

BRITISH JEWS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

We Were There Too

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Does your family have a First World War story to tell?

HELP US UNCOVER THE STORIES OF THE MANCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY

We Were There Too is a unique cross-community project, led by JLGB in partnership with AJEX, that is creating a permanent digital archive and interactive website to record the experiences and contribution of the North West's Jewish community during the First World War. A century on, first-hand knowledge has disappeared, and family stories are at risk of being lost forever. The website helps you to create Personal Records to preserve the stories of individual members of your family, alongside scans of photographs, letters and even 3D artefacts.

The North West team, consisting of Rodney Ross, Project Manager, together with Nicki Davis and Charlotte Clare as Project Administrator and Researcher, is based next door in the Whitefield Synagogue Youth Centre.

The team have already started unearthing some fascinating local stories. One such story is that of Louis Golding, an author most famous for his novel 'Magnolia Street', based on his experiences growing up in the Jewish community in Manchester, which was published in 1932. What less people may know however is that whilst Golding was deemed unfit for active service in the First World War, he joined the Friends Ambulance Unit in 1915, as he still wished to be involved with the war effort. Whilst on service in Salonika and France, he wrote several poems about what he saw, which were published in a collection named 'Sorrows of War' in 1919. These poems tell us a great deal about the experience of war, from a slightly different angle to the traditional soldier poet. One of his poems entitled 'Joining Up' is available to read on his [Personal Record](#) on our website, where his war service has been documented so it shall not be forgotten.



Louis in 1917, before he went to France