

Bank of England

The Bank Remembers: 80 Years On

1945 - 2025





Andrew Bailey
Governor of the
Bank of England

“ Eighty years ago, Victory in Europe Day on 8 May 1945 marked the end of the war in Europe, after nearly six years of conflict that touched every aspect of life, including the work of the Bank. The war in east Asia and the Pacific did not end until 15 August 1945, when Japan surrendered, commemorated as Victory over Japan Day. As we mark the 80th anniversary, we remember all those who served and suffered, and reflect on the impact of the war on the Bank and its people. The names still inscribed within Threadneedle Street remind us of colleagues who left for active service, and of those who lost their lives at home during the war years.

The Bank's records capture how quickly everyday working life was reshaped by the demands of wartime. Long before hostilities formally began, preparations were under way to protect staff and ensure the continuity of essential functions. As conditions worsened, colleagues adapted to evacuation, underground working, and the constant uncertainty of air raids, while vital operations continued away from London.

For those who remained at Threadneedle Street, the proximity of the Blitz was a daily reality, with heavy loss of life in the surrounding area even where the Bank itself escaped serious damage. Others experienced an abrupt move from city routines to communal living in the countryside, balancing unfamiliar circumstances with the steady pressures of war work.

When peace finally came, VE Day was marked with relief and celebration, followed swiftly by the practical task of returning the Bank to London and supporting staff through the difficult transition to post-war life. Housing shortages, disrupted family lives and continued rationing shaped the months that followed, demanding resilience even after the fighting had ended.

This booklet offers a window into those experiences through the Archive, showing how the Bank and its people endured, adapted and served through extraordinary times. It is also a reminder of why remembrance matters: not only as a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, but as a reaffirmation of the responsibilities we carry today in the institution they helped to sustain. The dedication and resilience shown by Bank staff during the war years stand as a testament to the values that define this institution – values that continue to guide us in our duty to serve the people of this country. ”





1942

Left Hurstbourne Camp,
section of main working
hut, c.1942 (Archive ref:
15A13/15/68)

Life at the Bank during the Second World War

Britain had long anticipated the hostilities of the Second World War and the Bank made extensive preparations before it was declared. Arrangements were made to move staff underground into the Threadneedle Street (TS) vaults if necessary. A first aid station and several first aid posts, a small but well equipped operating theatre and a gas decontamination centre were installed. Courses were given in first aid, gas detection and stretcher parties practised carrying patients. Almost every member of Bank staff attended lectures on air raid precautions.

Towards the end of 1938, it was decided that, to safeguard banknote production, this process should be moved well away from London. Land was available near the Hampshire papers mills of Portals Ltd, who had supplied the Bank with its paper since 1724. Two shadow factories, A and B, were constructed, with A operating as the printing works and B as the Dividend Preparation Office.

The most complex staff evacuation was the Accountant's Department which employed the hundreds of staff that managed the Bank's registers of holdings of Government and other stocks. The department had been moved out of TS in 1923 to Finsbury Circus during the Herbert Baker rebuilding. The Accountant's Department and some sections of the Establishment Department to the Mansion at Hurstbourne Priors were moved about four miles from the Overton shadow factories, near Whitchurch village, Hampshire. The Mansion could not accommodate all the staff required, and wooden buildings were constructed as offices and living quarters on a meadow area, which came to be known as Hurstbourne Camp.

'Since we have been here we have made new friendships and renewed old ones and many of us have learned anew how great a thing true friendship is in times of difficulty and change.'

Overton Overture, The Old Lady, March 1940 (Archive ref. E8/77)

1942

Right Hurstbourne Camp
sleeping hut, c.1942
(Archive ref: 15A13/15/26)





1942

Left: Hurstbourne Camp cinema theatre,
c.1942 (Archive ref: 15A13/15/76)

The Bank's almost entirely urban staff settled into a much more rural life, lived communally and, in many cases, away from family and friends – although most of the Hampshire staff were able to travel to London on alternate weekends. Personal space within cramped shared accommodation was often scant. Efforts were made to boost morale and provide comfort. For instance, the construction of a new office building at Hurstbourne meant there could be a cinema, screening a weekly programme playing to an audience of 300.

As the war progressed, work at TS was moved underground for safety and many colleagues slept near their desks on camp-beds in the vaults. As bombing intensified over central London, skylights at TS were protected with sandbags and air raid shelters completed in the basements. Reinforced concrete protected the courtyards, (except for Garden Court) and covered over lift shafts and light wells. Anti-blast walls were erected in front of some of the ground floor windows. The Deputy Chief Cashier (HBC Yeomans) commissioned a Bank colleague to paint a trompe-l'oeil picture of Garden Court in summer to give him a cheerier outlook.

