

Zeppelins over Southend

An approach to researching
Southend in the First World War

THE PRINCIPAL THEMES

- Bombing, bomb damage and popular reaction
- Anti-Aircraft defence and Rochford Aerodrome
- Anti German sentiment and the Prison Ships
- Work on the Home Front
- Great War Hospitals

AIR RAIDS AND BOMB DAMAGE

**THE DAILY
MIRROR**

HUNS' HAVOC



AT SOUTHEND

Bill poster, Southend Museum collections

Extract from Daily Mirror

CROWDS THROUGH STREETS TO SEE THE AIR HUNS AT WORK.

The Kaiser's air Huns are doing their best to rival the sea Huns.

That German blood just has in no way been sated by the stupendous crime of the Lusitania, was shown yesterday when a Zeppelin appeared over the Thames and dropped 100 bombs on Southend—just thirty-eight miles from London.

Bombs were dropped on Southend, Westcliff and Leigh, one woman being killed in her bed and several persons injured.

A fatuous official German statement, issued last night, ran:

"One of our airships dropped some bombs on the fortified place of Southend, at the estuary of the Thames."

Southend, as the Germans well know, is a pleasure resort. In every air raid they have taken good care to avoid fortified places. To attack such centres would require pluck; so, of course, they exhibit their military prowess by bravely "bombing" seaside towns and inland villages. Thus the Huns take revenge on the "hated English."

Damage estimated at about £10,000 was caused by the bombardment. Four houses and a timber-yard were burned out and six other buildings were struck. The night sky was illuminated by the lurid glow of the conflagrations.

SOUTHEND STANDARD
Air Raid Supplement
THURSDAY MAY 11, 1917



*You English in your own
+ other towns...
Hell & Core
General*



1. Zeppelin over Southend. 2. Men in front of the house.

**DAILY
TELEGRAPH**

Tuesday, May 11.

**ZEPPELIN
RAID
ON SOUTHEND
100 BOMBS THROWN**



Anti-German Union.

Grand Patriotic Rally,

ELM HALL, Elm Rd,
LEIGH-ON-SEA.
Thursday, Jan 20th

DOORS OPEN 7 O'CLOCK.
Patriotic Music until 7.45.
When the Choir will be taken by
Mr. JAMES THOMPSON.

The Meeting will be
Addressed by
The Rev. A. J. WALDRON,

Late Vicar of Brixton, and Author
of "Should a Woman Tell,"
And other Speakers from the
Anti-German Union.

Anti-German Union,

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BRANCH.

**NO German Goods.
NO German Labour.
NO German Influence.
BRITONS for the BRITISH.**

Local Offices—
71, Milton Chambers,
Weston Road,
Southend-on-Sea,
Where members can be enrolled.

Over 700 Members.
Membership (Yearly) 1/-
Badges (Optional) 6d. each.

Local Sec. Sec. G. WALLING.



