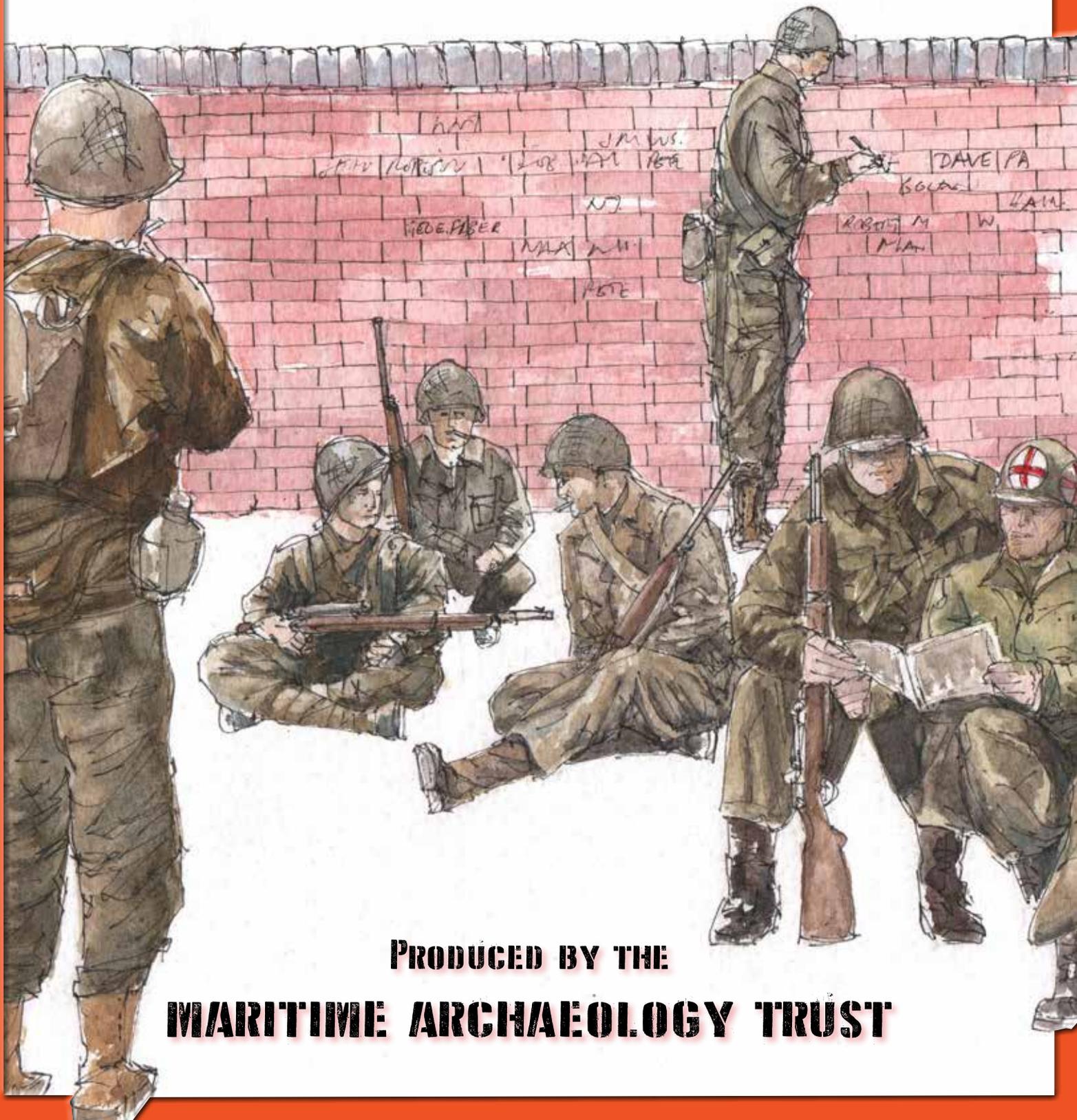


D-DAY: STORIES FROM THE WALLS

SCHOOL EDUCATION PACK



PRODUCED BY THE
MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The 'D-Day Wall' or 'American Wall' as it has become known, is a 19 metre length of brick wall at the lower end of Western Esplanade in Southampton. The wall, built c1910, is all that remains of the boundary wall of the old Southampton Borough Council Disinfecting Station. On this wall, around 100 men (mainly American) carved their names and home towns as they waited to embark to Normandy on D-Day and throughout the latter part of the Second World War.

