

1919 - 1953



## Home Front Legacy 1914–18

### What We Are Looking For

Below are some suggestions of the type of structures you may find within the Aerofilms collection. To help you get started with your research, you may wish to consult our lists of First World War sites, or use your own sources and local knowledge.

#### Air-related structures:

New technologies required specialist facilities, and the First World War saw the construction of airfields and balloon stations with dedicated buildings to house and maintain flying machines. The new threat of aerial warfare, initially from Zeppelin airships, prompted a sophisticated anti-aircraft defence system, including purpose-built gun batteries.

Images within the collection may include air-related structures such as:

- ~ **Airfields, ~ Airships, ~ Balloon sheds, ~ Flying-boat hangars, ~ Anti-aircraft sites,**
- ~ **Aircraft factories, ~ Sites associated with German air raids**

#### Land-related structures:

During the First World War, land was needed for camps that would house the new armies, and serve as training areas for the thousands of troops. To equip the army, air force and navy, the conflict became a war of production. Existing factories were extended, and vast new ones created. In towns and cities, many buildings assumed new roles, as headquarters for refugee charities, as meeting places for knitting and sewing circles that provided comforts for the troops, as rest cafés for soldiers, sailors and airmen, as well as for many other uses. The countryside was worked more intensively to produce food and timber, and country houses were offered up for war service as military hospitals and convalescent homes.

Images within the collection may include land-related structures such as:

- ~ **Munitions and engineering factories, ~ Anti-invasion defences,**
- ~ **Practice trenches and battlefields, ~ Army camps, ~ Drill halls, ~ Hospitals,**
- ~ **Wartime housing estates for factory workers**

## Sea-related structures:

Throughout the war, both Britain and Germany used their naval might to blockade the seas, preventing vital supplies of food and raw materials from getting through to the enemy. German warships also bombarded a number of towns along England's east coast.

Wireless stations were set up in Great Britain to listen to German signals, communicate with shipping, and to co-ordinate the country's air defence. Great progress was made in wireless communications throughout the war, and by war's end it was being used in combination with other new technologies, including airships, tanks and aircraft, and the jamming and monitoring of enemy communications had become routine.

Images within the collection may include sea-related structures such as:

- ~ Shipbuilding yards, ~ Remains of concrete ships used principally around the coast,
- ~ Coastal defences, ~ Wireless stations

For more information on First World War sites and structures, please visit <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/first-world-war-home-front/>



The town centre, Chalfont St Peter, 1931  
An image showing a First World War munitions factory.



The castle and priory ruins, Tynemouth, 1927  
Includes wartime gun battery, searchlight position and generator building.

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