



During the Second World War many thousands of homes had been destroyed by bombing. There was a severe housing shortage for many years after the war.

The record floods of January 31st 1953 left 307 people dead and 30,000 had to be evacuated. It took 9 months to completely clear the flood water.



During the war all sorts of things were rationed such as clothes, petrol, coal, and of course food. After the war rationing had to continue and food was rationed until July 1954.



After the war it was difficult for factories to change back from producing war materials to producing everyday things. There was a shortage of all manufactured goods.



In 1947 India became an independent state. This ended 160 years of rule by Britain. It was the start of the end of the British Empire.



*"I have no easy words for the nation. I cannot say when we shall emerge into easier times."*

Clement Attlee, the Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951, admitting that the outlook for Britain was bleak.

The government tried hard to make life better, but it was difficult and progress was slow.



After the war there was a general feeling of exhaustion. People were tired of fighting, tired of rationing, tired of the struggle and hardships that the war had brought.



Smog made British cities unpleasant to live in at times.

The smog in London could be very severe and resulted in many deaths due to respiratory diseases.