The United States Army took control of Southampton Port in February 1944, designating it the 14th Major Port of Transportation Corps and the city became an enormous military camp. Southampton had been earmarked for the HQ of the invasion early on in the war. As D-Day approached, military vehicles and guns lined the streets hidden by trees and camouflage netting. Hundreds of vessels were pre-loaded with ammunition, vehicles and supplies and anchored in the inlets and rivers of the Solent. The port remained in constant use, supporting the campaign overseas, until the end of the war. 3.5 million service personnel passed through Southampton Docks, including soldiers from America (2 million), Canada and Britain, with approximately 100 of them recording their part in history on the D-Day Wall.

When this area of Southampton was redeveloped in 1993, this section of wall was allowed to remain in situ as a memorial and a number of the best carved bricks from other parts of the demolished wall were retained and kept by Southampton Museum Service. Some of these were later rebuilt into a smaller wall behind the original wall. Others still remain in the museum collection. The wall is recorded on the Southampton Historic Environment Record (MSH4692) and registered with the Imperial War Museum as a war memorial (Graffiti Wall WW2 21636).

Today the wall forms the boundary of the Grand Harbour Hotel car park. The bricks are crumbling due to weathering and the inscriptions are eroding. With 2019 being the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the Maritime Archaeology Trust is carrying out recording of the inscriptions and research into the names so their stories can be told.

This pack aims to provide background information on the D-Day Wall, its context, and the names upon it. It also contains suggested activities for studying the wall and sources for finding out more.



CURRICULUM LINKS

This project can be tied to the National Curriculum in many ways and at all levels:

History: Key Stage 1 & 2

For history, the D-Day wall offers a perfect **local history study** for every Key Stage.

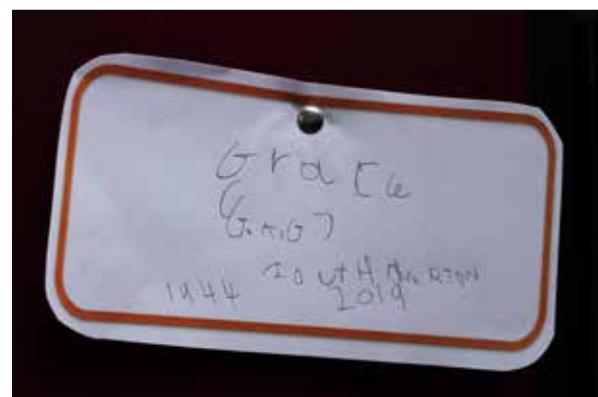
- *“Pupils should be taught: the concept of nation and a nation’s history, concepts such as war and peace, key events in the past that are significant nationally and globally, particularly those that coincide with festivals or other events that are commemorated throughout the year”*. Beginning with the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, this project highlights this key event and its context in a format appropriate for younger audiences.
- *“Pupils should be taught about: changes within living memory. Where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life changes within living memory... these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life”*. D-Day and WWII are still within living memory; in May 2019, US veterans who had been involved with D-Day visited the wall in Southampton as part of commemoration services.

History: Key Stage 3

- *“Pupils should be taught: challenges for Britain, Europe and the wider world 1901 to the present day”*. This project’s wider context encompasses the Second World War, one of the most challenging and wide-reaching events since 1901.
- This project also links to an *“issue in world history and its interconnections with other world developments”*.
- *“Pupils should develop an awareness and understanding of the role and use of different types of sources, as well as their strengths, weaknesses and reliability”*. Researching the names inscribed on the wall involves using lots of different types of sources, each of which can be critically examined for quality.