Rather miraculously, TS escaped significant bomb damage during the Blitz and beyond. However, on 11

'Within three weeks the massive bomb crater was cleared and spanned by a temporary steel bridge built by the Royal Engineers.'

Right War damage outside the Bank of England, Feliks Topolski, 1941, watercolour. Bank of England Museum: 0603. Reproduced courtesy of the estate of Feliks Topolski.

January 1941 a German bomb hit the centre of nearby Bank junction. It penetrated the roadway and exploded in the Bank station booking hall, resulting in many casualties and the loss of 56 lives.

In Hampshire, a further camp was constructed called Foxdown at Overton, consisting of 11 sleeping huts, a canteen, recreation room, sick bay and other buildings. Hurstbourne Camp eventually comprised as many as 50 buildings, covering about seven acres of land.

A Home Guard started in Hampshire in June 1940 and was met with great enthusiasm. A Bank section was formed and later a platoon of more than 160 men from the camp was attached to the local organisation, carrying out local guard duties such as the strict enforcement of blackouts.

The pre-war population of Whitchurch was about 2,600, and this figure nearly doubled due to the influx of Bank staff and some of their families. There was no tea shop or café and consequently the Bank bought and leased a building as the Bay Tree, which opened in November 1940 and could sit 52 at a time.

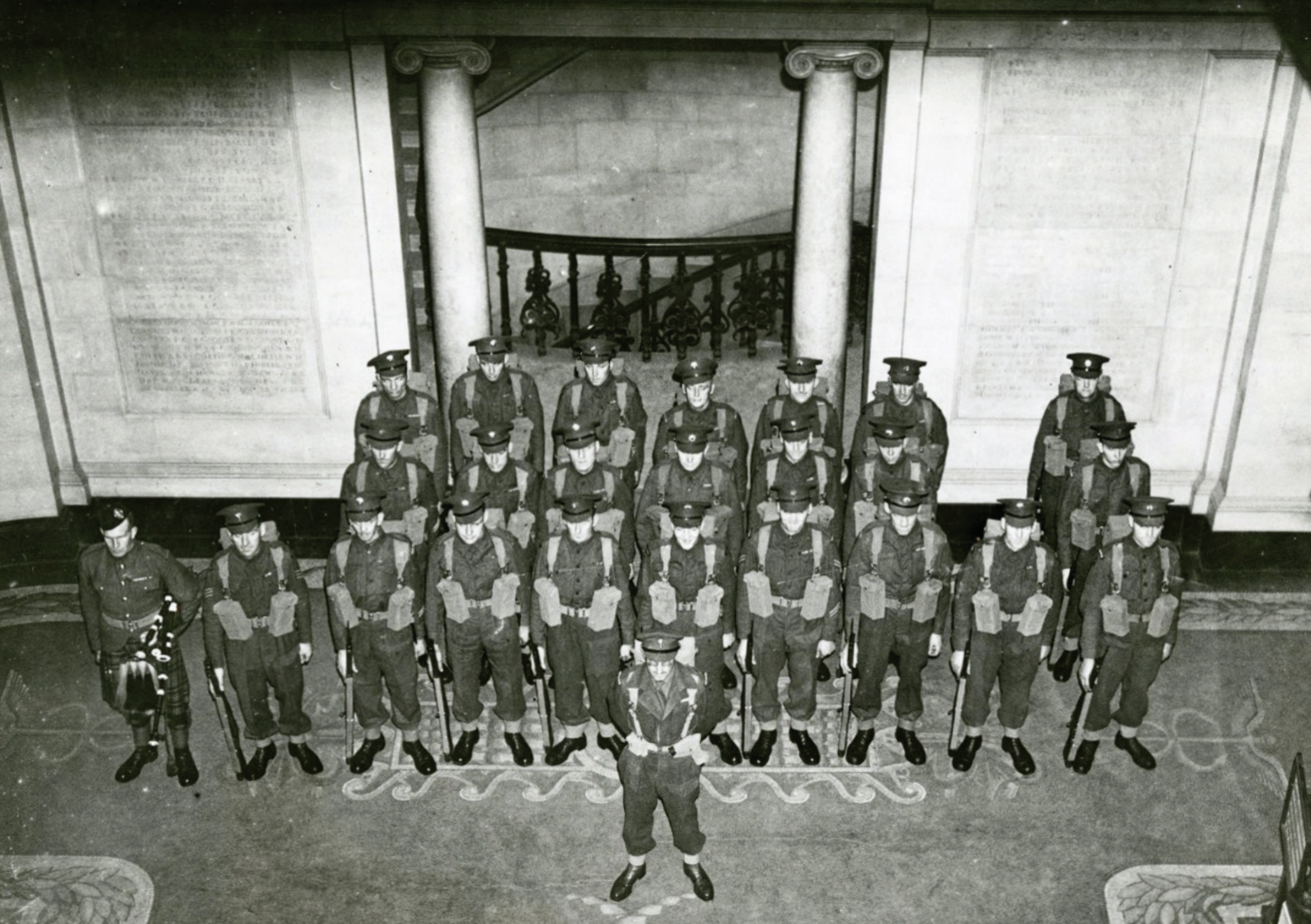


1945

Right The Bank Piquet,
(Archive ref: 15A13/14
V18177)

