Guide to World War Two Records

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Using this Guide

This is a guide to the sources we have at the Royal Berkshire Archives on World War 2.

It is divided into the following sections:

Active Service Overseas
Air Raid Precautions (ARP)/Civil Defence Organisation
Bombing Raids
Evacuation Scheme
News from the Front
Home Front
Home Guard
Remembrance

The guide is arranged by place for towns and villages throughout Berkshire. Records that are not place-specific are grouped under 'Berkshire' at the beginning of each section. **At TLA** means the documents are at The London Archives and are not held at RBA.

The reference listed after each entry is the document reference to quote if you would like to see that specific record. (Please note that some references are for more than one item). If you have any questions, just ask staff for advice.

If you would like to visit us to carry out your research, please email or call us to make an appointment. See our **Planning Your Visit** leaflet for further information.

Who Did What?

During wartime many emergency functions were run by the Government. The two most important local councils in Berkshire at the time were Berkshire County Council and Reading Corporation, which were responsible for effecting emergency orders. These principal councils either carried out the orders themselves or delegated them to the other borough or district councils. For more information please read the introduction to the C/CD catalogue.

Active Service Overseas

Berkshire	
Pocket Diary of Bill Baker from time serving as army dentist, 1944.	D/EX2345/1/1
'The Road Home', guide book given to returning soldiers describing route from Austria to English Channel, n.d. c.1945.	D/EX2345/6/1
Reading	
Photographs of Dennis Ledger of Reading stationed in Egypt, Libya and Algeria, 1945-1946.	D/EX2931/1-2

Air Raid Precautions (ARP)/Civil Defence

ARP/Civil Defence - County and District Organisation Excluding records for Reading and Slough; see under entries for each borough council for details of what is held	
Berkshire County Council	
Air Raid Precautions Committee, 1936–1939.	C/CL/C3/15/1
Emergency Committee for Civil Defence minutes, 1939-1948.	C/CL/C3/19/1
County Defence and Invasion Committees minutes, 1941-1943.	C/CL/C3/20
Report Centres and Wardens' Posts, 1938-1946.	C/CD/A1/1-35
Emergency Services (First Aid Posts, Decontamination Squads), 1938-1947.	C/CD/A2/1-56; C/CD/A5/1
Equipment Stores, 1938-1947.	C/CD/A3/1-14
Air Raid Shelters, 1939-1948.	C/CD/A4/1-91; C/CD/A5/3/1-11
County Operational Data, 1944.	C/CD/A5/4
Schedules re. military manoeuvres, 1903-1951	C/CL/G1/39
Correspondence re. VD in armed forces, 1916-1940	C/CL/G1/68/4
Correspondence re. disabled ex-servicemen, 1920-1942	C/CL/G1/75
Correspondence re. agricultural training for personnel released from war service, 1944-1945	C/CL/G1/116/20
Abingdon Rural District	
ARP/Emergency Committee minutes, 1939-1946.	RD/A/CB1/7-11
ARP matters dealt with in Finance and General Purposes Committee, 1939-1944.	RD/A/CB1/7-9
Bradfield Rural District	
ARP Committee reports in the minutes of the Rural District Council, 1939-1945.	RD/B/CA1/34-40
Emergency Committee reports in Rural District Council minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/B/CA1/34-40

Cookham Rural District	
ARP/ Emergency Committee reports in the Rural District Council Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes, 1938-1948.	RD/C/CB2/4-6
Rural District Council Minutes also contain information on provision, 1938-1947.	RD/C/CA1/17-18
Easthampstead Rural District	
Planning applications for air raid shelters, 1939-1943.	RD/E/SB2/125; SB3/114; SB5/251; SB6/442, 455
ARP committee reports and information on provision in the Rural District Council minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/E/CA1/15
Emergency Committee minutes, 1940-1945.	RD/E/CB16/1
Health and General Services Committee minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/E/CB13/2
Faringdon Rural District	
Emergency Committee minutes, 1939-1946	RD/F/CB4/1-3
Hungerford Rural District	
Rural District Council and Emergency Committee minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/H/CA1/10-12
Maidenhead	
ARP Sub-Committee minutes, later the Civil Defence Sub-Committee, 1941-1945.	M/AC2/3/2
Newbury	
Emergency Committee minutes, 1939-1945.	N/AC2/2/6, N/AC2/19/2-10
Newbury Rural District	
Some information on the Emergency Committee in the Rural District Council minutes, 1939.	RD/N/CA1/10
Reading	
Emergency Committee for Civil Defence minutes 1939-1942, later Emergency and Invasion Committee minutes, 1942-1944.	R/AC2/20/1-6
Records of Chief ARP Warden, 1939-1958.	D/EX1657/1-6
Letter from the mayor and chairman of the Emergency Committee for Civil Defence, Reading thanking members of the Civil Defence (General) Service for their contributions, 1945.	D/EX2387/8/2
Slough	
ARP Committee minutes, 1935-1942.	S/AC1/4/3; S/AC2/18/1; S/AC2/19/1; S/AC2/23/1; S/AC2/25/1
Civil Defence (Special) Committee, later Civil Defence Committee, 1940-1944.	S/AC1/4/3-6
Civil Defence Sub-Committee, Civil Defence (Public Relations) Sub-committee, 1940-1942.	S/AC2/25/1
Civil Defence (Billeting etc.) Sub-committee, Invasion Sub-committee, 1942-1947.	S/AC2/25/2
Wallingford	
ARP Committee minutes, 1938-1942.	W/AC2/2/8-9
Joint Fire Brigade and ARP Committee minutes, 1941.	W/AC2/2/9

