



**Screen Archive South East**

and

**Imperial War Museums**

are pleased to invite you and guests to a screening and celebration of

## ***Calling Blighty – Brighton***

at the University of Brighton's

**Sallis Benney Theatre**

58-67 Grand Parade, Brighton [BN2 0JY](#)

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 2.30 – 3.45pm**

Screening includes footage of *Brighton at War* and features messages from service personnel in the Far East which have not been seen on the big screen for over 70 years.

Introductions and films at 2.30pm, with tea and cakes after (up to 4.30pm).

**Please book a free ticket by Tuesday 11th June here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/calling-blighty-brighton-tickets-61869686899>

We look forward to seeing you there!



**University of Brighton**



## **'Calling Blighty' – BRIGHTON**

### **Help us find these families!**

The *Calling Blighty* series of 12 minute films, made in 1944-46, shows servicemen (and a very few women) in the Far East recording a message to be seen by their families and friends in local cinemas back home. – a sort of one way Skype of their day, these are remarkable and moving documents. The North West Film Archive (NWFA) is delighted to announce a new collaboration with Screen Archive South East (SASE) and Imperial War Museums (IWM), bringing five *Calling Blighty* films back to Brighton!

123 men and one woman send their very personal messages home to family and friends – they are partly stilted, occasionally emotional, but mostly stiff upper lip testimonies, sometimes funny, and always very moving. They offer a window on the understated courage of servicemen and women who had endured the long separation from their homes. To help us find the families and identify the service personnel please take a look at the clips – some are named, but many names are still missing. Please get in touch if you find someone you know, or if you know something about the films! Here's a link to the website <https://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/blighty/index.php>

This fourth phase of our project, following the Greater Manchester, Sheffield/Yorkshire, and Birkenhead messages, aims to trace relatives of as many as possible of these Brighton service personnel and their descendants, and hold a screening event for them at the University of Brighton's Sallis Benney Theatre. We will screen selected messages from many of the surviving *Calling Blighty* issues, and a special compilation of highlights from the Brighton films. The scene will be set with an evocative short film of scenes of Brighton during WW2, and a talk on the background to the making of the *Calling Blighty* films. We will have time after the screening to get together to share stories over tea and cakes in the cafe

#### **Our quest is, with your help, to find veterans and relatives – do you know any of these servicemen and women?**

Do you:

belong to one of the families?

know of someone who is connected?

know something about the films or the original screening?

want to come to the screening on 16<sup>th</sup> June?

You should contact Marion Hewitt at the North West Film Archive by emailing [blighty@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:blighty@mmu.ac.uk) or by calling 0161 247 3097. (Marion is organising the project and co-ordinating replies and responses.)

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Examples of the poignant messages (from named and unnamed personnel) included in our trailer are available for broadcast, and stills for print and web – see the trailer here [VIMEO LINK](#):

1 A 'bunch of Brighton boys' drives up in a truck and Bombardier Baird asks his wife and mother how he looks as a film star

<https://vimeo.com/317218469>

2 Mike (no last name) wishes Eileen and John the best of luck, and hopes to be back in England soon after the boys here have won the war

<https://vimeo.com/317435382>

3 Ken Ward tells his wife he will never make a film star, and asks what it's like in civvie street. He'd like the pints lined up on the counter for his return

<https://vimeo.com/317438437>

4 Name unknown, this soldier tells his sisters Evelyn, Elsie and Joyce that the next time they see him will be at Brighton Station

<https://vimeo.com/317218157>

5 Molly Budgen, one of very few women who appear in *Calling Blighty*, is grateful for all the mail the family is sending, and forgets what she was going to say...

<https://vimeo.com/317438988>

6 Mike Lytham(?) tells his wife Helen that he is looking forward to returning to have lokshen soup on Fridays  
<https://vimeo.com/317027179>

7 This soldier (called Edge?) tells his mother that all he wants is the sight of her, and the Sussex Downs.  
<https://vimeo.com/317435310>

8 Gordon Webb asks his mother and father to give his love to Peggy, but to save a large slice for themselves  
<https://vimeo.com/317026989>

9 Charles Dawes would like to say more to his wife, but all these people are looking and listening...  
<https://vimeo.com/317026946>

10 Benny Collison is keen to reassure his wife that their little bit of trouble will be quickly sorted when he gets home  
<https://vimeo.com/317026914>

