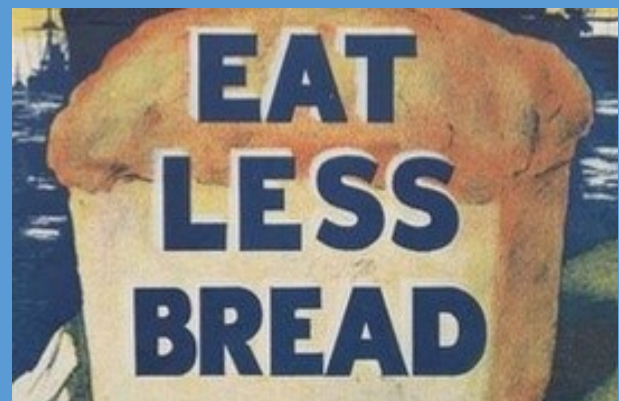
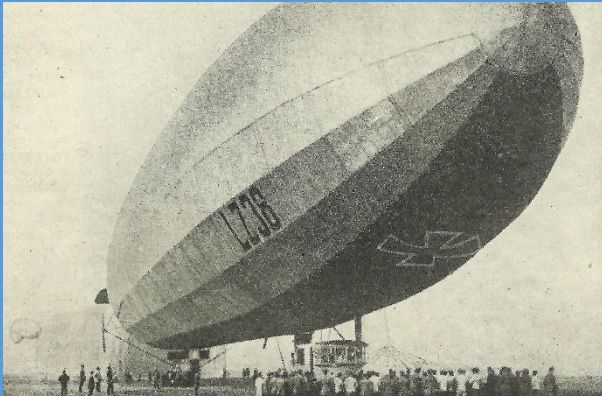




Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front Learning Materials



- 1: Schools
- 2: Zeppelin Raids
- 3: Hospital
- 4: Rationing



Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 1: Schools

School was a very different place in 1914. Most schools were divided into Girls and Boys classes with the girls being taught by female teachers and the boys by male. At the start of the war the school leaving age was just 12 years old but by 1918 that was raised to 14. Lessons for both boys and girls were mainly in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic but other subjects such as the history of the British Empire were often taught to children if their teacher has an interest. This photograph is of one of the classes at what is now West Leigh Junior School.



There were also many small private schools around the country, including Alexandra Collage in Westcliff (pictured left) that mainly taught girls aged between 11 and 18, who were from families that lived abroad but wanted their children to be educated in Britain. The Head of the school was Miss Elizabeth Bannester who in 1910 became the first female councillor in Southend—despite women not being able to vote.

During the Great War, the school day would have started with prayers and the class singing the national anthem—God Save the King. Younger children would have written on slate boards with chalk or charcoal, while older children would have used paper and pen with ink being kept in an ink well on the front of their desk. One big difference was that if children misbehaved the school teacher was allowed to use corporal punishment by hitting them on the hand or back of the legs with a cane or a leather strap or a wooden ruler or paddle.





Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 1: Schools

The School Log

13th September 1913: The school officially came into existence when the opening ceremony was performed by His Worship the Mayor of Southend, Alderman J. H. Burrows, Vice Chairman of the Essex Education Committee occupied the Chair and Mr. Chalton Hubbard, the Chairman of the School Education Committee gave an address on Education.

15th September 1913: Children were first admitted to the school on Monday morning September 15th 1913 under the headship of Mr. E. Hood. 256 boys and girls were admitted, 130 boys and 126 girls from the North Street Schools and the remainder from other local schools. Miss J. Durrant had charge of the Preparatory Class.

10th November 1913: Responsibility for West Leigh Schools moved from Essex County Education Committee to Southend Education Committee.

19th December 1913: Christmas concert and games followed by tea and drawing room fireworks. School closed at 5p.m. and each child was given an orange and a bag of sweets.

17th February 1914: The school nurse examined the heads of children and excluded six.

20th March 1914: The weather was very wet and attendance was low.