Wallingford Rural District	
Rural District Council minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/W/CA1/19-20
Wantage	
Reports of the ARP Committee in the Urban District Council minutes, later in Finance and General Purposes Committee, 1939-1945.	UD/WT/CA1/8-9
Wantage Rural District	
Rural District Council minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/WT/CA1/13-15
Windsor	
ARP Committee minutes, 1939-1945.	WI/AC2/11/9-15
Windsor Rural District	
Emergency Committee minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/WI/CB1/1; RD/WI/CA1/23-24, 26
Wokingham Rural District	
ARP, later Emergency Committee, minutes, 1939 –1942.	RD/WO/CB26/3
Emergency Committee minutes, 1939-1940.	RD/WO/CB17/1
Procedures for reporting damage, 1940.	D/EX2158/12; D/TC311-313
Civil Defence Special Committee of Thames Conservancy minutes, 1939- 1946.	D/TC/B8/4/1-3
Berkshire Constabulary papers relating to ARP.	D/EX2158/1-2
Out-County	
Board of Education circular on ARP in schools, 1939.	D/P19/28/21/2
South Buckinghamshire ARP Joint Committee, 1937-1942.	S/AC3/1/1-2
South Buckinghamshire ARP Emergency Committee, 1937-1950.	S/AC3/2/1-2
Certificates awarded to Edna M Wilson by the County of Isle of Ely Civil Defence Committee and the War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St John of Jerusalem for war work, 1945.	D/EX1675/1/19/43/1-2

Air Raid Precautions (ARP)/Civil Defence

ARP/Civil Defence – Local Organisation The amount of information contained in these records can vary.	
Abingdon	
Contract for the construction of a public air raid shelter in the basement of No. 25 High Street, 1941.	C/CL/L2/285/1-2
Arborfield	
Contract for the construction of an air raid shelter at Arborfield CE School, 1940.	C/CL/L2/287/1-2
Ashampstead	
Local Defence later Invasion Committee minutes, papers and War Book, 1941-1944.	CPC8/18/3
Beenham	
Records of the Local Defence Committee, including War Book, 1938-1944.	D/EX847/1
Beedon	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1945.	CPC15/2/1
Caversham	
Reproduction of photograph of personnel of Post D4, ARP [Air Raid Precautions], Caversham (posed group), n.d. [c.1939-1945].	D/EX1569/1/1/7
Chaddleworth	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940-1941.	CPC32/1/1
Crowthorne	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940-1941.	CPC102B/1/2
Combe	
War Book of the Local Defence Committee, 1942.	D/P197/28/6
Compton	
Local Defence / Invasion Committee minutes, papers and War Book, 1941-1944.	CPC41/18/12-15
Finchampstead	
Nine Mile Ride County Primary School construction of an air raid shelter, 1941.	C/CL/L2/292/1-2
Hampstead Marshall	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940.	CPC61/1/1
Hungerford	
Contract for the construction of walls for the protection from air raids at the Public Assistance Institution, 1941.	C/CL/L2/293/1-2
Contract for the removal of defence works on High Street, 1945.	C/CL/L2/316
Kintbury	
Photograph of Kintbury Nursing Division, St John's Ambulance Brigade, n.d.	D/EX2349/3/1
Photograph of Kintbury ARP Wardens, n.d.	D/EX2349/4/1
Mapledurham	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940-1942.	CPC162B/1/2

Newbury	
Contract for the construction of two air raid shelters at the County Girls School, 1940.	C/CL/L2/291
Padworth	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940.	CPC90/1/1
Pangbourne	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1940.	CPC91/2/1
Purley	
Civil Parish Council minutes and rough minutes, 1939-1941.	CPC93/1/1; CPC93/2/1
Diary mentions fire-watching, 1941-1943.	D/EX2104/20-22
Reading	
Contract for overhead and lateral protection for air raid precautions work to the County Police Headquarters, 1941.	C/CL/L2/288
Contract for alterations to County air raid shelter at the Shire Hall, 1941.	C/CL/L2/290/1-5
Contract for the construction of an air raid shelter at No.10 Abbots Walk, 1943.	C/CL/L2/315/1-2
Papers of a Civil Defence Officer in Reading, 1940-1942.	D/EX1370/1/1-14; 2/1-9; 3/1-2
Pocket Guide to the ARP Arrangements in Reading, c.1939.	D/EX1650/1
Fire arrangements at Huntley & Palmer's factory, 1941.	D/EX2116/2-3
Use of part of Reading Prison by military authorities for fire-watching, 1945.	P/RP1/16/1
Rate books reference the conversion of properties to air raid shelters in Katesgrove Ward, 1942.	R/FR1/17
Buildings destroyed by enemy action in Friar Street, Abbey Ward including the Arcade and the People's Pantry, 1943.	R/FR1/9
Copy letter from Smallcombe to Reading Borough Air Raid Precautions Officer, concerning the report and control procedure, 1944.	D/EX2387/8/1
Correspondence and papers concerning an invention for assisting aeroplanes to land at night, 1942-1944.	D/EX2387/7/5
Board of Trade Reading Gas Special Order map, 1924, marked up to show National Defence roadblocks, 1940.	D/SG8/4/130
Government notice to Reading householders relating to the Lodging Restrictions (Reading) Order, 1941.	D/EX2836/1
Shaw-cum-Donnington	
Newspaper clipping of public appeal for ARP volunteers in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940.	CPC106/1/1
Shinfield	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1945.	CPC110/1/5
Slough	
ARP map of Slough 1940.	D/EX1983/1
Building Control plans include air raid shelters, 1938-1948.	S/SB2
Sonning	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939.	CPC113/1/3
Speen	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940-1942.	CPC116/1/3