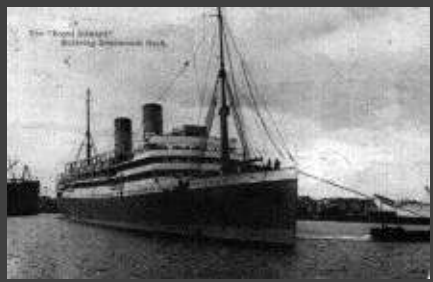
Southend and Westcliff Graphic



GERMAN PRISONERS ARRIVING UNDER GUARD AT SOUTHEND-ON-SEA



Imperial War Museum Q53656



S.S. IVERNIA, 1900 Cunard Line
Courtesy The Astoria Museum of Juleti



Images downloaded from Internet



Southend and Westcliff Graphic

40

Day:	Breakfast:	Lunch:	Dinner:
Sunday:	Puridge Eggs & Bacon Bread & Butter Tea Coffee	Cold Meats Cheese Pickles Bread & Butter Tea	Soup Baked Fish Roast Beef Potatoes, Cabbage Rice, Peas Bread
Monday:	Puridge Kippers Irish Stew Bread & Butter Jam, Tea, Coffee	Sardines Cold Meat Bread & Butter Beechroot Salad Tea	Soup Sauce of Veal Roast Mutton Potatoes, Green Peas Stewed Fruit Bread
Tuesday:	Puridge Fried Fish Mutton Chops Potatoes Bread & Butter Marmalade Tea Coffee	Cold Meats Cheese Pickles Bread & Butter Tea	Soup Baked Fish Roast Beef Potatoes, Carrots Mince, Pickling Bread
Wednesday:	Puridge Bacon Gordal Stew Potatoes Bread & Butter Tea Coffee	Fresh Herrings Cold Meats Bread & Butter Tea	Soup Fried Fish Roast Pork Potatoes, Mince Rice Stewed Fruit Bread
Thursday:	Puridge Kippers Irish Stew Bread & Butter Jam, Tea, Coffee	Sardines Cold Meat Bread & Butter Beechroot Salad Tea	Soup Sauce of Veal Roast Mutton Potatoes, Green Peas Stewed Fruit Bread
Friday:	Puridge Fried Fish Mutton Chops Potatoes Bread & Butter Marmalade Tea Coffee	Cold Meats Cheese Pickles Bread & Butter Tea	Soup Baked Fish Roast Beef Potatoes, Cabbage Rice, Peas Bread
Saturday:	Puridge Bacon Gordal Stew Potatoes Bread & Butter Tea Coffee	Fresh Herrings Cold Meats Bread & Butter Tea	Soup Fried Fish Roast Pork Potatoes, Mince Rice Stewed Fruit Bread

CAPTAIN & SURGEON.

