



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide Material relating to the First World War

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1. INTRODUCTION

Extensive sources are of course held in numerous other institutions both nationally and locally. For guidance, see for example:

www.iwm.org.uk/centenary

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war

www.1914.org/centenary

However, Lambeth Palace Library holds many records relating to the War and the role of the Church of England. Featured documents appear on the [timeline](#) and on the Library's [blog](#) *A Monument of Fame* via the [website](#). This guide gives summary information on holdings, but researchers are encouraged to search the Library's catalogues to find further information on material listed below, and to identify further sources: www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/content/searchcollections

The response of the Church of England to the War also featured on the [Radio 4 Sunday programme](#).



2. ARCHBISHOPS' PAPERS

The papers of Randall Davidson, Archbishop of Canterbury during the War, contain voluminous material on various aspects of the War, relating both to specific Church issues, and more general topics. Index entries to material relating to the War within the papers of Archbishop Davidson (ref: Davidson) listed here show the diversity of subjects covered (this information also appears in the online archives catalogue). Each reference includes (in bold) the volume number – some refer to entire volumes – but also (if necessary) the specific folio or item numbers within the volume.

American nurse volunteers for war service in Europe, 1914: **376**, ff.40-57.

Outbreak of war, 1914: **6/1**; **191**, ff. 161-5; **193**, ff.401-12; **520**, ff.319-21.

Wartime role of the Prince of Wales, 1914: **376**, ff.31-8.

Anti-invasion preparation in Kent, 1914-15: **376**, ff.77-125.

Recruiting campaigns, 1914-16: **341**, ff.233-313.

Appeals for funds for the British Red Cross and the St John's Ambulance Brigade, 1914-18: **377**, ff.94-197.

Assistance for civilians in Great Britain affected by, 1914-18: **357**; **358**, ff. 1-190, 335-50; **376**, ff. 126-294.

British conduct of the war, 1914-18: **6/7**, 11-12, 27-8, 34-5; **13**, ff.7-55, 62-85, 174-353 passim: **366**, ff. 186-311.

Control of alcoholic consumption in wartime, 1914-18: **6/3**; **374**; **375**.

War service for ordinands, members of religious communities, and lay churchworkers, 1914-18: **342**.

Wartime marriage problems, 1914-38: **358**, ff. 191-334; **421**, ff.79-364.

Wartime role of the Church Lads' Brigade, 1914-18: **377**, ff.35-93.

Approaches by the Churches to war, peace, and reconciliation, 1914-19: **363-5**; **366**, ff. 1-185; **469**, ff.59-63; **497**, ff.215-38; **498**, ff.1-39.

Moral and spiritual welfare of British servicemen, 1914-19: **254**, ff.217-409; **344**, ff. 109-84 passim: **354-6**; **377**, ff.1-34; **379**, ff.54-68 passim:

Newspaper cuttings on, 1914-19: **771**; **772**.

Recruitment and supervision of chaplains to the armed forces, 1914-19: **343**; **344**; **345**.



Wartime administration of the British Museum, 1914-19: **13**, ff.237-9; **239**, ff.249-439.

British war graves in France, 1914-20: **377**, ff. 198-288.

Prayers and special services, 1914-20: **6/17-25**, 29, 36-8, 40, 62; **9/1-5**; **195**, ff.262-4; **196**, ff. 120-6, 161-72; **197**, ff.70-83; **367**; **368**; **369**, ff. 1-246.

Relief of distress in Europe and the Near East resulting from, 1914-21: **370**; **371**; **372**; **373**.

Role of the clergy in wartime, 1914-22: **192**, ff.390-5; **194**, ff. 198-201; **201**, ff.73-8; **339**; **340**; **341**, ff. 1-232.

Treatment of internees and prisoners of war, 1914-24: **351**; **352**; **353**.

Air raids on London, 1915: **194**, ff.183-97; **408**, ff.284-91; **483**, ff.17-18.

