

HOME SECURITY

Securing people's homes was one of the Government's priorities. A pamphlet was issued early in 1939 advising people on domestic defence and one of the first precautions was obscuring houses from the air, so a trial black-out run was ordered across the country in July 1939 and air-raid exercises were conducted in many towns.

The Government produced the Anderson shelter, named after Sir John Anderson, Home Secretary and Minister of Home Security in 1939, designed for DIY construction in a specially dug hole in the garden. The less well off were provided with them free. From 1941 the Government distributed the Morrison shelter, named after Herbert Morrison, Minister for Home Security in 1941. This was like a large table-shaped cage designed to protect people for falling masonry.

In London one of the most popular refuges was the Underground.



Coming out of an Anderson shelter, many of which leaked or flooded



An uncomfortable sleep at a London tube station

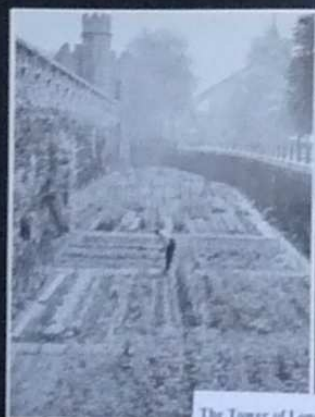


Amid the ruins of their bombed-out home, two women emerge from their air-raid shelter

The darker side to the Home Front was the rise in crime - the dishonesty of the black market, the stealing of ration coupons, clothing and food, even stealing valuables from the bodies of people killed in the Blitz.



September 1940: the King and Queen, touring a devastated part of West London, bring comfort to a special, much valued bond



The Tower of London's moat became a prolific vegetable garden

In April 1941 the turf of Kensington Gardens was turned over and allotments created

RATIONING

Rationing was introduced in 1940.

The government had to come up with a strategy for feeding the nation in the face of limited food imports because of German attacks on the merchant navy ships carrying food supplies to Britain.

Every man, woman and child was given a ration book for food and had to register with a grocery store. The grocery store was only given enough food for the people on their list. Every time anyone bought rationed food, the grocer stuck a sticker in their ration book to indicate that the week's ration had been purchased.

At first only butter, sugar and bacon were rationed. By the middle of 1940

all meat, eggs, cheese, jam, tea and milk were also rationed.

Vegetables were not rationed but were often in short supply.

Dried egg was available and was used to make scrambled eggs.

The weekly ration per week per person was:

- 4 oz (113gm) butter or lard
- 12 oz (340 gm) sugar
- 4 oz (113gm) bacon
- 4 oz (113gm) cheese
- 2 eggs
- 6 oz (170 gm) meat
- 2 oz (57gm) tea



People were encouraged to eat potatoes as their main source of starch, as reduced wheat imports caused bread to be scarce.

'DIG FOR VICTORY'

The campaign to grow more food quickened as the Battle of the Atlantic cut supplies. People were encouraged to plant vegetables instead of flowers and to dig up lawns to grow food.

Restrictions were lifted on the keeping of poultry and rabbits in gardens



Onions, parsnips and beans flourish on the roof of a Tottenham grower's Anderson shelter

CLOTHES RATIONING

On 1st June 1940, clothes rationing was introduced and special clothing coupons were issued.

At first, adults were allocated 66 coupons a year, later cut to 48, then to 36.

A man's suit needed 22 coupons, a coat 16 and a dress 11.

Children's allocation depended on size and age.

Towards the end of 1941 'Utility Clothing' was introduced to try to combat the growing cost of clothes and the shortage of materials and strict regulations were introduced, such as a maximum length for skirts which had to be straight, no frills and shorter socks for men. Mothers became experts in making garments out of unwanted material, such as a dressing gown out of a blanket.



Women were constantly implored to 'make do and mend' and the Government devised a cartoon character, Mrs Sew and Sew, to explain various ways of patching up and converting clothes from existing wardrobes



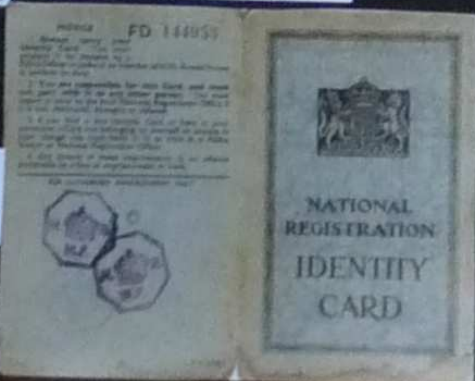
No silk nor the new nylon stockings were available, so some women resorted to dyeing their legs and having seams painted on



I HAVE PEACE-TIME SLEEP AT A PEACE-TIME PRICE. Thanks to BOURN-VITA

CADBURY'S BOURN-VITA 9! FOR 10! 1/5

The standard national identity card, which might need to be produced at a moment's notice.



Many pig clubs were founded in the war to make the weekly meat ration go further

