

War

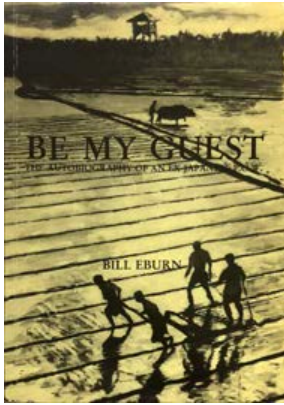
During the FWWCP's active years from 1976-2007, numerous members wrote about the impact of war on their lives. Often, this included growing up during World War I and/or II, the Korean War, and more. Some FWWCP members themselves were evacuated from London as children during World War II bombings.



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War also became an important topic for FWWCP members or groups who immigrated to England because of war in their homelands of Iran, Ireland, Poland, South Africa, and Bangladesh. Because of this movement between countries, many of the texts include languages from their homeland and their new home. These texts include poetry, memoirs, oral histories, and more, which detail the emotional, physical, and national impacts of war.

A note to readers: many writers describe the trauma and struggles they faced because of war, while documenting their paths of recovery and continued struggle. These texts might be emotionally difficult to read for some.



Be My Guest: The Autobiography of an Ex-Japanese Prisoner of War

Bill Eburn, 1985

FWWCPC/08 L 12

Eburn's autobiography begins with his early childhood being raised by his aunt and uncle. He then focuses on his time in World War II, writing about his feelings surrounding the draft, following his time on the HMS Collingwood, being assigned to submarines, his capture and coming home. Perhaps most poignantly, he also details the contrast between the glory that comes from wearing a military uniform and the realities of war. This publication is written like a diary, with poetry included.

Keywords: childhood | poetry | war

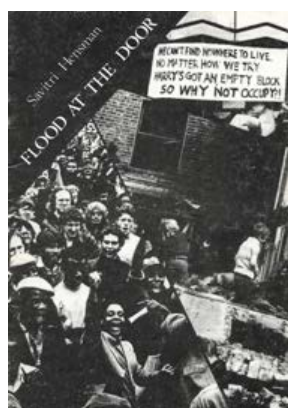
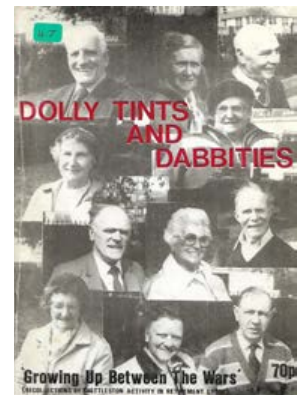
Dolly Tints and Dabbities

Workers Education Association, 1985

FWWCPC/10 S 01

Eleven people recount their lives in Scotland and Ireland in the 1920s and 1930s. Many of the stories are from their childhood experiences, including working mothers, poverty following World War I, and family activities. The mothers often worked and took care of domestic duties while the fathers also worked. Some of the families were more privileged than others, but they all found ways to enjoy their childhoods.

Keywords: childhood | domestic life | family | Scotland | war



Flood at the Door

Savitri Hensman, 1979

FWWCPC/08 L 03

Poet Savitri Hensman and illustrator Sarah Moriarty share their viewpoints on racism and nature. Half of the poems focus on racism, showing different aspects of the outcomes of racism, from prostitution to education, and the other half comment on the abuse of the earth at the hands of mankind.

Keywords: nature | poetry | race | racism | war



In Exile: Iranian Recollections

Ethnic Communities Oral History Project, 1989

FWWCP/08 L 14

Iranian migrants tell their stories of escaping the political turmoil of Iran only to be victims of racism in the United Kingdom. Many Iranians were torn between the better life offered in Britain and loyalties to their home country, despite the oppression and violence encountered in both places to different degrees. This book has two parts, one written in English and the other in Arabic.

Keywords: Iran | migration | refugee | revolution | war

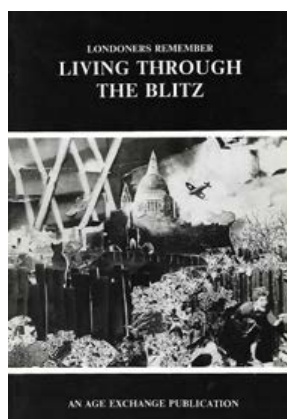
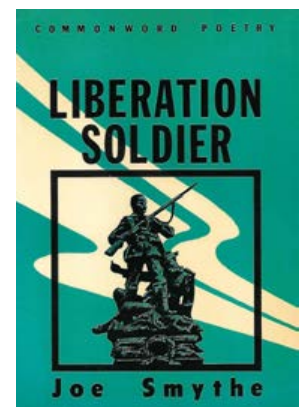
Liberation Soldier

Joe Smythe, 1986

FWWCP/01 NW 07

This collection showcases different styles of poetry to convey the political discontent and its resulting riots. Working-class poet Joe Smythe uses humour to address various concerns, including the apartheid in South Africa, and his poems encourage the reader to confront and challenge the assumptions society has of the working class.

