

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;
- **SA 1/1927/1**, a BBC Essex programme
- **SA 11/503/1**, broadcast by Essex Radio;
- **SA 8/8**, 64 oral history interviews from a reunion of American airmen in 1992;
- **SA 48**, oral history interviews focussing on childhood experiences during World War II; and
- **SA 27/3/1**, compilation of radio broadcasts including news reports, battlefield reports, speeches and reminiscences from the crossing of the Rhine to VJ Day, March-August 1945.

Other recordings are as follows:

1) Evacuation

	Reference
Colchester: evacuation	SA 8/948/1
Colchester: evacuation of children - class distinction in evacuation	SA 8/1592/1
Colchester: Jewish evacuees	SA 8/1070/1
Colchester: wife and family evacuated	SA 8/1580/1
Dagenham: evacuation of school from Dagenham to Norfolk	SA 9/442/1
Evacuation and return to London	SA 8/1755/1
Evacuation and return to London	SA 20/1131/1
Evacuation of children from metropolitan Essex	SA 11/503/1
Evacuation of school children from and to Essex	SA 1/463/1
Evacuees	SA 24/1009/1
Evacuees' experiences	SA 48
Fordham: evacuees	SA 8/1657/1
Kelvedon: evacuees	SA 44/1/3/1
Kelvedon: finding homes for evacuees	SA 44/1/62/1
Kelvedon: school affected by evacuees	SA 44/1/4/1
Leyton: evacuation of school from Leyton to Epping and Surrey	SA 9/443/1
Leytonstone and Brentwood: evacuated to Brentwood with older brother; memories of different billets; split days at Brentwood Grammar School; visiting parents at weekends	SA 24/1318/1

Little Baddow: evacuated from London to Little Baddow in 1939	SA 1/332/1
Little Chesterford: evacuees	SA 18/912/1
Paglesham: evacuees	SA 1/536/1
Pitsea: London evacuee	SA 3/414/1
Rowhedge: evacuees from London	SA 8/1664/1
Saffron Walden: evacuees	SA 24/1610/1
Southend: distress involved in evacuation of children	SA 20/1149/1
Walthamstow: her child evacuated	SA 9/439/1
West Ham: evacuated	SA 20/1550/1
Wickham St. Paul: evacuees	SA 17/793/1
Wrabness: evacuees	SA 24/1669/1

2) Rationing

	Reference
Canvey Island: effect of war on shop	SA 20/1/23/1
Chelmsford: rationing of clothes and food; extra rations for pregnant and nursing mothers	SA 24/1454/1
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
Kelvedon: rationing	SA 44/1/1/1
Leyton: emergency feeding stations; distribution of furniture and household goods to bombed out families	SA 9/449/1
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 during and after the war	SA 20/1565/1
Stratford: work for MAFF at Stratford Town Hall on ration books - description of system of rationing	SA 24/1457/1
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 shrapnel	SA 3/415/1
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 bombing Germany and Japan	SA 24/1460/1
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 for Chelmsford; morale; incident involving unexploded bomb	SA 25/3/2/1
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 Britain	SA 16/760/1
Colchester: air raid precautions at home; fire watching; blackout; bombing raids	SA 8/1449/1
Colchester: air raid shelter; air raids	SA 8/1580/1
Colchester: air raid shelter at Crowther's clothing factory; bombing of Hoffmann's in Chelmsford	SA 8/965/1
Colchester: air raid shelter in garden; air raids	SA 8/1662/1
Colchester: air raid shelter in garden; daylight raids; damage and repairs to mother's house	SA 8/1592/1
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; damage to water supply	SA 8/1384/1
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.; bombing of Hollington's factory	SA 8/1428/1
Colchester: air raids; bombing of Hollington's and Leaning's factories ; doodlebugs (one of which hit POW camp)	SA 8/974/1

