

Resources for researching the First World War



Essex Record Office resources

- We have an extensive source list which will give you a good overview of the documents we have that relate to the First World War
- We also have a source list for First World War material in the Essex Sound and Video Archive
- You can also search Seax, our online catalogue, to find out what else we might have that would help your research: <http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/>
- Surviving First World War service and pension records and medal roll indexes are available on Ancestry, which can be accessed for free in the ERO Searchroom or at your local Essex Library
- Paul Rusiecki's book *The Impact of Catastrophe: The People of Essex and the First World War (1914-1920)* is an essential companion for anyone interested in Essex during the War years
- One of the things we would like volunteers to do is to produce blog posts for the ERO blog, which can be found at www.essexrecordofficeblog.co.uk If you find something in your research that you would like to share on the blog, please contact Hannah Salisbury on hannahjane.salisbury@essex.gov.uk

Now the Last Poppy has Fallen project

As I'm sure you'll know already, you can find the project online in the following places:

Blog: <http://lastpoppyproject.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/lastpoppyproject

Twitter: www.twitter.com/lastpoppyessex

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/lastpoppy

Volunteers are encouraged to submit ideas for posts for the Last Poppy Project blog as well as the ERO blog. If you'd like to share something on the blog please contact Sarah Girling on sarah.girling@essex.gov.uk

East Anglian Film Archive

The East Anglian Film Archive has 200 hours of film footage online, including some fascinating pieces relating to the First World War: www.eafa.org.uk



Chelmsford War Memorials

The Chelmsford War Memorials site details biographical information of the men included in Chelmsford's war memorials, and is a really fabulous resource if you are interested in Chelmsford, or any of the men on the memorials: www.chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk

Imperial War Museum online resources

www.1914.org is the IWM's centenary site which highlights events and resources from across the world.

Lives of the First World War is the IWM's major WWI online project, bringing together material from museums, libraries, archives and family collections from across the world together in one place. IWM wants your help to explore these documents, link them together and start telling the stories of those who served in uniform and worked on the home front: www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org

Voices of the First World War allows you to hear about the First World War from those who were there, using recordings from the IWM's sound collection. The podcasts can be listened to on the link above, or downloaded from iTunes, and include everyone from soldiers, sailors and airmen to munitions workers, schoolchildren and ambulance drivers: www.1914.org/podcasts

The National Archives

Advice from TNA on First World War records:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-subject/firstworldwar.htm>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website includes a database which lists the names and place of commemoration of the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two world wars: www.cwgc.org

Soldiers' wills

All soldiers made a will in case they were killed in action. Many wrote letters to accompany these. Search for soldiers' wills at <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/>

Great War Nurses blog

The Great War Nurses blog contains lots of information about women who served as military nurses from the Boer War through to the end of the First World War: www.greatwarnurses.blogspot.co.uk

The same author also writes about military hospitals and the Army Nursing Service: www.scarletfinders.co.uk