

Rationing

Rationing was a means of ensuring the fair distribution of food and other commodities when they were scarce and to prevent people stockpiling foodstuffs. Enemy shipping targeted British merchant ships in an attempt to lower morale by starving the people into submission. The importing of foodstuffs and other non-essential items was deemed a waste of petrol, and lives, needed for the war effort.

First to be rationed was petrol. Eventually, most foods were covered by the rationing system with the exception of fruit and vegetables as was clothing. Ration books were given to everyone in Britain who then registered in a shop of their choice. When something was purchased the shopkeeper marked the purchase off in the customer's book.

Posters campaigns exhorted people to support the war effort by growing as much fruit and vegetables as possible. The Chewetts, as these entries show, were fortunate to be able to supplement their food rations with home-grown produce from their garden that was double the size it is now. Sourcing sugar for preserving fruit was a perennial problem.

Eila: 22 Sept 39 Filled up with petrol before restrictions begin.

Albert: 27 Sept. 39 Got petrol Ration Book from Herts CC.

A: 14 July 40 Cleaned and prepared new hive for bees.

A: 4 Sept 40. I bottled 8 jars of small plums.

A: 9. Sept 40. I pickled pears.

A: 23 Sept 40 Picked corn and put in 4 2lb bottles.

A: 8 Dec 40 I went to Judge Street and bought 8 pullets and 3 yearling hens.

E: 7 July 40 Met H getting off bus at 3 Crowns. He came to dinner. Brought 10 lbs sugar, very kindly. (A suspiciously large amount!)

E: 10 Dec 40 3 eggs from new pullets

A: 3 Feb 41 Received Food Coupons for hens.

A: 12 May 41. Eila to see Mrs. HSP. She brought back sausages, suet and cooking fat.

Boiled fish offal for hens.



REVELEY AT WAR