



# History

## NEWSLETTER

Open Day 2021

Achievements, stories &  
events of the past year  
from the History Department

# NEWS LETTER



12th October 2021

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INTELLECT, EMPATHY &  
COURAGE

# NEWSLETTER



5<sup>th</sup> November  
2020

[www.bexleygs.co.uk](http://www.bexleygs.co.uk)

## Lest We Forget

Remember ~ on 11<sup>th</sup> November ~ at 11 am ~ for 2 Minutes .

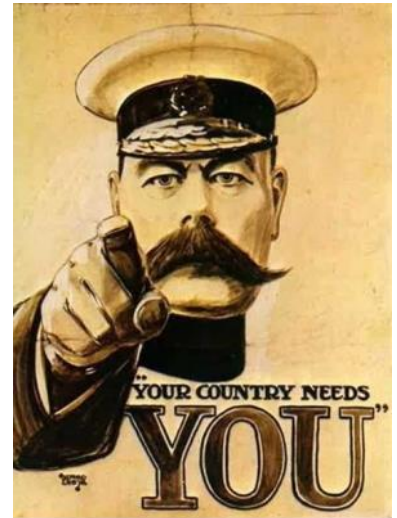


## Hearts of Midlothian

WWI started on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1914 after failed diplomatic efforts to halt unrest in the Balkans, Eastern Europe. The widely held belief was that the "war would be over by Christmas". However, the nations' leaders felt otherwise. Conscription (forcing people to join the army) was unacceptable, so Secretary for War Lord Kitchener needed to encourage people to volunteer to join the British Expeditionary Force. Lord Derby was the first to implement the idea of a "Pals" Battalion in Liverpool. Inside a week, there were enough volunteers to fill four battalions. The idea was that men would be more likely to join up if their pals also joined the war effort.

One of the most famous pals' battalions was the Accrington Pals, near Manchester. 1000 men joined inside the first few days of September 1914. In 1916, the British Expeditionary Force led an attack by the River Somme. On the first day of the battle, July 1<sup>st</sup>, over 50,000 men were killed or wounded; the largest single loss in British Army history. Of the Accrington Pals, 235 were killed and over 350 wounded in the first 20 minutes of action. There was not a street in Accrington that didn't have a casualty. In Welling and Bexley, men joined the Royal West Kent Regiment, which saw action in India and Gallipoli, as well as in France.

Ordinary people joined the fight against the Germans and her allies, and this included sports stars too. Clapton Orient's (later Leyton Orient) players and staff joined the army, inspiring thousands of their fans to do the same. This is the story of Hearts of Midlothian. The 1914/15 season had started well for Hearts with 8 consecutive victories. However, with the war continuing, Hearts' players and staff decided they should join the war effort on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1914. The players combined military and football training to go 20 games unbeaten and be top of the league by February. However, the double life began to take its toll on the players, often engaging on night marches the night before crucial fixtures. Most of the team were sent to France before the end of the season. This is the story of some of their players...



### Lance Corporal James Boyd

I was a goalkeeper. I was killed on a 'quiet day' on 3rd of August 1916 at the Somme. I was 21 years old.



### Sergeant John Allan

I played centre back. I was caught in deadly crossfire and was the last Hearts player to be killed on 22<sup>n</sup> April 1917. I was 30 years old.



### Private Ernest Edgar Ellis

I played in defence. I also fought at the Somme in 1916. I was killed in action aged 30.



### Private Patrick James 'Paddy' Crossan

I played right back. I was twice wounded and gassed at least once. I returned to play football after the war.



### Sergeant Duncan Currie

I played at full back. I fought at the Somme in 1916 and was shot in the shoulder. I died from my wounds, aged 23.



**Private Willie R. Wilson**

I played in midfield. I was wounded in the shoulder. I scored a hat-trick at Ibrox, the home of Rangers.

**Lieutenant A. B. Ness**

I played on the wing. Twice wounded in the shoulder. I continued to play after the war.

**Private Henry Wattie**

I played in attacking midfield. At the Somme in 1916, I fell and my body was never recovered. I was 23 years old.