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
<i>Colchester: 'The Bombing Fields': a community play, 1995</i>	<i>VA 27/7/1</i>
Colchester: Colchester Borough Police experiences - bombing raids and doodlebug attacks	SA 25/2/2/1
Colchester: Colchester Borough Police experiences - bombing raids and decoy fires	SA 25/2/6/1
Colchester: Colchester Borough Police experiences - bombing raids, decoy fires and bomb shelters	SA 25/2/4/1
Colchester: Colchester Borough Police experiences - bombs, zeppelins, doodlebugs	SA 25/2/5/1
Colchester: detailed description of air raids; air raid shelters; fire watching; attitude to home guard	SA 8/977/1
Colchester: fire watching; air raids	SA 8/959/1
Colchester: fire watching; air raids	SA 8/975/1
Colchester: USAAF fighter crash; air raid	SA 8/996/1
Crays Hill: dropping of German land-mine	SA 3/413/1
Epping: 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 schools	SA 24/1319/1
Epping: Women's Auxiliary Police Service - called out during air raids to take telephone calls	SA 25/1/5/1
Experience of bombing; air raid shelter; V1s and V2s	SA 8/1755/1
Essex airfields	SA 1/643/1
Essex: air raids on industry; V1 and V2 raids	SA 11/503/1
Grays: first air raid warning; bombing in Chelmsford	SA 1/455/1
Great Chesterford: air raids	SA 18/916/1
Great Tey: part-time work in fire service; incidents in and around village during air raids	SA 12/574/1
Ilford: experiences after being bombed out	SA 24/762/1
Kelvedon: air raids and doodlebugs	SA 44/1/1/1
Kelvedon: air raids; V2 falling at Goodwin's Farm; doodlebugs; planes colliding in the sky; had to go to church during air raids because there was no shelter at the school	SA 44/1/4/1
Lee Chapel and Langdon Hills: air raid damage to very old cottages and first council houses in Lee Chapel Lane and at Shell Oil Refinery	SA 3/416/1
Leytonstone: air raids; plane crashes; Auxiliary Fire Services; V1 and V2 raid - house damaged; reactions to air raids; air raid shelters in railway tunnels	SA 24/1318/1
London: air raids; incident when V1 hit a bus; impromptu concert in Underground	SA 20/1131/1
London: air raids; organisation of Underground stations as shelters; fire watching	SA 13/1321/1
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 was saved and what was lost; feelings on losing home and possessions; inadequate compensation	SA 22/1352/1
Maldon: experiences of female ambulance driver	SA 13/1317/1
Paglesham: air raids - number of high explosive and incendiary bombs and V2 rockets; flying bomb defences	SA 1/536/1
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 – effects of bombing	SA 20/1565/1
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
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 bomb practice	SA 24/1669/1

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 Department to give instruction to wardens, special constables, etc	SA 25/1/8/1
Chelmsford: Police war reserves and special constables; civil defence	SA 25/3/2/1
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 raids	SA 8/1750/1
Epping: relationship between police and air raid wardens; relationship between regular police officers and special constables and war reserves	SA 25/3/1/1
Essex: civil defence; defences against possible invasion; Home Guard	SA 11/503/1

Fordham: ARP; Home Guard	SA 8/1657/1
Great Tey: part-time work in fire service; incidents in and around village during air raids	SA 12/574/1
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 the basis of British resistance in the event of invasion	SA 1/1320/1
Shotgate: Home Guard	SA 3/531/1
Southend: Fire Service	SA 20/1/32/1
Southend: National Fire Service - description of pump and tender	SA 20/1160/1
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) Women's Land Army

	Reference
Land Army: experiences at Bradwell-on-Sea	SA 20/1/28/1
Land Army: experiences in Scotland and Hertfordshire	SA 20/1/27/1
Land Army: experiences on farm near Southminster; working alongside German and Italian prisoners-of-war	SA 24/763/1
Land Army: work for Lord Rayleigh's Farms; experiences and working conditions	SA 3/296/1
Women's Timber Corps	SA 24/1316/1

6) Dunkirk

	Reference
Account of taking small boat from Burnham to rescue troops at Dunkirk	SA 5/367/1
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
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 Quakers	SA 24/1460/1
Chelmsford: part-time work at Marconi	SA 24/1459/1
Chelmsford: work at Crompton's - description of work, hours, conditions, canteen, concerts	SA 24/1455/1
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 naval uniforms	SA 8/993/1
Colchester: electricity supply	SA 8/1435/1
Colchester: Hollington Bros. clothing factory – making royal air force uniforms	SA 8/968/1
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 ship parts, camera parts, film reels and developers	SA 8/434/1
Colchester: night work in reserved occupation	SA 8/1580/1
Colchester: Paxman's; changes in conditions resulting from war work	SA 8/959/1
Colchester: plumber	SA 8/1583/1
Colchester: traffic assistant; status; responsibilities	SA 8/1439/1
Colchester: Turner's clothing factory	SA 8/1428/1
Colchester: war work as civilian returns clerk and in surveyor's department of Royal Engineers	SA 8/543/1
Colchester: war work at Britannia works	SA 8/984/1
Colchester: war work at Crowther's clothing factory and Hoffmann's in Chelmsford	SA 8/965/1
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 warning systems and navigation for bombing raids	SA 1/27/1
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 ocean) to carry fuel to France for Normandy landings	SA 1/537/1
Wallasea Island: war work at boat builders	SA 5/265/1
Walthamstow: munitions work at LMP (Plessys) in the Arterial Road 1941-46	SA 9/438/1
West Ham: war work	SA 20/1550/1
Wethersfield Airfield: call-up under Essential Works Order and conditions of work concreting runways	SA 1/616/1

