



Shortages

Food, clothing and other commodities became very scarce as the occupation wore on.

Without Britain to supply it Guernsey had to become self-sufficient. Those who lived in St. Peter Port found that they were less able to feed themselves than those who lived in the country parishes. Country folk had the extra burden of feeding the German garrison as well as themselves.



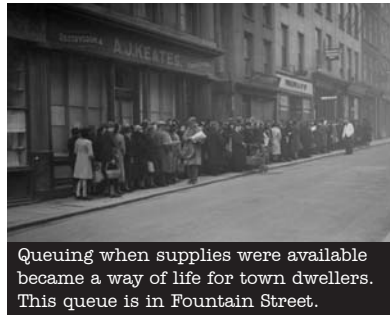
The shortage of food during the latter part of the occupation is demonstrated by the empty shelves in Yeomans' grocery shop in the Pollet.

Some essential supplies were painstakingly sourced in occupied France by a Purchasing Commission based in Granville, supervised by German officials and led by Raymond Falla. It provided an invaluable lifeline until it was ended in June 1944 by the invasion of France by the Allies.

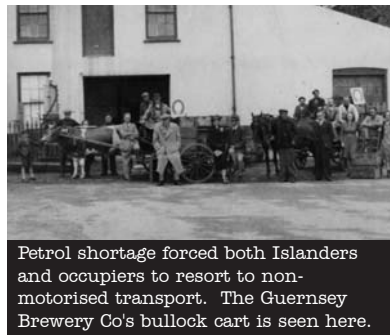
The Germans were always afraid that Islanders would escape with military information and so fishing boats operated under tight restrictions and were allowed out only with a German escort aboard. A fifth of the catch had to be handed over for the German forces.

Rationing of food, fuel and clothing was introduced in 1940. A black market developed as a result. The price of sugar rose from the equivalent of 2.5 pence per pound to £1 by 1945. Ingenious substitutes for non-existent foodstuffs were invented, many supplied from the hedgerows. Bartering became a way of life: pyjamas were swapped for bicycle tyres, cigarettes for vegetables.

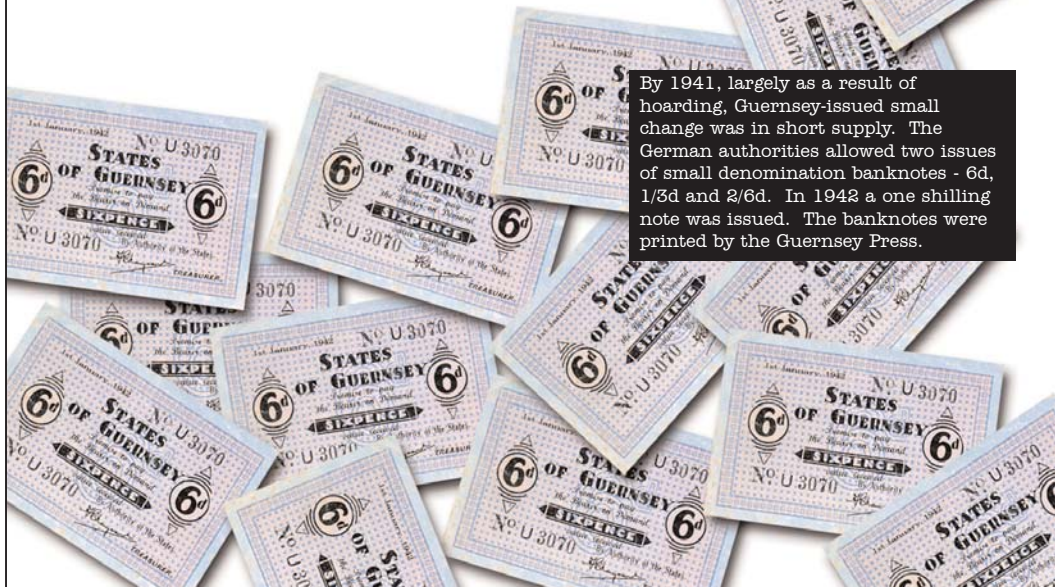
Medical supplies grew scarce. Diabetics were unable to obtain their essential daily injection of insulin and several died. The lack of soap led to concern about the spread of disease.



Queuing when supplies were available became a way of life for town dwellers. This queue is in Fountain Street.



Petrol shortage forced both Islanders and occupiers to resort to non-motorised transport. The Guernsey Brewery Co's bullock cart is seen here.



By 1941, largely as a result of hoarding, Guernsey-issued small change was in short supply. The German authorities allowed two issues of small denomination banknotes - 6d, 1/3d and 2/6d. In 1942 a one shilling note was issued. The banknotes were printed by the Guernsey Press.