Essex Sound and Video Archive

Sources on World War II



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Essex Sound and Video Archive Sources on World War II

This guide to the collection has been produced to assist searchers who are looking for sound and video recordings on the subject of World War II. Before ordering any of the items listed below, consult the tape summaries on the Essex Record Office catalogue database SEAX to make sure that this is the right tape for your needs. Video recordings are indicated by italics.

The major sources for World War II are:

- **Essex at War**, an Essex Record Office publication available in the bookshop;
- **SA 1/455/1**, a BBC Essex programme;
- **SA 1/643/1**, a BBC Essex programme; and
- SA 11/503/1, broadcast by Essex Radio.

Other recordings are as follows:

1) Evacuation

| | Reference |
|--|--------------|
| Little Baddow: evacuated from London to Little Baddow in 1939 | SA 1/332/1 |
| Evacuation of school children from and to Essex | SA 1/463/1 |
| Paglesham: evacuees | SA 1/536/1 |
| Pitsea: London evacuee | SA 3/414/1 |
| Colchester: evacuation | SA 8/948/1 |
| Colchester: Jewish evacuees | SA 8/1070/1 |
| Colchester: wife and family evacuated | SA 8/1580/1 |
| Colchester: evacuation of children - class distinction in evacuation | SA 8/1592/1 |
| Fordham: evacuees | SA 8/1657/1 |
| Rowhedge: evacuees from London | SA 8/1664/1 |
| Evacuation and return to London | SA 8/1755/1 |
| Walthamstow: her child evacuated | SA 9/439/1 |
| Dagenham: evacuation of school from Dagenham to Norfolk | SA 9/442/1 |
| Leyton: evacuation of school from Leyton to Epping and Surrey | SA 9/443/1 |
| Evacuation of children from metropolitan Essex | SA 11/503/1 |
| Wickham St. Paul: evacuees | SA 17/793/1 |
| Little Chesterford: evacuees | SA 18/912/1 |
| Evacuation and return to London | SA 20/1131/1 |
| Southend: distress involved in evacuation of children | SA 20/1149/1 |
| West Ham: evacuated | SA 20/1550/1 |
| Evacuees | SA 24/1009/1 |
| Leytonstone and Brentwood: evacuated to Brentwood with | SA 24/1318/1 |
| older brother; memories of different billets; split days at | |
| Brentwood Grammar School; visiting parents at weekends | |
| Saffron Walden: evacuees | SA 24/1610/1 |
| Wrabness: evacuees | SA 24/1669/1 |

2) Rationing

| | Reference |
|--|--------------|
| Chelmsford: rationing of clothes and food; extra rations for | SA 24/1454/1 |
| pregnant and nursing mothers | |
| Chelmsford: rations | SA 24/1459/1 |
| Chelmsford: rations continuing after war | SA 24/1460/1 |
| Colchester: changes in Sainsbury's during war | SA 8/395/1 |
| Colchester: food rationing | SA 8/1449/1 |
| Colchester: food shortages | SA 8/391/1 |
| Colchester: food; wedding catering | SA 8/1756/1 |
| Colchester: Gunton's grocery; rationing | SA 8/1439/1 |
| Colchester: rationing | SA 8/977/1 |
| Colchester: rationing | SA 8/1075/1 |
| Colchester: rationing | SA 8/1384/1 |
| Colchester: rationing | SA 8/1453/1 |
| Colchester: rationing | SA 8/1581/1 |
| Colchester: rationing | SA 8/1662/1 |
| Food shopping and queuing | SA 8/1755/1 |
| Great Chesterford: pigs - rationing, had to sell to Government | SA 18/923/1 |
| Great Chesterford: rationing | SA 18/915/1 |
| Ilford: rationing and black market coupons | SA 24/762/1 |
| Leyton: emergency feeding stations; distribution of furniture | SA 9/449/1 |
| and household goods to bombed out families | |
| Leytonstone: shortages of food, clothes, petrol, toys | SA 24/1318/1 |
| Little Chesterford: rationing | SA 18/912/1 |
| Rationing: clothes and food; shortages of fuel | SA 24/1458/1 |
| Southend: ice cream business during war time | SA 20/1540/1 |
| Southend: R.A. Jones & Son - difficulties of obtaining stock | SA 20/1565/1 |
| during and after the war | |
| Stratford: work for MAFF at Stratford Town Hall on ration | SA 24/1457/1 |
| books - description of system of rationing | |
| Thurrock: sweet rationing | SA 1/537/1 |
| Wickham St. Paul: rations | SA 17/793/1 |

3) Air Raids

| | Reference |
|--|--------------|
| Basildon: killing and maiming of farm animals by bomb | SA 3/415/1 |
| shrapnel | |
| Bowers Gifford: air raids | SA 3/420/1 |
| Bradwell juxta Coggeshall: bombing | SA 1/174/1 |
| Burnham: air raids | SA 5/374/1 |
| Burnham: air raids | SA 5/376/1 |
| Chelmsford: air raid shelters, bombing raids; views on | SA 24/1460/1 |
| bombing Germany and Japan | |
| Chelmsford: air raids | SA 7/362/1 |
| Chelmsford: air raids | SA 13/586/1 |
| Chelmsford: air raids | SA 24/255/1 |
| Chelmsford: air raids | SA 24/1455/1 |