TNA Report on Prison Ships, 1915

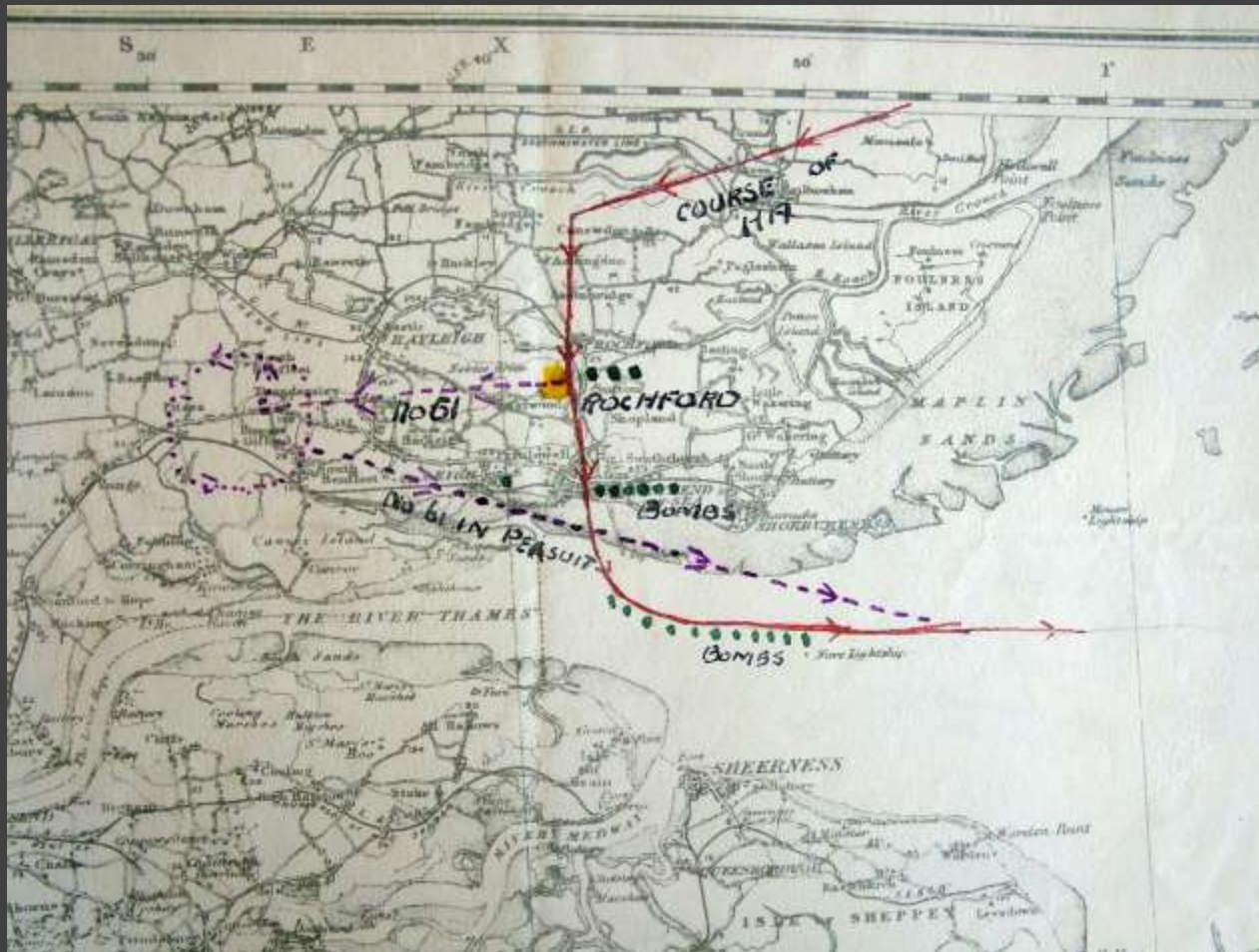
Air Raid, August 12th 1917



Imperial War Museum, Q168847



Imperial War Museum Q108844



Official map from the National Archives showing the route of the Gotha Raid, August 12, 1917. (TNA AIR1/591/16/15/204, p13)



Old Clay Pit

School

94.6

Library

Goods Shed

Station (GER)

ST. ANNE'S ROAD

PORTERS TOWN

DOWSETT AVENUE

STATION APPROACH

Sch.

Hall

109.7

Sch. 100.9

Hotel 91.1

82.5

Cinema

Victoria Hospl.

WARRIOR SQUARE N

WARRIOR SQUARE SOUTH

PARK ST

PRINCES ST

ASHBURNHAM

GORDON ROAD

NAPIER AVENUE

ELMER AVENUE

ELMER PLACE

PARRINSON

WARRIOR SQ. N

Ch.

PORTERS GRANGE AVENUE

GATE ROAD

AEROPLANE RAIDS, AUGUST, 1917.

SECTION I.

The Air Raid on 12th August, 1917.

1. Weather conditions.—On 12th August, 1917, B.K. England the Channel and southern North Sea lay between an anticyclone centred over southern France and Switzerland, and a depression moving eastwards N.W. of Ireland. The barometer over Rome was at 29.76 inches. Windy, cloudy. A westerly S. to S.W. breeze (force 2-4) was blowing; surface velocity, 13-18 miles per hour; at 2,000 feet, 20 miles per hour; at 10,000 feet, 19 miles per hour. Over Rome and the coast the sky was three-quarters obscured. Visibility was good. The lighter and slight barometer on the Channel (29.93 inches in Holland at 7 a.m.) was doubtless the same to render the weather fairly over those islands that was actually the case.

2. At 5.5 p.m. on 12th August, a flight of six Gotha aeroplanes, commanded by Oberleutnant Walker, belonging to the 3rd Battalion Squadron, was observed approaching Fokstone from the direction of the South Lightship; it was said to have been accompanied by two or three machines of a Scout type, perhaps intended to act as an escort. It is now known, however, that these were British machines from Harlow, which were over Harwich somewhat later. One was fired on by searchlights, but was not identified as one of our own machines and, of course, the military anti-aircraft guns did not open fire, owing to information passed from the Navy that the machine was British. At 8.15 p.m. the enemy were over 2 miles S.W. of Harwich, and they came in close to the head at Walton-on-Noah, going S.W. along the coast, down which they passed their way, passing 2 miles S.W. of Orford at 8.20 p.m. and crossing into the estuary of the Blackwater at 8.30 p.m. They were seen from Merton Island being towards Chapel Point on the Beaulieu shore of the Blackwater, at a height of about 12,000 feet in elevation, then—