**Private James Hodge Speedie**

I played left wing. I fought in Belgium on the 25th of September 1915 and was killed during the battle. My body was never found. I was 21.

**Corporal Tom Gracie**

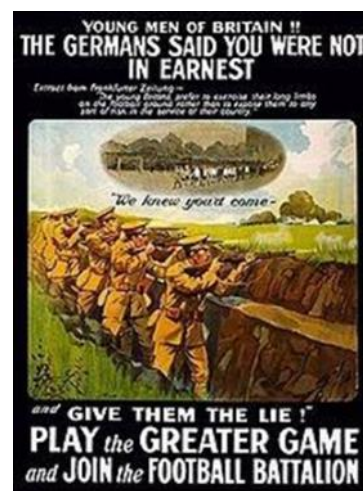
I played as a striker. I fought at the Somme in July 1916 and was killed in action, aged 26. I am the only Hearts player who died during the war to have a known grave.

**Corporal Alfie E. Briggs**

Severely wounded in the back at the Somme in 1916 and I left the army, never to play football again.

WWI affected everyone, from the rich to poor, famous to ordinary. Life was changed beyond recognition. Things we take for granted today, and even then, were removed from everyday life, some never to return. This was the Hearts team in 1914, a number of these never returned and never played again. Hearts finished 2<sup>nd</sup> that year.

There are two war memorials to mark this period. The McCrae's Battalion Great War Memorial in Contalmaison and the Heart of Midlothian War Memorial in Haymarket, Edinburgh donated to the city by the club in 1922. The latter is currently in storage due to the Edinburgh Trams work. A further memorial commemorating the 1914 Hearts team has been proposed by the club. An annual pilgrimage is held by football supporters to Contalmaison every year, whilst Hearts hold their memorial services at Haymarket or, whilst it is in storage, at Tynecastle Stadium.

**Mr Martin, History Department**

P	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Celtic	38	30	5	3	91	25	76	65
2	Heart of Midlothian	38	27	7	4	83	32	51	61
3	Rangers	38	23	4	11	74	47	27	50
4	Morton	38	18	12	8	74	48	26	48
5	Ayr United	38	20	8	10	55	40	15	48
6	Falkirk	38	16	7	15	48	48	0	39
7	Partick Thistle	38	15	8	15	56	58	-2	38
8	Hamilton Academical	38	16	6	16	60	55	5	38
9	St. Mirren	38	14	8	16	56	65	-9	36
10	Hibernian	38	12	11	15	59	66	-7	35
11	Airdrieonians	38	14	7	17	54	60	-6	35
12	Dumbarton	38	13	8	17	51	66	-15	34
13	Kilmarnock	38	15	4	19	55	59	-4	34
14	Dundee	38	12	9	17	43	61	-18	33
15	Aberdeen	38	11	11	16	39	52	-13	33
16	Third Lanark	38	10	12	16	51	57	-6	32
17	Clyde	38	12	6	20	44	59	-15	30
18	Motherwell	38	10	10	18	49	66	-17	30
19	Raith Rovers	38	9	10	19	53	68	-15	28
20	Queen's Park	38	4	5	29	27	90	-63	13

# NEWSLETTER



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28th January 2021

## Holocaust Memorial Day - 27<sup>th</sup> January

Students at Bexley Grammar School have been learning about the Holocaust this week in line with Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27<sup>th</sup>. January 27<sup>th</sup> 1945 was the date that the biggest Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, was liberated by Russian troops, bringing to an end the systematic murder of Jewish, Gypsy, LGBT and other people in that part of Poland. The Holocaust claimed the lives of over 6 million people and affected millions more. Students have been learning about the stories of some of the individuals who were affected by the Holocaust in their English, FBCS and History lessons and some of their work is shared below.

Thanks to all the staff who enabled this and delivered the material to students. Thank you to all of the students who participated and contributed their ideas.

***Mr Martin, History Teacher***

### *Gena Turget- Birth 1923*

*1st September 1939- her house was first bombed*

*Autumn 1941- moved to the ghetto in Krakow*

*1944-45 sent to Auschwitz*

*January 1945- sent on trucks to Bergen Belsen*

*15th April 1945- Bergen Belsen was liberated*

Gena was only 16 when her house was bombed at the beginning of the war, which meant she then had to move to a ghetto where some of her family were shot. When they were found they were forced to constantly move from one camp to another until she was finally liberated in 1945, with only her Mother left as her remaining living family.

