

Home Front 1914-18



Dave Chisholm

THE FIRST WORLD WAR HOME FRONT 1914-18

Can you identify this type of First World War building or site?

Clue...



By Sea: Site Type - Bomb Site.

Clue:-

B _ _ _ S _ _ _

Clue:- German battleships and submarines sometimes bombarded coastal towns and ports.

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Can you identify this type of First World War building or site?

Clue...



By Sea: Site Type - Sound Mirror.

Clue:-

S _ _ _ D M _ _ _ R

Clue:- German aeroplanes and Zeppelins could be heard approaching the coast using this device. German aircraft carried out many bombing raids on towns and cities, including London.

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Can you identify this type of First World War building or site?

Clue...



By Sea: Site Type - auxiliary hospital.

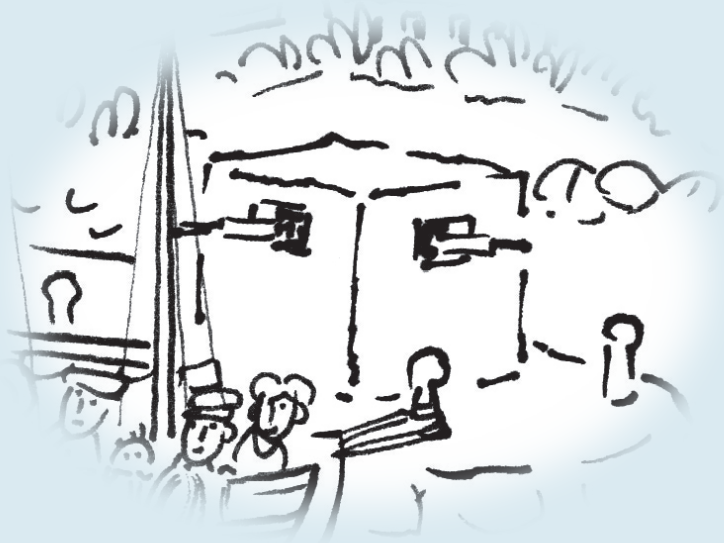
Clue:-
H _ _ _ _ L

Clue:- Extra hospital beds were needed including hotels, town halls and schools.

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Can you identify this type of First World War building or site?

Clue...



By Sea: Site Type - pillbox

Clue:-
P _ _ L _ _ X

Clue:- Defences were built in case of invasion. Pillboxes, concrete buildings with machine guns, were of many different shapes and sizes.

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Clue...



Clue:-

By Sea: Site Type - Displaced Person's Camp.

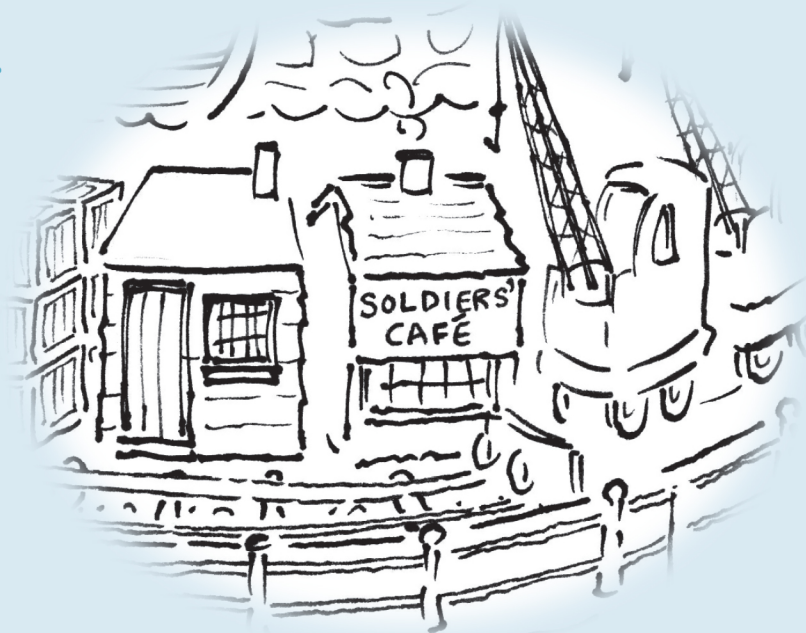
I _ _ _ _ _ T C _ _ P

Clue:- People of German origin living in this country were placed in internment camps.

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Can you identify this type of First World War building or site?

Clue...



Clue:-

By Sea: Site Type - soldiers' rest room.

S _ _ D _ _ _ S C _ _ E

Clue:- Soldiers were provided with refreshments when travelling.

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By Sea: Coast

Thames Sailing Barge crew.

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By Sea: Coast

Fishermen.

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By Sea: Coast

Soldiers arriving back in England.