the leader being somewhat lower than the rest. As they came in over Chapel Point they rapidly climbed to 10,000 feet, and headed along the western bank of the Blackwater towards Mallow, followed by a few ineffective raids of anti-aircraft fire (apparently from a machine) which caused no least to least six miles behind and well beneath the line of the enemy machines. They passed on, leaving Mallow on their right, and then turned to the eastward in the direction of Beaulieu, where, at about 8.30 p.m., they bombed the aerodrome, dropping two 50-lb. H.E. bombs, which injured two men of the R.F.C., but did no damage. The bombs fell about ten yards apart, some 200 yards from the target. A third 50-lb. bomb was dropped close to the railway in the immediate neighbourhood, doing no damage. By this time a large number of British aeroplanes were in the air, and a formation of the 5th Squadron, which had gone up from Harwich, was maintaining its own for the enemy's height. When the British machines were still over 5,000 feet below the ranks, the peculiarity of our flight was

A.2

Appendix III—Continued.

Machine	No.	Marked up	Time of Attack	Time of Descent	Remarks	
						Type
1	1	Searchlight	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)	Lighted searchlight observed flying east and followed them up to the point of attack. Found about 10 miles at sea machine at about 10,000 feet, where machine began to spiral and fell to earth.
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No. of M.C. Machine	Machine	Time of Attack	Time of Descent	Remarks	Time of Descent	Remarks	Time of Descent	Remarks
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				
1	1	5.45	7.11	(H.H.)				

ASR 1/1007/10/1/1917

Please report to be filled in immediately on return in accordance and handed to the Commanding Officer at FLYING SQUADRON.

1. Name and Squadron.
2. Time of observation.
3. Location (Name and Number).
4. Type and nature of machine.
5. Time of descent.
6. Remarks.

Remarks: (to be filled in)

1. Name of observer.

2. Name of machine.

3. Time of descent.

4. Remarks.

5. Name of observer.

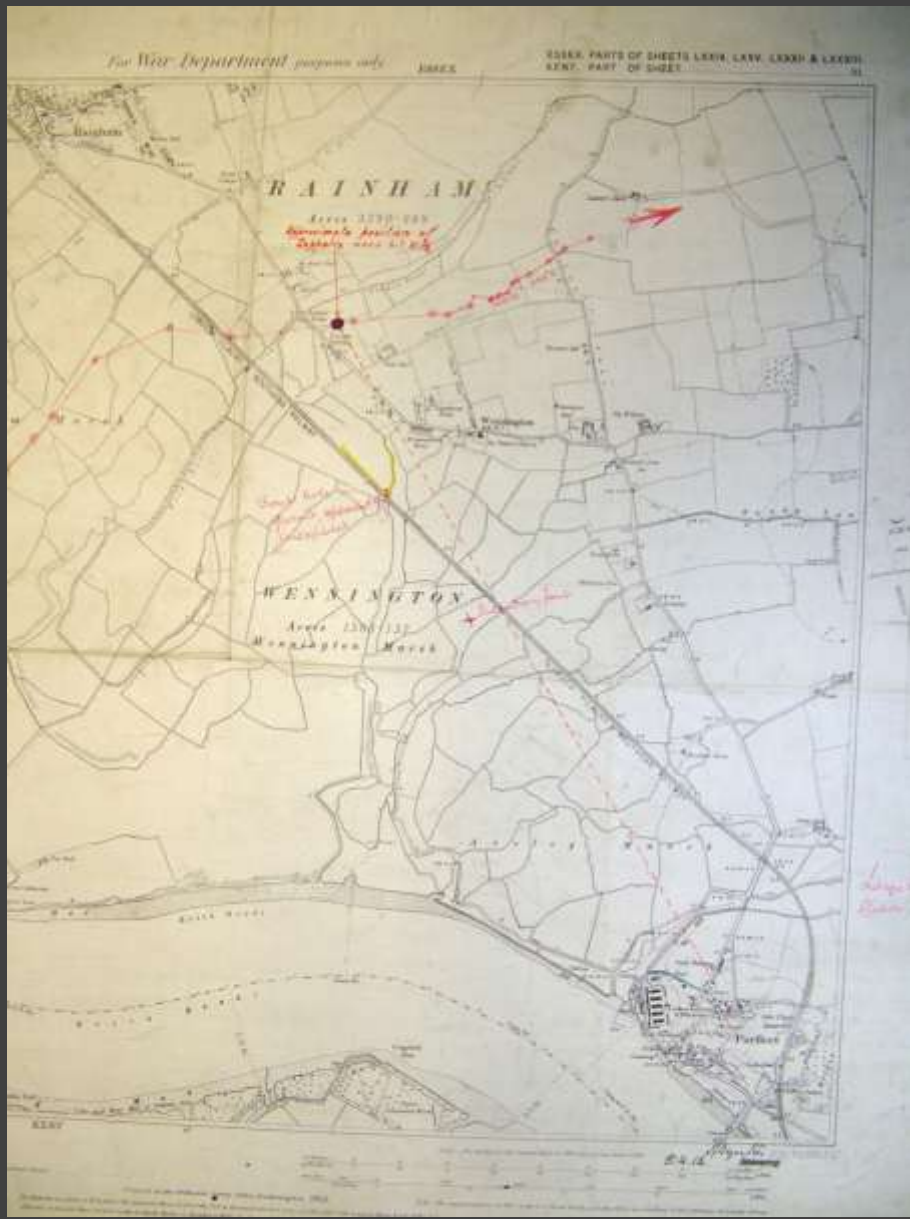
6. Name of machine.

