

*We Were There Too*

## Project Update

Lockdown Edition, April 2020



Welcome to this *British Jews in the First World War – We Were There Too* Project Update. Normally we look to publish four updates per year. However, as we are in unprecedented and challenging times, with many of us staying at home in lockdown, we at WWTT, staff and volunteers have produced this newsletter with content for all ages.

With schools closed the team thought that this would be an ideal time to introduce children and young people to our heritage and the First World War period, and so in the second half of this newsletter you will find a series of quizzes and crosswords all linked to the WWTT website.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting, and that the activities offer parents and grandparents (via the internet) a fantastic way to engage with your children.

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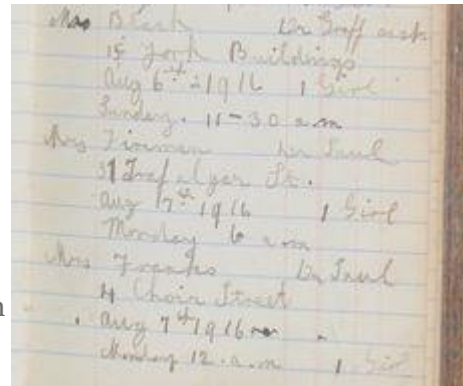
### MEDICAL WORKERS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

During this period of lockdown the country has been celebrating the healthcare workers on the frontline of the Coronavirus pandemic, so we thought this was the perfect opportunity to share the stories of some of the Jewish men and women who served their country as medical staff during the First World War.



**Eli Wershof** was born in Kovno, Russia in 1894, and emigrated to Canada where he attended Manitoba University, graduating from the Faculty of Medicine in 1917. After graduating Dr Wershof joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps as a Lieutenant, and went overseas in the fall of 1917. He received his Captaincy in 1918, and during the war served in the Canadian hospitals at Witley Camp in Surrey, Buxton in Derbyshire and Kimmel Park, North Wales. Read more about Dr Wershof on his [Personal Record](#).

**Dora Black** was born in Romania in 1867, emigrating to Britain and settling in Manchester, where she was an established midwife by the outbreak of the First World War. Dora, well-known in the area as Nurse Black, would also show new mothers how to bath their babies, sometimes two or three at the same time, and when the bath was empty they would throw coppers in. These were her "perks" or "butt geld" as she called them, "bath money" in Yiddish. Dora kept a ledger of all events when a child was born (which you can see on the right), and called it her black book.



It contains the names of doctors, birth of the child, weight and name of address of the mother. Dora had eight children of her own, and sadly her son [Myer](#) was killed in France in 1917 whilst serving with the King's Liverpool Regiment. To find out more about Nurse Black, visit her [Personal Record](#).

Discover more stories of medical service in the First World War by clicking on the names below:



[Dame Beatrice Hida Lever](#)

[Private Jacob Kaitiff](#)

[Sister Louise Aronovich](#)

To find out more about the medical services in the First World War and the Jewish men and women who were involved, visit our History Windows on the [Voluntary Aid Detachments, Jewish Nurses, VADs and Military Hospitals](#), and the [Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service](#).

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## **ACTIVITIES**

Here you will find some activities to keep you and your family busy whilst staying safe at home. To find the answers to these activities you will need to use our website [jewsffw.uk](http://jewsffw.uk). We hope you enjoy, and learn something new!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers Barbara and Merton Paul for their help putting these activities together.

Answers to all of these quizzes will be published in a further interim newsletter in two weeks time, so keep your eyes peeled.

[Crossword](#)

[Timeline Quiz](#)

['What am I?' Quiz](#)

['Find Me' Collections Quiz](#)

Good luck!



A British officer writing a letter home on the Western Front, May 1917. Copyright IWM

Thanks for reading, make sure to visit the website [jewsfffw.uk](http://jewsfffw.uk) to upload your family stories, and to learn more about our project.

The *We Were There Too* team here in the North West hope you and your families are all keeping well during these difficult times.

To get in touch, email [contactus@jewsfffw.uk](mailto:contactus@jewsfffw.uk) or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @jewsfffw

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### The North West Team

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