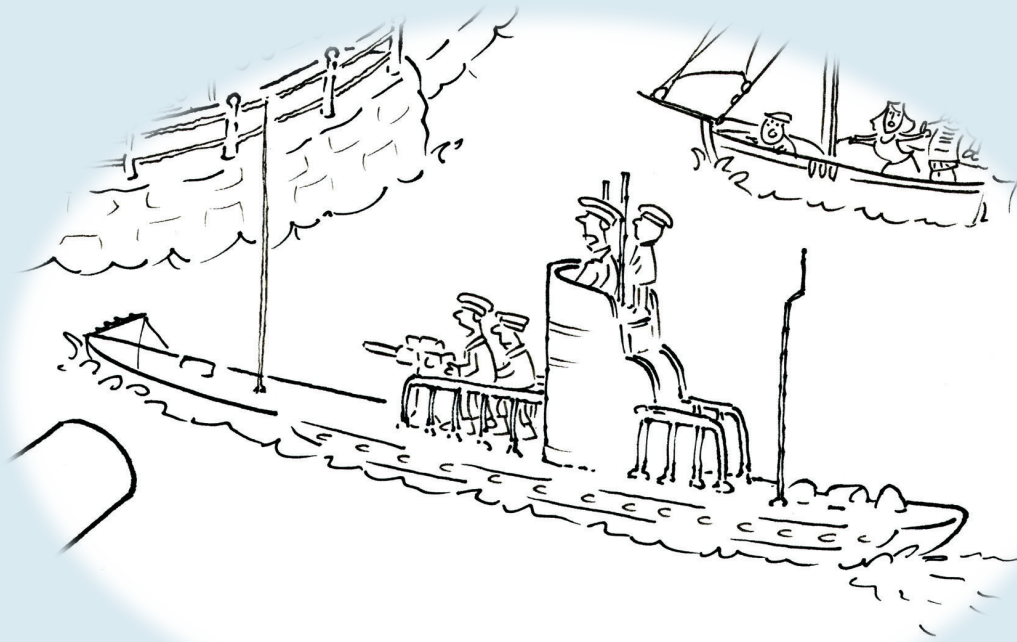
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By Sea: Coast

Two people helping fight fires.

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By Sea: Coast

U-Boat crew.

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By Sea: Coast

Coastal battery team.

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IWM

By Sea: Coast

Prisoners of War and refugees
at Handforth Camp.

© IWM (HU 53374)

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IWM

By Sea: Coast

Pillbox. © IWM (Q 17707)

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By Sea: Coast

Christmas Day in the London
Bridge YMCA Canteen.

© IWM (Art.IWM Art 3062)

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By Sea: Coast

Sound mirror. © Historic England aa93_05174

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By Sea: Coast

Shell damage to The Crescent, Scarborough, following the raid of 16 December 1914.

© Chris Kolonko

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By Sea: Coast

H.M. Queen Mary's Auxilliary Hospital, Southend-on-Sea.

© Chris Kolonko

Belgian Refugees

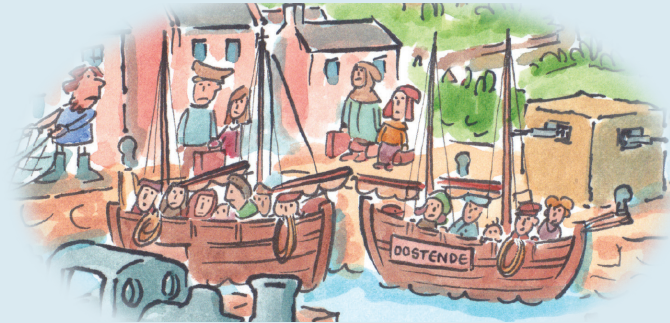
In August 1914, the German Army invaded Belgium. Terrified families became refugees as they fled from their homes to escape the War. Many families travelled on small boats to England.

They were especially welcomed because The United Kingdom was friendly with Belgium. Thousands of people offered homes and jobs to the refugees to help them settle.

Some of the Belgian children went to local schools, and their names can still be found in the school records from that time.

In a few places Belgians opened new shops on the high street, introducing British people to new types of food and other goods.

There was even one new village built called Elizabethville. The village had its own Belgian laws, shops, school and church. The people worked nearby in a huge armaments factory.



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Sound Mirrors

During the First World War, German Zeppelin airships crossed over the North Sea and dropped bombs on British towns and cities. They often arrived without warning, causing great fear and giving the people below little time to shelter.

The sound mirror was invented to help detect and give an early warning of the zeppelins and other enemy aircraft as they crossed the coast. The mirror was like a big concrete dish, standing upright, shaped a bit like a satellite dish. The mirror projected the incoming sound waves, given out by the engine of the aircraft, onto one focal point in front of the dish. The operator's job was to use a microphone or stethoscope to detect the direction that noise was coming from and where it was likely to be going to. This was a highly skilled job as the operator had to know what the sound of the aircraft was like and be able to distinguish it from other sounds. The sound of an incoming aircraft could be detected up to fifteen miles away.

Some of these sound mirrors can still be seen today. The best examples from the First World War are at Namey Hill near Sunderland and Fan Bay in Kent.

They continued to be used after the war, but as aircraft became faster, sound mirrors were no longer useful as they could not give sufficient warning of an air raid.