Keywords: poetry | South Africa | war | working-class



Londoners Remember: Living Through the Blitz

Age Exchange, 1991

FWWCP/08 L 01

The beginning of World War II changed the lives of all, and London was bombed every night for several months. Following the food rationing in January, London was frequently attacked, an event that would later be known as the Blitz. This collection takes a look at the stories of the survivors of the 1940 bombings and shows the resilience of Londoners. Contributors share their first-hand experiences of close encounters with the bombs and their recovery from the trauma.

Keywords: recovery | survival | war | World War II



Moulsecoomb Days

Ruby Dunn, 1994

FWWCPC/07 SE 04

Ruby Dunn's memoir looks both at her life and at her neighbourhood's reconstruction after World War I. Dunn describes how her family came to live in the suburb of Moulsecoomb, a public house-building programme, when the family outgrew their initial house. She also chronicles her family life, her social life, her education, and concludes with a section on her teaching career.

Keywords: family | education | post-war | war

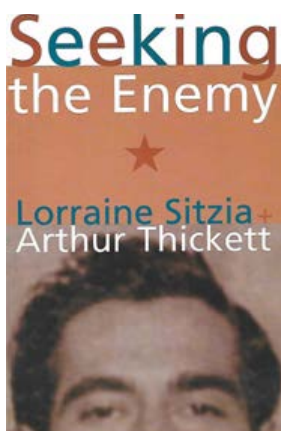
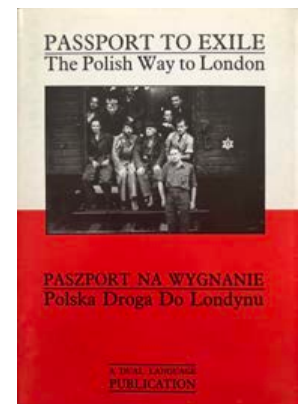
Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London

Polish Reminiscence Group, 1988

FWWCPC/08 L 12

Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London is the second publication in the Hammersmith & Fulham Community History series. This bilingual publication was transcribed, translated, and edited by Sav Kyriacou and the Polish Reminiscence group. The publication includes five autobiographies, which describe Poles coming to London in the 1940s, their lives in their new homes, and the reasons they chose to stay. Cultural expectations dominate discussion of bias and stereotypes. This publication continues into another called, *Travelling Light: Poles on Foreign Soil*.

Keywords: activism | art | childhood | family | labour | Poland | war



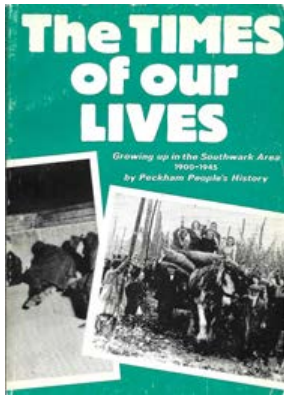
Seeking the Enemy

Lorraine Sitzia and Arthur Thickett, 2002

FWWCPC/08 L 14

Straying from the typical military memoir, Arthur Thickett shares his stories of everyday life with Lorraine Sitzia. As a veteran of two wars, Thickett shows how his military experiences shaped his view of life and the choices he makes. This book also shows the impact war has on soldiers' lives, not just during the conflict, but also afterwards.

Keywords: Korean War | memoir | war | World War II



The Times of Our Lives

Peckham People's History, 1983

FWWCPC/08 L 04

The Peckham People's History gathers the stories of Southwark citizens from the beginning of the twentieth century through the end of World War II. Contributors share experiences with family life, education, entertainment, and work. They use their memories to evoke a sense of nostalgia without glorifying the past because they understand that the past was full of hard times.

Keywords: Southwark | war | World War I | World War II

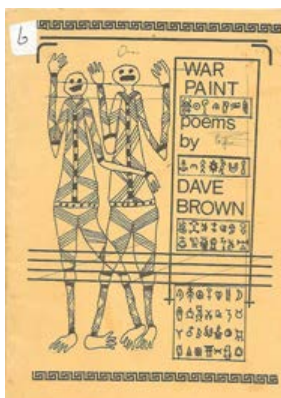
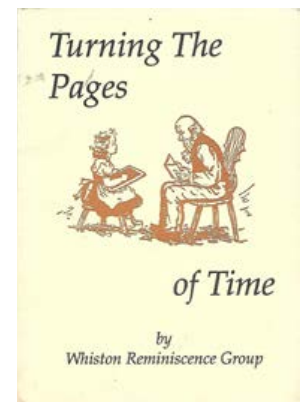
Turning the Pages of Time

Whiston Reminiscence Group, 1993

FWWCPC/05 EM 02

The Whiston Reminiscence Group shares their memories through a combination of poetry, prose, and illustrations. Their tales include childhood outings, dating, and a run-in with a gangster. Some authors focus on the available entertainment of the 1930s, such as the royal news and reports of a monkey with a habit of escaping the zoo.