Archbishop Lang's visit to Scapa Flow, 1915: **378**, ff. 14-36.

Bishop of London's visit to the troops in France, 1915: **378**, ff.1-29.

Destruction of historic monuments in Europe, 1915: **377**, ff.309-19.

Formation of the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations, 1915: **377**, ff.289-302.

Introduction of conscription, 1915: **10/135**.

Use of poison gas, 1915: **366**, ff. 186-232 passim.

Laymen's Christian Crusade, 1915-16: **362**, ff.208-364.

War damage to churches, 1915-17: **379**, ff.1-48.

Archbishop Davidson's visits to the Western Front, 1915-19: **9/6-91**; **13**, ff.378-9; **197**, ff.39-67; **378**, ff.1-53 passim; **583**; **799**.

Emergency wartime measures in Great Britain, 1915-19: **376**, ff.1-30; **377**, ff.320-3; **378**, ff.54-316.

National Mission of Repentance and Hope, 1915-19: **6/9-16**; **195**, ff.269-347; **344**, ff. 109-84 passim; **359**; **360**; **361**; **362**, ff. 1-207; **538**, ff. 155-80; **539**.

Treatment of conscientious objectors, 1915-19: **348**.

Treatment of German missionaries in the colonies, 1915-23: **201**, ff.222-39; **349**; **350**; **384**, ff.315-30.



Assistance for Russian casualties of war, 1915-24: **467**, ff.207-28; **473**, ff. 124-39.

Missionary work in wartime, 1915, 1917: **427**, ff.359-64.

Bishop Brent's discussion of war issues, 1916-17: **379**, ff.49-82.

Pastoral care of munitions workers, 1916-18: **379**, ff.83-94.

Ordination of men from the armed forces, 1916-20: **9/92-114**; **198**, ff.66-167; **344**, ff.109-84 passim: **346**; **347**.

Agricultural work on Sundays in wartime, 1917: **494**, ff. 196-342; **753**, ff.300-22.

Formation of the Archbishops' Advisory Committee on War Problems, 1917-19: **379**, ff.95-345.

Peace negotiations and celebrations, 1918-19: **13**, ff.354-418 passim.

Published sources which refer to the Davidson papers on wartime subjects include: Edward Madigan, *Faith under Fire. Anglican Army Chaplains and the Great War*, 2011 (ref: G4375.M2)

S. Parker and T. Lawson, ed., *God and war: the Church Of England and armed conflict in the twentieth century*, 2013 (ref: H5157.G6)

Michael Snape, *The Royal Army Chaplains' Department 1796-1953: clergy under fire*, Studies in Modern British Religious History 18, 2008 (ref: G4375.S6)



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The papers cover the Archbishop's visit to the Western Front in 1916; for this, see also Michael Snape, 'Archbishop Davidson's Visit to the Western Front, May 1916' in *From the Reformation to the Permissive Society: A Miscellany in Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of Lambeth Palace Library*, ed. Melanie Barber and Stephen Taylor with Gabriel Sewell, Church of England Record Society 18, 2010 (ref: H5051.C4 [R])

Left: Passport photograph and signature of Archbishop Davidson from his visit to the Western Front (ref: Davidson 799/1)

There are also some references to the War in the papers of Cosmo Gordon Lang (ref: Lang), later Archbishop of Canterbury but then Archbishop of York.

There are references to wartime issues in the records of Bishops' Meetings (ref: BM), the minutes of which record biannual discussions of diocesan and suffragan bishops in England and Wales chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Topics relating to the War include forms of prayer and intercession, clergy combatants, army chaplains and other spiritual provision, refugees, the possibility of invasion, the impact of the War on marriage, and War memorials in churches.