Stanford-in-the-Vale	
Appointment card Air Raid Warden), 1939.	D/EX284/545
Stratfield Mortimer	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1941.	CPC120/1/2
Streatley	
Civil Parish Council Minutes, 1940-1945.	CPC122/1/2
Stubbings	
Letters re air raid procedures, 1939.	D/P195/8A/66
Sunningdale	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940-1941.	CPC150B/1/2
Sunninghill	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939.	CPC126/1/4
War Book of the Local Defence Committee (with Sunningdale), 1942-1944.	CPC126/18/4
Thatcham	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1942.	CPC130/1/4
Contract for the construction of five air raid shelters at the County Senior School 1940.	C/CL/L2/291
Contract for the removal of defence works, 1945.	C/CL/L2/316
Tilehurst	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1941.	CPC126/1/4
Twyford	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939.	CPC73B/1/3
Wallingford	
Notice of firefighting demonstration 1941.	D/P139/28/8
Contract for the construction of walls for protection against air raids at the Wallingford Public Assistance Institution, 1940.	C/CL/L2/296/1-2
Contract for the construction and adaptation of a concrete hut for use as a wartime nursery on land fronting Church Lane, 1943.	C/CL/L2/314/1-2
Waltham St Lawrence	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940-1941.	CPC141/1/2
Wargrave	
Civil Parish Council minutes 1940.	CPC145/1/4
West Hendred	
Civil Parish Council minutes 1940.	CPC67/1/1
Winkfield	
Planning application for alterations at Winkfield Manor to provide ARP facilities, 1940.	RD/E/SB6/441
Civil Parish Council minutes include some information on the Emergency Committee, 1940-1945.	CPC151/1/2
Air raid shelters shown on plan of factory, 1942.	RD/E/SB6/462/15
Air raid shelter shown on plan of works, 1943.	RD/E/SB6/479/4
Planning application for fire-watcher's dormitory, 1943.	RD/E/SB6/486
Winnersh	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940-1944.	CPC73C/1/22

Wokingham	
Contract for alterations to the Air Raid Precautions Report Centre, Shute End, 1941.	C/CL/L2/279/1-2
Plan of Air Raid Shelters, 1940.	WO/SW2/3/1-3
Floor plan of ARP first aid post at the indoor bowling green, Reading Road, 1938.	WO/SW2/1
Woodley	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939.	CPC113B/1/3
Contract for the construction of five surface-type air raid shelters (at Waingels Copse Secondary) School, 1940.	C/CL/L2/286
Contract for a wartime nursery and construction of two air raid shelters, 1942.	C/CL/L2/324/1-5

Bombing Raids

Berkshire	
Plans for Post-Blitz Emergency Works in Berkshire, 1942-1943.	D/EX1483/1/1
Incident reports, including Log Books and Unexploded Bomb certificates, 1940-1946.	C/CD/C1-5
Basildon	
Diary mentions land-mine, 1940.	D/EX2104/19
Charney Bassett	
Memorandum on damage to church, 1939-1945.	D/P83B/5/1
Crowthorne	
Planning application, 1947, shows position of Master's Lodge destroyed by enemy action, Wellington College.	RD/E/SB10/94/2
Maidenhead	
Emergency Committee [convened to address bombing damage], 1944.	M/AC2/3/2
Newbury	
Recollections of Newbury Girls School in wartime, including the bombing raid on Newbury, 1943.	SCH12/18/16
Reading	
German map showing bombing targets in Reading, c.1940.	D/EX1911/1
Photographs of the 250th Reading Anti-Aircraft Battery R (TA), c.1940.	D/EX2934/1
St. Mary's register of services includes details of the effects of the blackout on church services and bomb damage in Reading, 1939-1944.	D/P98/1B/12
Statement of damage from enemy action to St. Laurence's church, 1943.	D/P97/8A/18
Huntley and Palmers Ltd air raid casualty card (unused),n.d.	D/EX1748/1/23
Photographs of bomb damage in Reading town centre, 1943.	D/EX1657/3
Diary mentions bombs dropped, 1943.	D/EX2104/22
Records of Victor Barton, including handwritten account of the bombing in Reading in 1943.	D/EX2732/1-4
Papers regarding damage to 4-10 Castle Crescent by enemy action and subsequent claim for compensation, 1940.	D/EX1942/2/2/33
Correspondence and papers concerning an invention for dealing with unexploded anti-personnel bombs, 1943.	D/EX2387/7/7
Stratfield Mortimer	
Photograph of wounded soldiers, Stratfield Mortimer, n.d. [c.1939-45]	SCH12/15/54
Tilehurst	
Diary mentions bombs dropped, 1940.	D/EX2104/19
Wokingham	
Register of properties damaged by enemy action, 1940-1943.	WO/SA4/2
Procedures for reporting damage, 1940.	D/EX2158/12
Out-County	
Reference to bomb damage at the British Museum's Natural History Department, 1944.	D/EZ177/5/2

Evacuation Scheme

Most of these records concern the local management of the evacuation scheme. Please also see the Emergency Committee minutes (or equivalent) of the place in which you are interested for further information.

For a directory of schools evacuated from London, please contact The London Archives.

There are no known surviving similar lists from Berkshire councils. Some TLA records relevant to Berkshire are listed in this guide as **At TLA**.

Berkshire	
Clerk's department files on evacuation including general management of government schemes, emergency planning and management of properties, 1938-1948.	C/CD/B1-B3
Evacuees Welfare Sub-Committee, 1941-1942 and Evacuation Sub-Committee, May-December 1942.	C/CL/C3/5E/1
Registers of schools evacuated to Berkshire, 1939-1945	C/ED/H7/5/1-257
Dialogue about evacuation, 1939.	D/EX2095/1/1
Abingdon	
Diaries of The Harbinger Infants School (Millwall), including postcards and press cuttings, 1939-1945.	**At TLA** LCC/EO/WAR/5/1
Abingdon Rural District	
Finance and General Services Committee Minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/A/CB1/8-11
Binfield	
Notes, photographs and press cuttings on the war, including evacuees, air raids and Home Guard, c.1939-1945.	D/EX1511/1/5
Bracknell	
Special Committee on "The Forest", High Street, Bracknell, as sick bay accommodation [for evacuees], 1939.	RD/E/CB16/1
Bradfield Rural District	
Evacuation Committee reports in the Rural District Council minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/B/CA1/34-40
Instructions for the reception of evacuees, 1939.	D/EX2454/1
Burghfield	
Brief memoir of school life by John Passant, headmaster of Mrs Bland's School, 1934-1942, including account of the impact of the arrival of the evacuees at the school [written in 1981].	D/EX2082/4/1-9
Caversham	
Papers regarding the use of Wesley Hall by children evacuated from a school in London, 1939-1941.	D/MS30/1F/1-3
Cookham Rural District	
Billeting Committee minutes, 1941-1944.	RD/C/CB13/2
Finance and General Services minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/C/CB2/4-6
Donnington	
Sale particulars for property including a cottage occupied by evacuees, 1945.	D/EX898/2/456

