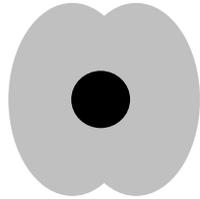


Pupils and staff from Abbey Grange CofE High School have been researching the history of Leeds during two world wars. They have been inspired to share some of their thoughts with you.



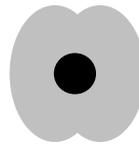
www.projectinspire.co.uk

We hope you will investigate our website. You can discover more about the wartime Leeds and activities we have taken part in. We have been inspired by people who gave their lives for us.

We will remember them.

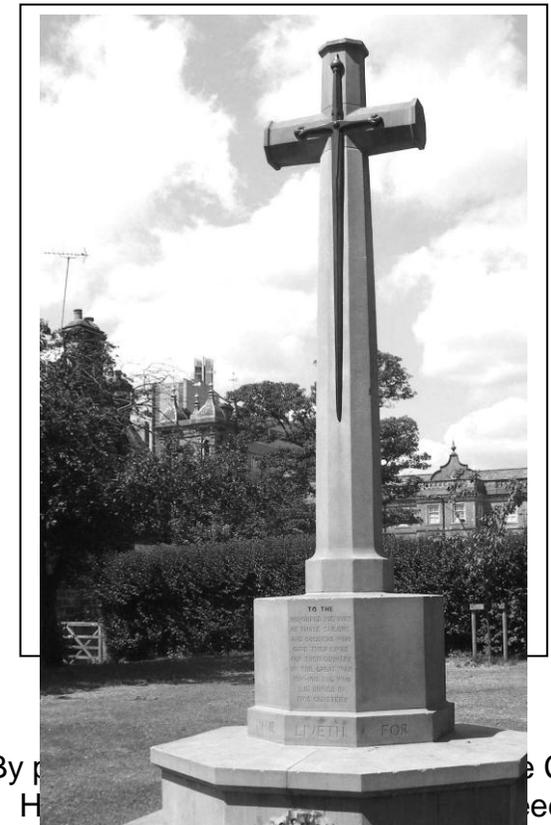
Here are some of the memories collected from our local community. More can be found on our website.

"My Father was 24 when he got called up in 1939 and had only been married less than a year. He never talked much about the war but after basic training he was in the tank division and spent time in North Africa and at the end of the war he was in Italy before he got demobbed. Years later we went on holiday to Italy and visited Venice where he was stationed and had a chat with a few Italian ex servicemen. They were very friendly with no animosity between them which is when you realize now that most of the 'Enemy' were just ordinary people doing what they were ordered to do." *Alan P*



Abbey Grange CofE High School Humanities College, Butcher Hill, Leeds, LS16 5EA

Leeds Town Hall Wartime



By p H e CofE eds

1 1914 – University Students

In 1914 hundreds of Leeds University students sat in rows of desks assisting Leeds City Council's administration. They were compiling the city section of the National register of men and women available for war work.

"So many people worked together for the good of the country" Hannah

2 1914 – Germans Detained

As an illuminated tram car, encouraging able bodied men to join up, passed outside, over fifty Germans were detained inside the Town Hall. Aliens who had failed to take out naturalisation papers had been arrested.

"This brings the war very close to home"
Lynda

3 1915 – Recruiting Committee

Administered from the Town Hall, before the Civic Hall was built, the Recruiting Committee visited over 42,000 homes looking for potential recruits. 30,000 men enlisted as a result of their efforts by Christmas 1915.

"These men must have been so motivated to keep the strength of the Army" Julie

4 1942 – British Restaurant

Under the Victoria Hall is a large room called the crypt. From 1942 onwards it was used as a British Restaurant, a wartime communal feeding centre where a cheap hot meal could be bought. It became very popular and closed in 1966.

"The community spirit must have been boosted by this place" Tony

5 1941 – Bombing Raid

There was a bombing raid on Leeds on March 15th 1941. The eastern side of the Town Hall was hit, and there was fire damage to the roof and the interior of the building. Armley, Hannover Sq and Wellington Street were also hit.

There were 81 alerts during World War Two in Leeds. The worst bombing raids took place on the 14th and 15th March 1941 with 9 separate attacks. 77 people were killed, 327 injured and 6,500 buildings damaged. A raid on 1st September 1940 hit Marsh Lane railway depot. Later raids hit Quarry Hill flats and an air raid shelter outside Leeds Market. Five people were killed at Kirkstall Forge on August 27th 1942. In total 197 buildings were destroyed and 7623 damaged. There were 24 major fires.

"So much unnecessary damage" Richard

6 1941 - General De Gaule

General De Gaulle, leader of the Free French Forces, took the salute at a march past of Allied troops in the Ark Royal Week parade on 5th May. In one week £9.3 million was raised by the people of Leeds.

"Astonishing what can be achieved" Ben

7 1942 - Winston Churchill

On the 16th May 1942 Winston Churchill made a secret visit to Leeds. The people of Leeds were given only two hours warning of his visit. A crowd of over 20,000 listened to his speech made from the Town Hall steps. His Victory sign raised a cheer.

"This is great. I didn't know anything about this" Hayley

8 1945 - Celebrations

On V J Day, August 16th 1945, the Town Hall was the scene of great celebration. Crowds surrounded the lions beside the Town Hall steps.

"What a time to be alive. People must have had very mixed emotions. Remembering those that died and looking forward to an uncertain future" Chris