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Military Collections at the Borthwick Institute

Including the Boer War, First and Second World Wars, Falklands War and Gulf War (our collections also include earlier material from other wars).

Boer Wars (1880-1881 and 1899-1902)

- **Private Leonard Bowe's diary of the Boer War [SA/4]**
Handwritten diary of the Boer War, by Private Leonard Bowe, 1st Border Regiment, 1901 (with a later typescript transcript of the diary).
- **Trooper Stackwood's account of the Boer War [SA/6]**
'An account of the Boer War, 1899-1901', written by Walter Stackwood (typescript, 15pp). Trooper Stackwood was a member of the [Second] New Zealand contingent.

Photograph of six Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses, and three soldiers (one of whom is Walter Stackwood) in the grounds of the Wanderers VAD hospital, Johannesburg, July 1918.

- **KL Hunter 'Memories of an Administrative Officer 1914-1950' [SA/14]**
Autobiographical narrative of KL Hunter OBE, who served with the South African forces in German East Africa 1914-1918, and in the Kenyan Provincial Administration thereafter. He ended his career as Provincial Commissioner, Nyanza.
- **South African War photographs [SA/5]**
Two original photographs of the 'Boer War', c.1900.

First World War (1914-1918/19)

- **Alfred Peacock Archive [PEA]**
Research notes and papers of Dr Alfred Peacock, and papers of individual soldiers, including, Clarence Long of the 16th Middlesex Regiment, Thomas John Morgan of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, George Sunman of the Royal Garrison Artillery, Oliver Howard Sprenger of the Northumberland Fusiliers, Herbert Williams of the Royal Field Artillery, Albert Wiles of the 10th Devonshire Regiment, Harold Archer of the Royal Garrison Artillery, Thomas Wynn Oswald Cope of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Oswald Hatfield of the 17th Northumberland Fusiliers, William Thomas Benfield of the South Wales Borderers, and Flight Lieutenant Pruett Mullens Dennett.



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- **British Orthopaedic Association Archive [BOA]**
Includes photographs of the Welsh Metropolitan Hospital, Cardiff during the First World War. Also includes records of the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (BOFAS).
- **Cemetery Research Group photographic archive [CRG]**
20th century photographs of local authority cemeteries showing types of landscaping and individual memorials or inscriptions, with indexes. Cemeteries include Avonview Cemetery, Bristol; Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff; Harlow Hill Cemetery, Harrogate; Isleworth Cemetery, Hounslow; Ipswich Old Cemetery, Ipswich; St Pancras and Islington Cemetery, Islington; City Cemetery, Norwich; Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth; Richmond and East Sheen Cemetery, Richmond; General Cemetery, Sheffield.
- **Chest Clinic, York, Archive [NHS/CAC]**
Patient records, comprising registers of applications for treatment, 1912-1979; street index of patients, c.1912-1948; glass slides used to illustrate talks on tuberculosis, c.1920. First World War soldiers? All data is sensitive data so, depends on research requirements in terms of access.
- **Cocoa Works Magazine [R/DL/CWM]**
Covering the First World War period. Not comprehensive on soldiers going off to fight etc, but does give a picture about what is happening.
- **J W Knowles & Sons Archive [KNOWLES]**
The Knowles archive is split between Explore and the Borthwick. They definitely specialised in First World War memorial windows, and in wooden memorial structures e.g. lecterns and fonts.
- **Lady Violet Deramore Archive [VDER]**
Photograph of Lord Deramore in uniform (could be his uniform as Chief of Coastal Defence for the area). Mounted pictures showing the use of Heslington Hall as a convalescent home for soldiers during World War One.
- **Lawrence Rowntree Archive [LROW]**
Correspondence, journals and photographs of Lawrence Edmund Rowntree, pertaining to his childhood, his medical studies, his time in the Friends' Ambulance Service and his active military service during the First World War, as well as letters of condolence received by his mother Constance Rowntree following his death at the Battle of Passchendaele in November 1917, 1901-1919.
- **Records of St Stephen's Orphanage, York [YCT/SSO]**
The children's records cover the entire First World War period.
- **Records of Arthur Harold May, Vicar of Middleton with Cropton [AHM/4/3/1]**
First World War photographs.
- **Retreat file on 'Quakers in the First World War' and letters from staff abroad / demobilised attendants [First World War]**