Easthampstead Rural District	
Rural District Council minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/E/CA1/15-16
Billeting Costs Refunds Committee minutes, 1941.	RD/E/CB16/1
Extract from a map of Reading, overprinted in German, showing places of military interest c.1940.	D/EX 1911/1
Hungerford	
Correspondence regarding the use of the Methodist Church Sunday School for the evacuated Macklin Street Roman Catholic School, 1939-1946.	D/MS3/1F/8
Maidenhead	
Special Committee Regarding Evacuation minutes, later the Billeting and Emergency Feeding Committee, 1939-1946; Craufurd Home (or evacuees) Sub-Committee minutes, 1945.	M/AC2/3/2
Newbury	
Recollections of an evacuee in Newbury, 1940 [written in 1990].	T/Z35
Recollections of Newbury Girls School in wartime, including the evacuation of Godolphin & Latymer School to share the premises.	SCH12/18/16
Newbury Rural District	
Rural District Council minutes, 1939-1944.	RD/N/CA1/10
Reading	
London evacuees at Battle Senior School recorded in the log book, 1939-1944.	2001/SCH4/2
Circulars from Chief Billeting Officer of Reading relating to evacuation (addressed to Mr Gleave, Headmaster of Battle School, Reading), 1940.	D/MS62/8/5/1-4
Official letter from HM Queen Elizabeth II to Elsie Smallcombe thanking her for taking in evacuee children, 1939; with explanatory note by Will Smallcombe with recollections of the children, 1974.	D/EX2387/13/6
Sandhurst	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940.	CPC102/1/3
Slough	
Emergency Housing and Billeting Sub-Committee, 1942-1947.	S/AC2/25/2
Stratfield Mortimer	
Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1940.	CPC120/1/2
Stubbings	
Use of school by evacuees, 1939.	D/P195/28/35
Sutton Courtenay	
Reminiscences of evacuation and life in Sutton Courtenay during war	D/P128/28/37
Uffington	
Evacuees' use of parish hall, 1941	CPC134/1/2
Wallingford	
Lists of evacuees in Wallingford Cottage Homes, 1940-1943.	D/XGW1/6
Wantage	
Report on the effects of evacuation on a rural village by the Architects Association, n.d. [1940]	D/EX2382/1

Wargrave	
Proposal for an evacuation camp at Cockpole Green and other information on the evacuation scheme in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1941.	CPC145/1/4
White Waltham	
Evacuees' use of allotments described in the memoirs of Charles Hazell of Littlewick Green, 1946.	D/EX1505/1, pp 211-212
Windsor	
Evacuation Committee minutes, 1942-1945.	WI/AC2/11/12-15
Details of nurses evacuated from London hospitals to Windsor, 1939-1944.	D/H6/15/1
Windsor Rural District	
Evacuation Committee minutes, 1941-1943.	RD/WI/CA1/23-24
Wokingham	
Records and memories of Oakfield Hostel (for child evacuees), 1940-c.1985.	D/EX1362/1-6
Wokingham Rural District	
Evacuation Scheme Sub-Committee minutes, 1940-1941.	RD/WO/CB26/3
Correspondence regarding Springwell Open Air School, evacuated to Winnersh, 1939-1940.	**At TLA** LCC/EO/WAR/2/29
Woodley	
Information on the use of the village hall by evacuees in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939.	CPC113B/1/3
Out-County	
Register of evacuees to St Neots, Huntingdonshire, 1939-1943.	D/MS82/8/10
School magazines of St Margaret's School, Westgate on Sea, Kent including details of the school's evacuation to North Wales and experiences of some Old Girls at the start of the war, 1938-1939.	D/EX73/3/28/24/1-2
File on All Saints Home, Hawley, and its endowment trusts. (Includes two undated letters from Sister Margaret Monica, Sister Superior at the home, concerning food stores taken from Hawley to Clewer when the home was evacuated [early in the Second World War.]), 1884-1955.	D/EX1675/1/12/81
Parish magazine of St Mary the Virgin, Denbury, July 1944 (Special 'invasion' [D-Day] souvenir edition. Includes article on children's experiences of evacuation)	D/EX2398/2/3/2

News from the Front

Out-County	
Account of escape from Poland after German invasion, 1939.	D/EWN/F92

Home Front

Berkshire	
War Agricultural Committee papers, 1940s.	D/EX734/31-33, D/EX652/26
Advertisement and application form for Volunteer Agricultural Camps, 1945.	D/EX2369/1
Berkshire County Council Domestic Food Production Committee notes of members of the village produce associations, 1944.	D/EX1511/10/18
Wills and administrations of persons killed during active service, c.1939-1945.	D/EBB/B3/129, 175, 194, 204, 231, 261, 279, 312, 324, 337, 368, 370, 414, 475, 484, 530, 556, 750
Police circulars, 1939-1945.	D/EX2158
Tract promoting women's equality with men through war work, n.d. [1939-1945].	D/EX2095/1/2
Abingdon Rural District	
Correspondence re. use of PoW labourers, 1947	C/CL/SB2/6
Housing Post-War Housing) Sub-Committee minutes, 1944.	RD/A/CB1/10
Arborfield	
Correspondence re. damage to bridge by US Army Air Corps vehicle, 1943	C/CL/SB14/34
Ascot	
Planning application for War Department map depot, 1946-1947.	RD/E/SB10/3
Planning application for Army storage sheds for uniforms and kit, near Ascot West Station, 1939.	RD/E/SB6/408
Ashampstead	
Page family ration books, clothing books, points coupon books and identity card, 1941-1944.	D/EX3020/5
Bearwood	
Letters re children's grief during war, (c.1940-1945)	D/EX2689/6/2
Beech Hill	
Evacuee's memoir, 1940-1941.	D/N49/14/7
Binfield	
Clothing ration book, 1947.	D/ENM10/4