The impact of the Second World War on Bank employment

By mid-October 1939, about 370 of the younger male Bank staff had gone into the Armed Forces. A further 90 were under 25 years old and, therefore, likely to be called up, meaning that nearly one quarter of the male staff would probably leave the Bank. To help with staffing, the Bank's Court suspended the rule that women had to leave its employment on marriage. Strict entry qualifications for women were also dropped. To help find extra staff, particularly in the war-critical field of Exchange Control, pensioners were recalled, more women were employed, and there was a rise in part-time working.





1945

Left The Bank Piquet, 1945
(Archive ref: 15A13/14 V18179)

Below The Bank Piquet, 1945
(Archive ref: 15A13/14 V18178)



Increasing numbers of women were employed in roles that few would have deemed possible before the war and, by February 1940, the number of women employed outnumbered men for the first time.

In Hampshire, within the Accountant's Department, almost all the work was carried out under one vast open-plan roof in marked contrast to life at Finsbury Circus, with its small offices and dispersed teams. There was mixing of the sexes in the Bank's workforce for the first time and a great relaxation in clothing rules which, up to the war, had been strict and enforced. Female staff evacuated to Hampshire undertook 'men's work' alongside those men not conscripted. A Bank report of 1943 stated: 'It has been proven that women, even very young women, can be highly successful on work formerly done by men'.

At the outbreak of the war, the total staff of the Bank, male and female, clerical and non-clerical, numbered 4,120. Two years later, it reached its wartime peak of 6,285, of whom 814 were away on active service. In February 1946, more than 600 were still awaiting demobilisation and the total working in the Bank was 5,080, so that effective numbers had increased by less than 1,000 during the war. In all, approximately 2,200 staff were released to the services during the Second World War.

The Roll of Honour

Colleagues entering the Front Hall of Threadneedle Street will notice the names of previous Bank colleagues inscribed in stone on the walls. These colleagues were killed while serving in the Armed Forces or in the course of their daily lives during the Second World War.

RICHARD GEORGE DOUGLAS

ALLAWAY. Released to join HM Forces, 2 September 1939. Captain Royal Army Service Corps. Invalided home from France in November 1939; died of pneumonia in Shenley Military Hospital on 29 December 1939. Age 43.

PHILIP ATKINS. Killed by enemy action on 18 June 1944. Age 70.

LESLIE WILLIAM BAILEY. Released to join HM Forces, 24 August 1939. Major, Royal Artillery. Died of toxic hepatitis in Cairo on 11 September 1943. Age 37.

WILLIAM RUSSELL ARTHUR BALKWILL.

Released to join HM Forces, 28 August 1939. Captain, Royal Artillery. Killed in action in NW Europe on 22 September 1944. Age 27.

WILLIAM SAMUEL BALKWILL.

Killed by enemy action on 29 November 1944. Age 64.

ROBERT LIONEL HARMAN BALL.

Released to join HM Forces, 28 May 1941. Flying Officer, Royal Air Force. Killed while on a bombing raid over Germany, 22 October 1943. Age 20.

HAMISH COUPER BARBER.

Released to join HM Forces, 7 June 1941. Ordinary Seaman, Royal Navy. Reported missing, believed killed in February 1942. Age 19.

PHILIP PATRICK BENSON.

Released to join HM Forces, 28 August 1939. Major, Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Killed in action at the Anzio bridgehead, 12 February 1944. Age 39.

DAVID LOUIS BIGGS.

Released to join HM Forces, 11 June 1942. Flying Officer (Navigator), Royal

Air Force. Killed on an offensive patrol over France, 9 April 1944. Age 21.

JOHN DAWSON BLENCOWE.

Released to join HM Forces, 27 October 1941. Flying Officer, Royal Air Force. Reported missing, presumed killed in action while on air operations in NW Europe, 24 February 1944. Age 29.

FREDERICK GEORGE THOMAS

BRERETON. Released to join HM Forces, 15 June 1939. Ordinary Seaman, Royal Navy (Royal Fleet Reserve). Died of injuries received as the result of enemy action, 13 May 1941. Age 33.

FRANCIS RUSSELL DACRES BYNG.

Released to join HM Forces, 25 August 1939. Lieutenant, Royal Artillery. Killed in action in Normandy on 5 July 1944. Age 27.