Other Subjects: All Levels

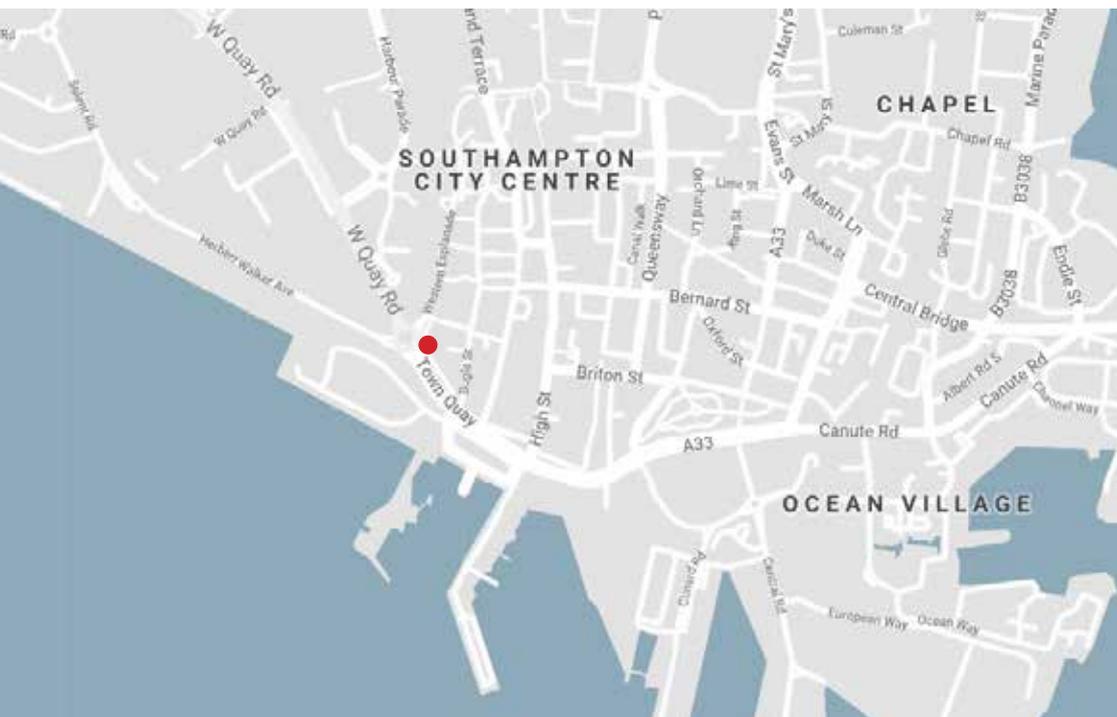
Numerous writing tasks could be adopted for English and study of the inscriptions and graffiti would make an interesting practical art topic. The technique used to record the wall - photogrammetry (see page 14) - lends itself to STEM projects. Exploration of the wall can also fit with the study of light within the science curriculum, as students may use light and shadow to highlight features on the wall.



THE WALL

The wall itself is made from brick, but connects at one end to a stone wall. The surface of the bricks is suffering from exposure to the elements and rising damp. Unfortunately, not much can be done to preserve the physical remains of the wall, so this project aims to make a digital record in order to preserve it for future generations.

Right: Laurence Mathis' inscription, which reads 'Laurence Mathis passed Dec. 22nd 1944 Chicago' photographed in the 1980s (left) and 2019. The degradation of the inscription is clear.



Left: The red dot shows the location of the wall on Western Esplanade, Southampton.

Right: The D-Day Wall as it is today.



Right: The small wall to the rear of the main wall, inside the car park.
Middle: Two inscriptions from the small wall.
Bottom: Close-up of an inscription on the main wall.



SOUTHAMPTON AND D-DAY

Early on in the Second World War Southampton had been earmarked for the Head Quarters (HQ) of the D-Day operations. The South Western Hotel was requisitioned as the HQ for Combined Operations Military Movement Control; Churchill and Eisenhower met here on at least one occasion.

The secret construction of Mulberry Harbours - temporary, portable harbours - in the Southampton dry dock began in 1943. The docks, which had been closed during the early part of the war due to frequent heavy bombing, were reopened after the last major raid of over 50 bombers in June 1942 in order to receive lend-lease cargoes from America. The lend-lease program saw the United States supply the UK and other allied nations with food, oil, and other materials such as weaponry and warships.

