

# NEW HAVEN FORT

## AUSTERITY BRITAIN 1945-1954

After WW2 Britain was very poor. Lots of money had been spent on the war and there wasn't enough to buy in foreign foods and other important items. Britain after the war is often described as *austere*, which means having few luxuries (such as sweets!) in your life. Everyone in Britain had to make do with what little they had and they made the most of it.

### Rationing

"The war is over but in our fields and on our farms the Battle for Food goes on"

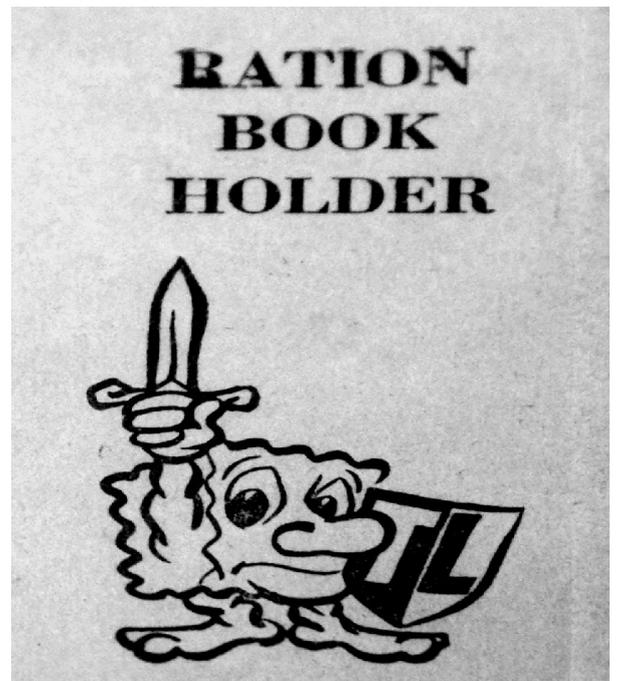
After the war rationing got worse as Britain couldn't afford to buy food and other items.

Can you find out what year rationing ended for these items? How many years after the war ended in 1945 was that? The first one is filled in for you.

ITEM	YEAR ENDED	YEARS AFTER WAR
Sugar	1953	8
Eggs	.....	.....
Tea	.....	.....
Meat	.....	.....
Sweets	.....	.....
Cheese	.....	.....
Bread	.....	.....

What was special about bread rationing?

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This little chap was on a ration book holder. Can you find him in the display (near 'Demob Man')? Near him are four ration books. Match the colour to the ration book.

Food	?	White
Motor fuel		Pink
Tobacco		Red/Brown
Clothing		Grey/Green

### Women at war

The food shortages meant that the women who worked on farms in the war had to keep working to help feed the country.



Why were women in the Women's Land Army unhappy after the war, compared to other women who worked in the war?

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When did the Women's Land Army finally disband?

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# Demobilisation

When soldiers left the army after the war they were said to have been 'demobilised'. Look at the demobilised man on his own in the corner.



When did demobilisation start?

What items were demobilised men given to help them become civilians after being soldiers?

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# After the War – A New Vision

In 1945 Britain elected a new government with a new plan to rebuild Britain after the war. After all the bomb damage there was a lot to do!



The new government was led by this man (left), the new Prime Minister. What is his name?

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He wanted to introduce a new idea, called the Welfare State, which was explained to families in the booklet "Family Guide to the National Insurance Scheme" which is on display. When did the scheme start?

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Part of the idea was that the government started to employ doctors and run hospitals for everyone in Britain. It's called the NHS. What do the initials NHS mean?

# Holidays in Austerity Britain

In the late 1940s and 1950s it was very unusual to get on an aeroplane and go on holiday abroad. Instead holidays were almost always taken in Britain, often by the seaside.

Can you name any seaside holiday towns?  
.....  
.....

A new type of holiday camp opened in 1936, becoming very popular after WW2. Do you know it's name?

**B**.....

If you go to the **Fort and Newhaven** exhibit you'll see a long display about Newhaven Fort from building it to now.

What did the Territorial Army use the Fort for after WW2?

What happened on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1962?

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In 1967 it was planned for Newhaven Fort to become a holiday camp. This never happened, but a lot of the Fort was destroyed. Find the wide photo of the Fort in 1979. What differences can you spot between Newhaven Fort then and the Fort you've visited today?

Difference

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....