TERENCE BRITTAN CAROTHERS.

Released to join HM Forces, 22 July 1942. Lieutenant, Royal Marines. Reported missing, presumed killed at Elba on 17 June 1944. Age 37.

GEORGE WOODTHORPE CHAPLIN, MC.

Released to join HM Forces, 23 August 1940. Major, Grenadier Guards. Awarded MC in March 1944, at Anzio. Reported missing, presumed killed in action in Italy, 2 December 1944. Age 30.

DAVID CLEMENT. Released to join HM Forces, 15 August 1939. Corporal, Royal Army Service Corps. Taken prisoner August 1941, and died in hospital in Germany on 12 April 1942. Age 34.

HENRY GEORGE COATES. Killed by enemy action on 28 July 1944. Age 32.

ROBERT CHIPPINDALL DAFFORN, DFC. Released to join HM Forces, 19 June 1939. Squadron Leader, Royal Air Force. Awarded DFC in January 1941. Subsequently instructor at Central Gunnery School where he was killed on active service on 9 September 1943. Age 27.

HOWARD LESLIE DAVIES.

Released to join HM Forces, 19 August 1940. Sergeant Pilot, Royal Air Force. Killed during air operations on the night of 8/9 June 1942. Age 22.

RONALD HORACE DEACON.

Released to join HM Forces, 20 May 1940. Sergeant Wireless Operator/Observer, Royal Air Force. Shot down off the Italian Coast; reported missing, presumed drowned on 28 June 1943. Age 25.

GORDON BASIL EARLE.

Released to join HM Forces, 1 September 1939. Flight Lieutenant, Royal Air Force. Injured by an enemy bomb while engaged on ground duties in Belgium and died of wounds in No 8 RAF General Hospital on 4 March 1945. Age 38.

PETER GEOFFREY EDYVEAN-WALKER.

Released to join HM Forces, 7 August 1942. Sergeant (Flight Engineer), Royal Air Force. Killed on active service on 17 November 1943. Age 19.

BARRY SYMONS FITZSIMON.

Released to join HM Forces, 14 March 1942. Leading Seaman, Royal Navy. Killed in action on 18 October, 1944. Age 21.

PHILIP FRANK WELLER GALES.

Released to join HM Forces, 25 October 1940. Pilot Officer (Observer), Royal Air Force. Killed in air operations over NW Germany on 23 September 1942. Age 22.

JOHN ANDREW GEORGE GILL.

Released to join HM Forces, 18 July 1940. Lance-Corporal, Royal Army Service Corps. Died on active service, 31 March 1942. Age 30.

GEOFFREY ANTHONY GLIBBERY.

Released to join HM Forces, 3 October 1940. Flying Officer, Royal Air Force. Killed while serving with Middle East Forces on 29 December 1942. Age 20.

RICHARD CRAWFORD GRAPES.

Released to join HM Forces, 14 March 1941. Acting Petty Officer, Fleet Air Arm. Died on active service, 1 May 1944. Age 21.

JOHN HAMPTON. Released to join HM Forces, 19 September 1940. Flying Officer, Royal Air Force. Presumed killed on air operations over Germany on 19 November 1943. Age 28.

RICHARD NEVILLE HANSELL, DFC.

Released to join HM Forces, 6 September 1940. Flying Officer, Royal Air Force. Awarded the DFC. Killed on active service, 6 July 1945. Age 23.

TIMOTHY BURRELL HAYLEY.

Released to join HM Forces, 9 January 1941. Lieutenant, Welsh Guards. Killed in action in Monte Piccolo, Italy, on 27 May 1944. Age 22.

REGINALD BERESFORD HOBSON.

Joined 20th Battalion, Middlesex Home Guard. Killed as the result of an accident on 9 October 1942. Age 54.

JOSEPH PERCIVAL HUDSON.

Died in a Japanese internment camp in Singapore on 1 April 1942. Age 76.

DAVID GERALD IMAGE.

Released to join HM Forces, 24 August 1939. Paymaster Sub-Lieutenant, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Killed in action when HMS Dundee was torpedoed on 15 September 1940. Age 24.

BERNARD JENNINGS.

Killed by enemy action on the night of the 16/17 April 1941. Age 38.

MARGARET IRENE LAWTHOR.

Released for service with HM Government, 8 June 1942. Attached to the Foreign Office. Died of pneumonia in Cairo on 8 January 1943. Age 32.

ENID GERTRUDE LINE. Released to join HM Forces, 19 June 1942. Corporal in 103 AA Brigade, ATS. Killed by enemy action on 11 May 1943. Age 23.

WILLIAM PATRICK LITTLETON.

Released to join HM Forces, 24 August 1939. Petty Officer Stoker, Royal Navy (Royal Fleet Reserve). Died of pneumonia after being mined at sea on 29 December 1939. Age 35.

