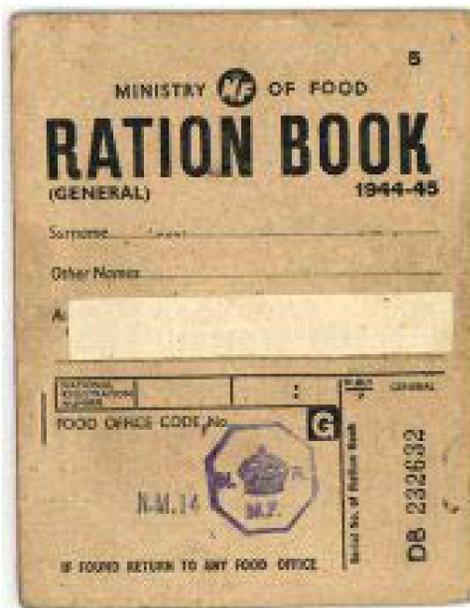


7

RATIONING

Rationing commenced in 1939, and we were issued with ration books for meat and dairy products. One had to register with a local butcher, grocer, etc. Rations of dairy produce consisted of 2 ounces butter and lard, 2 ounces cheese, and 2 ounces meat per person each week. Eggs were rationed to 1 per person. Tinned items, such as fruit or cooked meats, were available on a 'points' system, for which a voucher was provided. Sausages were scarce and offal unobtainable. Apples, oranges, green vegetables and potatoes were available, but bananas disappeared until the end of the war. Rationing continued for many years after the war. In 1953/54 bread was also rationed, and one was given 'bread units' to exchange for bread. Clothes were also rationed, with 'clothing coupons' issued for appropriate purchases. Many households kept chickens to bolster their egg supply. If particularly hungry, and could afford it, one would locate a Government-controlled 'British Restaurant' supplying a very basic 3-course meal costing 'half a crown' (25p) – the average wage at this time was around £3 weekly – but the meal was hardly edible!

Ken



I used to exchange my tea ration coupons for soap powder coupons so I could do the children's washing. On the whole we managed pretty well. I can't remember going short of anything. If there were bananas in the shops the mothers used to pass the news around "so and so has got bananas" and they used to dash round to the shop, or the fathers did, to buy bananas for the children.

Edith

I remember powdered egg, which I disliked!

Mavis



RATIONING

This is the ration for one adult per week.

BACON and HAM ... 4ozs (100g)
 MEAT to the value of 1s.2d (6p today)
 Sausages were not rationed but difficult to obtain
 Offal was originally unrationed but sometimes formed part of the meat ration
 BUTTER 2ozs (50g)
 CHEESE 2ozs (50g) sometimes it rose to 4ozs (100g) and even up to 8ozs (225g)
 MARGARINE 4ozs (100g)
 COOKING FAT 4ozs (100g) often dropping to 2ozs (50g)
 MILK 3 pints (1800ml) sometimes dropping to 2 pints (1200ml) a household
 SUGAR 8ozs (225g)
 PRESERVES 1lb (450g) every 2 months
 TEA 2ozs (50g)
 EGGS 1 shell egg a week if available but at times dropping to 1 every two weeks.
 Dried eggs ----- 1 packet each 4 weeks
 SWEETS 12 ozs (350g) each 4 weeks

In addition, there was a monthly points system. As an example of how these could be spent, with the 16 points that you were allocated you were allowed to buy one can of fish or meat or 2lb (900g) of dried fruit or 8lb (3.6kg) of split peas. Babies and younger children, and expectant and nursing mothers had concentrated orange juice and cod liver oil from Welfare Clinics together with priority milk. This milk was also available to invalids.

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http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2010/07/09/article-1293468-00127C6400000258-428_468x286.jpg

Sgt Peter K Walley, a Battle of Britain pilot, was killed when his Hurricane came down on 18 August 1940 on the site now occupied by South Thames College. A plaque on the college wall states: "It is recalled with pride that, knowing he was about to crash, Sgt Walley bravely managed to guide his badly damaged aircraft over nearby houses, thereby safeguarding the lives of the residents." Walley was with 615 Squadron based at Kenley, and is buried at the RAF cemetery at Whyteleafe. He was only 20.

Bill



In the early months of the war an Air Raid Warden Post (a building, not a wooden post) was erected roughly on the present front lawn at St Martin's just in front of the kitchen area, then a patch of waste ground. As a very young student at London University the Government "called me" to do my bit as an Air Raid Warden, complete with uniform and tin hat! At least once a week I was on night duty, little realising how this site would one day influence my life and come to mean so much to me.

Albert

EVACUATION

One night, a landmine dropped on the golf course, flattening the houses opposite us in Hillcross Avenue and removing the tops of the houses on our side of the road. Our house was declared uninhabitable, so we moved ... My two sisters and I went to stay with an aunt in Guildford, and mother and father stayed with another aunt in Godalming.

Peter Ramsey

<bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar>

I remember, in 1940 when I was 11, standing with my twin brother and my 12-year-old elder brother on top of an Anderson air raid shelter in the back garden of our house in Templecombe Way, watching dog fights over Croydon. In 1941, because of the Blitz, we were evacuated to Didcot, Berkshire, to live with our Granddad. It was deemed safe enough for us to return home in Spring 1944. Then came the doodle bugs (V-1s) – a frightening time.

Desmond Langley

<bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar>

I was evacuated with the two children to Worcester with a lot of neighbouring mothers with children under 5. Otherwise the children over 5 were sent away on their own by train in the care of teachers, no parents. As we were waiting for the train to start, while they were putting the luggage into the train, an air-raid warning went. The train started off without half the luggage. We were on our way to Worcester. When we arrived of course we had no luggage. It turned up three days later. The baby's pram was dented and had to be repaired, but the people we stayed with in Worcester saw to all that for me, and had the pram repaired and delivered back to me.

Edith