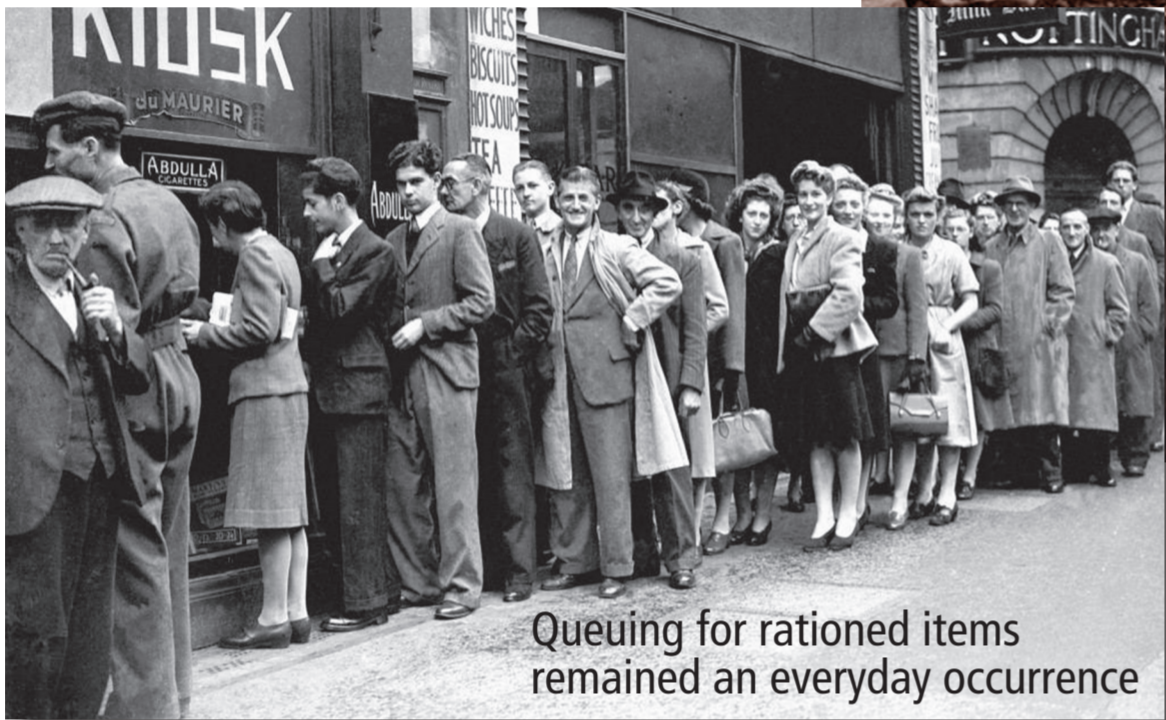


The Price of Victory

The relief brought by peace did not bring an end to wartime austerity and the dream of everything getting back to normal was hard to make a reality as can be seen in these extracts from letters Albert wrote to family members.



The devastation wrought by bombing caused a chronic shortage of housing



Queuing for rationed items remained an everyday occurrence

20 April 1945 Albert to Hamilton Beatty:

We are thankful the rockets have at last stopped falling. Doodlebugs and V2s have been making quite a mess. Lights go up on Monday. Blackout over. In a way it seems a bit flat with no bangs and bumps any more, but there is no doubt we are all suffering from strain. No one seems able to remember things. We are all physically speaking very well but something wrong there is undoubtedly.

27 Aug 1945 Albert To Jocelyn (Niece)

For heavens sake do not leave Ireland and come to England just now. The coming winter is going to be terrible and the worst one yet; with shortages of everything. There will be very little fuel and very little allowed. We had

difficulty in even keeping warm last winter.

Food will be very scarce beyond the bare rations allowed - little milk; eggs - probably half an egg per person. A scraggy fowl, rarely obtainable - 15/-. Little sugar, hardly any cheese. Two ounces of butter each per week and very little other fats. Little fruit. All canned foods, breakfast foods and biscuits, even oatmeal on "Points" which do not go far. People have even been queueing for potatoes.



In Bushey alone there is a waiting list of a couple of hundred families trying to find a place to live. No houses or flats, or even rooms seem to be available. There are at least 3 families living in caravans in Paynes field. Do not forget that a million houses have been destroyed or made uninhabitable by the enemy. The average cost of things here must be now three times higher than in 1939.



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