ANTHONY BROMLEY LOVERIDGE.

Released to join HM Forces, 16 August 1939. Pilot Officer, Royal Air Force. Reported missing, presumed killed in air operations over the Isle of Rhodes on 14 February 1941. Age 23.

CONSTANCE CHESHIRE MACCABE.

Killed by enemy action at Liverpool on the night of 7/8 May 1941. Age 36.

DOUGLAS GORDON MACKENZIE.

Released to join HM Forces, 28 August 1939. Paymaster Lieutenant Commander, Royal Naval Reserve. Killed when SS Aguila was sunk by enemy action off the Portuguese coast on 19 August 1941. Age 37.

JOHN HASTINGS McALLUM, MC.

Released to join HM Forces, 2 September 1939. Captain 'B' Battery, Honourable Artillery Company, Royal Horse Artillery. Awarded MC, May 1943. Died of wounds received in Sicily, on 17 July 1943. Age 26.

ANGUS JOHN McFADYEAN.

Released to join HM Forces, 2 September 1939. Captain, Gordon Highlanders. Killed in action with the Central Mediterranean Forces on 9 March 1944. Age 30.

LAWRENCE ARTHUR CHICHELEY

MICHELL. Released to join HM Forces, 11 October 1940. Sub-Lieutenant, Fleet Air Arm. Killed in aircraft accident

on 24 November 1941. Age 21.

CYRIL GEORGE MONTGOMERY.

Released to join HM Forces, 23 October 1942. Flying Officer, Royal Air Force. Killed in aircraft accident in the Azores on 14 March 1945. Age 42.

EDWARD ANTHONY MOULD.

Released to join HM Forces, 29 May 1939. Flying Officer, Royal Air Force. Killed during operations with Night Fighter Squadron off the East Coast on the 20 January 1943. Age 25.

EDWARD WILLIAM NICHOL.

Released to join HM Forces, 2 September 1939. Major, County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters). Killed in action at Sidi Rezegh on 22 November 1941. Age 39.

ROY CECIL NICHOLS.

Released to join HM Forces, 15 November 1941. Leading Aircraftsman, Royal Air Force. Discharged, suffering from tuberculosis, 4 April 1943, and died on 19 March 1944. Age 21.

GEOFFREY CUMING PARKER.

Released to join HM Forces, 30 November 1942. Pilot Officer (Air Gunner), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Killed during air operations over France on the night of 8/9 July 1943. Age 36.

ROBERT WILLIAM ROBB.

Released to join HM Forces, 28 August 1939. Paymaster Lieutenant, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Killed when HMS Spartiate was sunk by enemy action on 19 December 1941. Age 31.

MOYA DENISE ROBINSON.

Killed by enemy action on 12 October 1940. Age 19.

ARNOLD CHARLES SCOTT.

Released to join HM Forces, 9 November 1940. Sub-Lieutenant, Fleet Air Arm. Killed in a flying accident on 16 October 1941. Age 20.

BASIL ARCHER SMITH.

Released to join HM Forces, 7 November 1942. Flying Officer, Royal Air Force. Killed in a flying accident on 19 July 1945. Age 22.

ELLEN SMITH. Killed by enemy action on 10 May 1941. Age 62.

ETHEL LILIAN SMITH. Killed by enemy action on 27 September 1940. Age 47.

NORAH SMITH. Killed by enemy action on 10 May 1941. Age 32.

BLAIR CALVERT SNELL. Released to join HM Forces, 20 November 1939. Captain 6th/6th Rajputana Rifles. Died on active service at Mir Ali, Waziristan, on 14 November 1941. Age 26.

SILVESTER MAURICE HAYWARD

SPEARING. Killed by enemy action on 20 February 1944. Age 41.

HARRY CHARLES REYNOLDS

SPILLAN. Killed by enemy action while on duty with the Home Guard, on 1 June 1943. Age 49.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD

STAMP. Killed by enemy action on 16 April 1941. Age 60.

GEOFFREY KEITH SWINSCOE.

Released to join Royal Air Force, 27 March 1943. Killed by enemy action on 7 October 1943. Age 18.

KENNETH CHARLES MELVILLE TAYLOR.

Released to join HM Forces, 24 July 1941. Flight Sergeant, Royal Air Force. Killed during air operations on the Burma front, 31 May 1944. Age 22.

ARTHUR EDWARD TOLFREE.

Released to join HM Forces, 29 August 1939. Able Seaman, Royal Navy. Killed in action on HMS Jervis Bay, 6 November 1940. Age 35.

PETER MICHAEL CHARLES TRELEASE.

