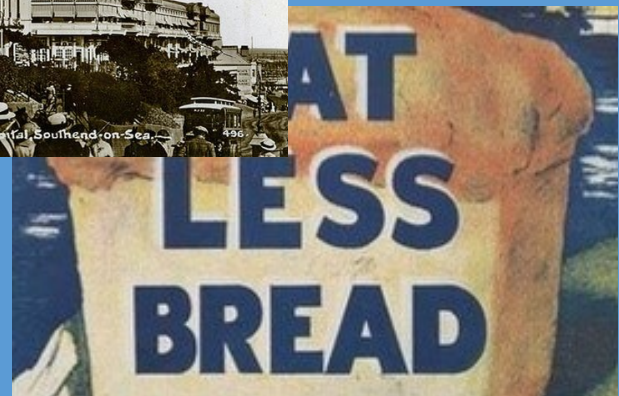
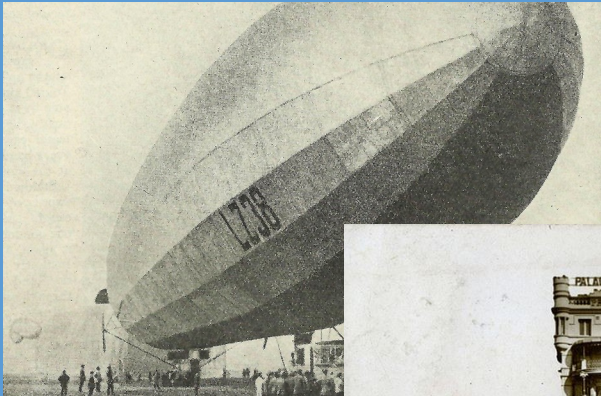




Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front Learning Materials



Queen Mary's Hospital





Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance

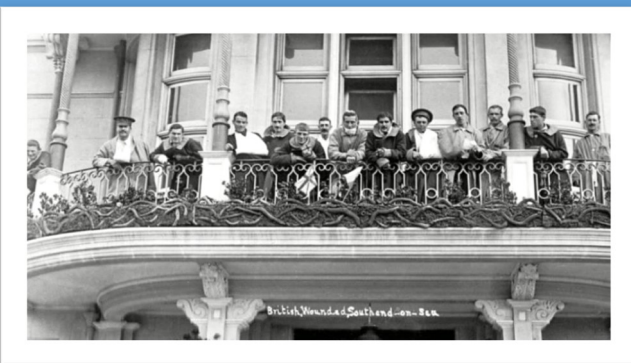


Great War Home Front 3: Queen Mary Hospital

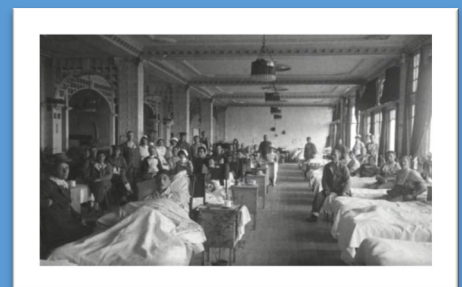
Originally named the Metropole, the Palace Hotel was built in 1901 and was once the only 5* hotel on the southeast coast. It had 200 bedrooms, a billiard room and a magnificent ballroom. At the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914 the Palace Hotel was seen to be the most favourable site to be used as a hospital for injured service personnel. The owner, Alfred Tolhuerst generously agreed that it could be used as a hospital rent free until the end of the war, which he apparently thought would be about 3 months away.



A committee was formed to run the hospital under the presidency of Her Majesty the Queen, and sufficient money was subscribed to thoroughly equip and furnish it. A visitor from the British Journal of Nursing described it as "Close to the sea dotted with fishing craft, and with wide balconies, on which the convalescents can enjoy the invigorating breezes, it is also a centre of endless interest to the townsfolk and visitors who congregate below, and deftly throw packets of cigarettes to the men on the balconies above them, who—slings and bandages notwithstanding—never fail to catch the gifts thus showered upon them.



There were seven wards—Mary, George, Albert, Elizabeth, France, Japan and Russia. The largest, Mary, was formed from the lounge, dining room and ballroom of the Palace Hotel and was reported to have "fine sea views and indeed when the sun sets, the sea seems an expanse of molten gold."





Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 3: Queen Mary Hospital



Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital Southend-on-Sea, formerly the Palace Hotel.



Wounded soldiers on the balcony of Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital, receiving gifts from locals and visitors.



Mary Ward of Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital, made from the lounge, dining room and ballroom of the 5 star Palace Hotel.

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