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- **Records of Benjamin Seebom Rowntree, covering the First and Second World Wars [RFAM/BSR/JRF/8/2 and 8/9]**
- **Items relating to Private Hulley, patient at York Military Hospital during the First World War [D14] 1916-1919**
Clinical charts and notes for Private Hulley during his treatment at Military Hospital, York, 1916-1917; typescript note on Private Hulley's condition by medical officer at Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, 1918; two letters to Private Hulley from Major Swann, c.1919.
- **York Symphony Orchestra [YSO]**
Papers relating to finding rehearsal space after the First World War, and the playing of German music during the war.
- **Old Scholar's Memories of World War One [MOU/7/4/1/7] – The Mount School**
Photocopy. Text missing from the last page. Undated.
- **York Family papers [YRK]**

Second World War (1939-1945)

- **British Music Society of York [BMS]**
Includes season programme for concerts, 1942-1946, and an individual programme for a recital by the London Belgian Pianoforte Quartet, 1945.
- **Cemetery Research Group photographic archive [CRG]**
20th century photographs of local authority cemeteries showing types of landscaping and individual memorials or inscriptions, with indexes. Cemeteries include Avonview Cemetery, Bristol; Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff; Harlow Hill Cemetery, Harrogate; Isleworth Cemetery, Hounslow; Ipswich Old Cemetery, Ipswich; St Pancras and Islington Cemetery, Islington; City Cemetery, Norwich; Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth; Richmond and East Sheen Cemetery, Richmond; General Cemetery, Sheffield.
- **Chest Clinic, York, Archive [NHS/CAC]**
Patient records, comprising registers of applications for treatment, 1912-1979; street index of patients, c.1912-1948; Second World War records still covered by Data Protection, and all data is sensitive data, so depends on research requirements in terms of access.
- **Hickleton Papers [HALIFAX]**
Papers and diaries of the 1st Earl of Halifax (Edward Frederick Lindley Wood) as Foreign Secretary in the 1930s, and then UK Ambassador to the USA. Also papers relating to the Yorkshire Dragoons [HALIFAX/A2/283/9].
- **Letter of E H Smith regarding the War Damage Scheme [ESMI]**
Letter from E.H. Smith of the Rectory, Barton-le-Street, Malton to Miss Heath 6 November [c.1943-1945] regarding the War Damage Scheme, a national



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scheme under which those parishes who escaped war damage helped parishes that suffered.

- **Letters from Richard Wood and Willis Roxburgh concerning McCloskey General Hospital, Texas [BETH]**
The three letters mention the hospital's work with injured soldiers, the occupational therapy it offered, and meetings with 'amputee cases'.
- **Papers of Frederick and Mary Sayers [FSAY]**
Photographs and memorabilia were collected by Frederick Sayers while on active service from discarded/abandoned German uniforms and equipment he encountered on his progress through France.
- **Records of Canon John Stanley Purvis [PURVIS]**
Includes a file of Second World War papers, 1941-1948, and some watercolours of 'Tank Traps'.
- **Records of closed branches of the North Yorkshire East Federation of Women's Institutes [WINYE]**
Includes records of Second World War projects and events for certain closed groups.
- **Records of St Stephen's Orphanage, York [YCT/SSO]**
The children's records cover most of the Second World War period (1940 is missing).
- **Records of the Yorkshire Federation of Women's Institutes [WI]**
Mainly committee minutes for various sub-committees covering the Second World War period.
- **Records of the Women's Land Army in North Yorkshire [MILN/WLA]**
- **Records of Benjamin Seebom Rowntree, covering the First and Second World Wars [RFAM/BSR/JRF/8/2 and 8/9]**
- **Rowntree Family Papers [RFAM/BSR/UOY/21/13]**
File containing various articles and pamphlets relating to the years before the Second World War, the war itself and its immediate aftermath.
- **New Earswick Fire Brigade during the Second World War [JRF/4/1/9/9/6/2]**
File of papers concerning air raid fire protection.
- **University of York Archive [UOY/IC/1/1/1]**
Four black and white photographs showing Heslington and the site from the air (with Second World War Nissen huts visible), 30th April 1942.
- **Richard Frederick Wood, Baron Holderness [RWOO/10/12]**
Bundle of 3 typescripts concerning the Second World War and Richard Wood's injury in combat and recovery in the USA.