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 small boat from Burnham to rescue troops at Dunkirk 1940; service on patrol service off Burnham and as Navy sailmaster	SA 5/367/1
Experiences in RNVR	SA 5/385/1
Harwich: sinking of destroyer "Gypsy" off Harwich by magnetic mine in September, 1939; Harwich coastal patrol	SA 1/463/1
H.M.S. Curacao: collision with the Queen Mary 1942	SA 20/1/46/1
Kelvedon-Tollesbury Light Railway: Navy use during WWII	SA 24/1012/1
Minesweepers	SA 20/1150/1
Osea Island: action during WWII and presence of Navy	SA 1/138/1
<i>Royal Navy career of stoker: "HMS Blanche" sunk by magnetic mine very early in the war</i>	<i>VA 5/2/1</i>
Royal Navy escorts off coast - experiences of Essex soldiers	SA 11/503/1
Royal Navy service on destroyers including training, Malta convoy, surrender of Singapore and D-Day	SA 20/1138/1
Southend pleasure boat commandeered: patrols off Ramsgate, Dunkirk; financial arrangements over boat	SA 20/1570/1
Submarine "Shakespeare": leading telegrapher	SA 1/1276/1
Submarines	SA 20/1126/1
Telegrapher Air Gunner in the Fleet Air Arm	SA 20/1/47/1
Wartime experiences in Atlantic and Mediterranean; invalided out in 1943	SA 3/422/1
Wartime Navy career (1): training; details of call-up; type of work; experiences at Dunkirk; details of postings	SA 20/1532/1
Wartime Navy career (2): motor launch and motor torpedo boats	SA 20/1533/1
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, Belgium and Holland; VE-Day in Hamburg; posted to N.W. frontier of India; demobilisation	SA 8/948/1
Army service: training in Scotland; experiences in East Africa, Madagascar, Atkiab Island off Burma, Chittagong; demobilisation	SA 24/1010/1
<i>Army service with Suffolk Regiment: transport on ships to 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</i>	VA 5/4/1
Experiences in the USA while on RAF training	SA 2/1/20/1
Former member of the 2nd Battalion, the Essex Regiment; former member of 115 Squadron, who flew Lancasters on bombing raids to Berlin in 1943-44	SA 2/1/14/1
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 beach defences	SA 16/760/1
Prisoner of war	SA 20/1/17/1
RAF Medical Officer	SA 13/1321/1
<i>RAF service: sent to USA under the 'Arnold Scheme' to learn to fly; North Africa and Italy; British support for partisans in Yugoslavia</i>	VA 5/3/1
RAMC: experiences in the Royal Army Medical Corps	SA 20/1/9/1
Royal Artillery gun emplacement on the end of Southend pier	SA 20/1/35/1
<i>Royal Navy career of stoker: "HMS Blanche" sunk by magnetic mine very early in the war. Army service with Essex Regiment in Sierra Leone, Egypt and Iraq; forced to surrender near El Alamein; prisoner-of-war</i>	VA 5/2/1
Searchlight Battery HQ	SA 8/971/1
Territorial Army Searchlight Unit 469 CO. R.E.; activities, daily routine; description of coastal defences; details of a number of incidents.	SA 24/1009/1
Veterans of the Greek Campaign of 1941	SA 1/1222/1