27th March 1914: The school has again won the Borough Attendance Shield and a half-day holiday for attendance. The Shield has now been held continuously since November 13th.

10th May 1915: German air raid on town, many bombs dropped. Although most of the children were up at 3a.m. and went through a most terrifying experience, only ten were kept at home.

1913 – 1923

1st May 1914: Annual May Festival given to a large audience of parents.

23rd May 1914: May Festival at Roots Hall, postponed by very bad weather, eventually performed in front of 7-8000 people.

22nd June 1914: A Southend Education Committee report on the mixed and infants departments stated: 'these new schools are well arranged, suitably equipped and satisfactorily furnished. The scholars attend very regularly and have settled down to steady work. Progress is already evident generally and especially in some classes in the mixed department where the work is decidedly good.'

26th June 1914: Half-day holiday for sports. School closed at 11.45a.m. to enable children to catch the train.

17th September 1914: Commenced school dinners owing to the war.

30th November 1914: Owing to lack of light during period of 'Martial Law' afternoon school began at 1.30p.m. and ended at 3.30p.m.

21st January 1915: Owing to lack of fuel there was no heat for the second time this winter. Children could only be kept warm by continually playing games.

28th January 1915: No fuel, heavy snow, no school in afternoon.

1st March 1915: Very low attendance due to outbreak of mumps.

10th May 1915: German air raid on town, many bombs dropped. Although most of the children were up at 3a.m. and went through a most terrifying experience, only ten were kept at home.

1913 – 1923

West Leigh Junior School Log 1914—1915





Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 1: Schools



West Leigh Junior School 1917



Alexandra Collage, Westcliff in 1910 and 2018

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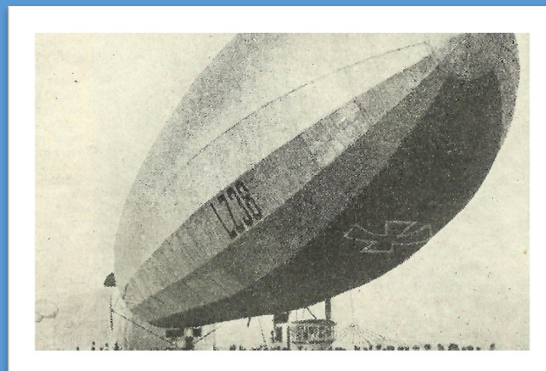


Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance

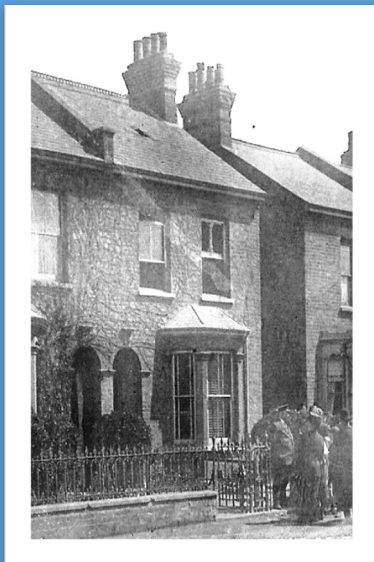


Great War Home Front 2: Zeppelin Raids

In previous wars the civilian population of the UK were unaffected by the conflict usually happening far away. On the 10th of May 1915 the war came to Southend in the shape of a German Zeppelin Airship that dropped nearly 100 bombs on the town. One person was killed. The Zeppelin that dropped the bombs was LZ38 and was captained by Hauptmann (Captain) Erich Linnarz .



The first bomb was dropped at 2.55 am in York Road, as damaged a house where a soldier was billeted. All of the windows were shattered causing minor wounds but no major injuries. The airship dropped several other bombs before moving off up the Thames. LZ38 was turned back by heavy anti aircraft fire at Canvey and headed back to Southend where it floated above Cobweb Corner (Victoria Circus).



