

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

Over 40,000 Jews served in Britain's armed forces in the First World War. Thousands more were involved in war work and support roles near to the battlefield and on the Home Front. A century on, first-hand knowledge has disappeared, and time is running out to preserve personal stories, photographs and other artefacts before they are lost forever.

We Were There Too is a unique cross-community project that will create a permanent digital archive and interactive website to record the experiences and contribution of London's Jewish community during the First World War.

A series of **History Windows** will provide information on a wide range of topics related to the Jewish experience of the war. The site will also offer user-friendly access to a number of First World War archives, including the newly-digitised British Jewry Book of Honour.

More importantly, the site allows the creation of **Personal Records** to preserve individual stories. If your ancestor fought in the war, served as a nurse or a factory worker, raised a family, kept a business going, cared for a wounded son or husband, or experienced a wartime childhood, you will be able to upload their story and ensure that their contribution to the war effort is not forgotten. Each Record can include photographs, letters, diaries and even 3D scans of medals and other items. The site provides guidance on how to research your ancestor's story further. There is also a *yahrzeit* facility to honour their memory each year.

Community engagement is a vital part of the project, and we will be holding large-scale community events across London. Volunteers are invited to assist with all aspects of the project, from historical research and IT to helping older people upload their stories.

Jewish schools, cheders and youth organisations will help children to investigate and record their own family stories, if they have them, or to choose and research a Jewish soldier: perhaps one who shares their surname or is listed on their synagogue's memorial board. Young people will be able to take part in Duke of Edinburgh Award and Open College Network accreditation activities organised through JLGB.

Now is the time to record and celebrate the proud contribution of London's Jews – and your family – during the First World War.