



The **EVERTON COLLECTION** Schools & Learning

History – Key Stage 3

What Happened to Football During the Second World War?



The City of Liverpool

Overview

The Second World War affected all aspects of everyday life including football. In the late 1930s football was one of the country's most popular sports. Just before the war started crowds of over 60,000 came to see Everton F.C. play at Goodison Park. When war was declared on 3rd September 1939, the lives of many professional football players and the fans that watched them changed dramatically. But football still had an important part to play during the war years, entertaining troops, boosting morale and raising money for war-time charities. In the post-war period football survived to enter its 'golden era'.

This resource uses original source material from the Everton Collection to explore the question, 'what happened to football during the Second World War'? It is broken down into 5 sections

Section 1: War on the way?

Section 2: What can we learn from a wartime football programme?

Section 3: What did football players do during the war?

Section 4: How did football help during the war?

Section 5: What happened to football stadiums during the war?

A supporting worksheet can be printed out for pupils which includes just the original source material and questions.

It makes links to the Key Stage 3 History Programme of Study but can also be used by Key Stage 2 pupils.

National Curriculum links

Key Stage 3

Key Concepts: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5

Key Processes: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3

Range & Content: 3j

Curriculum opportunities: 4b, 4c, 4d.

Key Stage 2

Knowledge, Skills and Understanding: 1a, 1b. 2c. 3. 4a, b. 5a, b, c.

Breadth of Study: 7. 11b.

QCA Schemes of Work: Unit 9, 17, 18

Learning objectives

- To understand the impact of war on football fans and professional football players.
- To use primary evidence to carry out research into the Second World War.
- To understand characteristic features of the Second World War through their impact on football.
- To help pupils to understand how the war effected their local area.

Section 1: War on the way...

SOURCE A

In 1939 Everton football club were League Champions and were looking forward to the 1939/40 season.



796EFC/26/5/13

This is a photograph of the Everton team celebrating their League Championship win with an outing to Morecambe on 20th August 1939 just a couple of weeks before Britain declared war on Germany. Although the team and their wives look happy on their day trip many people were worried that war was on its way.

SOURCE A - DISCUSSION

In small groups, discuss what it would be like to be living in 1939 just before the war started. How would you be feeling?

SOURCE B

This is a small section of the programme from the last home game at Goodison Park before the outbreak of war on 3rd September 1939. Everton were playing Brentford F.C.

Once again, the game gets into its swing, whilst Europe is under stress. The natural British trait, however, of making the best of everything, should be well-evidenced this afternoon throughout the big grounds, and on our own Park there should be no exception. It is the first time that Brentford have

SOURCE B - QUESTION

What do you think that the people who are writing the match-day programme mean by the phrase 'whilst Europe is under stress?'



SOURCE C

This is an extract from minutes of a meeting held by the Directors of Everton F.C. in March 1939. Football club's often travelled to European countries during the summer months to practice and make money. Try and read the evidence. The words are also typed underneath the evidence to help you.

Continental tour It was decided that we write the German F.A. retracting the promise to tour, on account of the political situation & that the Secretary make some enquiries regarding the possibilities of extra matches in Holland for remunerative guarantees.

The minutes read:

Continental tour

It was decided that we write (to) the German F.A, retracting the promise to tour, on account of the political situation and that the Secretary make some enquiries regarding the possibilities of extra matches in Holland for remunerative guarantees.

SOURCE C - QUESTION

What decision did the Everton Directors make about visiting Germany that summer? Why do you think they made this decision?



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Section 2: What can we learn from a wartime football programme?

