originals & searchable PDF files on DVD)

Worthing Gazette (at Worthing Library, originals, microfilm & searchable PDF files on DVD; Crawley & Horsham libraries searchable PDF files on DVD; West Sussex Record Office, searchable PDF files on DVD)

Worthing Herald (at Worthing Library, originals & microfilm)

PHOTOGRAPHS

The **George Garland Collection**, administered by the County Record Office, covers mainly the Petworth District, and subjects covered include evacuation, Women's Land Army, Home Guard, Air Raid Precautions (ARP), billeted troops (notably from Canadian Regiments), and victory celebrations. There is a poignant series relating to the bombing of the Boys School at Petworth in September 1942.

Frank L'Alouette was an official wartime photographer, and his superbly composed photographs remain in the possession of his daughter. The photographs are primarily of the Bognor area, and cover the war effort, civil defence, air raids, and crashed aircraft. All (around 400) have been scanned and are on the [West Sussex Past Pictures website](#). Contact Record Office staff or the County Local Studies Librarian for advice on publishing any image as this requires the consent of the depositor.

The Library Service holds the **Walter Gardiner Photography Collection** at Worthing Library. Included are around 250 prints taken by Walter's son William, who obtained a permit in 1944 to photograph aspects of Worthing and its defences. All have been scanned and are on the [West Sussex Past Pictures website](#). Any other Library Service photographs, mainly of bomb damage in larger towns, have also been scanned for the same website.

In addition, the **Record Office** holds a **general series of World War Two** photographs, and one or two smaller collections for particular areas, will be found in Urban and Rural District Council records. The photographic archives of [The Royal Sussex Regiment](#) include photographs of recruiting and training in the county, and of the overseas active service battalions of the county regiment.

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

For further information on all the categories in this section, please visit the [West Sussex Record Office website](#).

LOCAL AUTHORITY RECORDS

The County Council records include the Minute Books for the Emergency Executive Committee, and of various Sub-Committees with special responsibilities for such matters as education, child welfare, the Home Guard, and War Savings. Miscellaneous records include ARP and evacuation circulars and documents regarding invasion procedure for schools.

The Urban and Rural District Council records include main Council and Committee Minute Books. Of particular value will be the ARP, Civil Defence, Evacuation, and Wartime Emergency Committees. There are records relating to ARP and air raids, such as correspondence files, memoranda and reports, registers of civilian casualties, and also some albums of newspaper cuttings. Worthing RDC has a series of 76 files on air attacks and flying bomb incidents between July 1940 and December 1944.

Air-raid information can be backed up with the Survey of Air-Raid Incidents in the Sussex Police Records, and the Action Officers' Minute Books of the County ARP Control, 6 September 1940 - 1 May 1945. For evacuation, some Districts have registers of accommodation for evacuees.

PARISH RECORDS

Wartime material is to be found in the Miscellanea section in the parish records, but there are also other key categories. Marriage Registers can help identify units billeted in a parish; Burial Registers may reveal the graves of buried airmen; whilst Vestry Minutes, and Church Building Papers, will sometimes contain notes of war damage to churches.

Parish Magazines can provide useful references to the impact of the war at local level, and Registers of Services are known to contain notes of air raids. Incumbents' Miscellanea occasionally have lists of parishioners with the forces, rolls of honour, firewatchers' rotas and logbooks, and correspondence regarding the provision of air raid shelters. Victory celebrations may be

referred to in Vestry Minutes, and committee minutes and programmes can sometimes be found in the Miscellanea section. Finally, faculties and plans for War Memorials may be deposited with the Church Building Papers.

POLICE RECORDS

In 1939 there were six Divisions of the West Sussex Constabulary - at Arundel, Chichester, Horsham, Petworth, Steyning and Worthing - and during the war their peacetime policing functions were augmented by additional responsibilities in the interests of civil defence. The Constabulary was amalgamated with the County and Borough Forces of East Sussex in 1943, principally to aid the co-ordination of military and police operations during the build-up to D-Day. The Sussex Police Force continued until 1947 when it was decided to revert to the pre-war structure. The records are arranged on a Divisional basis. Of particular importance are the Occurrence Books, containing a daily record of every official incident reported within the Division. These include reports on the contravention of blackout regulations, road-traffic accidents, breaches of curfew laws, and failure to observe restrictions on civilian photography. The misdemeanours of the billeted military and arrests of soldiers absent without leave are also reported. Offences of this nature can be pursued through Summons Books and Charge Registers, and also Court Records and local newspapers.