Released to join HM Forces, 15 March 1940. Captain Reconnaissance Corps. Contracted tuberculosis while on active service in North Africa and died at Hill End Hospital, St Albans, on 31 March 1945. Age 26.

ROGER BROCKWELL WARD.

Released to join HM Forces, 24 July 1943. Sergeant, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Reported missing, presumed killed, 24 September 1944. Age 20.

BRIAN OWEN WHITELY.

Released to join HM Forces, 2 September 1939. Sergeant Pilot, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Killed in a flying accident on 27 April 1940. Age 21.

GEOFFREY CHILD WILLIAMS.

Released to join HM Forces, 2 September 1939. Captain, The Welsh Regiment. Wounded in North Africa. Killed in action in Athens on 5 December 1944. Age 34.

VALENTINE OSBORNE WILLIAMS.

Released to join HM Forces, 26 January 1943. Sub-Lieutenant, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Killed in action on 2 November 1944. Age 36.

Staff stories in focus



Enid Line

Born on 18 February 1920, Enid grew up in Crouch End, Middlesex. She joined the Bank of England on 11 March 1938, aged 18, as a probationary clerk and progressed in her role as clerk until she was released from the Bank to join the army at her request on 19 June 1942. Enid worked as a cypher clerk, encrypting and decrypting messages in HQ 103 Anti-Aircraft Brigade. She was billeted in Whitfield House, an annex to the Imperial Hotel in Great Yarmouth, which had been requisitioned for the war effort.

On 11 May 1943, the drone of enemy planes was heard approaching the British coast but, due to hazy weather conditions that morning, the Royal Observer Corps on the nearby cliffs only had 30 seconds to warn of the impending attack. The first bomb hit before the air raid siren went off. Enid died in the attack, aged 23. This was the greatest loss of life in one raid across any of the women's services and remains the worst female loss of life in the British army's history. In all, 49 servicemen and women and civilians were killed or later died of their wounds from this attack. Only one woman, Private Doreen Chappell, was pulled alive from the wreckage.



Left Enid Line, the Old Lady,
Dec 1943 (Archive ref: E8/92)
(Worcestershire)

Above Lord Stamp, the Old Lady,
June 1941 (Archive ref: E8/82)

Lord Stamp

Josiah Charles Stamp, a Bank Director, lost his life during the Second World War, not in active service, but as a civilian casualty.

Born in Kilburn, northwest London, Josiah, aged just 16, entered the civil service as a clerk in the Inland Revenue. Throughout his life, he doggedly pursued self-improvement through academic study. His thesis, published as *British Incomes and Property*, rapidly became the classic work on the subject and established his academic reputation.

In 1919, just short of 39, Josiah left the civil service for business, to become secretary and director of Nobel Industries Ltd. In 1926, he became president of the executive of the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway (LMS), constituted under the post-war amalgamation of the railways. This breadth of knowledge and experience led to his appointment as a Director of the Bank of England in 1928.

Josiah continued to combine his formal roles with an unbroken succession of public services including as a British representative on the Dawes committee on German reparations, and its successor the Young Committee. He, along with his wife Olive and eldest son Wilfrid Carlyle, was killed in an air raid in their home shelter at Shortlands, Bromley, on 16 April 1941.

Hurstbourne Camp blood
transfusion hut, 1942
(Archive ref: 15A13/15/18)

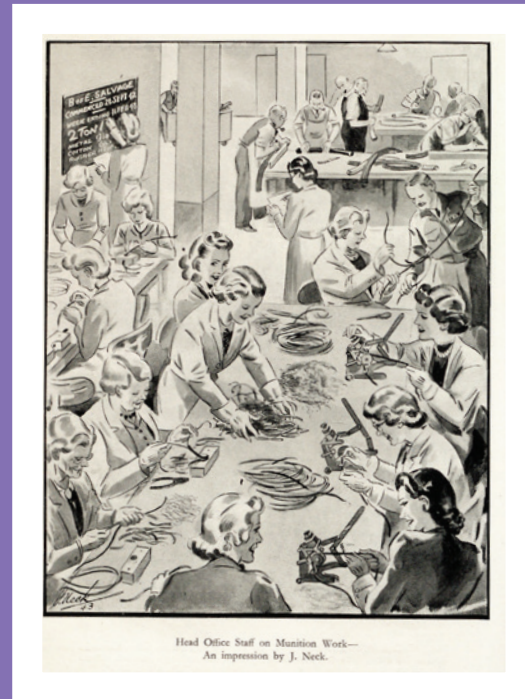


Bank staff give back

Bank staff continuing to work in the City of London and at evacuation sites, predominantly in Hampshire and Staffordshire, undertook a wide variety of voluntary tasks and fundraising to help the war effort and boost morale.