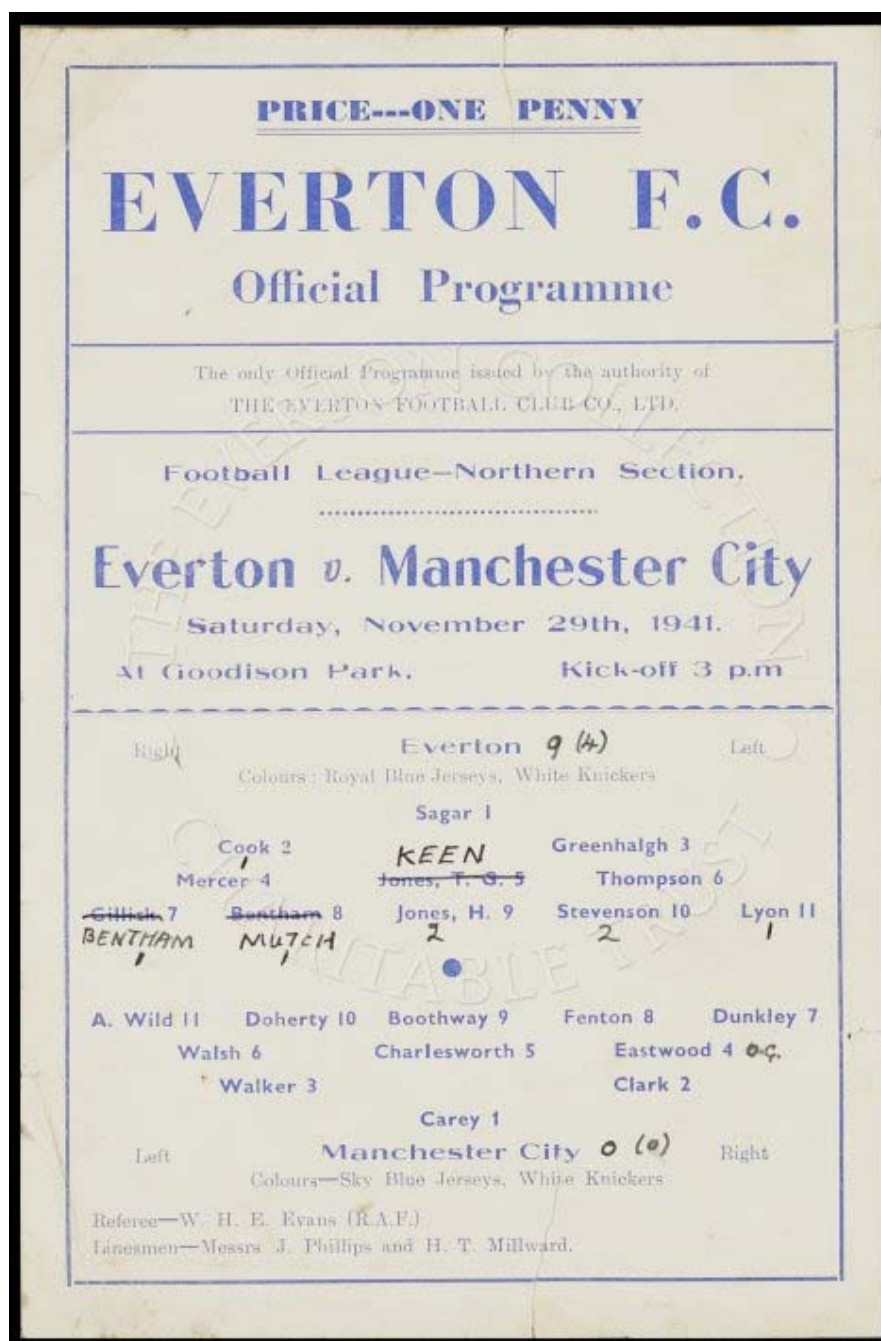
By looking carefully at football programmes historians can learn a lot about what happened to football during the Second World War.

The end of the Football League?

When war was declared on 3rd September, the Football League was stopped when the government banned large crowds. Later the rules were relaxed. There was still a limit on how many fans could watch a football match and the Football League started a special war time league. Football clubs were divided up into sections. Everton and Liverpool were put into the 'Northern Section' with teams from Manchester.

SOURCE D

This is a programme from a 'Northern Section' match, Everton v Manchester City in 1941.