The Police coordinated air-raid precautions, and the recording of air raids, unexploded bombs, crashed aircraft, and captured enemy airmen. These are reported in the Occurrence Books and special Registers of Air-Raid Messages and Air-Raid Incidents. There is a very useful survey, arranged by parish, recording all air-raid incidents in West Sussex during the War. A map showing where flying-bombs (V1s) fell in Sussex is available.

Accidents in defensive minefields are recorded in the Occurrence Books and there are files dealing with the opening of beaches and clearance of minefields between 1944-50.

The listing of "aliens" resident in the county, and the regulation of their movements, are recorded in the Occurrence Books, the schedules of the Aliens Tribunal, and in the Beat Books of individual Police Stations.

Personnel Records are excellent, and include lists of Reservists and nominal rolls of Defence Medal entitlement.

Please note that because of the potentially sensitive nature of Police Records, there is a general 100 year embargo on public access: students wishing to use the documents for the war period must first obtain in writing the permission of the Data Protection Officer, Sussex Police Headquarters, Mailing House, Church Lane, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2DZ. Public access to Court Records is similarly restricted and application should be made in the first instance to the [County Archivist, West Sussex Record Office](#).

THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

The story of the county regiment in the Second World War is told in G.D. Martineau *History of The Royal Sussex Regiment*, Regimental Association, 1955, and the archives are fully described in A.E. Readman *The Royal Sussex Regiment, A Catalogue of Records*, WSCC, 1985.

During the Second World War, the several battalions of this infantry regiment gave distinguished service to their King and Country. The 1st Battalion, as part of the 7th Brigade of the 4th Indian Division, fought in the Western Desert, at Monte Cassino in February - March 1944, and later in Greece. The other Regular Battalion, the 2nd, joined The Territorials of the 4th and 5th Battalion, to form the 133rd Brigade of the 44th Division, which went to France in the Spring of 1940. After Dunkirk, the Brigade was re-formed, going out to North Africa in May 1942 for the decisive battles of Alam Halfa and El Alamein and subsequently becoming part of the Persia and Iraq Force.

Two other Territorial Battalions, the 6th and 7th, were also evacuated from France in June 1940, the 6th Battalion becoming a training battalion engaged in guard duties and coastal defence, whilst the 7th Battalion was transferred to the Royal Artillery as a Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

The Regiment expanded during the War with the formation of other battalions.

The 9th Battalion was formed in June 1940, and saw service in India and Burma between 1942-45. Several home-based battalions were constituted, some of them short-lived, which trained drafts for overseas service or were employed in coastal defence and guard duties.

The archives at the [County Record Office](#) derive from two basic sources: official records created in the administration of individual battalions, and personal records donated by former members of the regiment or their families. The archives are

arranged battalion by battalion, and include both official records, such as war diaries, battalion orders, casualty lists, and addresses to troops, and personal papers, notably letters, diaries, scrapbooks, pay books, and photographs. The subject matter extends to recruiting in the county, and to the raising of Home Guard Battalions linked with the Regiment. There is an extensive library of reference books, including the regimental journal, *The Roussillon Gazette*, and an incomplete run of the *Army List* for tracing the careers of officers.

Although there are some official archives here, in the main non-current administrative records will have been transferred by the Regiment directly to the appropriate Infantry Record Office.

There are important collections held elsewhere. [The National Archives at Kew](#) holds the official series of unit war diaries, for example. Other wartime records held at Kew are described in John D. Cantwell's *The Second World War: A guide to documents in The Public Record Office*. [The Imperial War Museum](#) in Lambeth Road, London is an indispensable source for documents, printed books, photographs and films.

Finally, the personal service papers of soldiers of the British Army who served after 1920 are available to next-of-kin via the [Army Personnel Centre](#), Historical Disclosures, Mail Point 555, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX.

SCHOOL RECORDS

The Headteachers' Log Books record the implementation of pre-war precautions and exercises such as the issue of gas masks. During the War, they record the running of their schools in wartime, including the building of air-raid shelters, times of air-raid warnings, damage to school buildings, opening of school canteens, growing of vegetables on allotments, and warnings to children about anti-personnel bombs. The arrival of evacuees in 1939 and 1940 is reported, as is the re-organisation and re-arrangement of school life to cope with them.

In 1941, there are references to the evacuation of West Sussex schoolchildren from the coastal towns to the North-East Midlands and Yorkshire.

Please note, however, that these are potentially sensitive records and come within the scope of the Data Protection Act 1998. Public access is therefore restricted and application should be made in the first instance to the [County Archivist, West Sussex Record Office](#).