3. OTHER ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

The papers of George Bell, chaplain to Archbishop Davidson, contain material relating to the War, during which he lost two brothers. The papers include correspondence with friends serving at the Front (ref: Bell 187) and correspondence relating to wartime publications edited by him (ref: Bell 188). These provide interesting context for his later career: the Library holds voluminous papers of Bell as Bishop of Chichester (1929-58) reflecting his heavy engagement in relations with Germany and international affairs before, during and after the Second World War, and he is famous for his views on bombing policy at that period.

Items among the papers of the liturgical scholar W J Birkbeck relating to the War include a letter written by Birkbeck to his son Michael in April 1916, captured by the Germans and received by his son after Birkbeck's death (ref: Birkbeck/1/11/1). There is also material relating to a prayer for animals ('Humble Beasts') dying in the War, adapted from the Russian Orthodox liturgy (ref: Birkbeck 1/12/9).

There are letters from R C Sherriff to his friend Gerald Ellison, later Bishop of London (ref: Ellison P/10/4/7). Sherriff is famous for his play about the War, *Journey's End*; the letters in the Library refer to the screenplay for the film version of Erich Maria Remarque's *The Road Back*, which Sherriff co-wrote.

The archive of the Mothers' Union includes a roll of honour listing members' relatives killed in the First World War, and referring to memorial panels in the chapel at their headquarters Mary Sumner House (ref: MU/MSH/7/1-3).

Other Church of England archives relating to the War are housed at the Church of England Record Centre, Bermondsey. These include papers on loans made by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the government to finance the War (ref: ECE/7/1/8056) and files on the military service of staff of Queen Anne's Bounty and on other aspects of the impact of the War, including some letters from those serving at the Front (ref: QAB/7/12, QAB/9/1).

4. MANUSCRIPTS

The manuscripts sequence includes the following:

- Partly used Ration Book issued to Claude Jenkins (Librarian of Lambeth Palace Library) during the First World War (ref: MS 1641 ff.130-139v).
- Diary of B K Cunningham as Chaplain-in-charge of the Chaplains' School at St. Omer and then at Blendecques, 1917-19, including three group photographs of chaplains attending the School (ref: MS 2077).
- Mark book of 'Tubby' Clayton (founder of Toc H) for the ordination test school established at Knutsford Gaol, Cheshire, for the preliminary examination of ex-servicemen prior to admission to university or theological college after the War, 1919 (ref: MS 3099).
- Roll of communicants, and of candidates for confirmation and ordination at Talbot House (Toc H) chapel, Poperinghe, Belgium, and at no.16 General Hospital and no.7 Stationery Hospital, 1915-17 (ref: MS 3211).



- A few letters to A F Winnington-Ingram, Bishop of London, from leading naval and military commanders (ref: MS 3406).
- Papers of H R L Sheppard (later Dean of Canterbury) including material on his work with troops at St Martin in the Fields during the War (ref: MS 3743).
- Letter to Michael Bolton Furse, Bishop of Pretoria (and afterwards Bishop of St Albans), from Hugh Mowbray Meyler, Captain in the Middlesex Regiment and afterwards MP for Blackpool, written following a gas attack on his trenches in the First World War, with a sketch, 1915 (ref: MS 4728 ff. 287-289).
- Wartime letters of the liturgiologist Percy Dearmer to his second wife Nancy written during active service, 1916 (ref: MS 4910).

5. PRINTED SOURCES

The Library also holds extensive publications (both contemporary and secondary) relating to the War. To identify relevant sources, please search the printed books catalogue:

www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/content/searchcollections

These include substantial holdings of wartime liturgies, such as special forms of prayer for nationwide or local use, offices for the fallen, dedication of memorials, and services for Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday; other unofficial devotional works; wartime sermons; contemporary pamphlets on aspects of the War; and works relating to military chaplains.

It also holds church newspapers covering the wartime period (*Church Times* and *The Guardian*).

The Library does not hold detailed information on individual service chaplains, although basic information should be recorded in its holdings of *Crockford's Clerical Directory*. For other information on service chaplains, see section 10 of the guide on sources for Anglican clergy:

www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/files/clergy_guide.pdf