The first casualty of this new type of warfare was Mrs Agnes Whitwell who was asleep in her home at 120 North Road when an incendiary bomb came through her roof and landed on her bed. Agnes was killed in the fire but her husband managed to escape with their disabled daughter by jumping out of the first floor window. In all just under 100 incendiary bombs were dropped from Southchurch to Leigh-on-Sea in the early hours of May 10th 1915. There were many air raids on Southend-on-Sea during the course of the war and when Zeppelins started being shot

down by the Royal Flying Corps, the German's switched to Gotha Bombers. The worst was in August 1917 when 10 men, 13 women and 9 children were killed.



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Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 2: Zeppelin Raids



■ Unexploded bomb – found by special constable William Ledicott

Constable's eye-witness report of raid

SPECIAL Constable William Ledicott, on duty on the night of May 15, 1915, reported to The Times the following day: "I was on the way to Cobweb Corner [Victoria Plaza] with the other constables when we heard the loud rush of an airship's propellers. On going to the centre of the road and looking in the direction of Leigh, we saw an airship coming along, fairly high up, from seawards.

The time was 16 minutes to 3 (am). She came until she was exactly over Cobweb Corner. Gradually she turned again, and then for four minutes – I timed her – she hovered in the air. Her engines appeared to be stopped, and she showed no lights. She was painted slate grey.

A moment later the Zeppelin restarted her engines and immediately a bomb was dropped. It fell in the centre of the road, where it made a large hole, but failed to explode.

Then another fell on London Road. It was of the incendiary type, and I ran up and put it out.

Then a bomb fell on a house at number 61 and started a fire. I went off to the station to give the alarm, and motor and horse fire engines passed me on their way to another fire which had just started in another part of the same street at a boarding establishment called Cromwell House.

At the corner of Boston Avenue, I picked up a bomb which had failed to do any damage."

LIVE ON



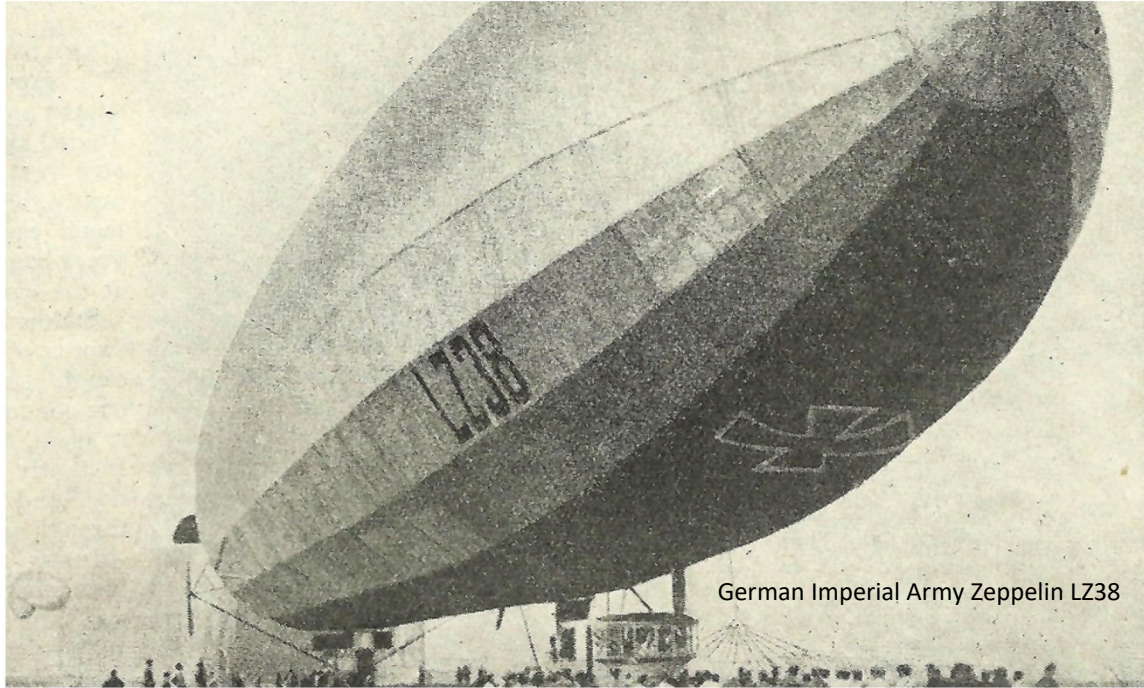
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Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 2: Zeppelin Raids



German Imperial Army Zeppelin LZ38



Bomb damage at 120 North Road

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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 not

withstanding—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."