Bisham	
Copy of the Bisham Abbey Journal, a magazine produced for and by patients and staff at the Red Cross convalescent home which occupied Bisham Abbey, 1941.	D/EX73/4/7/28
Papers regarding use of Bisham Abbey as a convalescent home/hospital, 1940-1945.	D/EZ73/1/7/17, 2/1/8, 2/2/15, 4/7/28
Blewbury	
War Savings Campaigns records, 1941-1945.	D/P20/28/8-17
Bracknell	
Planning applications for Berkshire War Agricultural Committee stores at Bracknell and Warfield, 1941-1948.	RD/E/SB5/261; SB7/12; SB10/45, 275
Bradfield Rural District	
Food Control Committee reports in the Rural District Council minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/B/CA1/34-40
Bucklebury	
Plans of Bradfield Rural District Council post-war housing proposed at Bucklebury and Hatch Lane, Bucklebury, 1944.	CPC28/17/2
Newspaper cutting on the use of Bucklebury Common as a Vehicle Repair Depot, 1939-1945.	D/EX227/Z4
Emergency ration record: Bucklebury and Marlston, 1942-1945.	CPC28/18/18
Caversham	
References to the use of the Rectory by Reay Central School [Stockwell, London], 1941, and the Home Guard requisitioning St Peter's Church Hall, 1943.	D/P162/6/40
Photograph showing a group of children (seen from the rear) gathered in the street watching a [sea plane in a newsreel?] on an open-air cinema screen [probably in Briants Avenue, Caversham], [c.1943-1944].	D/EX2871/3/1/1
Beating the Invader: Ministry of Information, War Office and Ministry of Home Security leaflet issued to households, with a message from Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, May 1941.	D/EX2871/3/2/1
Chieveley	
Plans of volunteer agricultural workers' camp at Downend, for War Agricultural Executive Committee, 1944.	RD/N/SB1/193
Clewer	
Papers relating to the Visitation of the Community of St John Baptist, Clewer, 1942-1944.	D/EX1675/1/23/12
Oral history recording: Sister Moira's memories of life in the Community as penitent, Magdalen, and Sister, 1986. (Includes references to the outbreak of war; the closure of Highgate with 48 hours' notice,1940; air raids at Great Maplestead, Essex; and move to Clewer, 1944.)	D/EX1675/1/30/56
Coleshill	
Details of fire watching and the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1945.	CPC40/1/1
Compton	
Agricultural Research Council staff involvement with Home Guard including mounted horse platoon, [1939-1945].	D/EX3057/3/6

Cookham	
Military personnel and “Thank You Girls” using Cookham Bridge, c.1939-1946.	BR/C/10/19
Cookham Rural District	
Special Use of Petroleum Spirit Committee, August 1942, Special (Removal of iron railings, gates, etc) Sub-Committee June 1942, and Salvage Committee minutes, 1942-1946.	RD/C/CB13/2
Didcot	
Wartime Nursery plans, n.d.	C/AR/P5/1
Contract for a wartime nursery at Lydals Road and other works.	C/CL/L2/309/1-2
Petition for a meeting to consider the provision of accommodation for 'homeless and overcrowded people' in Government Camps, 1946.	CPC47/5/3
Correspondence mostly relating to housing shortages, National Savings Movement, Sir Ralph Glyn, MP (later Lord Glyn of Farnborough), and death of President Roosevelt, 1944-1948.	CPC47/17/2-6
List of subscriptions to the Didcot Spitfire Fund, 1941, and poster advertising 3rd VE Day celebrations, 1945.	CPC47/16-17
Easthampstead Rural District	
Information on the Food Control Committee, 1939-1945.	RD/E/C1/15-16
Iron Railings Committee minutes 1941.	RD/E/CB16/1
Post-war development information in the Rural District Council minutes 1944-1945.	RD/E/CA1/16
Rationing of soap, 1942.	D/EX2158/13
Faringdon	
Faringdon Labour Party references to war and to dangers of Fascism, 1938-1940.	D/EX2740/1
Faringdon Rural District	
Wartime information file, 1941-1942.	D/EX2193/1
Post-War Reconstruction Sub-Committee minutes, 1942-1943.	RD/F/CB5/1
Finchampstead	
Information on blackout provision, civilian war deaths provision, and scrap metal collection in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1940-1945.	CPC56/1/3
Hermitage	
Plans of emergency hospital sewage disposal plant apparently used by US forces, 1942.	RD/N/SB1/191
Hinksey, North	
Botley Wartime Nursery plans, n.d.	C/AR/P5/2/1-2
Hurst St Nicholas	
Information on emergency food control, salvage, post-war planning, victory celebrations and the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1941-1945.	CPC73/1/4
Ilsley, East	
Information on the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1945.	CPC74/1/1

