

HMS Leigh - Guardian of the Thames – 2021



HMS Leigh – Guardian of the Thames is a community lead heritage and arts project that aims to connect people of all ages with the history of Southend Pier aka HMS Leigh during World War 2. Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Arts Council and Southend Borough Council, this project was part of the VE 75 celebrations. Due to the pandemic, instead of the live event that had been planned on May 6th-9th, we are inviting everyone to visit our website and experience an interactive online event.



The HMS Leigh team have been working to save as many stories, memories, images and documents from Southend during WW2 as possible.

From this great source material, has come learning resources for all ages that tells the hidden story of the people of Southend during that era and to provide images and source material from those who were there, whether they served on HMS Leigh or were children during WW2.

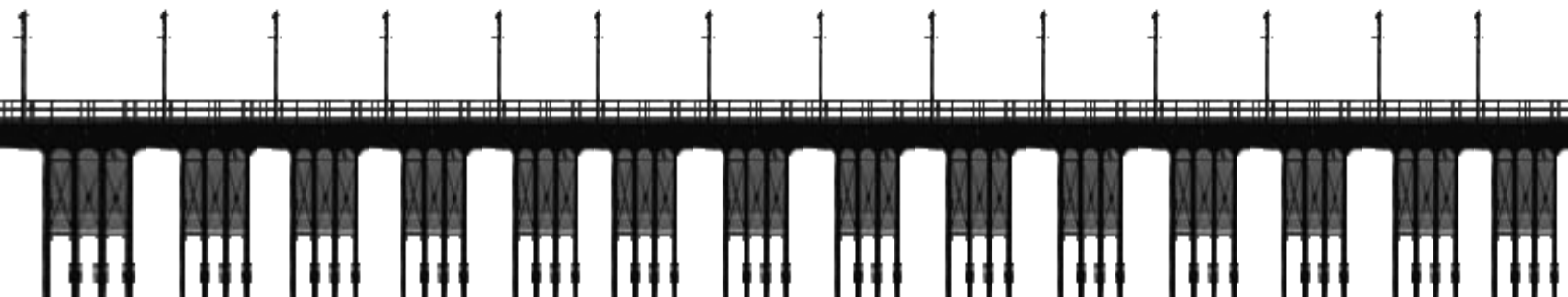
The HMS Leigh website is divided into primary, secondary, special needs and adult learning categories in order to make sure that the resources offered are age appropriate.

The HMS Leigh Team would appreciate your help and guidance on making these learning materials into a worthwhile legacy for those who lived through WW2 and the Covid-19 pandemic.



All materials on the HMS Leigh – Guardian of the Thames website are free for educational use for all ages and may be reproduced as necessary.

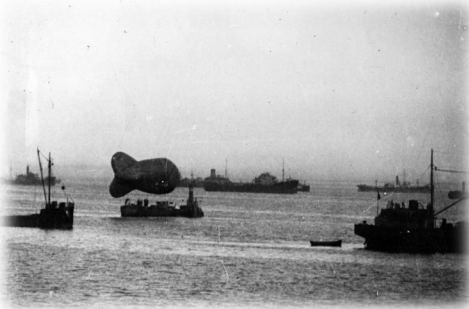
The images used have either been provided to the project by Southend Museum, Southend Pier Museum, individual local contributors or will have attributions attached.



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HMS Leigh - Guardian of the Thames is already working with schools to engage children with their heritage in new and interesting ways, both online and in physical activities that everyone can try - inspired by some wonderful local artists across many disciplines. If you would like to find out more about this work, please do get in touch.



We hope your school will mark some of the most important dates in the history of HMS Leigh and WW2 Southend including VE76 in your classrooms on May 6th-7th 2021. If you would like our support in holding a VE Day party at school or a veteran to visit online or in person, please do get in touch.

It may not have been possible to invite your students to HMS Leigh in May, but we aim to do so with WW2 and Remembrance School Days on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th September 2021 which will bring wonderful community organisations together with schools to learn, create and enjoy the heritage of HMS Leigh on Southend Pier.

So please join us on our website www.hmsleigh.org.uk or on Facebook and Instagram at [@hmsleigh](https://www.instagram.com/hmsleigh) and help us to respect and enjoy the heritage that make Southend so special.

If you would like to find out more about how your school can take part, then you can email us at schools@hmsleigh.org.uk or call on 020 7097 3935 (voicemail).

