

Press Release: TheGenealogist releases British Telephone Directories, United States WW2 PoWs and more Worcestershire Baptism Transcripts

TheGenealogist has just launched a new collection of British telephone directories. Complementing the early *UK Telephone Directory* from 1899-1900 that is already available on TheGenealogist, this new release includes the *1907 Post Office National Directory* which adds a resource for finding names and addresses before the 1911 census. This directory was published at a time when the telephone was becoming more important to our ancestors. The Post Office's first coin-operated call box had been installed at London's Ludgate Circus just the year before, and Trunk (long distance) telephone charges were reduced to half-price for telephone calls made after 7pm and before 7am.





In addition, and at the same time, TheGenealogist has released the 1938 South Wales District Post Office Telephone Directory. The big contrast between this and the earlier directories are that so many more ordinary people had become telephone subscribers. For this reason the directories were by now split up into regions to cope with the large number of names and addresses.

 Containing names and address details for subscribers the telephone directories are a useful resource for discovering ancestors who had a phone

- Find private names and small businessmen's addresses. If your ancestor worked as a fishmonger, butcher, ironmonger or bootmaker, then all these and more feature in the fascinating records.
- The difference between the turn of the century directories and the 1938 South Wales
 District Directory is marked by the number of new telephone subscribers, so making
 it possible to find many more ancestor's names and addresses.

In a snapshot example from the 1907 Post Office National Directory we can see that in Cardiff that subscribers included various business including a furniture remover and funeral director, fruit merchants, fishmonger, a commercial traveller and some private individuals.

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385
CARDIFF—continued.
       Andrews, S., & Son, Head St. Mary Street.
         Office.
           Do.
  79
                                      James Street.
                       do.
       Andrews, S., & Son (Star
Furniture Van and Funeral
                                      Working Street.
         Department).
110 Anning Bros., Shipowners -
                                      Merchants' Exchange.
 639 Badminton Club Co., Ltd. 58, St. Mary Street.
          (Thos. Moreton, Secretary).
161 Bagley & Co., Druggists' Station Terrace.
         Sundrymen.
527 Baragwanath Bros., Fruit New Street.
         Merchants.
197 Barnett, H. E., Commercial 16, Marlborough Read.
         Traveller.
103 Barry Graving Dock and En- 8, Mount Stuart Square Exchange.
         gineering Co., Ltd.
571 Begg, M. J., & Co., Limited, 9, Bute Crescent.
         Steam Ship Agents.
 28 Beynon, T., & Co., Limited, Mount Stuart Square and Bryn
Newport, Abercarn, Black Ivor, Castleton.
         Vein Steam Coal Co., Ltd.
575 Bickel, M. L., Fishmonger -
                                     80-81, St. Mary Street.
546 Biermann, E., & Co., Fruit Tredegar Street.
         Brokers.
 36 Bigge, D. Selby & Co., Elec- 4, Park Place.
         trical Power Engineers.
144 Bird-in-Hand Hotel (V. 1, Hewell Street.
         Clark).
522 Bland, J., & Co.
                                     Insurance Buildings.
522a
           Do.
                                  - Wharf Street.
128 Blue Anchor Hotel (J. Watts) St. Mary Street.
 99 Board of Trade Surveyor's Bute Docks.
                             Office.
                          Provision Bute Docks.
136
           Do.
                    do.
                      Inspectors.
                    do. Mercantile Bute Docks.
171
           Do.
                      Marine Office.
167 Bothamley, W., & Some Millinery Warehousemen.
                      W., & Son. 2, Paradise Place.
610 Bradbury, Greatorex,
Co., Wholesale Drapers.
                     Greatorex,
                                 & The Hayes.
510 Brain, S. A., & Co., Limited, St. Mary Street.
         The Old Brewery.
589 Braithwaite, Thomas
                                  - 74, Cathedral Road.
      A 49377.
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By the late 1930s the various regions now contained tightly packed names and addresses with many more private subscribers for the family historian to research.



LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

CARDIFF-Group A

Including Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Pontypridd, and Porth

FOR MAP RELATING TO CHARGES FOR TRUNK CALLS-See page 7

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TheGenealogist has also just released online the United States WWII Prisoner of War records to compliment those that are already online for British and former Empire Prisoners of War of the Germans in WWI and WWII.

- These new records reveal the names of U.S. military as well as U.S. and some Allied civilians who were prisoners of war and internees
- Covering the years 1942 1947, Prisoners of both Germany and Japan are included in this collection
- The record for each prisoner provides
 - Name
 - Casualty status
 - o Rank

- Service number
- PoW camp
- Regiment, branch of service or civilian status
- o Home town or place of enlistment
- Date reported
- o Race
- State of residence

Example

Searching these PoW records we can find Robert A. "Bob" Hoover, the former air show pilot and United States Air Force test pilot. Known as the "pilot's pilot", Hoover transformed aerobatic flying in his time and many in the world of aviation saw him as one of the greatest pilots ever to have lived. In the Second World War he was a fighter pilot.



Robert A "Bob" Hoover by WPPilot (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

During World War II, Hoover was posted to Casablanca where he test flew the assembled aircraft to ensure that they were ready for service. Later in the war he was re-assigned to the Spitfire-equipped American 52d Fighter Group in Sicily. In 1944, and on his 59th mission of the conflict, his malfunctioning Mark V Spitfire was shot down by a German plane off the coast of Southern France. Taken prisoner, he then spent 16 months at the German prison camp Stalag Luft 1 in Barth, Germany, which we can see from these new records on TheGenealogist.

Forename	Robert A	Robert A		
Surname	Hoover	Hoover		
Casualty Status	Returned To Military Control, Liberated Or Repatriated	Returned To Military Control, Liberated Or Repatriated		
Rank	Flight Officer			
Service Number	T&186546			
POW Camp Location	Stalag Luft 1 Barth-Vogelsang Prussia 54-12			
Regiment	52, Fighter (Group/Regiment/Commands/System)			
Home Town / Place of Enlistment	Tennessee			
Report Received Date	9th February 1944			
Report Received Date Extra	9024			
Category	US ARMY, AIR CORPS			
Notes	Race: WHITE Citizenship: CITIZEN Latest Report Date: 1946-04-18	Citizenship: CITIZEN		
Source	American WW2 Prisoners of War			
	?			

Prisoner of War records on TheGenealogist

These records are derived from the National Archives and Records Administration, World War II Prisoners of War, 1941-1946.

In another record release TheGenealogist have added over 37,450 individuals to their Baptism Transcripts for Worcestershire in partnership with Malvern Family History Society, expanding their coverage and bringing the total to over 2 million individuals. These records range from the years 1544 to 1891.

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