LIVE ON



LOTTERY FUNDED



Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 3: Queen Mary Hospital

386.

The British Journal of Nursing.

November 14, 1914

H.M. QUEEN MARY'S ROYAL NAVAL HOSPITAL.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

There could scarcely be a finer site for a naval hospital than that secured by the Committee of Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital in the Palace Hotel at Southend. 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.

Although the hospital is a naval one, it is at present full of wounded British and Belgian soldiers, 268 beds out of a possible 300 being occupied. The Matron, Miss Finnemore, trained at Guy's Hospital, is full of sympathy for these patients. She will never, she says, forget the arrival of the Belgians, mostly from Antwerp, and many of them severely wounded. They had had no opportunity of a change or a wash for weeks, and the whole nursing staff worked their hardest, far into the night, to get them comfortably settled in bed. The British patients fared better, as they were landed at Plymouth, and were able to get washed, and have a change of linen, before coming on to Southend.

It is astonishing what a short time in hospital does for these wounded soldiers. Rest, good food, and sleep quickly restores them, and when I visited the hospital, which has been open a short three weeks, on Saturday last, the

majority of beds were empty, and the balconies crowded with convalescents. Some of the more serious cases were lying on their beds, and, incidentally I may remark that anyone wishing to befriend the hospital could not do better than give it some hundreds of quilts, as at present it boasts of very few, and new white blankets will soon be white no longer, if patients who are up, and need a rest, lie on the top of them. A gift of pillows would also be appreciated.

There are in all seven wards—Mary, George, Albert, Elizabeth, France, Japan, and Russia. The largest were formerly the lounge, the dining-room, and the ball-room, and have fine sea views, and indeed, when the sun sets, the sea seems an expanse of molten gold, a quite unexpected revelation of beauty for the East Coast.

There is a large dining-room where those patients who are up have meals. The dinners come up from the kitchen on a lift, and are served from a hot table near by.

A well-equipped theatre, sterilizing room, and X-ray room have been arranged. The nurses have comfortable quarters at the top of the building, as single bedrooms of the hotel provide ample accommodation. In the hospital part of the building, however, it is regrettable that there are no single rooms which can be utilized

as wards for sick or wounded officers.

Her Majesty the Queen is President of the Hospital, and Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, G.C.V.O., is amongst its distinguished Vice-Presidents. Dr. W. Hale White is the Chairman and Consulting Physician, and Sir Alfred D. Fripp, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon, and Mr. R. H. Jocelyn Swan, F.R.C.S., are also members of the Committee. Dr. Chisholm is Resident Medical Officer, and



Photo]

[Southend Standard.

MISS K. E. FINNEMORE, MATRON.





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.

LIVE ON

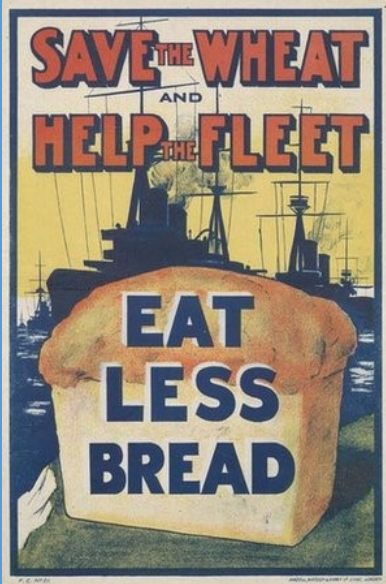




Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 4: Rationing



Rationing in Southend wasn't officially introduced until New Year's Eve 1917 but from 1915 food started to become scarce due to the amount of men and resources being diverted from food production to military use. Prices were restricted for basic food items but In 1916 both the wheat and potato crops were much smaller than usual and this made food scarce and led to long queues up and down the high street. The Ministry for