The Guest Player System

Footballers played for their own team when they could. But, that depended on where they were posted in the army and whether they could get time off. Football clubs had to make up teams with who was available including players from other teams, fans and even the people who ran the club, this meant there were often changes to the team line up at last minute.

Rationing

Before the Second World War started programmes could be nearly 20 pages long. During the war they were much smaller. The programme for this match is just one page.

SOURCE D - QUESTIONS

1. The government banned large crowds, like crowds of football fans, because they thought it was dangerous. Why do you think it was dangerous for lots of people to crowd together in big cities during the war?



2. Why do you think the players names have been crossed out and new ones written on the wartime programme?



3. Why do you think football programmes were so much smaller during the war?



SOURCE E

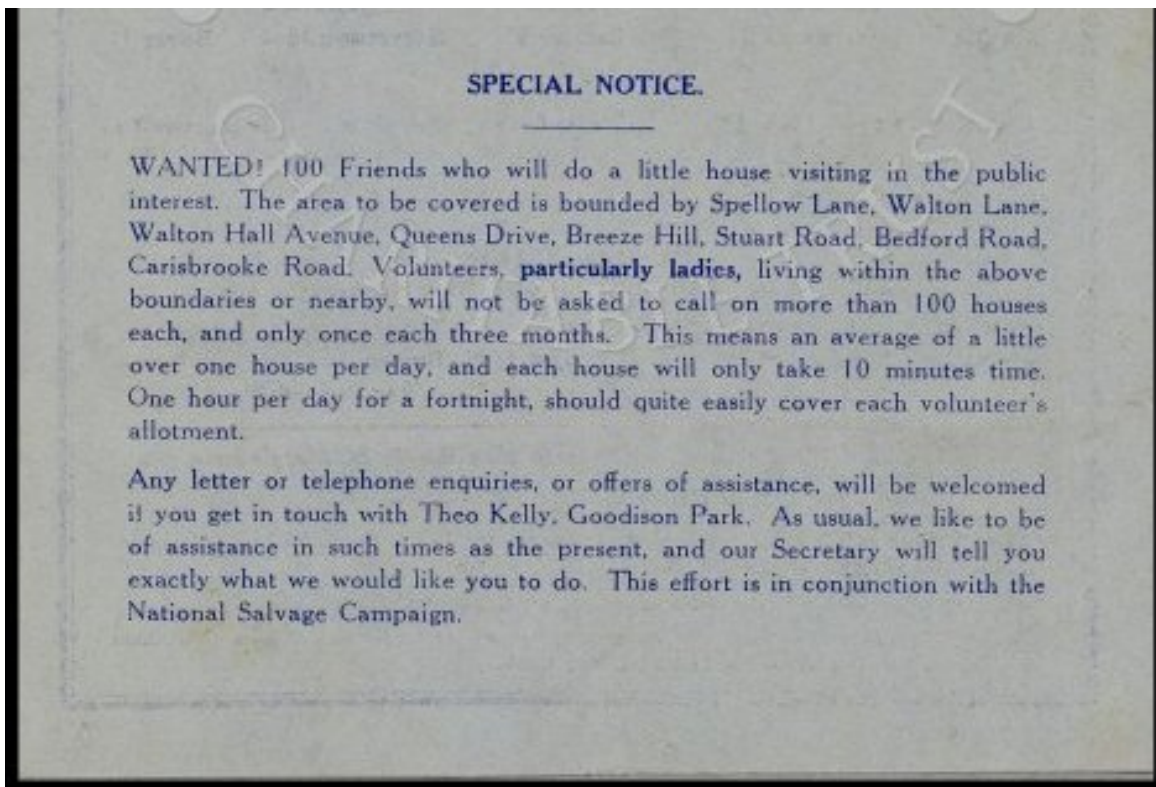
This is a photograph of a truck in Liverpool promoting the National Salvage Campaign.



352 ENG/2/7862

SOURCE F

This special notice was inside a wartime football programme in 1941. It is asking for volunteers to take part in the National Salvage Campaign.