| Chelmsford: air raids on Hoffmann's | SA 15/704/1 |
|--|--------------|
| Chelmsford: bomb damage to Hoffmann's; casualties | SA 15/703/1 |
| Chelmsford: Essex Police experiences | SA 25/1/11/1 |
| Chelmsford: Essex Police experiences - lack of air defences | SA 25/3/2/1 |
| for Chelmsford; morale; incident involving unexploded bomb | |
| Chignal St. James: bomb in meadow | SA 1/13/1 |
| Chignal St. James: bomb in meadow | SA 1/14/1 |
| Clacton: first air raid on Clacton; first civilian casualties in | SA 16/760/1 |
| Britain | |
| Colchester: air raid precautions at home; fire watching; | SA 8/1449/1 |
| blackout; bombing raids | |
| Colchester: air raid shelter; air raids | SA 8/1580/1 |
| Colchester: air raid shelter at Crowther's clothing factory; | SA 8/965/1 |
| bombing of Hoffmann's in Chelmsford | |
| Colchester: air raid shelter in garden; air raids | SA 8/1662/1 |
| Colchester: air raid shelter in garden; daylight raids; damage | SA 8/1592/1 |
| and repairs to mother's house | |
| Colchester: air raid shelter made by father; bombs | SA 8/1075/1 |
| Colchester: air raids | SA 8/543/1 |
| Colchester: air raids | SA 8/948/1 |
| Colchester: air raids | SA 8/973/1 |
| Colchester: air raids | SA 8/1073/1 |
| Colchester: air raids | SA 8/1381/1 |
| Colchester: air raids | SA 8/1439/1 |
| Colchester: air raids | SA 8/1453/1 |
| Colchester: air raids | SA 8/1750/1 |
| Colchester: air raids and bombs; damage to own house; | SA 8/1384/1 |
| damage to water supply | |
| Colchester: air raids at Crowther's factory | SA 8/980/1 |
| Colchester: air raids at Hyam's clothing factory | SA 8/970/1 |
| Colchester: air raids at Leaning's factory | SA 8/986/1 |
| Colchester: air raids at Turner's factory; wartime fire duty etc.; | SA 8/1428/1 |
| bombing of Hollington's factory | |
| Colchester: air raids; bombing of Hollington's and Leaning's | SA 8/974/1 |
| factories ; doodlebugs (one of which hit POW camp) | |
| Colchester: bombing at Britannia works | SA 8/984/1 |
| Colchester: bombing of factory; bombing of Chapel Street | SA 8/1756/1 |
| Colchester: bombing of Hollington's factory | SA 8/989/1 |
| Colchester: bombing of Hollington's factory | SA 8/990/1 |
| Colchester: bombing of Leaning's factory | SA 8/979/1 |
| Colchester: bombing raids, air raid procedure while on bus | SA 8/1666/1 |
| Colchester: Colchester Borough Police experiences - | SA 25/2/2/1 |
| bombing raids and doodlebug attacks | |
| Colchester: Colchester Borough Police experiences - | SA 25/2/6/1 |
| bombing raids and decoy fires | |
| Colchester: Colchester Borough Police experiences - | SA 25/2/4/1 |
| bombing raids, decoy fires and bomb shelters | |
| Colchester: Colchester Borough Police experiences - bombs, | SA 25/2/5/1 |
| zeppelins, doodlebugs | |

| Colchester: detailed description of air raids; air raid shelters; fire watching; attitude to home guardSA 8/977/1Colchester: fire watching; air raidsSA 8/959/1Colchester: fire watching; air raidsSA 8/959/1Colchester: USAAF fighter crash; air raidSA 8/996/1Crays Hill: dropping of German land-mineSA 3/413/1Epping: disruption to daily life caused by the air raids; nights in shelter in passage of house; bombing of gas works; bombing of North Weald airfield; fire watcher; air raid shelters at schoolsSA 25/1/5/1Epping: Women's Auxiliary Police Service - called out during air raids to take telephone callsSA 8/1755/1Experience of bombing; air raid shelter; V1s and V2sSA 8/1755/1Essex airfieldsSA 11/503/1Grays: first air raids on industry; V1 and V2 raidsSA 11/503/1Great Chesterford: air raidsSA 18/916/1Great Tey: part-time work in fire service; incidents in and around village during air raidsSA 24/762/1Lee Chapel and Langdon Hills: air raid damage to very old cottages and first council houses in Lee Chapel Lane and atSA 3/416/1 |
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| Shell Oil Refinery |
| Leytonstone: air raids; plane crashes; Auxiliary Fire Services; SA 24/1318/1 |
| VI and V2 raid - house damaged; reactions to air raids; air |
| raid shelters in railway tunnels |
| London: air raids; incident when VI hit a bus; impromptu SA 20/1131/1 |
| concert in Underground |
| London: air raids; organisation of Underground stations as SA 13/1321/1 |
| shelters; fire watching |
| London: lost everything in a bombing raid SA 24/1457/1 |
| London: memories of the blitz SA 22/1364/1 |
| London: National Fire Service experiences during blitz SA 20/1542/1 |
| London [Wapping]: description of being bombed out - what SA 22/1352/1 |
| was saved and what was lost; feelings on losing home and |
| possessions; inadequate compensation |
| Maldon: experiences of female ambulance driver SA 13/1317/1 |
| Paglesham: air raids - number of high explosive and SA 1/536/1 |
| incendiary bombs and V2 rockets; flying bomb defences |
| Pitsea: air raids SA 3/297/1 |
| Rowhedge: no air raid shelter SA 8/1664/1 |
| Saffron Walden: air raid SA 24/1610/1 |
| Shotgate: bombing: crash of German plane SA 3/531/1 |
| Southend: R.A. Jones & Sons Ltd. of Southend High Street – SA 20/1565/1 |
| effects of bombing |
| Southend: V2 rocket SA 20/1160/1 |
| Stratford: LNER bomb damage estimation SA 5/470/1 |
| Thurrock: air raids SA 1/537/1 |
| Upminster: bombing of Secondary Modern School SA 10/553/1 |