We need to remember these stories so it reminds us of this despicable crime and not to do it again. Gena helps us remember that not only adults, but children who were brought up in Judaism were taken to concentration camps too, and that genocide is a despicable crime which should never happen in large or small numbers ever again. From her experiences she has written a book "I light a candle".

***Jessica Davis, Year 7***





### Henry Wermuth

- He was a Jew and proud German who was shocked when Hitler came to power in 1933.
- He and his family were forced into Poland before it was invaded.
- In 1942 he tried to kill Hitler by derailing his train and was awarded a medal for it in 1995.
- He was the only member of his family who survived the Holocaust and became a successful businessman.

It is important that we remember stories from the past as 'those who don't remember history are doomed to repeat it' so if we forget there will be a high chance of horrific things happening again. The individual story is more significant than the bigger picture as it can tell us more about the pain and suffering that people went through and can tell us more about people's attitudes towards these events.

**Aaron Kiley, Year 9**







27/1/21 How can we remember Stories from the Holocaust?

Kitty Heart-Moxon

- ~~Born~~ Born in 1926
- Went to Auschwitz on 2nd April 1943

Kitty was born close to the Polish-German - Czech frontiers. They tried to escape the ghetto and managed to get non-Jewish passports but in 1943 they were betrayed and her and her family was sent to Auschwitz. Kitty was forced to work for 8 months in the Kanada Kommando and in 1944, she and her mother were evacuated to a sub-camp and in 1945 they were forced to a death-march for 2 weeks. Then she and her mother were sent to Bergen-Belsen and then marched back into a cattle truck where many women died due to lack of air. Kitty and her mum were the only survivors of her family, and received permits to settle in the UK.

**Emilia Morgan, Year 9**





## Reine Inow

*Born: 1929 in Germany*

*Lived with: her mother, her father, her brother and her sister*

Reine Inow was born in Germany and was a Jew. When she was 10 years old, her brother was taken to a concentration camp and she was sent away to Britain by the Kindertransport - a programme that helped children escape Germany to find a safer place to live. She arrived in England and stayed with her aunt. Reine managed to escape the holocaust, however, her parents sadly did not. She still lives in England and has ever since.



It's important that Reine's story is remembered because it helps us remember that not all Jews were killed in the Holocaust and that everyone can find hope in anything.

**Layla Evans, Year 7**

# Gena Turgel

Born in 1923

Bombard her city in 1939

Moved to the ghetto in 1941

Sister Miriam Killed in 1944-1945

Sent on a death march

Freed on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1945

Gena Turgel saw many siblings die and was sent to many concentration camps with her remaining family. She wrote a book called *I light A Candle* which is about her experience during the Holocaust.

Gena Turgel's story is very important because it reflects many people's situation and it helps us understand why the Nazis did what they did and how Jews were treated during the War.

**Alice Colaiacomo,**



How Can We Remember Stories From The Holocaust?

22/01/2021

Zigi Shupar

Born 18th January 1930 to a Jewish family in Koidzi, Poland.

Attended a Jewish school

Parents divorced when he was 5 years old.

In 1940 Zigi was forced to move into the Koidzi ghetto with his grandparents. He never saw his father again after this. In 1942, all children in this ghetto were rounded up and were put onto lorries. Zigi jumped off the lorry and continued to work at a metal factory until the ghetto was liquidated. Then he was sent to Auschwitz. After an hour of being at the ghetto all those from where Zigi was from, who were not allowed to work had been murdered. A few weeks after arriving at the concentration camp, Zigi was sent to Stutthof concentration camp near Danzig. Nearstahl was where Zigi was sent next and he was told he would be going to Germany. But before this could happen, there was a British air attack and he was liberated on 3 May 1945.

It is important to remember stories like these from the past so that they are not forgotten. It is also important to remember that this is only one of the millions of lives affected by WW2 and this shows the scale of the damage done.

