

Exporting segregation, integrating communities: Tyntesfield World War II black army hospital.

David Robinson (UCLAN), **Rebecca Kellawan** (University of Bristol), **Leah Arnold** (University of Bristol), **James Dixon** (University of the West of England), and **Phil Rowe** (University of Bristol), in collaboration with the **National Trust at Tyntesfield**



World War II Building platform at Tyntesfield.

Black army hospital? ←



White army hospital? →

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Enlargement of part of aerial photograph of remains of the Hospital thought to be made for black troops. (119,365) (RAF/CPE/UK/1869 Fr:4073 4 Dec 1946) (NMR Copyright Section)

Enlargement of part of aerial photograph of 54th US Field Hospital, for white troops. (119,364) (RAF/CPE/UK/1869 Fr:3078 4 Dec 1946) (NMR Copyright Section)

The **Tyntesfield project** investigates the archaeology of the recent past, looking at the remains of a World War II site thought to be an American segregated black army hospital. Located on the manor grounds of Tyntesfield near the city of Bristol, we examine the architecture, spatial dynamics, and oral histories of segregation within comparative contexts (such as other military camps, POW camps, segregation as practiced in the United States, vestiges of earlier colonialism, plantations, and modern urban planning).

Post-Colonial Archaeology:

While examining the material culture of the daily life for people who lived and work on the site, this project also address wider theoretical questions. Following historical archaeologist Mathew Johnson's call to look at 'The Tide Reversed' (i.e. the affects of colonizing the New World on Europe) the Tyntesfield project analyzes how US segregation affected local communities in Britain during the later stages of World War II, and how, in turn, the course of segregation and civil rights in the United States and other parts of the globe was affected through its exportation.



Plastic electrical fittings from a platform structure

WW II tree graffiti





INCLUSION: This project, inspired by the Somerset Racial Inclusion Project and its ethos of inclusion, is designed to bring together collaborations and diverse groups: under the supervision of David Robinson, now at the University of Central Lancashire, archaeological, documentary, and oral history research has been undertaken by Bristol MA researchers Rebecca Kellawan and Leah Arnold bringing local members of the community on site. Katie Laidlaw and National Trust archaeologists have likewise led the way forward, while a cadre of other researchers and volunteers including archaeologists James Dixon and Phil Rowe are involved. Future research shall continue the ethos of inclusion and integration while investigating past dynamics of segregation.

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