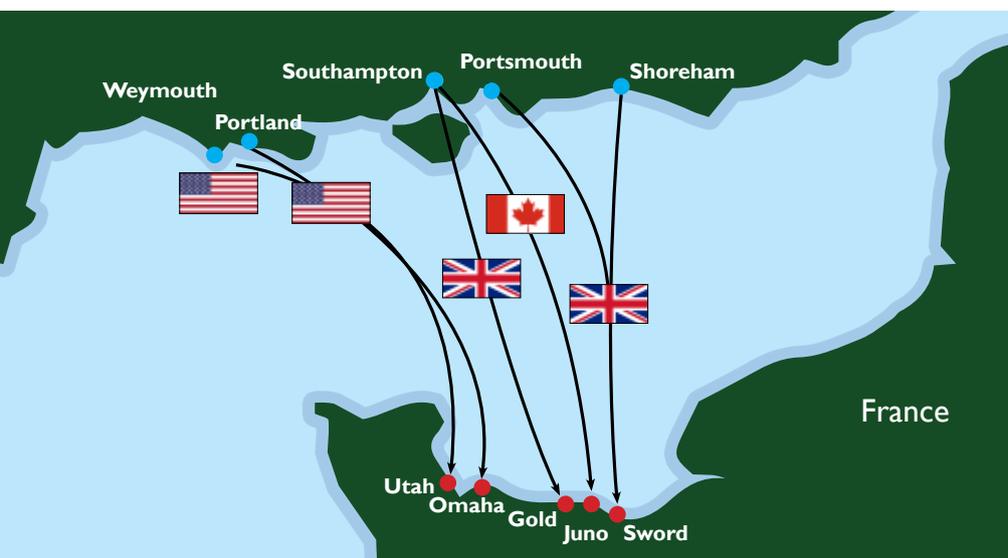
In the summer of 1943 the Americans took over the port, designating it the 14th Major Port of Transportation Corps, United States Army. Southampton became an enormous military camp, with thousands of troops camped on the Common and parks. From February to May 1944 the port was used to discharge US Army cargo – becoming the third largest discharge port in the world at the time.

From mid-May 1944, the port was closed to prepare as marshalling areas C and D for the D-Day invasion. Preparations included the discharge of invasion supplies, Mulberry Harbour construction, converting merchant ships to block ships and making raft barges. The Eastern Docks were used to dock the larger ships. The Western Docks sheltered landing craft, and Southampton Town Quay had three separate embarkation points for the troops boarding the landing craft. As D-Day approached military vehicles and guns lined the streets hidden by trees and camouflage netting. Soldiers practised urban warfare in the bomb-damaged streets. Barges, motor transport vessels, coasters and tankers were pre-loaded with ammunition, vehicles and supplies and anchored in the inlets and rivers of the Solent prior to D-Day.

The Normandy landings, code named Operation Neptune - also known as D-Day - took place on Tuesday 6 June, and was the largest seaborne invasion in history. Around 156,000 Allied troops landed in Normandy, having departed mostly from ports along the Hampshire and Dorset coasts, with Southampton being the largest embarkation point.

After D-Day, the port remained in constant use as the wounded returned and prisoners of war arrived. Troops continued to embark to Normandy until the end of the war. During this time 3.5 million service personnel from America (2 million), Canada and Britain passed through Southampton Docks.