Agriculture began campaigns to encourage people to either eat different types of food or use what food they did have better. Families were also encouraged to grow their own food in gardens and allotments across the borough. With so many people serving abroad in the armed forces there was much less to go around at home and in 1917 the German Imperial Submarines began a tactic the of unrestricted sinking transport ships coming to Britain. In late 1917 food shortages led to panic buying and hoarding, so for the first time the British Government told people what they could eat so that the food that was available would be shared equally.

Food that was rationed was:

- Meat
- Bread
- Butter
- Cheese
- Sugar
- Tea
- Milk

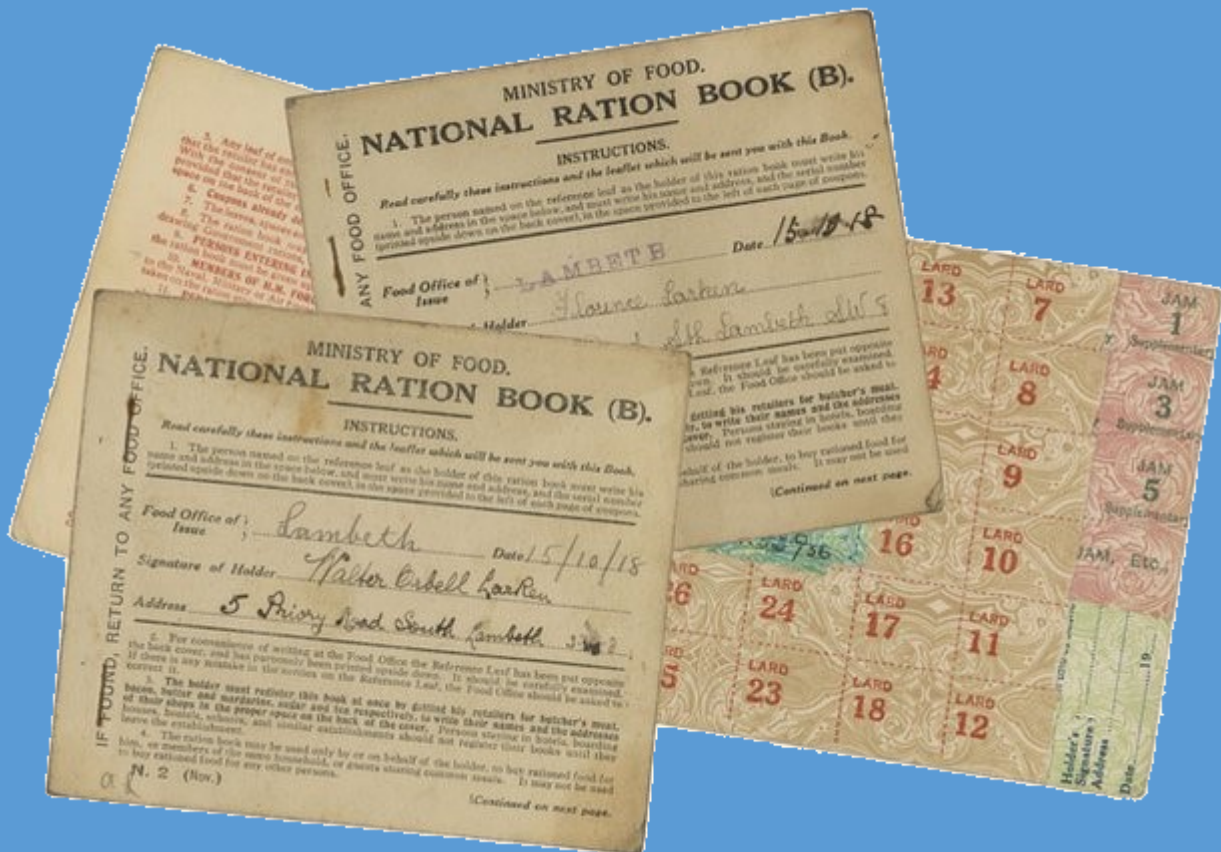




Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 4: Rationing



DEFENCE OF THE REALM. E.P. 8.
MINISTRY OF FOOD.

