

Project recording tales of British Jews in First World War expands

THE digital archive We Were There Too is expanding to the North-East, Yorkshire and Humberside – thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The archive has become a permanent record of the lives of Jewish men, women and families during the First World War, with details of their military and Home Front activities.

Project manager Rodney Ross said: "During the Great War, there were 15 active communities in these areas.

"Today there are three of any size and five much smaller ones. There is a very rich heritage, some of it well preserved but rarely accessed.

"The expansion of the project has been welcomed by local municipal archives and our initial fieldwork demonstrates a great deal of material is in private hands and widely dispersed.

"We are determined to make the public aware of these and ensure that an important piece of Anglo-Jewish history isn't lost

for ever." We Were There Too was set up in London in 2014 and later extended into the North-West.

It works with local communities to collect records, letters, stories, photographs and artefacts which are then recorded on the its website.

To date, it holds more than 2,500 personal records and is a valuable educational platform.

Mr Ross added: "The public response has been amazing.

"Our website has had worldwide exposure with visitors from America, Israel, South Africa, Australia, Gibraltar and beyond.

"It is vital that the Jewish contribution to the life and defence of this country isn't forgotten, especially when we are witnessing growing antisemitism again.

"We are delighted that we can now cover a greater geographical area."

Visit: Jewsfww.uk or email: Contactus@jewsfww.uk



HEROIC: Leeds-born Captain Jack White, who won the Victoria Cross during the First World War

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