| Walthamstow: experience of flying bombs | SA 9/445/1 |
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| West Ham: family bombed out | SA 20/1550/1 |
| Wickford: flying bombs | SA 3/514/1 |
| Wickham St. Paul: crashed aeroplanes; bombing | SA 17/793/1 |
| Wrabness: air raids and doodlebugs; American planes dive | SA 24/1669/1 |
| bomb practice | |

4) Home Guard (and other Civil Defence work)

| | Reference |
|---|--------------|
| Billericay: special constable | SA 3/406/1 |
| Bulmer: ARP warden | SA 17/789/1 |
| Burnham: local defence volunteer, patrolled sea walls | SA 5/374/1 |
| Chelmsford: Essex Police officer seconded to ARP | SA 25/1/8/1 |
| Department to give instruction to wardens, special | |
| constables, etc | |
| Chelmsford: Police war reserves and special constables; civil | SA 25/3/2/1 |
| defence | |
| Colchester: attitude to Home Guard | SA 8/977/1 |
| Colchester: Home Guard | SA 8/948/1 |
| Colchester: Home Guard | SA 8/1662/1 |
| Colchester: Home Guard; ARP warden | SA 8/1580/1 |
| Colchester: husband in ARP and Home Guard | SA 8/1578/1 |
| Colchester: Railway Home Guard | SA 8/1592/1 |
| Colchester: served in Home Guard and on anti-aircraft gun | SA 8/391/1 |
| Dagenham: civil defence work; training; committees, etc; air | SA 8/1750/1 |
| raids | |
| Epping: relationship between police and air raid wardens; | SA 25/3/1/1 |
| relationship between regular police officers and special | |
| constables and war reserves | |
| Essex: civil defence; defences against possible invasion; | SA 11/503/1 |
| Home Guard | |
| Fordham: ARP; Home Guard | SA 8/1657/1 |
| Great Tey: part-time work in fire service; incidents in and | SA 12/574/1 |
| around village during air raids | |
| Leytonstone: Auxiliary Fire Services | SA 24/1318/1 |
| Little Chesterford: Home Guard | SA 18/912/1 |
| London: National Fire Service | SA 20/1542/1 |
| Maldon: experiences of female ambulance driver | SA 13/1317/1 |
| Paglesham: Home Guard and invasion precautions | SA 1/536/1 |
| Rowhedge: Home Guard activities | SA 8/1666/1 |
| Secret Auxiliary Units of the Home Guard designed to form | SA 1/1320/1 |
| the basis of British resistance in the event of invasion | |
| Shotgate: Home Guard | SA 3/531/1 |
| Southend: National Fire Service - description of pump and | SA 20/1160/1 |
| tender | |
| Southend: Police war reserve | SA 20/1677/1 |
| South Weald: Home Guard | SA 2/2/1/1 |
| Wickford: Home Guard | SA 3/521/1 |
| Women's Auxiliary Police Service | SA 25/1/9/1 |

5) Land Army

| | Reference |
|--|--------------|
| Land Army: experiences on farm near Southminster; working | SA 24/763/1 |
| alongside German and Italian prisoners-of-war | |
| Land Army: work for Lord Rayleigh's Farms; experiences and | SA 3/296/1 |
| working conditions | |
| Women's Timber Corps | SA 24/1316/1 |

6) Dunkirk

| | Reference |
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| Account of taking small boat from Burnham to rescue troops | SA 5/367/1 |
| at Dunkirk | |
| Admiral Stephenson's experiences at Dunkirk | SA 18/925/1 |
| Arrival of Dunkirk survivors at Butlins camp in Clacton | SA 16/760/1 |
| Brother at Dunkirk | SA 8/1658/1 |
| Evacuated from Dunkirk | SA 25/2/3/1 |
| Family members lost at Dunkirk | SA 20/1556/1 |
| Leigh cocklemen at Dunkirk | SA 19/1056/1 |
| Leigh man's memories of Dunkirk | SA 24/469/1 |
| RNSVR experiences at Dunkirk | SA 20/1532/1 |
| Southend pleasure boat at Dunkirk | SA 20/1570/1 |
| Washing soiled by oil pollution after Dunkirk | SA 24/611/1 |