Inkpen	
Records of Manor Farm, managed by women during the war, 1941-1955.	D/EX1785/1/1-3, 6; 2/1-3, 6; 3/1
Information on Victory in Europe Day celebrations in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1945.	CPC76/1/2
Leckhampstead	
Memoir of wartime life in Leckhampstead, 2005.	D/EX2745/7
Maidenhead	
Communal Feeding Sub-Committee minutes, 1941; Food Office Amalgamation Special Sub-Committee minutes, 1941; Salvage Sub-Committee and Salvage Scrutiny Sub-Committee minutes, 1942-1943; Holidays at Home Sub-Committee minutes, 1943; Entertainments Sub-Committee minutes [concerning Victory in Europe Day celebrations], 1945.	M/AC2/3/2
Letter re. milk delivery, 1941.	D/EX2311/4/1
Newspaper cuttings relating to Frederick Hickman's army service 1925-1993.	D/EX1219/1-4
Mapledurham	
Information on post-war reconstruction in the Civil Parish Council minutes 1942-1943.	CPC162B/1/2
Moulsford	
Papers relating to the Moulsford Welcome Home Fund, Including minutes and accounts, 1947.	CPC88/18/2
Newbury	
Register of petrol rationing, 1941-1945.	D/EX656/16, 16a
Newbury Boys Club magazines [produced in part to communicate the difficulties of wartime], 1943.	D/EX1741/1
Papers relating to the reception of Dutch children, 1945	N/D59/2/4
Papers relating to the reception of returning servicemen, 1945	N/D59/2/5
Papers relating to wartime Red Cross activities, 1941-1947	N/D59/3/1,2
Reports on evacuation and medical services, 1944	N/D59/4/2
Wartime uniform requirements, Newbury Girls School, 1943	SCH12/7/1
Newbury Rural District	
Information on the Food Control Committee, the salvage scheme and post-war housing in the Rural District Council minutes, 1939-1945.	RD/N/CA1/10
Newland	
Post-war development discussion recorded in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1944.	CPC73D/1/12
Padworth	
Information on the salvage scheme, communal feeding, and domestic food production in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1945.	CPC90/1/1-2

Pangbourne	
Information on wartime allotments, troops stationed in Pangbourne, holidays at home, post-war housing and the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1945.	CPC91/2/1
Letters regarding gifts by Pangbourne Congregational Church to families of German prisoners of war worshipping at church, 1947.	D/N45/14/8
Purley	
Information on post-war housing in the Civil Parish Council minutes and rough minutes, 1944-1945.	CPC93/1/1, CPC93/2/1
Information on the Welcome Home Fund in the Civil Parish Council rough minutes, 1945.	CPC93/1/1
Radley	
Orders of service in the time of war 1940 and thanksgiving for victory, 1945.	D/P95/28/3
Reading	
Wartime staffing measures file, 1939-1947.	R/FB9/2
Post-War Reconstruction Committee minutes, 1942-1946.	R/AC1/3/84, 90, 93, 97
Letters relating to the wartime activities of Samuel Elliott and Sons Ltd, Engineers, including work on landing craft, 1942-1945.	D/EX1263/6/6-9
Record of the work of the British Welcome Club for servicemen at Broad Street Church, 1943-1945.	D/N11/1/2/9
List of army comforts provided by Tyndale Baptist Church, 1939.	D/N28/7/2/3
Photographs and articles concerning military vehicle conversions carried out by Vincents of Reading, 1939-1944.	D/EX1401/46-48
Reading National Savings Committee records, 1939-1945.	P/NS2/9, 10; P/NS6/2
Letters of A R Reeves on life in wartime, c.1941.	D/EBB/B3/550
Sale catalogue of house requisitioned as a children's sickbay, 1942.	D/EX1852/2/9
Letter from the Red Cross regarding communications with people in enemy occupied territory, 1942.	D/EBB/B3/260
Annual dinner menus of Reading Biscuit Factory Fire Brigade, 1936-1949.	D/EX1615/6
Blotter advertising "Embrostat Process" as a precaution against air raids by Sargents Embrook Limited, Printers, c.1940s.	D/EX1397/1
Diaries of Gerald S Hampton of Reading, referencing war-related incidents, 1940-1943.	D/EX2104/19-22
Letter to English hostesses at American Red Cross dances, including rules for behaviour, 1944	D/EX2595/1
Membership card of Will Smallcombe for the YMCA "Snapshots From Home" League.	D/EX2387/13/7
Letter from the Department of Scientific Research and Experiment at the Admiralty, stating that Smallcombe's suggestion for the use of barrage balloons for observation was of no practical use, 1942.	D/EX2387/7/6
Syllabus of lectures to HM Forces arranged by the University of Reading (including several by Smallcombe, 1944.	D/EX2387/6/9

Reading (cont.)	
Records of Jean Brown of Reading, Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) includes training notes, photograph of Jean in uniform etc., 1943-1946.	D/EX2829/2/1-21
Reproduction of photograph of the People's Pantry, Market Way Reading (interior, showing diners), n.d. [c.1940-1942].	D/EX1569/1/5/129
Reproduction of photograph of Huntley, Boorne & Stevens War Savings scoreboard, n.d. [c.1939-1945].	D/EX1569/1/5/130
Compensation agreement for land on the east side of Pangbourne Street, adjoining 4 Pangbourne Street, Reading [formerly Tilehurst], requisitioned in 1940 for allotment purposes, 1946.	D/EX2997/2/3/1
Sandhurst	
Information on the Produce Association [run at the direction of the Berkshire War Agricultural Committee], 1942-1943 and the salvage of iron railings, 1943 in the Civil Parish Council minutes.	CPC102/1/3
Showing light in blackout, 1941.	D/EX2158/9
Shinfield	
Arrangements for provision of services in case of civilian deaths due to enemy action 1940, wartime allotments, 1941, iron railing salvage, 1941-1945 and the Victory Garden Show, 1943 in the Civil Parish Council minutes.	CPC110/1/5
Shrivenham	
Papers on and photographs of bells and plaque in the parish church given by British and American soldiers stationed in Shrivenham, 1944-1946.	D/P112/8A/37-39
Shrivenham Post, newspaper of US Army University Centre, 1945.	D/EX1407/1
Slough	
Staff War Allowances) Sub-Committee, 1942-1947, Salvage Sub-Committee, British Restaurant Sub-Committee, 1942-1947.	S/AC2/25/2
Bell's Asbestos and Engineering Ltd scrapbook containing advertisements for fire screens, smother blankets, and bells for incendiary bombs supplied to ARP departments, n.d. [c.1940s].	D/EX1800/2
Building Control plans include details of air raid shelters, 1938-1948.	S/SB2
Stratfield Mortimer	
Information on communal feeding, emergency water supplies and the salvage scheme in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940-1945.	CPC120/1/2
Streatley	
Information on the salvage scheme, civilian deaths, allotments, and post-war development in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1939-1945.	CPC122/1/2
Prayer in the time of war, 1940.	D/P122/1C/2

