



The next phase of *We Were There Too* – extending into Yorkshire, Humberside and the North East, has received financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This is a powerful endorsement of the importance of the project and the professionalism of the many people across the UK who are working, or have worked, on the project.

This new region has a very rich Jewish heritage, with lots of important communities existing during the First World War era. A great amount of material is being looked after in archives across the region, as well as in private collections. We have made contact with a number of new partners and we look forward to beginning to work together with them to bring these collections to life.

GREATER LONDON, THE NORTH WEST AND THE SOUTH COAST

These existing *We Were There Too* regions continue to be operational with the volunteer and staff teams working to expand the number of Personal Records, History Windows and Collections being researched and uploaded on to www.jewsfww.uk

For example, in the North West, see our new [History Window on the 'Foreign Jews Protection Committee'](#) to discover how the Manchester Jewish community responded to help those affected by the Military Services Act.



Letter head for the Manchester branch of the Foreign Jews Protection Committee

From volunteers in London, see the incredibly sad story of Abraham Bevistein, who was killed for desertion after suffering from shock from being caught in a German mine explosion. He enlisted under the surname "Harris" in September 1914 at the age of just 16, and when he was killed in March 1916 he was still only 17. Read more about Abraham's story on his [Personal Record](#).



Abraham Bevistein in uniform, and his headstone at Labourse Communal Cemetery in France

On the south coast, we have the story of Eugene Louise Sassoon, who became the first Jewish woman to receive a CBE for her work as Head of the Officers' Clothing branch of the Officers' Families Association, making uniforms for soldiers during the war. You can read more about Louise, as she was known, on her [Personal Record](#).



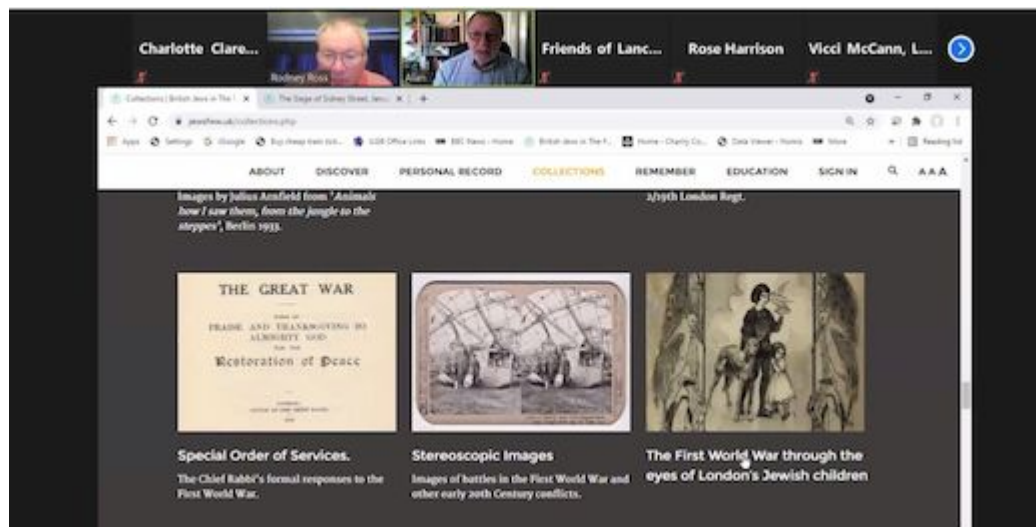
Louise working on soldiers' uniforms

NEW WAYS OF WORKING

During the pandemic and the lockdowns, we have operated continuously, and you can read about our activities over the past 18 months on our [Media Centre](#).

However there is no return to 'business as usual' for this next phase of the project. With our IT partners Discovery Education and Beachshore, we have been exploring ways of working which reflect the new digital heritage world we are in. This will involve new ways of communicating the contribution of Jewish communities in the First World War; for example, by creating the concept of Digital Interns, launching and sustaining a YouTube channel, virtual presentations for two weeks for the Armistice 2021 commemorations at the Museum of Liverpool, working with archives with Jewish collections and promoting them more widely.

There is a lot to do – with many and varied volunteering opportunities. Come and join us! Email us on contactus@jewsffw.uk if you would like to get involved.



A recent online community event with Lancashire Archives

NATIONAL REGISTER OF MEMORIAL BOARDS

This new heritage resource will be launched during Armistice 2021 on 10th November at a major civic event at the Museum of Liverpool.

Originating from an idea by WWTT volunteer Lola Fraser, this register is a searchable database of First World War memorial boards containing the names of members of the Jewish community. The boards were originally mounted in synagogues, cemeteries, community halls etc. Several are still in their original setting, but many today are inaccessible and often in a poor state of repair.

This will be a valuable resource for historians, genealogists, heritage researchers and families as they search for the place their family was buried.

You can find the Register in the [Collections section](#) of our site, or by clicking the link on the homepage:



A selection of the memorial boards we have photographed and catalogued

Thanks for reading, we hope you enjoyed! Make sure to visit the website jewsffw.uk to upload your family stories, and to learn more about our project.

To get in touch, email contactus@jewsffw.uk or you can find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @jewsffw

The We Were There Too Team

Project centre:
Park Lane, Whitefield,
Manchester, M45 7PB



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