7) War Work

| | Reference |
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| Burnham: boats commandeered by Navy | SA 24/1004/1 |
| Burnham: construction of MTBs built at boat yard | SA 5/369/1 |
| Chelmsford: involvement with German POWs, organised by | SA 24/1460/1 |
| Quakers | |
| Chelmsford: part-time work at Marconi | SA 24/1459/1 |
| Chelmsford: work at Crompton's - description of work, hours, | SA 24/1455/1 |
| conditions, canteen, concerts | |
| Colchester: bus conductress | SA 8/952/1 |
| Colchester: canteen work | SA 8/1070/1 |
| Colchester: clothing factory | SA 8/1756/1 |
| Colchester: Crowther's clothing factory – battledress and | SA 8/993/1 |
| naval uniforms | |
| Colchester: electricity supply | SA 8/1435/1 |
| Colchester: Hollington Bros. clothing factory – making royal | SA 8/968/1 |
| air force uniforms | |
| Colchester: Hyam's clothing factory – making battledress | SA 8/970/1 |
| Colchester: Leaning's clothing factory | SA 8/986/1 |
| Colchester: Mason Arc Light works - produced aircraft and | SA 8/434/1 |
| ship parts, camera parts, film reels and developers | |
| Colchester: night work in reserved occupation | SA 8/1580/1 |
| Colchester: Paxman's; changes in conditions resulting from | SA 8/959/1 |
| war work | |
| Colchester: plumber | SA 8/1583/1 |

| Colchester: traffic assistant; status; responsibilities | SA 8/1439/1 |
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| Colchester: Turner's clothing factory | SA 8/1428/1 |
| Colchester: war work as civilian returns clerk and in | SA 8/543/1 |
| surveyor's department of Royal Engineers | |
| Colchester: war work at Britannia works | SA 8/984/1 |
| Colchester: war work at Crowther's clothing factory and | SA 8/965/1 |
| Hoffmann's in Chelmsford | |
| Colchester: war work at Paxman's | SA 8/966/1 |
| Colchester: water works Superintendent | SA 8/1384/1 |
| Colchester: work in baker's shop | SA 8/1578/1 |
| Earls Colne Airfield: construction | SA 1/617/1 |
| Ford Motor Co.: industrial relations in wartime | SA 8/1751/1 |
| Ford Motor Co.: reserved occupation | SA 8/1750/1 |
| Halstead: Parachute-making in Halstead Mill | SA 1/152/1 |
| Ingatestone and Hutton: farming | SA 8/1754/1 |
| Leigh: cocklemen | SA 19/1056/1 |
| Little Bromley: working on land | SA 8/1752/1 |
| Little Chesterford: war work | SA 18/913/1 |
| Marconi Company: ISIB (Weather Research for Forces) | SA 24/825/1 |
| Merchant Seaman | SA 8/960/1 |
| Munitions contractor (Greeves) | SA 20/1676/1 |
| Radar development: contribution to war effort through early | SA 1/27/1 |
| warning systems and navigation for bombing raids | |
| Saffron Walden: work in nursery | SA 24/1610/1 |
| Southend: boats requisitioned | SA 20/1154/1 |
| Southend: voluntary work during the war | SA 20/1149/1 |
| Stratford: LNER bomb damage estimation | SA 5/470/1 |
| Stratford: work for MAFF at Stratford Town Hall on ration | SA 24/1457/1 |
| books - description of system of rationing, hours, wages, | |
| trade union activity | |
| Thurrock: lodgers working on PLUTO (pipeline under the | SA 1/537/1 |
| ocean) to carry fuel to France for Normandy landings | |
| Wallasea Island: war work at boat builders | SA 5/265/1 |
| Walthamstow: munitions work at LMP (Plessys) in the Arterial | SA 9/438/1 |
| Road 1941-46 | |
| West Ham: war work | SA 20/1550/1 |
| Wethersfield Airfield: call-up under Essential Works Order | SA 1/616/1 |
| and conditions of work concreting runways | |

8) Royal Navy

| | Reference |
|--|--------------|
| Air Sea Rescue: description of work; size of crew; mines | SA 8/1571/1 |
| Air Sea Rescue | SA 8/1572/1 |
| Air Sea Rescue in Western Approaches | SA 24/1013/1 |
| Burnham boats commandeered by Navy for patrol service | SA 24/1004/1 |
| Burnham Seaman: service on troopships; account of taking | SA 5/367/1 |
| small boat from Burnham to rescue troops at Dunkirk 1940; | |
| service on patrol service off Burnham and as Navy sailmaster | |
| Experiences in RNVR | SA 5/385/1 |