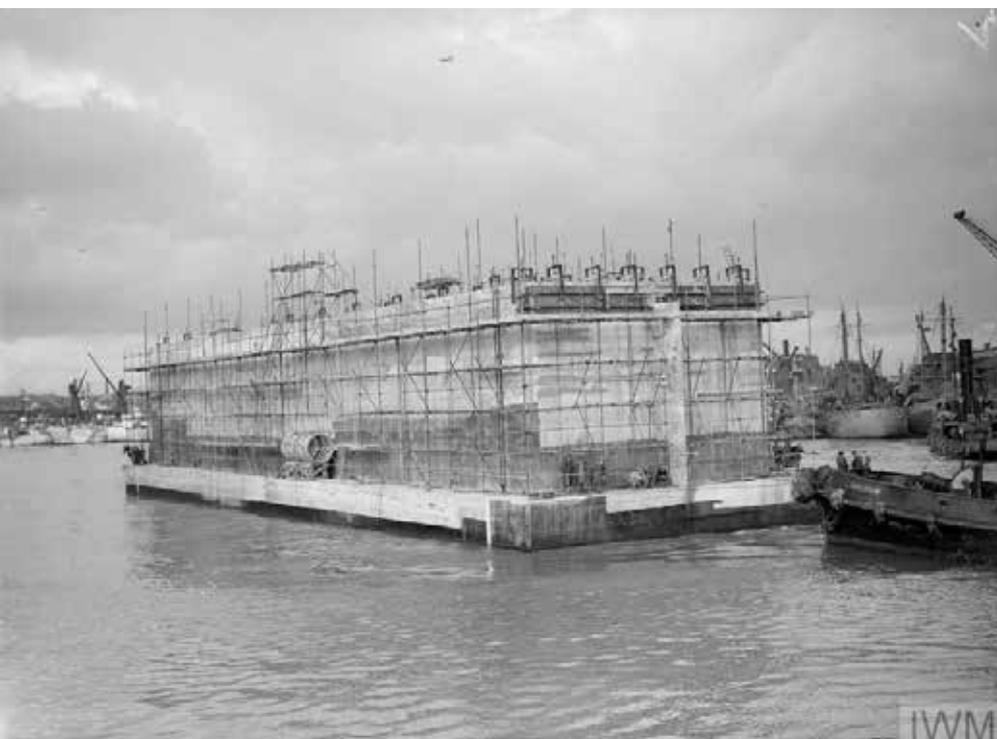
A plaque to commemorate the role of the US Army in the city was added to the Pilgrim Fathers Mayflower Monument on Western Esplanade by the US Army when they left the city in 1947.



Left: troop movements from England to France on D-Day.



Above: American soldiers play with local children in Rockleigh Road. Photo courtesy of Lorraine Conroy.



*Left, overpage: © IWM (A 23731)
A large group of Landing Craft
(Tank) moored along the quayside at
Southampton 1944.*

*Left: © IWM (A 25796) Mulberry
Harbour in Southampton.*



© IWM (NYT 27247) Hanging out the washing Rockleigh Road with US vehicles behind.

THE PEOPLE

In July 1943, control of Southampton Docks passed to the United States 14th Major Port Transportation Corps. They coordinated the shipments of American troops, equipment and stores through the port. Offices were set up at the Civic Centre and the Bargate. After D-Day they also dealt with the incoming wounded and prisoners. The 14th Port remained until November 1946.

More Americans arrived in spring 1944:

- 499th Port Battalion (dock workers),
- 552nd Port Company (stevedores),
- American civilian tug crews,
- US Naval Advanced Amphibious Base, who were based at Star (Dolphin) Hotel,
- 50 members of the American Womens Auxililary Corps (Highfield Hall).

The Americans were segregated, with separate duties, billets and recreational facilities. Officers were billeted in the Polygon Hotel with the troops at Ascupart Road School and the Blighmont Barracks and in camps around Southampton, including the Common and Hoglands Park. Between D-Day and VE Day 2 million American troops passed through Southampton. A ceremony was held to mark the millionth Yank - Paul Shimer from Pennsylvania - as he boarded the ship. Sadly Sergeant Shimer was killed in action in Germany in April 1945. The two millionth Yank passed through on the 16th January 1945.

The residents of Southampton enjoyed the company of the men – especially the Americans with their gum and tights! They entertained the children in the streets and danced with the young ladies in the evenings. Homes were left open for the troops to use their facilities. New sports were seen for the first time. Naturally relationships flourished and on the 26th January 1946, 452 British women and 173 children left Southampton on the SS *Argentina* for new lives in America. This was only the first group; Operation War Bride sent 70,000 women and children to America.

The following pages tell the stories of some of the individuals who carved their names on the wall and whom we have managed to trace.