Some Bank offices 'adopted' naval defence vessels. For instance, the Statistics Office adopted the Harbour Defence Motor Launch ML 1140, keeping its crew supplied with books, magazines, note paper, cigarettes and games. The Head Office-based staff of the Establishment's Office adopted the Lady Madeleine in 1942, together with an Ack-Ack (anti-aircraft) Gun Site in Hull, and one in the Shetland Isles. To the latter, more than 100 Christmas presents were sent.

A major staff effort was the Bank Spitfire Fund, which was started by the Deputy Secretary WH Nevill in July 1940. The cost of a spitfire (£5,000) was raised by February 1941. Christened the Old Lady, it unfortunately met its end in April 1944 in a collision with another aircraft.



March 1943

Illustration of Head Office staff on munition work by Bank colleague J Neck, the Old Lady, (Archive ref: E8/89)

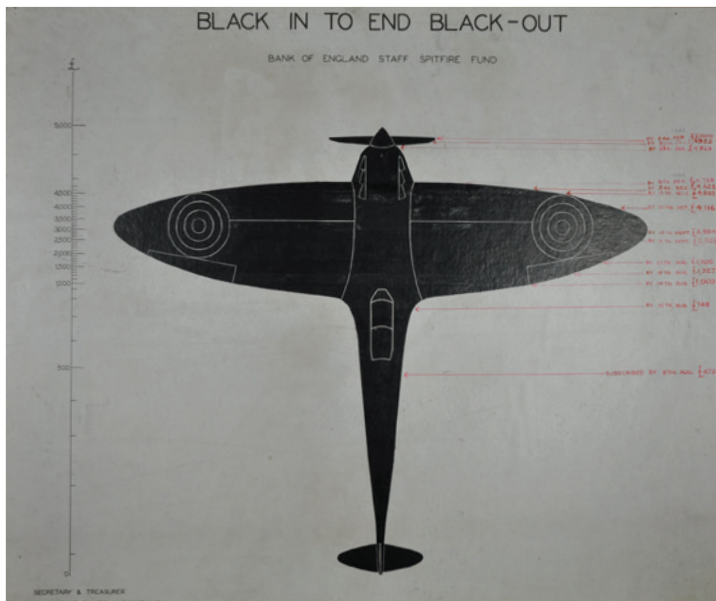
The work of the Bank of England Operatic and Dramatic Society was revived with great vigour at Hurstbourne in Hampshire, with some shows going on tour in neighbouring towns and military camps to raise money for war charities.

A blood transfusion service was also formed at Hurstbourne and many staff across the Bank's locations volunteered for first aid and Red Cross duties.

Skills acquired from hobbies were adopted to war use, as in the case of Bank Pensioner JC Crebbin, whose skill with model railway engines led to a role in munitions work. A wool fund was also established with jumpers, socks, mittens, gloves and scarves knitted for navy, air force, and army recipients. Special jungle socks were crafted for the troops in Burma.

In 1942, there was a particularly acute shortage of rubber and copper needed for armament manufacture. Bank colleagues processed cable from crashed and obsolete aircraft. Staff worked in lunch breaks and slack moments, entertained by the wireless, and managed to process 100 miles of cable, enough to wire an entire squadron of spitfires.

The caring camaraderie and voluntary spirit of Bank staff continues today through varied community programmes and the charities of the year scheme.



1941

Left The Bank of England staff spitfire fund totaliser, 1941
(Archive ref: 17A26/1)

Right Bank staff helping with the harvest near Whitchurch
(Archive ref. 15A13/15/113)





1945

Left: VE Day celebrations as observed
from Threadneedle Street, 1945
(Archive ref: 15A13/1/4/56)

VE Day and the return to London

Victory in Europe (VE) day was celebrated on 8 May 1945 – a national holiday when people from all walks of life came together to mark the end of nearly six years of fighting that cost the lives of millions. The war in east Asia and the Pacific did not end until 15 August 1945, when Japan surrendered. This was celebrated across the world as Victory over Japan (VJ) Day.

On VE day, a presentation was given from the balcony of nearby Mansion House and staff from the Bank took to the roof of Threadneedle Street to watch the crowds and military below.

The return to London offices at the end of the war from Hurstbourne had to take place incredibly quickly, as the Pay Corps required the space from which to assist with demobilisation. Some 260 miscellaneous lorries, cars and vans helped with the epic move of important records, equipment and furniture back to London. Staff at TS were taken aback at how quickly the return was accomplished.

There was a chronic shortage of accommodation right after the war in and around London. The Bank helped by paying travel expenses for those still living in Hampshire, by holding temporary dormitories at TS and by managing a small number of hostels for staff.