| magnetic mine in September, 1939; Harwich coastal patrolKelvedon-Tollesbury Light Railway: Navy use during WVIISA 24/1012/1MinesweepersSA 20/1150/1Osea Island: action during WVII and presence of NavySA 1/138/1Royal Navy career of stoker: "HMS Blanche" sunk by magnetic mine very early in the warVA 5/2/1Royal Navy escorts off coast - experiences of Essex soldiersSA 11/503/1Royal Navy service on destroyers including training, Malta convoy, surrender of Singapore and D-DaySA 20/1138/1Southend pleasure boat commandeered: patrols off Submarine "Shakespeare": leading telegrapherSA 1/1276/1SubmarinesSA 20/1126/1Wartime experiences in Atlantic and Mediterranean; invalided out in 1943SA 20/1532/1Wartime Navy career (1): training; details of call-up; type of work; experiences at Dunkirk; details of postingsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far EastSA 20/1534/1 | | · |
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| Kelvedon-Tollesbury Light Railway: Navy use during WWIISA 24/1012/1MinesweepersSA 20/1150/1Osea Island: action during WWII and presence of NavySA 1/138/1Royal Navy career of stoker: "HMS Blanche" sunk by magnetic mine very early in the warVA 5/2/1Royal Navy escorts off coast - experiences of Essex soldiersSA 11/503/1Royal Navy service on destroyers including training, Malta convoy, surrender of Singapore and D-DaySA 20/1138/1Southend pleasure boat commandeered: patrols off Submarine "Shakespeare": leading telegrapherSA 1/1276/1SubmarinesSA 20/1126/1Wartime experiences in Atlantic and Mediterranean; invalided out in 1943SA 20/1532/1Wartime Navy career (1): training; details of call-up; type of work; experiences at Dunkirk; details of postingsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far EastSA 20/1534/1 | Harwich: sinking of destroyer "Gypsy" off Harwich by | SA 1/463/1 |
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| Osea Island: action during WWII and presence of NavySA 1/138/1Royal Navy career of stoker: "HMS Blanche" sunk by magnetic mine very early in the warVA 5/2/1Royal Navy escorts off coast - experiences of Essex soldiersSA 11/503/1Royal Navy service on destroyers including training, Malta convoy, surrender of Singapore and D-DaySA 20/1138/1Southend pleasure boat commandeered: patrols off Ramsgate, Dunkirk; financial arrangements over boatSA 20/1570/1Submarine "Shakespeare": leading telegrapherSA 1/1276/1SubmarinesSA 20/1126/1Wartime experiences in Atlantic and Mediterranean; invalided out in 1943SA 20/1532/1Wartime Navy career (1): training; details of call-up; type of work; experiences at Dunkirk; details of postingsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (2): motor launch and motor torpedo boatsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far EastSA 20/1534/1 | Kelvedon-Tollesbury Light Railway: Navy use during WWII | SA 24/1012/1 |
| Royal Navy career of stoker: "HMS Blanche" sunk by magnetic mine very early in the warVA 5/2/1Royal Navy escorts off coast - experiences of Essex soldiersSA 11/503/1Royal Navy service on destroyers including training, Malta convoy, surrender of Singapore and D-DaySA 20/1138/1Southend pleasure boat commandeered: patrols off Ramsgate, Dunkirk; financial arrangements over boatSA 20/1570/1Submarine "Shakespeare": leading telegrapherSA 1/1276/1SubmarinesSA 20/1126/1Wartime experiences in Atlantic and Mediterranean; invalided out in 1943SA 20/1532/1Wartime Navy career (1): training; details of call-up; type of work; experiences at Dunkirk; details of postingsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (2): motor launch and motor torpedo boatsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far EastSA 20/1534/1 | Minesweepers | SA 20/1150/1 |
| magnetic mine very early in the warRoyal Navy escorts off coast - experiences of Essex soldiersSA 11/503/1Royal Navy service on destroyers including training, Malta convoy, surrender of Singapore and D-DaySA 20/1138/1Southend pleasure boat commandeered: patrols off Ramsgate, Dunkirk; financial arrangements over boatSA 20/1570/1Submarine "Shakespeare": leading telegrapherSA 1/1276/1SubmarinesSA 20/1126/1Wartime experiences in Atlantic and Mediterranean; invalided out in 1943SA 20/1532/1Wartime Navy career (1): training; details of call-up; type of work; experiences at Dunkirk; details of postingsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (2): motor launch and motor torpedo boatsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far EastSA 20/1534/1 | Osea Island: action during WWII and presence of Navy | SA 1/138/1 |
| Royal Navy escorts off coast - experiences of Essex soldiersSA 11/503/1Royal Navy service on destroyers including training, Malta convoy, surrender of Singapore and D-DaySA 20/1138/1Southend pleasure boat commandeered: patrols off Ramsgate, Dunkirk; financial arrangements over boatSA 20/1570/1Submarine "Shakespeare": leading telegrapherSA 1/1276/1SubmarinesSA 20/1126/1Wartime experiences in Atlantic and Mediterranean; invalided out in 1943SA 20/1532/1Wartime Navy career (1): training; details of call-up; type of work; experiences at Dunkirk; details of postingsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (2): motor launch and motor torpedo boatsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far EastSA 20/1534/1 | Royal Navy career of stoker: "HMS Blanche" sunk by | VA 5/2/1 |
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| Southend pleasure boat commandeered: patrols off Ramsgate, Dunkirk; financial arrangements over boatSA 20/1570/1Submarine "Shakespeare": leading telegrapherSA 1/1276/1SubmarinesSA 20/1126/1Wartime experiences in Atlantic and Mediterranean; invalided out in 1943SA 3/422/1Wartime Navy career (1): training; details of call-up; type of work; experiences at Dunkirk; details of postingsSA 20/1532/1Wartime Navy career (2): motor launch and motor torpedo boatsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far EastSA 20/1534/1 | Royal Navy service on destroyers including training, Malta | SA 20/1138/1 |
| Ramsgate, Dunkirk; financial arrangements over boatSA 1/1276/1Submarine "Shakespeare": leading telegrapherSA 1/1276/1SubmarinesSA 20/1126/1Wartime experiences in Atlantic and Mediterranean; invalided out in 1943SA 3/422/1Wartime Navy career (1): training; details of call-up; type of work; experiences at Dunkirk; details of postingsSA 20/1532/1Wartime Navy career (2): motor launch and motor torpedo boatsSA 20/1533/1Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far EastSA 20/1534/1 | convoy, surrender of Singapore and D-Day | |
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| Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far EastSA 20/1534/1 | Wartime Navy career (2): motor launch and motor torpedo | SA 20/1533/1 |
| | boats | |
| Wrabness: coastal defences SA 24/1669/1 | Wartime Navy career (3): action in Far East | SA 20/1534/1 |
| | Wrabness: coastal defences | SA 24/1669/1 |