Sunningdale	
Information on the use of an allotment by a London schoolmaster for educational purposes 1939, post-war development and peace celebrations 1945 in the Civil Parish Council minutes	CPC150B/1/2
Sunninghill	
Information on post-war development and Victory in Europe Day celebrations in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1945.	CPC126/1/4
Sunningwell	
Papers concerning the Welcome Home Fund and festivities for members of the forces, 1946.	D/P127/28/3
Thatcham	
Information on the salvage of iron railings, holidays at home, allotments for wartime food production, post-war development and Victory in Japan Day celebrations in the Civil Parish Council Minutes, 1940-1945.	CPC130/1/4
Theale	
Information on a communal feeding centre, 1940-1941 and post-war housing in Civil Parish Council minutes, 1944-1945.	CPC132B/1/2
Tilehurst	
Information on emergency communal feeding, salvage scheme, domestic food production, post-war planning, ration books, Battle of Britain Sunday, Sailors Flag Day, Warships Week and Victory in Europe Day celebrations in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940-1945.	CPC132/1/6-7
Statement regarding the appointment of a German curate, 1943.	D/P132/8A/5
Twyford	
Information on iron salvage in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1940.	CPC73B/1/3
Uffington	
Request for communal feeding refused, 1941	CPC134/1/2
Wallingford Borough	
Local Government Staffs War Service) Act Committee minutes, 1939-1940.	W/AC2/2/8
Emergency Petrol Supplies Committee minutes, 1943, Emergency Housing Accommodation Committee minutes, 1945.	W/AC2/2/9
Wartime Nursery plans, n.d.	C/AR/P5/6
Wallingford Rural District	
Information on the Food Control Committee, 1940-1944; salvage scheme, 1941; British Restaurant Sub-Committee, 1942; Didcot Warships Week,1942; American troops, 1942; post-war reconstruction, 1945; use of German prisoners of war as labourers (for the preparation of post-war housing sites), 1945; and the Victory in Europe Day holiday, 1945 in the Rural District Council minutes, 1940–1944.	RD/W/CA1/19-20
Waltham St Lawrence	
Information on victory celebrations in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1945.	CPC141/1/2

Tracts on aspects of the war published by Gertrude Bennet, 1939–c.1945.	D/EX2095

Wantage	
Food Control Committee minutes, 1939.	UD/WT/CA1/8-9
Ration card and ID card of nurse, 1939-1943.	D/H15/4/1/12, 14
Wantage Rural District Council	
Wartime information file, 1941-1942.	D/EX2193/1
West Hanney	
References to war news, including an exchange with a vicar from London, 1940-1945.	D/P63/1B/5, 6
West Hendred	
Information on ploughing the village recreation ground for food production in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1941.	CPC67/1/1
Windsor	
Wartime Nurseries Committee minutes, 1940-1945.	WI/AC2/11/11-15
Shop registration for rationing, 1939.	WI/D13/1
Copies of letter regarding the supply of eggs to Windsor Castle, 1940.	T/A96/1-5
Dig for Victory Campaign and wartime allotments information in the Allotments Committee minutes, 1939-1945.	WI/AC2/11/9-15
Communal Feeding Committee, later British Restaurant Committee minutes, 1942-1945.	WI/AC2/11/12-15
Windsor Rural District	
Reconstruction Committee minutes, 1943-1946.	RD/WI/CA1/25-28
Old Windsor	
Copy of letter of appreciation to those returning from military service, Old Windsor, c.1945.	CPC150/18/5
Some information on peace-time celebrations in Old Windsor in Civil Parish Council Minutes, 1945.	CPC162B/1/2
Winkfield	
Some information on post-war housing in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1944.	CPC151/1/2
Winnersh	
Information on iron railing and other salvage schemes, 1941-1943 and post-war development, 1943-1944, in the Civil Parish Council minutes.	CPC73C/1/2-3
Wokingham	
Letters from the Wokingham Borough Surveyor as the Local Fuel Overseer, 1939-1943.	WO/SA2/9-13
Scrapbooks of the Town Clerk on all aspects of wartime life, 1939-1945.	WO/AZ1/2-2
Plans of the proposed British Restaurant, for the Ministry of Food, 1941-1942.	WO/SW2/4/1-4
Some information about food organisers for communal feeding) in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1941.	CPC154B/1/2
Food ration card, n.d.	D/ENM10/3
Memoir of Muriel Longhurst of Wokingham including recollections of the Second World War, n.d. [late 20-early 21C].	D/EX2840/2/1
Printed card sent by Ling George VI to school pupils to mark the celebration of the end of the Second World War, 1946.	D/EX2840/7/1