796 EFC/6/55/2

SOURCE E & F – QUESTIONS

1. From the evidence in Source E & F. What do you think the National Salvage Campaign was? Try to give reasons for your answer.



2. Do you think it was a good idea to put notices like Source F in football programmes? Try to explain your answer.



Section 3: What did football players do during the war?

At the outbreak of war, the government made it compulsory for all men aged 18-41 to take part in military service. Most professional footballers were in this age group and had to 'sign up' to the army.

The Football Association encouraged some of the countries best football players to become Physical Training Instructors. Physical Training Instructors helped to train other men in the army. They worked at a place called Aldershot in England. This meant that they could still play football for their team or for their country. Some of Everton's best players became Physical Training Instructors during the war including Tommy Lawton, Joe Mercer and Billy Cook.

SOURCE G



Like many football players, Tommy Lawton had his football career interrupted by war. He was 20 years old at the start of the war and had just had a very successful year in football. He had already played for England three times and had scored lots of goals for Everton which helped them become League Champions in 1939.

““I was ordered to stay in England and do my war job. I didn't have a choice...play in the charity games for England...with dozens of other well known players to raise money for the Red Cross and all the other service charities”.

(Tommy Lawton).

796 EFC/27/130

SOURCE H



796 EFC/27/178

Ted Sagar was a goal keeper who played for Everton for nearly 24 years, including during the Second World War. During the War he was also part of the Signal Corps in Portadown, Ireland. The Signal Corps helped to guard Prisoners of War who were captured there.

Three Everton players, William Sumner, Leigh Rouse and Brian Atkins, died whilst fighting in World War 2. Unfortunately, there are no records in the Everton Collection about these three players.

SOURCE G & H – DISCUSSION

1. Some footballers were criticised for not fighting in the war and becoming Physical Training Instructors instead. Why do think this happened? Do you think that football players deserved to be criticised?

You can write some of your ideas down here...



2. What do you think it would feel like to be a football player whose career was interrupted by the war?

Section 4 – How did football help during the war?

SOURCE I

This programme was from a match between England and Scotland held at Goodison Park during the War.



During the war international football matches were held to entertain civilians and troops. This England v Scotland match was held at Goodison Park, but many football players also travelled abroad to places like France to support soldiers fighting in the war.

Many football clubs held charity matches to raise money for charities helping the war effort.

SOURCE I – QUESTIONS

1. Which charities benefited from the money raised by the football match?



2. Who organised this football match?



3. Discussion. Do you think that the football authorities were right to carry on playing during the Second World War? Try to explain your answer. You can write your ideas down here.