9) Military Service

| | Reference |
|---|--------------|
| Ack-Ack activity on Canvey Island | SA 20/1144/1 |
| Anti-aircraft officer | SA 13/612/1 |
| Army service | SA 3/522/1 |
| Army service: training; D-Day; experiences in France, | SA 8/948/1 |
| Belgium and Holland; VE-Day in Hamburg; posted to N.W. | |
| frontier of India; demobilisation | |
| Army service: training in Scotland; experiences in East Africa, | SA 24/1010/1 |
| Madagascar, Atkiab Island off Burma, Chittagong; | |
| demobilisation | |
| Army service with Suffolk Regiment: transport on ships to | VA 5/4/1 |
| Nova Scotia, West Indies and South Africa; action in | |
| Singapore; experiences as a Japanese prisoner of war. Army | |
| service with Essex Regiment and Queen's Regiment: | |
| transport in ships from Glasgow; action in India and Burma; | |
| supplies, rations, water; weight of pack carried | |
| Experiences in the USA while on RAF training | SA 2/1/20/1 |
| Former member of the 2nd Battalion, the Essex Regiment; | SA 2/1/14/1 |
| former member of 115 Squadron, who flew Lancasters on | |
| bombing raids to Berlin in 1943-44 | |
| Military service from 1943 | SA 20/1540/1 |
| Operation Varsity: 50th anniversary trip to scene of landing | SA 2/1/27/1 |
| Operation Varsity - the Rhine Crossing: glider pilot | SA 2/1/18/1 |
| Pioneer Corps: posted to Butlins in Clacton 1940; preparing | SA 16/760/1 |
| beach defences | |

| RAF Medical Officer | SA 13/1321/1 |
|--|--------------|
| RAF service: sent to USA under the 'Arnold Scheme' to learn | VA 5/3/1 |
| to fly; North Africa and Italy; British support for partisans in | |
| Yugoslavia | |
| Royal Navy career of stoker: "HMS Blanche" sunk by | VA 5/2/1 |
| magnetic mine very early in the war. Army service with Essex | |
| Regiment in Sierra Leone, Eygpt and Iraq; forced to | |
| surrender near El Alamein; prisoner-of-war | |
| Searchlight Battery HQ | SA 8/971/1 |
| Territorial Army Searchlight Unit 469 CO. R.E.; activities, | SA 24/1009/1 |
| daily routine; description of coastal defences; details of a | |
| number of incidents. | |
| Veterans of the Greek Campaign of 1941 | SA 1/1222/1 |

10) US Air Force and American Troops

| | Reference |
|---|--------------|
| Abbess Roding: American presence during WWII | SA 1/173/1 |
| Anecdotes about Americans | SA 24/1316/1 |
| Attitude to Americans | SA 24/1460/1 |
| Colchester: American and Canadian airmen | SA 8/1384/1 |
| Colchester: American servicemen | SA 8/1578/1 |
| Colchester: American troops and factory girls | SA 8/979/1 |
| Colchester: Americans | SA 8/1753/1 |
| Colchester: Americans and dances | SA 8/981/1 |
| Colchester: USAAF fighter crash | SA 8/996/1 |
| Cressing: tea and dance WWII American airmen on 50th | SA 1/889/1 |
| anniversary visit; nostalgia about dances and memories of | |
| English girlfriends; memories of those who died; memories of | |
| English families | _ |
| Easton Lodge: Americans | SA 24/1315/1 |
| Essex: arrival of Americans in 1942 - building of air bases; | SA 1/463/1 |
| impact of Americans on village life | |
| Essex: arrival of US air force and location of their Essex | SA 1/643/1 |
| bases; effect of influx of British and American servicemen on | |
| local people | 0.0.44/500/4 |
| Essex: RAF and American air bases in Essex | SA 11/503/1 |
| Great Saling: arrival of American Air Force remembered by | SA 1/633/1 |
| RAF Liaison Radio Operator, initial strangeness of living with | |
| Americans - system of messing, different food; Essex dialect | |
| likened to Southern American accent; American PX stores; | |
| American interest in wide range of British coinage; work of | |
| American women from voluntary groups | SA 1/639/1 |
| Ridgewell: wartime services canteen to provide for American | SA 1/039/1 |
| forces from nearby airfield; different customs and food; effect on village life and American appreciation of villagers | |
| Saffron Walden: WAAF's memories of American Air Force at | SA 1/625/1 |
| Saffron Walden/Debden airfield in 1942 | 0/1/020/1 |
| Silver End: reception of American WWII airmen as part of a | SA 1/888/1 |
| 50th anniversary visit; recollections of local people and | |
| Americans; visit to Rivenhall airfield | |
| | I |

| Stansted: building of wartime air base; lengthening of runway by Americans during 1954-56 Cold War crisis | SA 1/680/1 |
|---|--------------|
| Stansted: memories of American D-Day Bomber Pilot | SA 1/1183/1 |
| Stansted: memories of US pilot; flying; people; countryside; | SA 1/1740/1 |
| "ghosts of the bombers and the men who died" | |
| Wethersfield and Gosfield Airfields, 1942 | SA 1/636/1 |
| Wethersfield: difference between British and American | SA 1/632/1 |
| methods of laying runways | |
| Wethersfield: meeting of the Wethersfield Local History | SA 24/866/1 |
| Group to discuss the Wethersfield American air base | |
| Willingale: experiences of US Engineering Battalion soldier constructing Willingale airfield; friendliness of local people, | SA 1/635/1 |
| occasional incident with British soldiers; visit of American | |
| entertainers to airfield; initial strangeness; account of meeting | |
| English wife | |
| Wrabness: American planes | SA 24/1669/1 |