7. Time of descent.

8. Remarks.

TNA AIR1/2123/207/73/18

AIR DEFENCES AND ROCHFORD AERODROME



TNA Air 1/2123/207/73/7



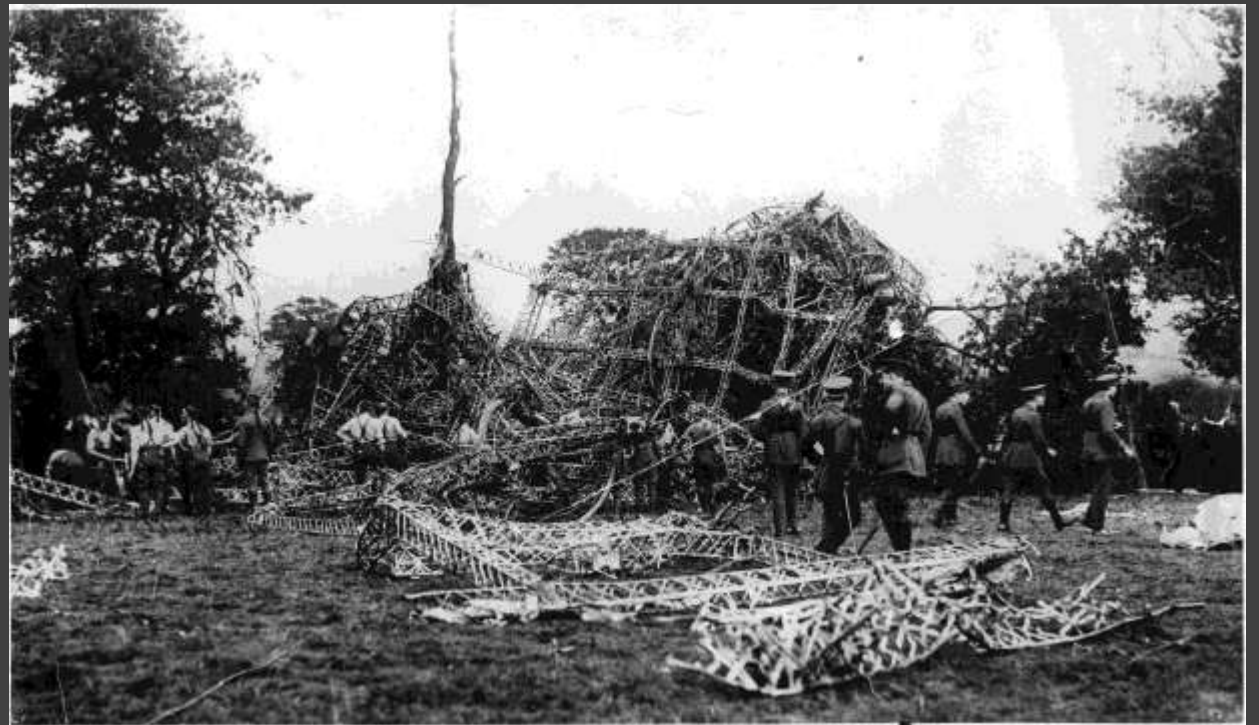
Southend Museum
collections



Southend and Westcliff Graphic



Zeppelin L32 (from Zeppelin Museum,
Friedrichshafen)