1945

Right VE Day celebrations as observed from Threadneedle Street, 1945 (Archive ref: 15A13/1/4/56)







Guardsmen Abel Ndokuba (left) and Montgomery Templar (right) standing guard at the St Christopher's memorial statue with wreaths laid

1945–2025: the Bank remembers 80 years on

To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War on Remembrance Day 2025, the Bank Employees That Serve (BETS) network invited Bank staff, veterans, representatives of the Bank's staff networks and Armed Forces guests to commemorate the work of British and Commonwealth service members who served in conflicts worldwide at a special Act of Remembrance ceremony held in Threadneedle Street.

Colleagues came together to honour those who fought and died, making the ultimate sacrifice, so that we may live in freedom. Tribute was paid to the dedication of those who serve in our Armed Forces today, safeguarding the peace we cherish.

The Act of Remembrance included special readings by the Governor, BETS Co-Chairs



WO2 (CSM) Harry Sutton, leading out Chandra Gurung, Hem Tumbapo Limbu, Mani Limbu, Shaindra KC Thapa, Christopher Mahoney and other Bank Veterans

and performances by the Bank's choir. It concluded with a 'poppy drop' from the Threadneedle Street Front Hall balcony.

After the Act of Remembrance, there was a special reception, which included a display of archive and museum collection items with

special significance to the Second World War and the relationship between the Armed Forces' services and the Bank.



On behalf of the Bank of England – Andrew Bailey. On behalf of the Court of Directors – David Roberts. On behalf of Central Services – Sarah John. On behalf of the PRA – Sam Woods. On behalf of Financial Stability – Sarah Breedon. On behalf of Markets & Banking – Sir Dave Ramsden. On behalf of Monetary Policy – Iain de Weymarn. On behalf of the Bank Employees That Serve Network – Huw Pill. On behalf of the Navy – Commodore Toby Waite. On behalf of the Army – Brigadier Thammy Evans. On behalf of the Royal Air Force – Air Commodore Nick Huntley. On behalf of the Guards Regiments – Colonel Iain Smailes. On behalf of the ANZACs – Lieutenant Kellie Bellrose. On behalf of the Brigade of Gurkhas – Udaya (Nick) Gurung. On behalf of the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) / ATS – Paula Rogers. On behalf of the St Christopher's Fund – Sue Davison. On behalf of the Bank of England Ethnic Minorities Network – Leon Cameron. On behalf of the Jewish Network – Jonathan Haskel. On behalf of the Muslim Network – Arshadur Rahman. On behalf of the Sikh Network – Robyn Boparai. On behalf of the Hindu Network – Aneel Chugh. On behalf of the Christian Union – Talitha Tagicakibau



Governor Andrew Bailey laying the first wreath at the St Christopher's memorial statue



Bank of England staff, Reservists and Veterans



Governor Andrew Bailey giving a speech in the front hall



Governor Andrew Bailey with Bank of England Employees That Serve (BETS) network Co-Chairs; L-R Faisal Choudhry MVO, Lisa Robinson-Hammond, WO2 Nicola O'Keefe

The work of the Bank Employees That Serve (BETS) network today

Established as an employee network in 2019, BETS acts as a network for military veterans; those who presently serve in the Reserve Forces; reserve or retained members of the emergency services; those who have family members in the services; and anyone with an interest in the uniformed services that would like to be part of this network.

In 2021, the Bank signed the Armed Forces Covenant (a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly), and was awarded the Silver Award in 2022 and Gold Award in 2023 by

the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, recognising the Bank's high level of support and advocacy for former and current members of the Armed Forces and their families.

The BETS Network aims to champion the value individuals with military and emergency services experience bring to the Bank, and how their training, experiences and skills can broaden the Bank's capabilities. This is achieved by supporting Reservist mobilisations; supporting partners and spouses during deployments, training, and other long-term separation; working to ensure HR policies appropriately take account

of the unique circumstances of Reservists and Forces' families where possible; raising awareness of the important contribution of Armed Forces and emergency services personnel; and facilitating knowledge sharing through talks on leadership and other topics of mutual interest between the Bank and Armed Forces.

In addition to the Annual Act of Remembrance, BETS also supports the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal. This included a table selling poppies outside the Bank for the first time on London Poppy Day in 2025, which raised over £100,000 in the Cheapside area alone!



Members of the Armed Forces and staff on the East Loggia balcony



Front façade of the Bank lit up to mark VE day



Poppy petals from the 'drop' gathered to form a poppy flower in the Front Hall Threadneedle Street



R-L Governor Andrew Bailey, Faisal Choudhry MVO BETS Co-Chair, WO2 Nicola O'Keefe BETS Co-Chair, Chair of Court David Roberts, Lisa Robinson-Hammond BETS Co-Chair

This booklet marks the 80 year anniversary
of the end of the Second World War.

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Front cover image: Governor Andrew Bailey laying a wreath in the Bank Garden on
Armistice Day, 2025