



Wartime Blackpool Exhibition resources

Blackpool War Graves

War graves commemorating those from the Fylde Coast, including Polish forces, can be found in the cemeteries of Bispham, Carleton, Layton, Marton, and throughout Fylde and Wyre.

Find out more at: <https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/>

Blackpool War Memorials

This booklet created by a member of the exhibition's co-production group is a guide to the war memorials in Blackpool's town centre and surrounding area. Please note that some locations may not be open to the public and may require special access arrangements if you wish to visit.

Find out more at: <https://blackpoolwarmemorials.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/membooklet.pdf>

British Royal Legion Industries – VJ Day and The Forgotten Army

This YouTube video made by the British Royal Legion Industries explores the Battle of Singapore, which included the Blackpool Regiment.

Find out more at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qvp5L5NbY-s>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorate those who lost their lives in both the First and Second World Wars. Their website contains a large amount of information on casualties and war graves which can help you to explore your family history and your local area.

If you have the name of someone who died during the Second World War, you can search records for more information at: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/>

If you want to find out more about those who lived in your postcode, you can search: <https://www.cwgc.org/who-lived-on-your-street/>

FyldeCoaster – A Blackpool Bobby: man on a mission

This page created by a member of the exhibition's co-production group explores ex-Blackpool police officer Frank McKenna's investigation of the murders of 50 airmen following their escape from Stalag Luft III Prisoner of War camp. This escape was portrayed in the 1963 film 'The Great Escape'.

Find out more at: <https://fyldecoaster.wordpress.com/2019/10/20/a-blackpool-bobby-man-on-a-mission/>

International Bomber Command Centre

The International Bomber Command Centre tells the stories of those involved in the Command during the Second World War. Their digital archive preserves documents and histories from all over the world and includes many records relating to Blackpool.

Find out more at: <https://ibccdigitalarchive.lincoln.ac.uk/omeka/>

North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment

This report produced in 2007 was commissioned by English Heritage and mapped the north-west's coastline. Some results from pages 28 to 33 specifically relate to military features and evidence of activities from the Second World War.

Read the report at: <https://www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/APReport.pdf>

Polish Forces Memorial

A member of the exhibition's co-production group is raising awareness of the contributions Polish forces made to the Second World War. The project is fundraising to teach local communities more about the Polish Air Force in Blackpool, and for a memorial to be built in the Fylde Memorial Arboretum and Community Woodland to honour their legacies.

Find out more at: <https://facebook.com/blackpoolpolishcommunity>

Showtown – Blackpool at War

The Blackpool Gazette has reported and recorded life and events in Blackpool for well over 100 years. This collection of images of Blackpool during the Second World War has been digitised from the Blackpool Gazette archive.

Find out more at:

<https://www.showtownblackpool.co.uk/collections/galleries/blackpool-at-war>

Showtown History Centre

Showtown's History Centre is in Central Library, Queen Street, Blackpool. Here you can book to explore Blackpool's own collections ranging from holiday

guides to circuses, as well as newspapers and records allowing you to discover your own family history.

Find out more at: <https://www.showtownblackpool.co.uk/news/latest-news-on-showtowns-history-centre>

Spitfire Visitor Centre - Hangar 42

Spitfire Visitor Centre is located at Hangar 42, Blackpool Airport, Lancashire. It gives visitors an up-close insight into local history and life in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

Find out more at: <https://spitfirevisitorcentre.co.uk>

St John's Church, Blackpool

St John's Church contains a Roll of Honour memorialising those who lost their lives in the 137 Field Regiment.

Find out more at: St John's Church, Church Street, Blackpool, FY1 1BP.

Visit Fylde Coast – War and the Blackpool Area

This page of a local-run website uncovers a range of Blackpool's contributions to the Second World War, from Spitfires to invasion defences.

Find out more at: <https://visitfyldecoast.info/about-the-fylde-coast/history/war-and-the-blackpool-area/>