BREACHES OF THE RATIONING ORDER

The undermentioned convictions have been recently obtained:—

Court	Date	Nature of Offence	Result
HENDON - -	29th Aug., 1918	Unlawfully obtaining and using ration books -	3 Months' Imprisonment
WEST HAM -	29th Aug., 1918	Being a retailer & failing to detach proper number of coupons	Fined £20
SMETHWICK -	22nd July, 1918	Obtaining meat in excess quantities - - -	Fined £50 & £5 5s. costs
OLD STREET -	4th Sept., 1918	Being a retailer selling to unregistered customer	Fined £72 & £5 5s. costs
OLD STREET -	4th Sept., 1918	Not detaching sufficient coupons for meat sold -	Fined £25 & £2 2s. costs
CHESTER-LE-STREET	4th Sept., 1918	Being a retailer returning number of registered customers in excess of counterfoils deposited - - -	Fined £50 & £3 5s. costs
HIGH WYCOMBE	7th Sept., 1918	Making false statement on application for and using Ration Books unlawfully - - - - -	Fined £40 & £6 4s. costs

Enforcement Branch, Local Authorities Division,
MINISTRY OF FOOD.
September, 1918.

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Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front 4: Rationing



Food queue in London, 1917

Barley Bread

3 cups barley flour	1 teaspoon salt
1 cup white flour	1 tablespoon corn syrup
5 teaspoons Royal Baking Powder	1 tablespoon shortening
	1 1/2 cups water and milk

Sift dry ingredients; add liquid slowly to make a stiff dough; add syrup and melted shortening; mix and put into greased loaf pan and allow to stand in warm place 25 to 30 minutes. Bake in moderate oven 35 to 45 minutes.

Oatmeal Bread

1 cup flour	1 1/2 cups cooked oatmeal or rolled oats
1 1/2 cups corn meal	1 egg
1 teaspoon salt	2 tablespoons shortening
5 teaspoons Royal Baking Powder	1 cup milk
2 tablespoons sugar	

Mix together flour, corn meal, salt, baking powder and sugar; add oatmeal. Add beaten egg, melted shortening and milk. Mix well and bake in greased shallow pan in moderate oven 40 to 45 minutes.

Rice or Potato Bread

1 1/2 cups scalded milk	4 teaspoons Royal Baking Powder
1 1/2 cups corn meal	1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon shortening	3/4 cup boiled rice or fresh mashed potatoes
1 egg	

Pour scalded milk over corn meal and add shortening. Beat egg until very light and add slowly. Cool and add baking powder and salt. Mix well and add the rice or potatoes. Bake in greased shallow pan in hot oven 35 minutes.

Nut or Raisin Bread

3 cups graham or barley flour	1/2 cup sugar or corn syrup
5 teaspoons Royal Baking Powder	1 cup chopped nuts (not too fine) or 1 cup seeded raisins washed and floured
1 1/2 teaspoons salt	
1 1/2 cups milk and water	

Mix together flour, baking powder and salt; add milk and water, sugar or corn syrup and nutmeats or raisins; mix well and put into greased loaf pan, allow to stand 20 minutes in warm place. Bake in moderate oven 40 to 45 minutes.

Great War alternate bread recipes

Great War save bread poster



Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance



Great War Home Front Learning Materials

The Southend Schools Festival of Remembrance is a partnership project between the Leigh-on-Sea Branch of the Royal British Legion and local Not For Profit company Blade Education.

The project has been funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Leigh Town Council and Southend Borough Council.

Many thanks to all of those who have made the project possible by giving their volunteer time and expertise to support the activities and events throughout the year.

For more information about the project visit our website:

www.ssfr.org.uk

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