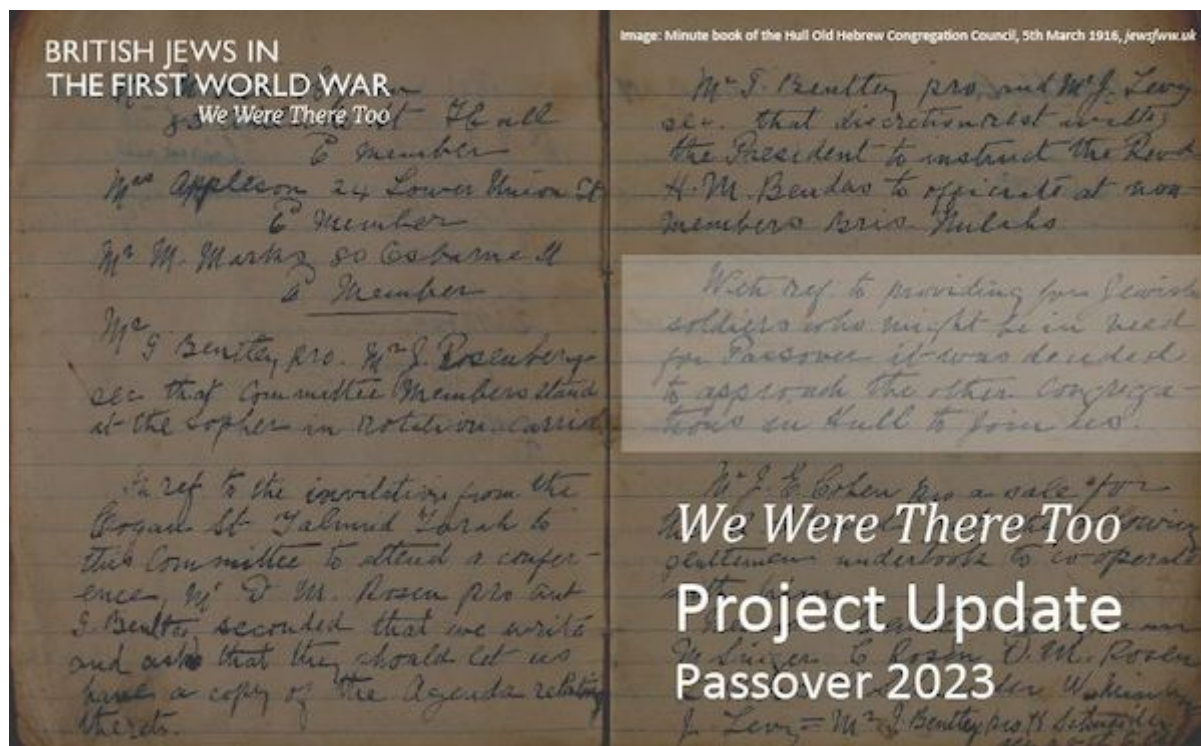




"With ref. to providing for Jewish soldiers who might be in need for Passover it was decided to approach the other congregations in Hull to join us." 5th March 1916

WELCOME TO THIS PASSOVER EDITION OF THE WWTT NEWSLETTER

The above image is an extract from the [Minute Book of the Hull Old Hebrew Congregation Council](#) from March 1916, making plans to bring together multiple congregations in Hull to provide for Jewish soldiers who might be in need during Passover. It serves as a reminder of solidarity that has always existed in the community and a window into what was once a thriving centre of Jewish life. Today, Hull and other small Jewish communities are growing smaller and projects like ours, that aim to capture and preserve their rich history, are more pertinent than ever.

HULL HISTORY CENTRE EXHIBITION

March saw the launch of *We Were There Too* exhibition at the [Hull History Centre](#), which ran from 14-30th March and attracted over 400 visitors as well as generous coverage in local press. The exhibition was officially launched by the Lord Mayor and Admiral of the Humber, Councillor Christine Randall, and was attended by local academics, councillors and representatives of the Jewish community, along with the general public. During the opening week our project historian, Paula Kitching, travelled to Hull to deliver a talk titled *Kosher Fish and Chips on the way to the Western Front*, which placed local Jewish history in the wider context of the First World War. Visitors could also examine the [Minute Book of the Hull Old Hebrew Congregation Council](#), which was on display for the duration of the exhibition.