Woodley	
Information on entertainment for troops, 1941; war loan Investments, 1941; emergency food officers' posts, 1942; iron railing salvage, 1942 and ration books, 1941-1942, in the Civil Parish Council minutes.	CPC113B/1/3
Woolhampton	
Plans of Woolhampton House and letter referring to its conversion into wartime school, 1939.	RD/E/SB2/47
Out-County	
Illustrated colour pamphlet "Here comes the Milk!" produced by the Express Dairy Company on maintaining milk delivery in London through the Blitz, n.d. [c.1945].	D/EX2311/9/2
Southern Command Plans of tank transporter routes, 1944.	D/EX1742/5
Map of Salisbury Plain showing night-march route, 1942.	D/EX503/3/2
Ordnance Survey map of South East England, showing airfields and other air defence sites at the beginning of WW2, 1940.	RBA library
War conditions in Cambridge described, 1942.	D/EZ1775/4
Printed pamphlet about factory ventilation in the blackout, 1942.	RD/E/SB6/462/11
Records of Jean Brown of Reading, Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) includes training notes, photograph of Jean in uniform etc., 1943-1946.	D/EX2829/2/1-21
Account of escape from Poland after German invasion, 1939.	D/EWN/F92
Memoir by Sister Eudora of her work overseas, 1934-c.1944 (Includes account of her voyage home to Clewer in war conditions.)	D/EX1675/1/18/6
Oral history recording: Sister Moira's memories of life in the Community as penitent, Magdalen, and Sister, 1986. (Includes references to the outbreak of war; the closure of Highgate with 48 hours' notice, 1940; air raids at Great Maplestead, Essex; and move to Clewer, 1944.)	D/EX1675/1/30/56
Memoir re impact of war on mental hospital in Guildford, Surrey, and nursing men evacuated from Dunkirk, 1939-1942.	D/EX3077/5

Home Guard

Berkshire	
Berkshire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association minutes, 1936-1949 and scrapbook, 1922-1952.	P/TA1/4/1; P/TA1/1/2
Lord Glyn's Home Guard papers including material relating to the Upper Thames Patrol, 1940-1960.	D/EGL/O149-174
Photograph of No 1 Platoon, F Company, 11th Battalion, Berkshire Home Guard, n.d. [c.1943-1944].	D/EX2033/1
Aldermaston	
Photographs of inspection of F Company of the 4th Berkshire Battalion of the Home Guard, 16 August 1944.	D/EX2970/3/1
Ashampstead	
Home Guard receipt and record cards (of clothing issued) and correspondence, 1940-1945.	D/EX3020/7
Bracknell	
A History of the 6th Bracknell) Battalion Berkshire Home Guard, 1945.	D/EX1458/4
Compton	
Photograph of the Home Guard, c.1940s.	CPC41/18/26
Newbury	
Local Defence Volunteer Corps number 2 platoon register of personnel, c.1940s.	D/EX656/15
Pangbourne	
Copy of photograph of Pangbourne Local Defence Volunteers [Home Guard]: 4th Berkshire Brigade, Pangbourne Battalion, C Company, at Calcot School, Tilehurst, 1942.	D/EX2125/1/1-2
Reading	
Records of the 7th Huntley & Palmers Branch) Berkshire Home Guard Association, 1941-1970.	D/EX1615/1-5
Photographs, probably of Home Guard unit at Samuel Elliott and Sons, Ltd, c.1940s.	D/EX1263/12/11
Photographs of Women's Army Corps parade, n.d.	D/EX831/1
Sandhurst	
Copy of the 'B' Sandhurst) Company 11th Berkshire Battalion Home Guard history [1940-1945], 2005.	T/A156/2
Sonning	
Photographs of Sonning Home Guard, including Woodley Platoon, 1940-1944.	D/EX1458/1-3
Theale	
Register and accounts of Theale Home Guard, 1940-1941.	D/P132B/28/5
Warfield	
Planning application for Nissen huts for Home Guard, 1942.	RD/E/SB5/263

Remembrance

Berkshire	
Copy of Imperial War Commission roll of honour for civilian war dead including Maidenhead, Newbury, Wallingford, Wantage, Windsor, n.d. [c.1939-1945].	D/EX1445/7
Ascot	
Roll of honour, n.d.	D/P185/28/50
Crowthorne	
Information on the war memorial in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1947.	CPC102B/3/2
Easthampstead	
Papers relating to the war memorial cross in the churchyard, 1919-c.1945.	D/P49/6/4
Great Coxwell	
Book of remembrance for servicemen of the parish killed in the two world wars, c.1914-1989.	D/P44/28/4
Hermitage	
War memorial fund accounts, 1947-1949.	D/P62B/28/18-19
Inkpen	
Information on the war memorial in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1944.	CPC76/1/2
Newbury	
Printed appeal for School War Memorial, 1948.	SCH11/18/15
Reading	
Holy Trinity roll of honour, c.1940s.	D/P171/28/6
Slough	
War memorials Sub-committee, 1942-1947.	S/AC2/25/2
Sunninghill	
Papers relating to the war memorial, 1949-1950.	D/P126/8A/8
Thatcham	
Information on the war memorial in the Civil Parish Council minutes, 1944-1945.	CPC130/1/4
Windsor	
Royal Windsor Salutes the Soldier Week photograph album, 1944.	WI/D255/1
Roll of honour, n.d.	WI/D258/1
Windsorian: The Magazine of the Windsor County School for Boys including reference to the unveiling of Windsor Boys' School war memorial in 1948, 1949.	D/EX3042/1/1
Wokingham	
Welcome Home Fund records, [c.1939]-1947.	D/EX2142

Further Information

Service Records
For information on individuals serving in World War 2:

Ministry of Defence Veterans' Agency Army Personnel Centre, Historical Disclosures, Mail Point 400, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX

Records of central government operations during World War 2
The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU
Tel: 020 8876 3444 www.nationalarchives.org.uk

Records of London County Council
For information on and some records from schools evacuated to Berkshire:

The London Archives, 40 Northampton Rd, London EC1R 0HB Tel: 020 7332 3820
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/

Local Regiments
Information on the Royal Berkshire Regiment can be obtained at:

Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire (Salisbury) Museum
58 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2EX
Tel: 01722 419419 www.thewardrobe.org.uk

War Memorials
The Imperial War Museum undertook a survey of war memorials in the UK, entitled the National Inventory of War Memorials. For further
information, please contact:

War Memorials Archive
Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6H2
Tel: 0207 207 89863 www.ukniwm.org.uk

War Graves
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7DX
Tel: 01628 634221 www.cwgc.org