Barnbow Lasses Worksheet 2



A Day in the Life of a Barnbow Lass: Answers

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|  1 | What is cordite? | Cordite is an ammunition propellant – the compound which made the shells shoot out from the guns.  |
|  2 | In June 1916 Agnes had to pay for the doctor to visit her mother, who was ill. Do some research and find out why she had to pay for medical treatment? | The National Health Service was not created until 1948, so most people had to pay for medical treatment privately. |
|  3 | How much do you think £5 3s (shillings) might be worth today? | This equates to weekly pay of around £220 today. |
|  4 | What would you *not* be let through the gates of the No 1 Filling Factory without? | A travel permit |
|  5 | Name four things you would not be allowed to have on your person if you were working at the Barnbow Factory. | 1 Cigarettes and matches2 Metal hairpins3 Metal buttons4 Outdoor shoes |
|  6 | What sort of clothes would you wear to work at the Barnbow Factory? | A Cotton capB Cotton CoatC Cotton Trousers |
| 7 | If you worked in any of the Powder Filling rooms, what nick-name would you have had? | ‘Canary’ – after the small yellow song bird. Munitions girls often turned yellow because of the chemicals they were exposed to in their work. |
| 8 | What is the most dangerous part of filling a shell? | Screwing the freeze cap in to the shell, drilling two holes and putting two screws in to hold the freeze cap in place, without drilling straight into the detonator. |
| 9 | What sort of food and drinks would you be given at work? | A Fried salty baconB Corned beefC Fresh breadD TeaE Fresh milk |
| 10 | Do you think that filling shells is a healthy occupation? Explain the reasons for your answer | No. Workers risked being blown up in explosions or maimed by machinery. They could also be poisoned by the chemicals they worked with, like TNT, Lyddite (Picric Acid) and other chemicals including Mercury, which is highly toxic. |