

World War 2 Civil Defence: The Home Front

Background

The Civil Defence Committee of the county council was set up before WW2 to help prepare civilian areas for air and possible land attacks. The committee helped set up an Air Raid Precaution authority, helped with evacuation, constructed air raid shelters, set up fire watches and undertook other related activities.

What records are there and what information will they contain?

The Civil Defence Committee records are held under the reference C/CDa and contain the following records:

- **Minutes of the Civil Defence & ARP (Air Raid Precaution) Committees**
- **Maps and Plans**
 - Showing ARP areas and organisation, distribution of evacuees etc.
- **General Correspondence**
- **Press Cuttings**
- **ARP Personnel**
 - Includes pamphlets, correspondence and some lists of personnel.
- **Records relating to the 1945 Defence Medal**
 - Including applications and correspondence
- **Air Attacks**
 - Includes correspondence and reports about some air attacks and bomb damage
- **Evacuation**
 - These generally relate to the overall arrangements for evacuation within the county. However some records may relate to individuals, such as correspondence. For more information see *Research Guide: Evacuees*.

Gloucestershire Archives does not hold military service records, records about prisoner of war camps or airfields. Some of the records listed here may contain some information but most of the relevant records will be held elsewhere. We do hold some books about these topics which may be of interest to you.

Records such as minutes, correspondence and reports are not usually indexed by place, name or event. To find out if a particular event or person is mentioned you will need to search through any relevant records.

It may also be worth looking in district council (Ref: DA) or parish council (P...a) records, as the Civil Defence Committee often worked with these bodies to set up local arrangements.

How to Find the Records

To view a list of records in these collections please use our online catalogue, which can be found on our website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives. Use the collection references given above as your search term. You can then refine your search, for example by place or date.

For more guidance on how to use the online catalogue, please see the Help page and FAQs. Or you can watch our YouTube tutorial.