The memoranda and circulars issued by the Ministry of Education and the Education Department of WSCC have information on education in times of emergency, the welfare of children in wartime, and the contribution of schools to the war effort, war savings, agricultural work, etc. These are to be found occasionally in the records of individual schools, and also in County Council and Parish Records.

ADDITIONAL MANUSCRIPTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS

The Record Office holds many small and miscellaneous collections relating to the war. Personal records and memorabilia include the diaries of William Burch of Chichester, and of the Chief Air Raid Warden of Bosham, Southbourne, Fishbourne and Chidham districts; the Chichester memories of Harold T. Taylor; a Battle of Britain diary; the papers of Reynolds and Sylvia Rathbone of Pulborough and the papers of F. Osborne, especially in connection with the Home Guard and Yapton Village Hall. Gunnery notes, letters, certificates and other memorabilia are amongst the papers of J.R.L. Wilson. There is correspondence belonging to the Martin and Baldwin families of Brighton and Newhaven. Several small deposits include ration books, clothing exchange vouchers, identity cards, certificates, instruction books, leaflets, press cuttings, posters and pamphlets.

Allen family papers contain Home Guard records, and there are also records of their West Sussex Battalions. Log books are available for the Royal Observer Corps. Another ARP collection includes the Control-Action Officers' Minute books which contain an overall log of all air-raid incidents and air-crashes etc. in the county.

East Grinstead material is plentiful: there are ARP duty registers and control logs, correspondence concerning war damage at Sackville College and the East Grinstead Home Guard, and the papers of the East Grinstead Citizens' Advice Bureau concern war damage and compensation, air-raid planning, the bombing of the Whitehall cinema, flying bomb incidents, prisoners-of-war relatives club, the Advisory Resettlement Panel, schools and evacuees.

There are records on civil defence and the home front. Air-raid shelters and civil defence services are shown on a 25" OS map for Chichester, on plans and specifications for Cowfold and Horsham, and in correspondence for the Chanctonbury District. The Pulborough Welcome Home Committee records are

amongst the Rathbone family papers, and Women's Institute papers, particularly scrapbooks, contain a wealth of information. There is a map of feeding centres on the South Downs, 1942, and of air-raids in the Crawley district, also held at Crawley Library.

There is a general map of Sussex showing flying-bomb attacks. [Worthing Library](#) holds newspaper cuttings files, a Local History pack and a small collection of ephemera relating to the war in the town and invasion defence preparations.

As well as the Royal Sussex Regiment records, other records concern the war abroad: these include a diary of the withdrawal of 208th Field Company, Royal Engineers, at Dunkirk; papers about the North African Campaign, on Jewish refugee children from a concentration camp, on the Tunisian campaign and the death of a tank officer; and observations from Canada. For prisoner of war recollections, there are memorabilia and accounts from camps in Italy, Germany and Sudetenland, 1942-5, and an A-level study on the treatment of British and German prisoners of war.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Many museums in the county hold objects, such as gas masks and helmets; ephemera, such as ration books and ARP handbooks, and often photographs. Most local towns, and some villages, have museums and here's a list, with links to their websites: [Museums in West Sussex](#)

Collections of special note include:

Home Guard collection; school loans box at [Chichester District Museum](#), Tower Street, Chichester (new museum opens summer 2012).

Letters of reminiscences from Canadian soldiers, & other WWII material, at [Horsham Museum](#), 9 The Causeway, Horsham RH12 IHE.

Material on 30 Assault Unit, Royal Marines at Littlehampton in 1944; taped and written reminiscences; ARP notebook of shelters; copies of war diaries; various objects & other items; school loan packs at [Littlehampton Museum](#), Manor House, Church Street, Littlehampton BN17 5EN.

Allied and German radio equipment at [Amberley Museum](#), Houghton Bridge, Amberley, Arundel BN18 9LT.

Aircraft, artefacts and memorabilia of RAF Tangmere and satellite airfields; Battle of Britain Hall; library of general military aviation books and periodicals at [Tangmere Military Aviation Museum](#), Tangmere Airfield, Nr. Chichester PO20 6ES.

Material on the German bomber crash of 19th January 1941 & funeral of the crew which led to national controversy; plus other more general objects and material on WWII; at [Steyping Museum](#), Church Street, Steyping BN44 3YB;

Costumes, textiles and related material; information on local evacuees and Basque refugees at [Worthing Museum](#), Chapel Road, Worthing, BN11 IHP.