11 Mick bounces into the frame to say a very quick hello and goodbye, and is longing for a pint...  
<https://vimeo.com/317435671>

12 Walter Penfold tells his parents this is his first and last chance to rival the film star Don Ameche, and that someday soon he will be sitting exactly where they are now  
<https://vimeo.com/317437758>

13 Sam leads three cheers from the boys of Brighton – there is shout of ‘Kempton!’ from the group behind him  
<https://vimeo.com/317435516>

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If you would like an interview with any of the 3 of us (listed below) involved in the project please get in touch with Marion in the first instance on 0161 247 3097, or [m.hewitt@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:m.hewitt@mmu.ac.uk)  
Marion Hewitt, Director of the North West Film Archive, and Calling Blighty project host and coordinator (Manchester)  
Frank Gray, Director of Screen Archive South East, with detailed knowledge of regional footage (Brighton)  
Steve Hawley, filmmaker and writer with detailed knowledge of the making of the Calling Blighty films. (Sheffield)

### **Background:**

Of the 391 issues made, only 65 are now known to survive, and nearly half of these are of the Greater Manchester area. There are over 940 service personnel in the database, and we have found more than 140 families so far – help us to find more, and reconnect them to the messages!

You can search the database for these here

<https://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/blighty/search.php>

In November 2015, a recreated screening event was held in Manchester at HOME, where over 70 of the Greater Manchester servicemen’s families were traced, and the films were shown for the first time in 70 years to an audience of relatives – and two living veterans. A subsequent Channel 4 documentary about the project was broadcast in June 2016, and repeated. Made by Oxford Scientific Films, the programme introduces us to five of the families we found and revealed their amazing stories. You can watch the documentary via Channel 4’s on demand service by clicking the link here

<https://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/blighty/Channel4doc.php>

### **Screen Archive South East (SASE)**

SASE is a public sector moving image archive serving the South East of England. SASE is part of the [School of Media](#) at the [University of Brighton](#). Its function is to collect, preserve, research and provide access to screen material related to this region and of general relevance to the study of screen history.

### **North West Film Archive (NWFA)**

Based in Manchester, the [NWFA](#) is the public regional film archive for the North West of England – rescuing and preserving film made in or about the region. The Archive is one of Manchester Metropolitan University Library Service.

### **Imperial War Museums (IWM)**

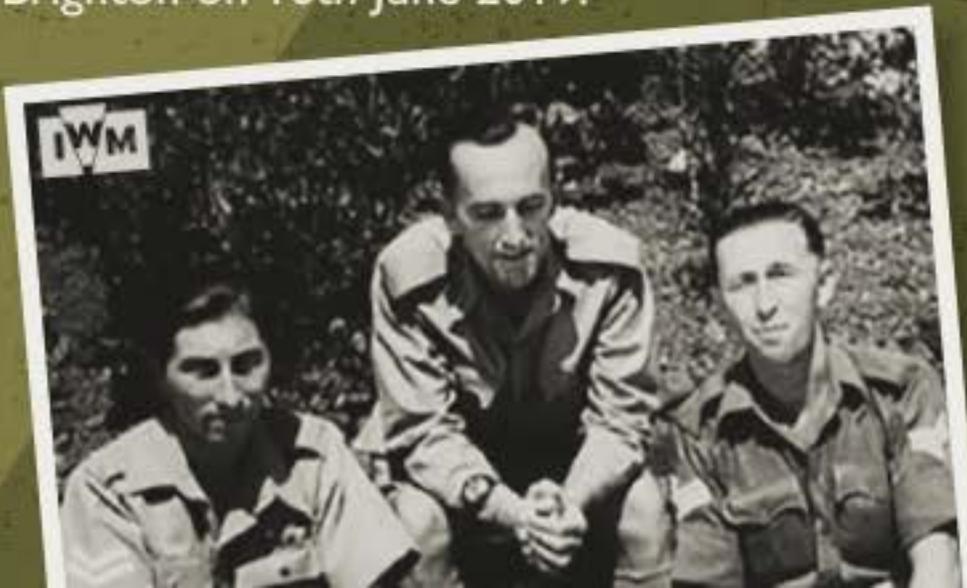
IWM is a family of five museums recording and showcasing experiences of modern conflict. Some of those experiences paint a picture of everyday life in wartime, others give us a glimpse of something exceptional. All of them help us to explore the causes of war and its impact on people’s lives. IWM has managed a Film Archive from its very beginnings as an institution, and the film collection covers all aspects of conflicts in which British, Commonwealth or former Empire countries have been involved since the start of the twentieth century.