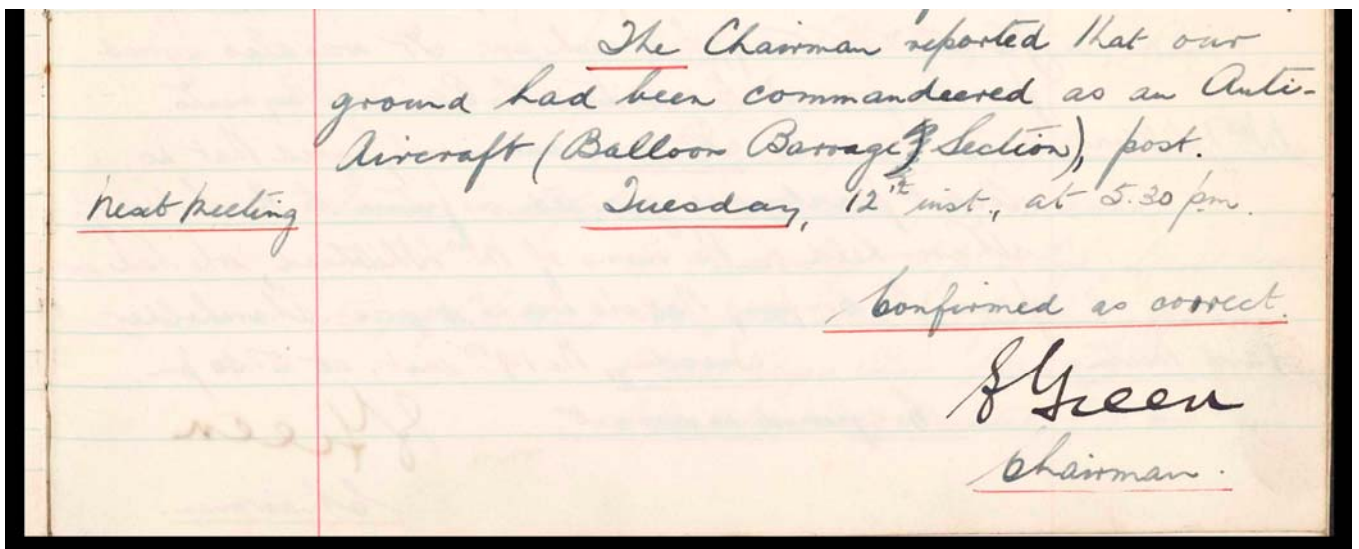


Section 5 – What happened to football stadiums during the war?

Some football clubs were not able to play at their football ground during the war. Some became part of the war effort and were used by the military, others were damaged by bombs, including Goodison Park.

SOURCE J

These are minutes of a meeting that was held between the Everton F.C. directors two days after war with Germany was declared. Can you read them?



The minutes say...

The Chairman reported that our ground has been commandeered as an anti-aircraft (Balloon Barrage section), post.

SOURCE J – QUESTION

1. What do the minutes tell us that Goodison Park was going to be used for during the war?



Goodison Park was damaged by bombs during the war. The Club's Directors reported the damage at a meeting on 21st September 1941.

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Emergency meeting held at Goodison Park, L. pool.
Saturday, September 21st 1940.

Present - Messrs W.C. Gibbins (Chairman) D. C. S. Baxter, W. Williams & Secy.

War
Bomb Damage

The Directors inspected the damage done by enemy action on the night of the 18th inst., & it was agreed that the Secretary make arrangements to have necessary repairs made.

It was decided also that Messrs A. Leitch be instructed to value the cost of complete renewal of damaged properties & that a claim should be forwarded to the War Damage Claims department within the prescribed 30 Days.

The damage referred to included the demolition of a large section of the new Stand outer wall in Gladys St. destruction of all glass, in this Stand; damage to every door, canteen, water & electricity pipe & all lead fittings: perforated roofs in hundreds of places.

On Bullens Rd side, a bomb dropped in the school-yard had badly damaged the exterior wall of this stand & the roof was badly perforated here also.

A third bomb outside the practice ground had demolished the surrounding boarding & had badly damaged glass in the Goodison Ave. & Walton Lane property.

The Secretary estimated the extent of the damage at about £1,500.

Confirmed as correct

W.C. Gibbins
29/1/41
Chairman

The minutes read:

The Directors inspected the damage done by enemy action on the night of the 18th and it was agreed that the secretary make arrangements to have the necessary repair made.

It was decided also that Messrs A. Leitch be instructed to value the cost of complete renewal of damaged properties and that a claim should be forwarded to the War Damage Claims department within the prescribed 30 days.

The damage referred to included the demolition of a wide section of the new stand outer wall in Gwladys St, destruction of all glass in this stand, damage to every door, canteen, water and electricity pipe and all lead fittings: perforate roof in hundreds of places.

On Bullens Road side, a bomb dropped in the school yard had badly damaged the exterior wall of this stand and the roof was badly perforated here also.

A third bomb outside the practice ground had demolished the surrounding hoarding and had badly damaged glass in the Goodison Ave and Walton Lane property.

The Secretary estimated the extent of the damage at about £1,500

SOURCE K – QUESTION

1. How useful is this piece of evidence in telling you what happened to Goodison Park when it was bombed?

Think about:

What does it tell you? What else would you like to know? Why was it written? Who is going to read it? Who wrote it? Could they be biased?



2. What other types of evidence could you use to support what it says in the minute book?



Contact:

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