

'Sewing in Wartime' Timeline

- 1900** Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire founded by Mrs Clark Murray to encourage patriotism and social service amongst Canadian women with a British connection. Chapters of the Order would later be involved with sending clothing parcels to Britain in both World Wars
- 1939** 1 September - Hitler invades Poland. Britain and France declare war on Germany two days later
- 1939** 29 September – National Registration Day – The Government use this information to issue identity cards and ration books
- 1940** 8 January – ‘Coupon Monday’ – Rationing of butter, bacon and ham begins. Rationing of meat and sugar soon follows
- ‘Dig for Victory’ slogan introduced
- 1941** The Blitz continues to destroy many of Britain’s major cities
- The USA joins the Allies to fight the war against the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy and Japan)
- 1941** 1 June - Clothes rationing introduced, with everyone receiving 66 coupons for 15 months worth of clothing (this drops to 60 coupons in 1942)
- Canadian Red Cross begin sending quilts to Britain for evacuated and home less families, refugees, hospitals and the armed forces
- 1942** The Government introduce the Utility Scheme to save material. The scheme imposed strict rules about the amount of fabric that could be used to make each item of clothing. Utility garments had to have a ‘CC41’ label.
- 1943** ‘Make Do and Mend’ guide prepared and published for the Board of Trade by the Ministry of Information. ‘Mrs Sew and Sew’ help pamphlets distributed.
- 1944** 6 June - D-Day – Allied Invasion of France
- 1945** 27 January - Liberation of Auschwitz, Nazi Concentration Camp in Poland
- 8 May - Victory in Europe (V.E) Day, 14 August - Victory in Japan (V.J) Day