We would like to extend a special thank you to all the staff at the Hull History Centre for their generosity in supporting our project and sharing their amazing Jewish collections with us.

As well as collecting more material to add to our website, we have made useful connections in Hull and hope to return to engage further with local schools post exam period.



The launch of the Hull History Centre Exhibition

STORIES FROM HULL

Our research into the [Hull Jewish community](#) uncovered a variety of personal stories. Here we offer two contrasting examples.

Joseph Clyne was only 17 when the war broke out and, like many others, lied about his age when he enlisted under the Derby's scheme. He was drafted into the Northumberland Fusiliers Infantry regiment in 1916 and took part in some of the most gruesome battles on the Western Front, before moving to Italy on foot. The war had a massive impact on him and his family; he faced unemployment after the war as well as crises of faith. In 1929 he moved to Manchester, where he became instrumental in setting up the local branch of AJEX, of which he was a Life president. He also fought in the Second World War, by that time a married man and a father. In 1977 he was awarded an MBE. We have been able to find an oral history interview with Joe, you can listen to it [here](#).



The WWTT team spent time in the Hull History Centre Archives learning about their amazing collections and sourcing material for upcoming History Windows.

Volunteer Discovery

As our volunteer Belinda Black discovered, not all of the young recruits were upstanding citizens. Belinda describes one of her discoveries, whose identity we have chosen to keep obscured.

"My initial look into his records showed that he was in the West Yorkshire Regiment as a Rifleman. He was wounded in 1917 and taken as a POW for 2 months in 1918 and discharged from the army in March 1919.

Much to my surprise, more records appeared online which on further investigation, I discovered to be numerous criminal records. He started his villainous career aged 12 and was incarcerated for 3 months for "loitering with intent". The following year

he got another 6 months for "stealing a silver brooch" and various other items. He was described by the magistrate as being a "rogue and a vagabond".

He then enlisted into the army. Upon discharge, his criminal records appeared again. He was then sentenced to one month for "fraud", and in the final record I found, he was sent to Parkhurst Prison for 5 years for "Indecent assault and attempting to strangle a female". However, this time I discovered he had used an alias, which was a similar surname to his own (The records show the two names, so the authorities knew what he had done).

I decided to investigate the alternative name and found out that it was another soldier of the same age, who had lived in the same area in England, was in the East Yorkshire Regiment and had been killed in France in 1916.

I can only assume that my villain had known this other young soldier and had tried to take on his identity to avoid prosecution."

JVN RECOGNISE WE WERE THERE TOO VOLUNTEERS

British Jews in the First World War, *We Were There Too* Volunteers were nominated by the JVN, the Jewish Volunteer Network for a Volunteer Team of Year 2022. Since the beginning of the project volunteers have played an integral part in the development and success of *We Were There Too*. We were delighted that the JVN recognised our volunteer's commitment and dedication to our outstanding project. Long may this continue.



Volunteers Lola and Ronnie Fraser at the Awards Ceremony in January.