Keywords: community | poetry | memoir | war | work



War Paint

Dave Brown, 1990

FWWCPC/02 NE 01

War Paint is a collection of poems and illustrations that covers several topics, including alcoholism, comic book characters, and death. Each topic represents a different aspect of life, such as the problems we bring upon ourselves, our personal dreams, and the loss of loved ones. Brown also demonstrates his frustration with the political unrest in the world.

Keywords: death | memories | poetry | war

Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

A License to Live: Scenes from a Post-War Working Life in Hackney
Barnes, Ron. Hackney Workers' Educational Association and Hackney Libraries Committee, 1974.

FWWCP/08 L 14

A Matter of Time

Manchester Poets for Peace. Commonword, 1984.

FWWCP/01 NW 05

Bill of Bulwell

Cross, Bill. Plowright Press, 1995.

FWWCP/04 WM 01

Black Saturday: The First Day of the Blitz- East London Memories of September 7th 1940

Miller, Les and Howard Bloch. T.H.A.P. Books, 1984.

FWWCP/08 L 14

Canary Girls

Hall, Edith. WEA Luton Branch Publisher, 1977

FWWCP/07 SE 04

Chinthe Women: Women's Auxiliary Service Burma 1942-1946

Jaffe, Sally and Lucy. 2001.

FWWCP/07 SE 04

D is for Doris, V is for Victory

White, Doris. People's Press of Milton Keynes, 1991.

FWWCP/07 SE 04

Healing Strategies for Women at War
Seven Black Women Poets, Commonword, 1999.

FWWCP/01 NW 07

Here is the Other News: Challenges to the Local Commercial Press No. 1
Minority Press Group, 1980.

FWWCP/08 L 11

Hilda's War

Arnison, Jim. Lancashire Community Press (TU), 1996.

FWWCP/01 NW 02

Hillfields in their own words III: Life and work in the home

Harris, Syd, et al. Hillfields History Group, no date.

FWWCP/04 WM 02

Images of an Underground Manxman
Daughtery, Michael. Rivelin Press, 1984.

FWWCP/03 Y 12

Lambeth at War

Rothwell, Stanley. SE1 People's History Project, London, 1981.

FWWCP/08 L 12

Lewes Remembers: The Second World War (1939 - 1945)

Members of Lewes U3A Oral History Group. Lewes U3A Publication, 1993.

FWWCP/07 SE 04

Many Struggles: West Indian Workers and Service Personnel in Britain (1939-45)

Sherwood, Marika. Karia Press, 1985.

FWWCP/08 L 14

No Boots to My Feet

Clark, Bob. Student Bookshops Ltd. 1984.

FWWCP/04 WM 01

No Heroes, No Cowards
Mundy, Hawtin. People's Press of Milton
Keynes, 1981.
FWWC/08 L 14

One in a Thousand: Burton Upon Trent
in the Second World War
Rowe, Mark. 1997.
FWWC/04 WM 01

Rations & Rubble: Remembering
Woolworths
Bagnell, Lena et al. Deptford History Group,
1994.
FWWC/08 L 14

Telling the Truth: The Life and Times of
the British Honduran Forestry Unit in
Scotland (1914-1944)
Ford, Amos A. Karia Press, 1985
FWWC/08 L 14

The Caribbean at War: 'British West
Indians' in World War II
Multiple Authors. The North Kensington
Archive, 1992.
FWWC/08 L 11

The Hidden Army: Women in the
Second World War
Metropolitan Borough of Stockport. Stockport
Museums & Art Gallery Service, 1982.
FWWC/01 NW 02

The Irish in Exile: Stories of Emigration
Multiple Authors. Hammersmith/Fulham
Community History Series, London.
FWWC/08 L 12

ToxCat Vol. 6 No. 2
Ralph Ryder, editor. Communities Against
Toxics, no date.
FWWC/01 NW 01

War Times and Civil Matters, Volume 4
Fraser-Newstead, Brenda. The Book Castle,
1996.
FWWC/07 SE 03

What Did You Do in the War Mum?
Women Recall Their Wartime Work
Pam Schweitzer, Lorraine Hilton, and Jane
Moss, editors. Age Exchange, 1985.
FWWC/08 L 01

"Where's Your Horns?" People of
Spitalfields Talk About the Evacuation
Barber, Phyllis, et al. Spitalfields Books, 1979.
FWWC/08 L 14