

Making Do in World War Two

Reading extract



When war broke out, Britain was short of many important war supplies such as petrol, food and metal for weapons. In 1940, German submarines sank hundreds of supply ships carrying food from abroad, many of them off the west coast of Scotland at the mouth of the River Clyde.

The government was worried that Britain might be starved into surrender. Food had to be rationed to make sure everyone got a fair share. Every family was given a Ration Book. It was made up of paper tokens. People had to register with their local butcher and grocer. They had to have the right number of tokens to buy rationed foods that were in short supply. These included sugar, butter and meat. Luxury foods such as sweets and fresh fruit were almost impossible to find. Scottish children grew up during the war years never knowing what an orange or banana looked or tasted like.

There was no shortage of the foods than could be grown in Scotland, such as potatoes, turnips and barley. Even →