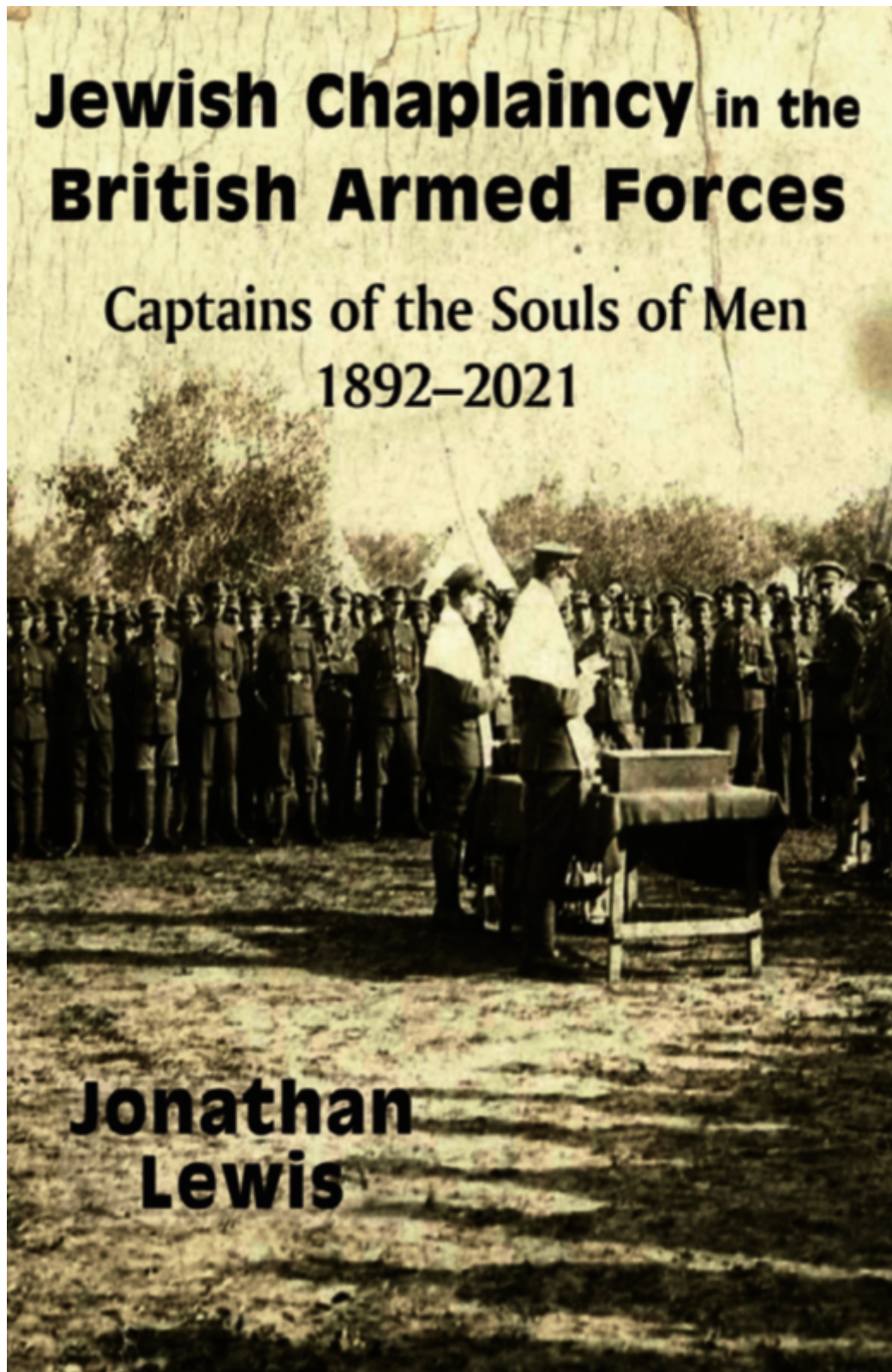
NEW PUBLICATION

We are delighted to bring to your attention the publication of Dr Jonathan Lewis' book *Jewish Chaplaincy in the British Armed Forces, Captains of the Souls of Men, 1892-2021*. Dr Lewis, a former Judge, completed his PhD on the subject after his retirement from legal practice. He is a long-term and valued supporter of WWTT, you can read his contribution to our History Windows [here](#).

The book tells the history of Jewish chaplaincy in the British Armed Forces from its inception in 1892 until present day. Although the first Jewish chaplain appointed was Reverend Francis Cohen, it was his successor, [Reverend Michael Adler](#), who campaigned to serve alongside soldiers in the field. Over twenty Jewish chaplains served in the British Army during the First World War, including Rev. Adler who spent over three years on the Westerns Front. Another fifty-six, including twelve recruited from within the community in Palestine, served during the Second World

War. Dr Lewis makes a ground-breaking and poignant contribution to British, Jewish, religious, and military history.

You can purchase the book [here](#) and contact Dr Lewis on lewisjandr2004@yahoo.co.uk.



New publication by Dr Jonathan Lewis

Thanks for reading, we hope you enjoyed it! 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
+44 (0) 161 767 8890
<https://www.jewsffw.uk>



[Unsubscribe from the newsletter](#)