BILL URBAN

Bill Urban

William Paul Urban was a Sergeant in the US Army during WWII. He belonged to the 24th Engineer Battallion, 4th Armoured Division. Born in 1915 in Illinois, he enlisted in 1942 at the age of 25. At the time of his registration, Bill was working at the Phoenix Metal Cap Company, just a short walk from his home.

Urban is the only name on the wall that we have so far identified as having been killed during the war. He died on 16 March 1945 while his division was headed from Luxembourg City towards the Rhine. He is buried in the American Cemetery in Luxembourg. He had three brothers, Frank, George, and Raymond, who all served in the US army and survived.

He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. The Bronze Star is awarded for heroic achievement in combat or service, while the Purple Heart was awarded to those wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. Military.



Top: William Urban.

Bottom: Bill Urban's registration card.

SERIAL NUMBER 1238	1. NAME (Print) WILLIAM PAUL URBAN <i>DECEASED</i>	ORDER NUMBER 381
2. ADDRESS (Print) 2743 W. 22nd Place (Number and street or R. F. D. number)	Chicago Cook Ill. (Town) (County) (State)	
3. TELEPHONE Rockwell 3798 (Exchange) (Number)	4. AGE IN YEARS 25 DATE OF BIRTH Aug 5 1915 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Chicago Ill. (Town or county) (State or country)
6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.	7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mr. William Peter Urban (Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)	8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Father
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 2743 W. 22nd Place (Number and street or R. F. D. number)	Chicago Cook Ill. (Town) (County) (State)	
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Phoenix Metal Cap Co.	11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 2444 W. 16th St. (Number and street or R. F. D. number)	Chicago Cook Ill. (Town) (County) (State)
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 170	(over)	Wm. P. Urban Jr. (Registrant's signature)

Sidney Greenwald

Sidney Greenwald was born Zsigmond Grunwald in Czechoslovakia in 1913. He arrived in New York on 19 April 1934 aboard the SS *Bremen*, made a petition for naturalisation, and changed his name. For a time, he worked as a carpenter and glazier, but in March 1941, he enlisted in the army as a private.

Not much is known about his army career, but by 1946, he had returned home. Sidney passed away in May 2011 at the age of 98, but left behind 30 great grandchildren. Sidney also left his mark whilst in Southampton. On his brick, he writes, 'On Way to France', his name and service number, and his home city. His son, Allan, said:

"During the mourning period, I looked at the brick that you were so kind as to share with us. I realised then that his inscription on the brick was really a tombstone. He never expected to return from Europe. He was army infantry and an engineer to boot. Almost nothing would have been left of a young man at 28 years old except his name and dog tag number. ...All of this can not be written on one brick."



Above: Sidney Greenwald, age 22, from his petition of naturalisation.

Below: Sidney's brick, currently held by Southampton City Council.

ON WAY TO FRANCE
Sidney GREENWALD 32081546 U.S.A
BRONX NE YORK



ACTIVITIES

Visit the Wall

Access to the wall itself is easy and free. There is parking for cars and mini-buses on the same road, and parking for coaches locally. There is space to gather or eat lunch below the old city walls, opposite the D-Day Wall.

At the wall, you can take a closer look at the inscriptions and try out our quiz and bingo cards (below). You can hold torches close to and at a 45 degree angle to the bricks to highlight some of the more worn inscriptions.

Bingo

Try and find all the inscriptions, or parts of inscriptions, listed on the bingo card on the right.

Quiz

While at the wall, you can have a go at our quiz, which encourages students to find names on the wall and think about its condition and purpose. You can download a copy of the quiz and its answers here:

www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/ddaywalls

Make a Wall

Students can design their own brick which could be used to make up a classroom 'wall'. You could use paper, clay, or even use plaster of paris to create flat tiles and use clay-sculpting tools to carve into it. If using a 3D material, an extension to this activity could be to look at how you would record an inscription on a brick - perhaps by taking a rubbing or tracing.

Research a Name

Using the sources in the 'More Information' section of this booklet (page 14), each student could choose a name from the wall to research and gather as much information about their service and life as possible. Some names are hard to trace; the ones mentioned in this booklet would be the best names to start with.