**Hari Rehal, Year 8**Henry Hermann.

Was born in Germany 1923. He had 2 sisters (Ida and Hanna) and lived with his family who were all Jews.

When the Nazi party came in power in 1933 his family was sent to Poles Poland. After the Nazis started World War Two they invaded Poland and put a white emblem with a blue Star of David on all the Jews. Henry and Bernhard were forced to work but when he came his sister and mother and all Jews in the town were sent to a death camp and slaughtered. Henry and Bernhard was also sent to a camp and one morning the men in charge

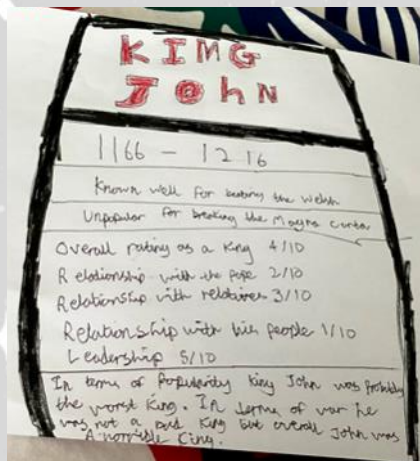
**Samuel Raji, Year 8**Holocaust Memorial Day - 27<sup>th</sup> January



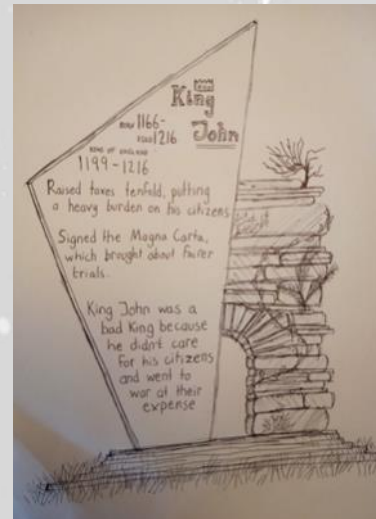
## History Star Students

Students in 7CPB have been studying King John and the Magna Carta and have created plaques to commemorate his reign. So many excellent pieces of work, so well done to everyone who submitted their designs. Here are a selection of some of the best efforts.

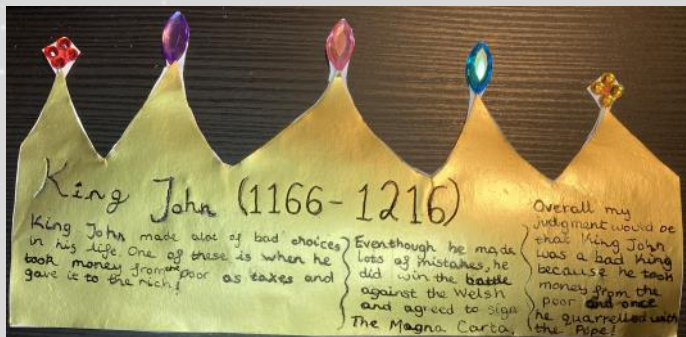
**Mr Martin, History Department**



**Jibril Dahir**



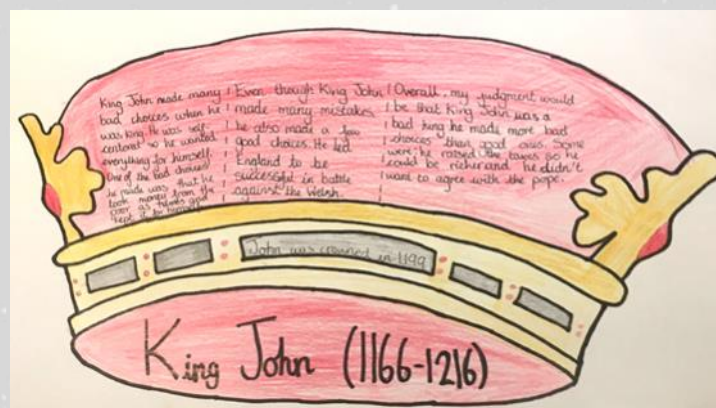
**Lev Griffin**



**Astarti Manolakau**



**Layla Evans**



**Ayaka Machida**