Flight sub-lieutenant in his Bristol Scout C at Rochford.
RAF Museum, Hendon, P155566



Reproduced from an album
in private possession;
aircraft at Rochford
Aerodrome, 1918



Sopwith Camel, No 44 Squadron, IWM
Q67902

WORKING ON THE HOME FRONT



Serving out trenchcoats to Westcliff Special Constables. ("Graphic" photo).

Southend and Westcliff Graphic



4th Bat. Essex Regiment; Southend Home Guard. ERO D/DS 229/58



MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTEER WATCH, from Victoria Avenue and District and the bat which has been lent by Mr. W. E. Davey on a piece of land provided by Mr. Elam. Among the number are Messrs. A. Taylor, J. Sellar, H. J. Jefferies, F. A. Dennithorne, and Spence. ("Graphic" photo).



SOME SOUTHEM SHILL-MAKERS.

(1) A group of munition workers, including the Borough Surveyor, Mr. H. J. Wood (indicated by a cross). (2) Shells ready for dispatch. ("Graphic" photo).

Novel Scenes on Southend Cliffs.



WOMEN WORKERS ON THE G.E.R.



Manila rope is used by the women outside, whereas inside, as the G.E.R. Motor is painted, and repainted and inside from within are ("Graphic" photo).



WOMEN'S WAR-WORK.

The first Leigh postwoman on her first round ("Graphic" photo).



Boy Scouts from this district are doing useful work on the internment ships.

HOSPITALS IN THE GREAT WAR

First World War Hospitals

Start with Red Cross archives – County Volume and Card Index

ERO Catalogue

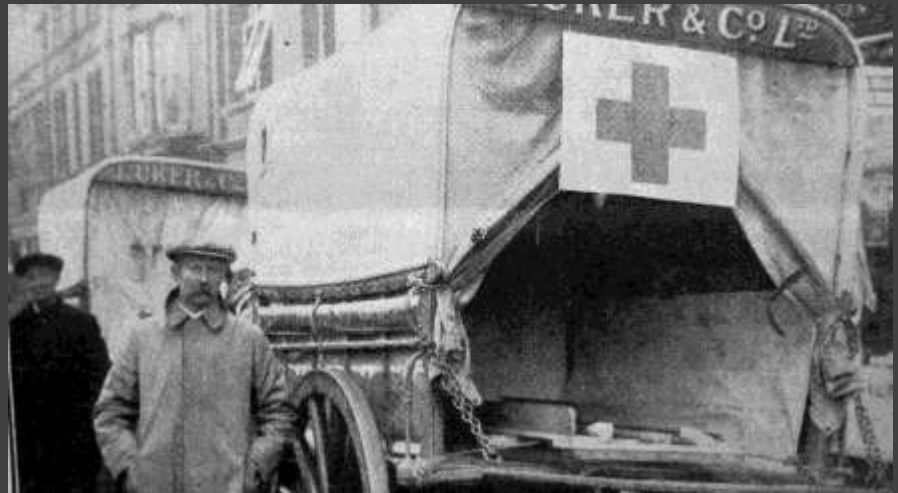
Then Scan county/local press for mentions

Look at very useful on-line index to British Nursing Journal

There are many recently published books on medical provision in Great War (mostly relating to France/Western Front)

Good background information in Official History of the Great War (pub 1921)







(Duplicate)
Cook M. Reginald
 Date 11.1.1916 No. 4157
 12
 A. P. Singer, Victoria
 Home Town Brighton Telephone
 Next of Kin Mr & Mrs
 (Father) John Hunt Nelson and Mrs. William Wright
 Qualifications
 R. Red Cross Hosp. Victoria, Victoria Hospital, Cook
 Experience Brighton, Victoria Hosp. Brighton, Victoria
 Present Occupation Surgeon, Air Force, Home Brighton
 Foreign Languages French
 Nationality English
 Salary £10.4.0
 No. of Badges
 No. of Documents