Poetry

Using soldiers passing through Southampton to D-Day as inspiration, get students to write a poem or piece of creative writing, either from the point of view of a soldier or one of the local residents of Southampton at the time.

Geocaching

Geocaching is a world-wide game in which participants seek and hide containers, called 'geocaches' or 'caches' at specific locations marked by co-ordinates. There is a geocache in the area of the wall. A link to the clues for this geocache are available on our project web page.

Someone from Missisipi	Penna	Robert
Eddie Meyer	Someone from Illinois	Elly and Lu Lu
Curt Hodges	Harry	Bill Urban
Dave	Someone from Ohio	Aug 44
Dooling	Miami	Laurence Mathis

Make your own Landing Craft

Southampton saw huge numbers of landing craft transport troops and supplies from Southampton across the Channel. Using scrap materials, challenge students to design and build their own landing craft that must:

- a) Hold up to 10 men or blocks,
- b) Float,
- c) Have a door that opens to facilitate disembarkation,

Then, test your landing craft in a box of water to see which design is the most successful.

Family Research

Encourage students to find out if they had relatives involved in the war and what they were doing. Create a discussion around their findings.

Other Local History Links

Southampton's history is closely tied to the movement of people, and in particular those coming from and going to America. There are several other local sites in the vicinity of the wall of historic importance, including:

Mayflower Memorial, Town Quay - A memorial marking the departure of the *Mayflower* carrying the Pilgrim Fathers to America in 1620.

Cruise terminals - Southampton's docks rose to prominence in the 1800s, though there is a long history of maritime activity before this. The first dock was inaugurated in 1843, and the most recently completed was Ocean Terminal in 2009. Today, cruise ships leave from these docks for all over the world.

The Wool House and the vaults - Trade, and the people associated with it, have also left their marks in Southampton. The Wool House was built in the 14th century to store wool for export to Italy. There are also stone vaults across the city centre previously used primarily for housing wine and beer for trade.

More World War Two

Find out more about other aspects of maritime WWII history through some of our other projects:

The Landing Craft Project: www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/landingcraft

Embarkation Hards: www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/embarkation-hards

The Solent 70 Project: www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/solent70

The D-Day Memories Podcast: www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/dday

Advanced Activity: Make your own Digital 3D Model of the Wall

Making your own 3D model of the wall or other objects is easier than you might think. All you need is a camera or smartphone and a computer.

On a smartphone, there are numerous 3D scanning apps available on all platforms, and on a computer, free software is available for processing models from a camera. We suggest you search online for tutorials and guidance on how to get started.

**Did you do any of these activities? We'd love to see!
Send your stories and photos to:
education@maritimerarchaeologytrust.org**

MORE INFORMATION

If you'd like more information on the wall or other aspects of the project, try these links:

Project Webpage and Online Viewer

The D-Day Stories from the Wall webpage gives information on the project and links to the 3D model of the wall where you can explore the names in more detail. It also links to our D-Day Wall quiz and our other Second World War resources.

www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/dday

Photogrammetry

Creating your own 3D models can be an easy process and can be undertaken with any camera (including mobile phones) and free software. If you'd like to try it out, have a look at our Photogrammetry for Schools and Groups guide:

www.outreach.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/3Dmodelling

Memorials and Graves

There are numerous memorials and cemeteries for American soldiers across the world. In the UK, the Brookwood Cemetery has graves from the First World War, and the Cambridge American Cemetery has graves from the Second World War: the latter is home to over 3,800 graves and a further 5,127 names recorded as missing in action. There are also two memorial stones in Dartmouth: like Southampton, it was a focus of American activity during WWII. To find out more, visit the American Battle Monument Commission:

www.abmc.gov

Family Research

The majority of people in the UK will have at least one family member that was involved in the Second World War in some fashion, and there are lots of resources available online to help research family history. The Imperial War Museum has a good guide to some different sources, available here:

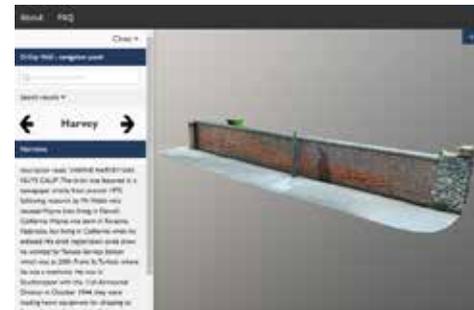
www.iwm.org.uk/research/tracing-your-family-history/tracing-your-army-history/where-to-find-army-service-records

If you are looking to research an American family member, you could start with:

The American Archives: www.aad.archives.gov/aad

Find A Grave: www.findagrave.com

If you are searching for a particular military unit, there is usually lots of information available via search engines.