11) Prisoners of War in Essex

| | Reference |
|--|--------------|
| Castle Hedingham: Women's Timber Corps working | SA 24/1316/1 |
| alongside Italian POWs | |
| Chelmsford: involvement with German POWs | SA 24/1460/1 |
| Colchester: German taken prisoner by Americans in Italy; | SA 8/956/1 |
| description of work and conditions in USA; tranfer to UK after | |
| the war; impressions of Colchester and local people | |
| Colchester: German POWs | SA 8/1439/1 |
| Colchester: memories of POWs; POW camp hit by doodlebug | SA 8/974/1 |
| Colchester: POW labour at waterworks after war | SA 8/1384/1 |
| Colchester: POWs | SA 8/977/1 |
| Land Army working alongside German and Italian POWs | SA 24/763/1 |
| Rettendon: supervision of agricultural work by German POWs | SA 24/488/1 |
| from Rawreth Camp | |
| Romford: German POW patients at hospital | SA 8/1753/1 |

12) Airfields

| | Reference |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Bradwell Bay | SA 1/618/1 |
| Bradwell Bay | SA 1/619/1 |
| Bradwell Bay | SA 1/624/1 |
| Bradwell Bay | SA 1/642/1 |
| Debden | SA 1/620/1 |
| Debden | SA 1/621/1 |
| Debden | SA 1/625/1 |
| Earls Colne | SA 1/617/1 |
| Earls Colne | SA 1/631/1 |
| Essex Airfields | SA 1/643/1 |
| Essex Airfields | SA 11/503/1 |
| Gosfield | SA 1/636/1 |
| Great Dunmow | SA 1/622/1 |

| Great Dunmow | SA 1/623/1 |
|--------------|--------------|
| Great Dunmow | SA 1/626/1 |
| Great Saling | SA 1/633/1 |
| Hornchurch | SA 1/627/1 |
| Hornchurch | SA 1/628/1 |
| Hornchurch | SA 1/641/1 |
| Matching | SA 1/629/1 |
| Matching | SA 1/630/1 |
| North Weald | SA 1/640/1 |
| Ridgewell | SA 1/637/1 |
| Ridgewell | SA 1/639/1 |
| Rivenhall | SA 1/638/1 |
| Southend | SA 1/634/1 |
| Stansted | SA 1/680/1 |
| Wethersfield | SA 1/616/1 |
| Wethersfield | SA 1/632/1 |
| Wethersfield | SA 1/636/1 |
| Wethersfield | SA 20/1544/1 |
| Willingale | SA 1/635/1 |

13) Health Care

| | Reference |
|---|--------------|
| Childbirth | SA 24/1459/1 |
| Childbirth [Chelmsford] | SA 24/1460/1 |
| Childbirth [Colchester] | SA 8/974/1 |
| Childbirth; illegitimacy; backstreet abortion [Colchester] | SA 8/992/1 |
| District Nurse/Midwife [Great Chesterford] | SA 18/908/1 |
| Friends' Ambulance Service [Canvey Island] | SA 20/1144/1 |
| General Practitioner [Leigh; Harpenden, Herts.] | SA 20/1143/1 |
| Inadequate treatment of injuries caused by mine | SA 24/1004/1 |
| Nursing [Chelmsford] | SA 24/1455/1 |
| Nursing - Red Cross Work in RAMC; Colchester Hospital; | SA 20/1672/1 |
| types of casualties; 1945 - reception centre for victims of | |
| Japanese | |
| Nursing [Romford] | SA 8/1753/1 |
| RAF Medical Officer | SA 13/1321/1 |
| Red Cross nursing at Danbury Park maternity hospital | SA 24/1454/1 |

14) D-Day

| | Reference |
|---|--------------|
| Army service: D-Day; experiences in France, Belgium and | SA 8/948/1 |
| Holland | |
| Invasion plans | SA 8/1662/1 |
| Older brother leaving for D-Day | SA 8/1748/1 |
| Royal Navy service: D-Day; attitude to D-Day | SA 20/1138/1 |
| Southend Airport: importance in D-Day preparations | SA 1/634/1 |
| Southend and Leigh on D-Day | SA 1/455/1 |
| Stansted: American D-Day bomber pilot | SA 1/1183/1 |

15) VE Day and VJ Day

| | Reference |
|--|--------------|
| Brentwood: VE Day parade and service on Shenfield | SA 2/1/27/1 |
| Common | |
| Brentwood: VJ Day parade 1995 | SA 2/1/31/1 |
| Chelmsford: VE Day | SA 24/1455/1 |
| Chelmsford: VE Day street party | SA 24/1458/1 |
| Colchester: celebrations and street parties | SA 8/1581/1 |
| Colchester: end of war | SA 8/1439/1 |
| Colchester: end of war | SA 8/1752/1 |
| Colchester: end of war; VE Day; street lights | SA 8/1753/1 |
| Colchester: feelings at the end of the war; street party | SA 8/1449/1 |
| Colchester: street party | SA 8/1381/1 |
| Colchester: street parties | SA 8/977/1 |
| Colchester: street parties | SA 8/1592/1 |
| Colchester: VE Day | SA 8/963/1 |
| Leytonstone: VE Day; end of war in Japan; victory parade | SA 24/1318/1 |
| Maldon: VE Day celebrations | SA 13/1317/1 |
| Maldon: victory parade | SA 1/624/1 |
| Wrabness: VE Day celebrations | SA 24/1669/1 |