Family trees file comprising MS and typescript genealogical charts; copy of 'I Think How Lucky I Am: The Recollections of Lord Holderness', from the Journal



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of the Second World War Experience Centre; file of genealogical notes and press cuttings concerning the family of Clements Lumsden and the Gardner family, c 2002. **[RWO0/12/13]**

- **Weekly War Illustrated magazines [MD/229] 1939-1946, but 1944-1945 missing**
- **Interviews and accounts of war-time activities and Elvington Airfield [MD/131]**
Account of his war-time activities as air crew with the RAF by Rev. L. S. Rivett, together with a paper on Sir George Caley 1942-1945 Interviews with parishioners of Elvington concerning building of Elvington Airfield, transcript made c.1987.
- **Service of Thanksgiving for Victory in the European War [JRF/4/1/910/4/1]**
Joseph Rowntree Modern School Form of Service of Thanksgiving for Victory in the European War, May 1945.
- **Wesley Chapel Forces Canteen Visitors' Book [MR/Y/WC/47] 1941-1946**
Visitors' book of the Forces Canteen established at the Methodist Wesley Chapel, Priory Street, York, between 1942 and 1946, comprising names, addresses, arrival and departure dates, and personal messages left by servicemen and women stationed in York. [Content warning for harmful language].
- **Rowntrees records when it was converted to a Second World War munitions factory [JRF/RCO/6/2/4] Also RAC – County Industries Ltd, set up by Rowntrees as a munitions factory 1937-1950.**
- **Mount School archives – school evacuated to Cober Hill during the Second World War.**
- **York Waterworks Company [YWC], particularly Directors minutes on war damage 1941.**
- **York Family papers [YRK].**

Later conflicts

- **Military Hospital, York [NHS/MIL]**
Also formed part of the York County Hospital before these dates (1961-1976).
- **Records on the Soweto uprising [CSASMF/119]**
A short microfilm containing copies of bulletins, pamphlets, poetry and manifestos issued by such organisations as 'The African Scholars of Cape Town', Soweto Students' Representative Council, University of Cape Town Students' Representative Council, 'The Voice of Black People in South Africa', and SASSAC. (The acronym probably stands for South African Students' Action Committee. In 1978 the South African Students' Committee, one of the Black



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Consciousness groups, formed in Soweto an Action Committee which quickly became the Soweto Students Representative Committee, the group which led the uprising).

Creative interpretations relating to the military

- **Charles Wood archive [CW]**
Includes 'Christmas 1914' play. 'How I Won the War' play (1967 starring Michael Crawford and John Lennon). Also 'Tumbledown' about the Falklands War (1988) and 'Burning Soldiers' about the Gulf War.
- **Peter Whelan Archive [PW]**
Includes his play on the Accrington Pals, amongst others.

Other items of potential significance

- Bootham / Clifton / Retreat / Naburn / York County Hospital records can potentially relate to some First World War soldiers. No major research has been done on these, and Second World War records are still covered by Data Protection. All data is sensitive data so it depends on research requirements in terms of access.
- Ancestry and Find My Past for Church of England Parish Registers, which would include details of military deaths where they occurred in local parishes, or for deceased military personnel buried in parish churchyards.
- Church of England parish records may contain information about the installation of War Memorials, and the Diocesan archive is likely to have faculties relating to similar works. There may also be similar in the Methodist circuit records.