From top to bottom: the D-Day Walls webpage, the D-Day Wall 3D viewer, the Cambridge American Cemetery, the Dartmouth memorial, findagrave.com,

ABOUT THE MAT

The Maritime Archaeology Trust is a registered charity with more than 27 years' experience in research, investigations and pioneering techniques for the study and promotion of marine cultural heritage. The MAT is an internationally renowned authority on maritime archaeology.

Our key objectives are to:

Investigate: maritime, coastal and underwater archaeology

The MAT undertakes maritime archaeological surveys, investigations and research in accordance with professional and museum codes of conduct and practice.

Engage: people, communities and schools through involvement, enjoyment and education

Involving people in maritime heritage to develop understanding and enjoyment of the resource is a key priority for MAT. All MAT projects have an education and outreach element, and the development of new methods of dissemination provides a wide range of opportunities and initiatives to get people involved.

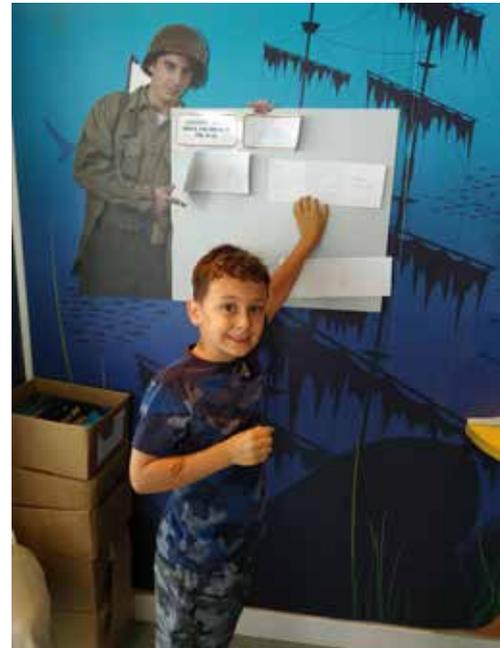
Promote: hard to reach and inaccessible maritime heritage

It is important to raise the profile of our submerged and hidden heritage to enhance its significance. If we do not, many sites would be lost and with them, irreplaceable knowledge about our past.

Protect: through supporting heritage management for current and future generations

MAT champions and supports the protection of maritime cultural heritage on behalf of society at national and international forums.

From top to bottom: American veterans visiting the D-Day Wall in May 2019, a visitor to the Discovery Bus creating his own brick, the D-Day plaque in Southampton docks, volunteers recording the wall.





Between D-Day 6th June 1944 and the end of the Second World War, 3.5 million troops passed through Southampton and into France. Two million were American, the remainder British and Canadian. Around 100 of these men etched their names and hometowns on the walls of what was the old town mortuary. This 19 metre stretch of wall is at the lower end of Western Esplanade, it was left in-situ as a memorial when the area was redeveloped in the 1990s, with a number of other inscribed bricks being kept by Southampton Museums Service.

Thanks to a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund the MAT has been able to help mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day through recording the wall using specialist photography techniques, providing opportunities for volunteers to be involved and learn new skills and to promote the wall and its significance through a range of education and outreach resources and activities.

This education booklet provides information on the wall, its context, and some of the soldiers associated with it, and suggests activities for schools and groups.

R.D. Breech
Catawissa
Penna

JOHN HELMLING
ELYRIA OHIO
11 - - 44

JEWETTA CALLAWAY
MIAMI FLORIDA

W^M MUELLER
NEW YORK

{ DOOLING }
BEVERLY
MASS



WWW.MARITIMEARCHAEOLOGYTRUST.ORG/DDAY