

Food

- Rationing <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-rationing-in-the-uk/zbqby9q>
- Many ships carrying food and supplies were sunk by the Germans which led to food shortages and a system of rationing or sharing out of food across the country. People were issued with ration books which allowed them to buy set amounts of food, clothes and petrol.
- A number of schemes were devised by the Government as well as local authorities to encourage people to grow their own food and collect salvage for the manufacture of planes and tanks.
- A Dig for Victory campaign encouraged vegetable growing, whilst Wings for Victory and other similar campaigns collected scrap metal, paper, bones and wool. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35NpLveVZDg>
- <https://dig-for-victory.org.uk/>

Defence

- The heaviest bombing of Britain took place in 1940 and 1941. Industrial and military targets around the coast received much attention from German planes, which meant that Portsmouth and Southampton suffered more than most other Hampshire towns.
- Numerous air raid shelters were built across the county; public and private.
- The Government called upon men between the ages of 17 and 65 to become Local Defence Volunteers, to provide a 'home guard' against invasion.

Jobs

- **What was the Women's Land Army?** As the prospect of war became increasingly likely, the government wanted to increase the amount of food grown within Britain. In order to grow more food, more help was needed on the farms and so the government started the Women's Land Army.
- Groups of women such as the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) and the Women's Land Army spearheaded such campaigns, as well as substituting for male workers in factories and docks around the country.

- At first, only single women aged 20-30 were called up, but by mid-1943, almost 90 per cent of single women and 80 per cent of married women were working in factories, on the land or in the armed forces.
- Huge numbers of women were involved in the war effort and many joined the armed forces even though this did not have to:
- 640,000 in the armed forces
- 55,000 serving with guns and providing essential air defence
- 80,000 in the Land Army
- Plus many more who flew unarmed aircraft, drove ambulances, worked as nurses and worked behind enemy lines
- Before the Second World War, women were expected to be 'housewives' or perhaps to do certain 'women's jobs', such as nursing or being a domestic servant or shop assistant. The war changed the world of work for women for ever. When men went to fight, women were called upon to fill their jobs, and this included many jobs that were previously thought of unsuitable for women.
- Women were called up for war work from March 1941.

Jobs undertaken by women during the war included:

- mechanics
- engineers
- Tank drivers
- Building ships
- Working in factories - making bombs and aircraft parts
- Air raid wardens
- Driving fire engines
- Plumbers
- Ambulance drivers
- WRVS volunteers
- Nurses





Routine

- The heaviest bombing of Britain took place in 1940 and 1941. Industrial and military targets around the coast received much attention from German planes, which meant that Portsmouth and Southampton suffered more than most other Hampshire towns.
- People had to take precautions against any bombs dropped during air raids and the possibility of the Germans invading Britain.
- Children and some women were **evacuated** from the big cities into the countryside. People carried **gas masks** to protect themselves and built **air raid shelters** shelters. All windows and doors were **blacked out**.
- Numerous air raid shelters were built across the county; public and private.
- In Hampshire many children from Portsmouth and Southampton were sent to inland towns such as Winchester, Romsey and Andover.
- A major fear for civilians apart from deadly bombs was the threat of gas attacks from the air. The Government decided to issue everyone with a gas mask, including babies and children.
- The Government called upon men between the ages of 17 and 65 to become Local Defence Volunteers, to provide a 'home guard' against invasion.
- Despite the everyday hardships life was lived by many to the full. Many forms of public entertainment, such as professional football matches and horse racing were banned during the hostilities. The most popular forms of entertainment were listening to the wireless (radio), going to dances, and the cinema.