B.A. Hosp. Mansfield, Leicestershire. 20.5.16 - 27.1.17
 Red Cross Hosp. Upstaly, Hants. 21.1.17 - 28.2.17
 Overcliff Hosp. The Leas, Westcliff-on-sea 2.3.17 - 24.3.17
 V.A. Hosp. Sidmouth, Devon. 31.3.17 - 31.7.18
 3 weeks holiday to Aug 13/18
 Red Cross Hospital, Walsby, Notts. 11.8.18 - 17.3.19
 Recd. Notice 4.1.19
 Remot. Grant £14.15.0 paid 7.4.19

(Duplicate)
Hayward Beatrice M.
 Date 1-6-16 No. 3962
 12
 The Infirmary, Cambeswell No. 28
 A. P. Singer, Victoria
 Next of Kin C.S.M. Hayward R.F.
 (Brother) B.E.F. France
 Qualification The Infirmary, Cambeswell
 Experience Casual Nursing at Cotswold & Bay, Essex
 Bordenia, 28 July, 1900 - 6 Oct. 1909.
 Present Occupation Nurse
 Foreign Languages
 Nationality English
 Salary £4.0.0
 No. of Badges
 No. of Documents

Overcliff Hosp. The Leas, Westcliff-on-sea 30.3.17 - 27.8.17
 2 weeks holiday to July 1917
 V.A. Hosp. Sidmouth, Devon. 31.3.17 - 31.7.18
 B.A. Hosp. Mansfield, Leicestershire 20.5.16 - 27.1.17
 Overcliff Hosp. The Leas, Westcliff-on-sea 2.3.17 - 24.3.17
 V.A. Hosp. Bridlington, Yorks. 20.11.18 - 1.1.19
 Recd. Notice 28.12.18
 Remot. Grant £10.9.6 paid 24/1/19
 Recd. 13 small letters 17, Brighton
 Applying for
 free passage to
 New Zealand

Red Cross index cards



THE HIPPODROME
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH
 Doors open 2 p.m. Commence at **2.30** precise Early Doors 1.45 p.m.

MR. FRED A. DONNITHORNE *is in receipt of*
Grand Vocal and Instrumental
MATINEE CONCERT

IN AID OF THE FUND OF
H.M. Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital.

Tickets may be obtained at the following Committee:
 CHAIRMAN: FRED SQUIER, The Broadway, New Timson.
 Mr. W. WEXLEY, The Broadway.
 Mr. F. W. STEWART, 21, High Street, 20, Cranley Road, New Timson.
 Mr. T. J. GILBERT, Music Stores, Chalkwell and Winton.
 Mr. FRED A. DONNITHORNE, The Broadway Bakers Co., The Broadway.
 Miss Isobel DUFFY, of The Broadway Bakers Co., The Broadway, Southend (Phone 477),
 and Gilbert's Music Store, The Broadway.

**Boxes to Seat 5, £2 2 0 & 21 1 0; Orchestra Stalls, 3-; Circle (first 2 rows) 2-;
 Circle, 1-; P.N. 1-; Gallery, 6d. Early Doors Pit and Gallery, 3d. extra.
 SOLDIERS AND SAILORS IN UNIFORM HALF-PRICE TO GALLERY.**

**SOUTHEND RED
 CROSS HOSPITALS**
 (Glen and Overcliff).



A
GIFT DAY
 and **FÊTE**

Will be held at
CHALKWELL PARK,
On Wed., July 28th

From **3** p.m. until **8** p.m.

**H.R.H. PRINCESS
 CLEMENTINE**
NAPOLEON (of Belgium)

Has graciously promised to attend
**To receive Gifts of Goods or
 Money for use of the Hospitals**

My approach to successful research!

- Don't research just for exhibition texts: do 'full' research and then distil information for texts.
- Ensure that background reading is targeted – don't attempt to read 'everything'.
- Define the themes that you want to explore
- Formulate specific questions to answer
- Identify potential sources – and don't be afraid to ask for help!

Any Questions?