# Calling Blighty

Do you know anyone from Sussex who served in the British Army in India or Burma in 1944-46?

## BRIGHTON

124 soldiers sent filmed messages home and we are searching for their families and friends to come to a FREE film screening in Brighton on 16th June 2019.



## SOME OF THE KNOWN SURNAMES:

Addison	Clapham	Glazier	Perry
Avery	Clark	Hay	Phillpot
Baird	Clow	Hill	Piggot
Bardsley	Collison	Holder	Randall
Barrat	Cox	Ireland	Redpath
Bradley	Dawes	Knight	Richardson
Brakes	Dovey	Lacey	Scales
Breeds	Dowsing	Long	Shepherd
Broadway	Duval	Loughlin	Smith
Brown	Edmunds	Lucas	Southall
Budgen	Ethridge	Martin	Stevens
Burrell	Evers	Newcombe	Stevenson
Butler	Fagin	Parker	Taylor
Caplan	Gearing	Parris	Tolman
Charlson	Gibson	Penfold	



University of Brighton

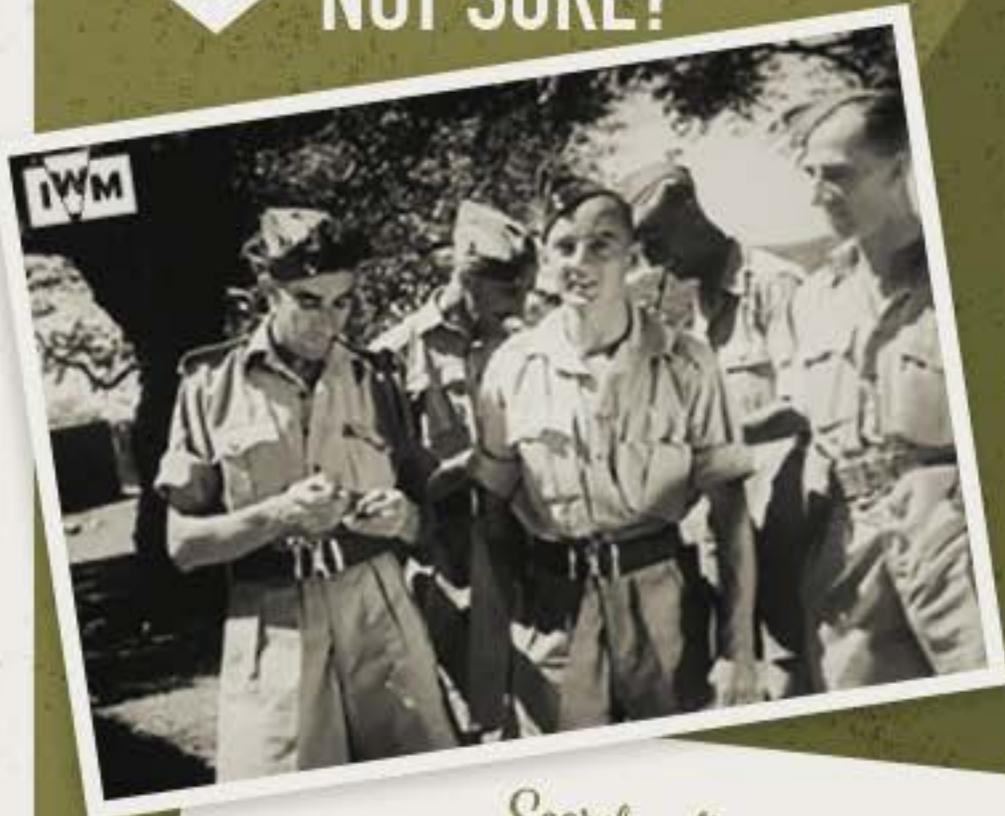
SCREEN  
**archive**  
SOUTH EAST



North West  
**Film Archive**



## RECOGNISE ANYONE? NOT SURE?



*Search online*

<https://www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk/blighty/index.php>

*And come along on 16th June at 2.30pm.*

Sallis Benney Theatre, University of Brighton  
Grand Parade, Brighton BN2 0JY

*Book your tickets*

Tickets are FREE – but please book online here  
[www.callingblightybrighton.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.callingblightybrighton.eventbrite.co.uk)  
or call 0161 247 3097