16) Women's Voluntary Service and Women's Auxiliary Police Service

| | Reference |
|---|-------------|
| Burnham: WVS - canteen for troops; distribution of food to | SA 5/376/1 |
| housebound; Christmas parcels to soldiers from Burnham | |
| Leyton: WVS – organisation; administration; problems; | SA 9/449/1 |
| volunteers; functions; details of rest centres; emergency | |
| feeding stations; distribution of furniture and household goods | |
| to bombed out families | |
| Chelmsford: WAPS – work at Police Headquarters | SA 25/1/4/1 |

17) Miscellaneous

| | Reference |
|---|--------------|
| Air Ministry - background to the Battle of Britain and the | SA 24/1319/1 |
| building of new airfields in southern Britain | |
| Air Training Corps: shows boys learning about aircraft and | VA 1/2/1 |
| aircraft recognition and general training at Billericay | |
| Attitudes to bombing of Dresden and Hiroshima; feeling that | SA 24/1458/1 |
| war proved that things could be done in a co-operative way | |
| Baroness Platt of Writtle | SA 1/942/1 |
| Boy Scouts in wartime - incident when VI hit a bus; school trip | SA 20/1131/1 |
| to Wormwood Scrubs prison; memories of air raids and | |
| impromptu concert in Underground | |
| Bradfield | SA 1/12/1 |
| Bradwell-on-Sea: story of Chapel from 7th century to WWI | SA 1/1251/1 |
| Brentwood: reading of a WWII letter from an old boy of | SA 2/1/29 |
| Brentwood School, written shortly before his death | /1 |

| Brentwood: translated extracts from Nuremburg paper | SA 2/1/27/1 |
|--|--------------|
| reviewing 1935-45, sent by twin-town Landkreis-Roth | |
| Brightlingsea: The Brewers Arms – uses during WWII | SA 1/1483/1 |
| Canvey Island: shooting down of German spy plane in WWII | SA 24/308/1 |
| Chelmsford: wartime experiences | SA 24/1455/1 |
| Chelmsford: wartime experiences | SA 24/1456/1 |
| Chesterford Park explosions 1944 | SA 18/907/1 |
| Chesterford Park explosions 1944 | SA 18/913/1 |
| Chesterford Park explosions 1944 | SA 18/916/1 |
| Chesterford Park explosions 1944 | SA 18/924/1 |
| Cockling in WWII - working in daylight; mines | SA 20/1557/1 |
| Colchester: effects of WWII on oyster fishery | SA 8/1573/1 |
| Colchester: (female) projectionist at cinema | SA 8/1396/1 |
| Colchester: gliders | SA 8/977/1 |
| Colchester: return to work 1970 compared to wartime work | SA 8/981/1 |
| Colchester: soldiers in Maidenburgh Street | SA 8/1071/1 |
| Colchester: USAAF fighter crash | SA 8/996/1 |
| Conscientious objector: tribunals; work on land; variety of | SA 9/494/1 |
| agricultural work; attitudes towards conscientious objection | |
| Description of wartime London | SA 22/1364/1 |
| Domestic life in wartime | SA 8/1077/1 |
| Essex Fortress, Royal Engineers, T.A. – experiences during | SA 24/493/1 |
| WWII | |
| Fear of Hitler because he would 'do away with cripples' | SA 8/1381/1 |
| Female ambulance driver | SA 13/1317/1 |
| German efforts to recruit Anglo-Germans prior to WWII; | SA 10/587/1 |
| avoidance of military service | |
| Great Wakering: effects of WWII | SA 1/128/1 |
| Great Waltham: washing soiled by oil pollution after Dunkirk | SA 24/611/1 |
| Hearing Chamberlain's Munich broadcast | SA 24/1004/1 |
| Ilford: effect of WWII on life in Ilford - anecdotes about boy | SA 24/762/1 |
| friends, courting, jobs, rationing and black market coupons; | |
| experiences after being bombed out of house in air raid | |
| Illegitimacy during WWII; backstreet abortions | SA 8/992/1 |
| Life in wartime | SA 8/1755/1 |
| Mines | SA 8/1574/1 |
| The Norwegian Resistance in WWII | SA 20/1141/1 |
| Nursing at Danbury Park Maternity Home during WWII | SA 24/1454/1 |
| Peace Pledge Union | SA 24/1459/1 |
| Repairing army furniture and knitting | SA 8/1068/1 |
| Sewing done as POW in Singapore | SA 8/988/1 |
| Tollesbury: conversion of motor torpedo boat into living | SA 1/238/1 |
| accommodation; its war service; including the sinking of 2 | |
| German trawlers | |
| Wartime service with ENSA | SA 9/445/1 |
| WWII in Torquay [Devon] | SA 24/1008/1 |

The Essex Sound and Video Archive is being added to all the time and there may be recordings on this subject that have been recently added to the collection. Please consult the Essex Record Office catalogue database SEAX for further references.

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Cover photo:

Women and children working at Ledgers Farm, Faulkbourne during the Second World War (ref: I/Mb 140/1/9)