

Example worksheet for use with community cohesion History resource 5.

Anton Witkowski's story

Read the entry on the BBC's **Archive of World War Two Memories** website carefully. In it, Anton Witowski's son recalls the experience of his father, and the part he played during World War Two. As a historian you know that personal memory is an important part of building up the picture of history, but that also must remember that memory may be faulty, disjointed, or sometimes wrong. Families do not always accurately remember everything!

After you have read Anton's story, answer the following questions:

Construct a timeline of Anton Witkowski's life from the information you have.

1. Why did Anton leave Poland?
2. Why did Anton come to England?
- 3a. How many countries did Anton live in during his life?
- b. Where did Anton serve in the Polish army?
- c. Where did Anton serve in the Polish air force?
- d. How important do you think Anton's war service was in helping to defeat Germany?

Now look at the stories of some of the other Polish people who have published their life stories on the same website.

- 4a. Are many experiences similar to Anton's?
- b. Are many experiences different to Anton's?
5. How important a part do you now think that Polish people played in helping to defeat Germany in World War Two?

It is suggested this activity could then lead on to a discussion about who fought in WW2, on which side, contribution of Empire, etc, etc – all of which should be familiar from pupils' main study of WW2. Hopefully this resource will get pupils to explore the contribution of many groups of people to many aspects of life both in the C20th and before.