**Name:**

**Lesson 3 Children of World War II- Evacuees**

DHC ref number: DSA-5

Date of interview / recording: 8th December 1993

Name of Interviewee: Edna Bolton – Home Management

Well we were never short of food here. We kept chickens as most people did and rabbits, you know we had lots of rabbit stew and of course all the vegetables were grown in the garden, in fact if you didn’t grow it, you didn’t eat it. I remember it was a treat when Guernsey tomatoes first came in. The little shop down the road which is no longer there, Greenwoods, they had them in and you know we would buy half a pound of tomatoes and that was a luxury really, um, carrots, potatoes and everything else you dug up and stored in the wash house or wherever. Potatoes and everything else. Apples of course we didn’t see, the only fruit we ever had were, um, apples, gooseberries, you know those sorts of soft fruits, bananas and oranges were out of the question, um, no one had any of those, um, and the little factory up here you could always go up there and get sausages. Sausages were no problem. What went into them I don’t know but, um, they tasted very good actually and now I live in America lots of times I would do anything for an English sausage even if it is half bread. And faggots of course you, they made faggots down here and er we always seemed to be able to get cheese, that didn’t seem to be too much of a problem, I think it was rationed but um, I think the main thing was sugar, you could get extra sugar if you kept bees (indistinct words) If you kept chickens you couldn’t have your egg ration, instead of having an egg ration on your ration book, you know we had ration books, you received this bag of meal once a quarter which was to help feed your chickens instead ….

Highlight any words in the text above which are new to you.

1. Make a list of the foods that were available for the family.
2. What fruits were ‘out of the question,’ can you find out why?

3, What food item could you always get?

4. Why was this item easily available?

5. What food item do you **not** recognise?

*‘In January 1940, the British government introduced food rationing. The scheme was designed to ensure fair shares for all at a time of national shortage. Every man, woman and child was given a ration book with coupons. These were required before rationed goods could be purchased*.’

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-you-need-to-know-about-rationing-in-the-second-world-war>

6. What items of food were rationed according to the clip?

7. Sugar was in very short supply – unlike today when many ready-made foods contain sugar. How do you think it may have affected British health to have less sugar available?

Clue – the number of heart attacks and strokes fell sharply during the war years.

8. Write down any of the foods Edna had which you regularly eat in your family.

9. If food was rationed again, what would you make or grow to help feed your family?

Class discussion – what words were new to the class?