10) US Air Force and American Troops

	Reference
Abbees 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 anniversary visit; nostalgia about dances and memories of English girlfriends; memories of those who died; memories of English families	SA 1/889/1
Easton Lodge: Americans	SA 24/1315/1
Essex: arrival of Americans in 1942 - building of air bases; impact of Americans on village life	SA 1/463/1
Essex: arrival of US air force and location of their Essex bases; effect of influx of British and American servicemen on local people	SA 1/643/1
Essex: 'Overpaid, Over Sexed, and Over Here' - programme marking fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of American servicemen in Essex during World War II.	SA 1/1927/1
Essex: RAF and American air bases in Essex	SA 11/503/1
<i>G.I. Airmen in East Anglia</i>	<i>VA 1/47/1</i>
Great Saling: arrival of American Air Force remembered by 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 1/633/1
Relations with US troops; attitude of white soldiers to black soldiers; G.I. brides	SA 20/1/22/1
Reunion of American airmen, Madingley 1992	SA 8/8
Ridgewell: wartime services canteen to provide for American forces from nearby airfield; different customs and food; effect on village life and American appreciation of villagers	SA 1/639/1
Rivenhall: children's party given by American servicemen	SA 44/1/3/1
Saffron Walden: WAAF's memories of American Air Force at Saffron Walden/Debden airfield in 1942	SA 1/625/1
Silver End: reception of American WWII airmen as part of a 50th anniversary visit; recollections of local people and Americans; visit to Rivenhall airfield	SA 1/888/1
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; "ghosts of the bombers and the men who died"	SA 1/1740/1
Wethersfield and Gosfield Airfields, 1942	SA 1/636/1
Wethersfield: difference between British and American methods of laying runways	SA 1/632/1
Wethersfield: meeting of the Wethersfield Local History Group to discuss the Wethersfield American air base	SA 24/866/1
Willingale: experiences of US Engineering Battalion soldier constructing Willingale airfield; friendliness of local people, occasional incident with British soldiers; visit of American entertainers to airfield; initial strangeness; account of meeting English wife	SA 1/635/1

Wrabness: American planes	SA 24/1669/1
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11) Prisoners of War in Essex

	Reference
Castle Heddingham: Women's Timber Corps working alongside Italian POWs	SA 24/1316/1
Chelmsford: involvement with German POWs	SA 24/1460/1
Colchester: German taken prisoner by Americans in Italy; description of work and conditions in USA; transfer to UK after the war; impressions of Colchester and local people	SA 8/956/1
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 from Rawreth Camp	SA 24/488/1
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; types of casualties; 1945 - reception centre for victims of Japanese	SA 20/1672/1
Nursing [Romford]	SA 8/1753/1
RAF Medical Officer	SA 13/1321/1
RAMC: experiences in Royal Army Medical Corps	SA 20/1/9/1
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 Holland	SA 8/948/1
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 Common	SA 2/1/27/1
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
Kelvedon: VE Day celebrations; children's party given by American servicemen at Rivenhall Airfield	SA 44/1/3/1
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
<i>Stock: 'VE Day in Stock 1945-1995: A village remembers and celebrates'</i>	VA 27/9/1
Wrabness: VE Day celebrations	SA 24/1669/1

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

	Reference
ATS: service with the ATS	SA 20/1/22/1
Burnham: WVS - canteen for troops; distribution of food to housebound; Christmas parcels to soldiers from Burnham	SA 5/376/1
Leyton: WVS – organisation; administration; problems; volunteers; functions; details of rest centres; emergency feeding stations; distribution of furniture and household goods to bombed out families	SA 9/449/1
Chelmsford: WAPS – work at Police Headquarters	SA 25/1/4/1

17) Miscellaneous

	Reference
Air Ministry - background to the Battle of Britain and the building of new airfields in southern Britain	SA 24/1319/1
<i>Air Training Corps: shows boys learning about aircraft and aircraft recognition and general training at Billericay</i>	VA 1/2/1
Attitudes to bombing of Dresden and Hiroshima; feeling that war proved that things could be done in a co-operative way	SA 24/1458/1
Baroness Platt of Writtle	SA 1/942/1
Boy Scouts in wartime - incident when VI hit a bus; school trip to Wormwood Scrubs prison; memories of air raids and impromptu concert in Underground	SA 20/1131/1
Bradfield	SA 1/12/1
Bradwell-on-Sea: story of Chapel from 7th century to WWII	SA 1/1251/1
Brentwood: reading of a WWII letter from an old boy of Brentwood School, written shortly before his death	SA 2/1/29/1
Brentwood: translated extracts from Nuremburg paper reviewing 1935-45, sent by twin-town Landkreis-Roth	SA 2/1/27/1
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 agricultural work; attitudes towards conscientious objection	SA 9/494/1
Description of wartime London	SA 22/1364/1
Domestic life in wartime	SA 8/1077/1
Essex Fortress, Royal Engineers, T.A. – experiences during WWII	SA 24/493/1
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; avoidance of military service	SA 10/587/1
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 friends, courting, jobs, rationing and black market coupons; experiences after being bombed out of house in air raid	SA 24/762/1
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 accommodation; its war service; including the sinking of 2 German trawlers	SA 1/238/1
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)