

## *Mrs Charlotte Vinces' Co-op Shopping List*

Colin Doman, a grandson of Mrs Vince, recently posted absolutely fascinating details of his nan's (Charlotte Vince of 200, Fullbourne Road, Walthamstow) Co-operative grocery order book that showed purchases she made at the beginning of World War II.



The house with the blue door in the middle of the image is 200, Fulbourne Road, Walthamstow. Although the double glazing has replaced the up and down sliding sash windows and the front garden would have been different, it looks very much as it would have done in 1939.

Because some people may have difficulty reading the original shopping list, I have copied it and transcribed the information onto a table. Where possible, I have also found 'contemporary' images of some of the goods and I have posted some notes about the list.

| 2 SEP 1939             |      | 6 SEP 1939                |        |
|------------------------|------|---------------------------|--------|
| 1/2 lb Tea             | 1-6  | 1/2 lb Tea                | 1-1    |
| 4 lbs loaf Sugar       | 1-3  | 1/2 lb loaf Sugar         | 1-1    |
| 1 lb Cran              | 1-1  | 2 lb Cran                 | 6-3    |
| Large Cream Cats       | 1-4  | 1/2 lb Red Cheese         | 4-     |
| 1 lb Pearl Barley      | 8-   | 1/2 lb Gorgonzola         | 7-     |
| 1 lb Corn Beef         | 8-   | 1 lb Pan Van              | 6-     |
| 1 Box Legion Soap      | 3-4  | 1 lb Peaches              | 9-3    |
| 1 lb Candles (12)      | 5-   | 4 Tins Cream              | 1-6-   |
| 3 Tins Cream           | 1-13 | Small Jar Jelly marmalade | 6-3    |
| 1 Box Matches          | 8-   | Small Tin Golden Syrup    | 5-3    |
| 1/2 lb Cadbury's Cocoa | 1-   | 10 lb Legion Soap         | 3-3    |
| 1 lb Lard              | 5-   | 1 lb Table Salt           | 2-     |
|                        | 9-3  | 2 Tins Praline Fruit      | 1-1-   |
|                        |      | 1 lb Corn Flakes          | 5-     |
|                        |      |                           | 10-4-2 |

Notes:

- 1 WWII commenced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939. It seems likely that she was trying to stock up against anticipated future shortages.
- 2 1 shilling (s) was 12 old pennies (d) 1 shilling = 5 new pence (5p) 1 old penny = 2½ p.
- 3 1 lb = 450 grammes
- 4 The top item in the right hand column is possibly a Co-op brand tea.
- 5 'Legion' soap was made by the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) and presumably it was a good quality cheaper brand.
- 6 In 1939 few British households possessed refrigerators. Perishable items like cheese were kept in a 'fly safe' larder that was basically a wooden box with a door



covered in wire mesh fixed to a shaded outside wall of the house.

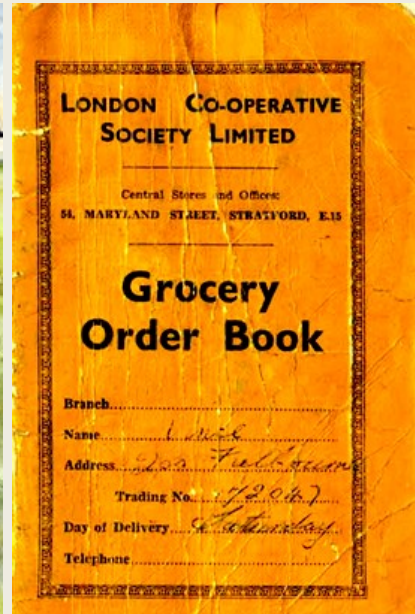
- 7 The purchaser has bought both lump (loaf) and granulated sugar.
- 8 Note the purchase of candles and boxes of matches.
- 9 ? No mention of her Co-op dividend
- 10 See the advert for Co-op brand cigarettes.



Purchased 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1939

Purchased 6<sup>th</sup> September 1939

| Quantity | Item Description  | s        | d        | Quantity  | Item Description  | s         | d         |
|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| ½ lb     | Typhoo Tea        | 1        | 6        | ½ lb      | Tea 2/2           | 1         | 1         |
| 4 lb     | Loaf Sugar        | 1        | 3        | 3 lb      | Loaf Sugar        | 1         | 3         |
| 4 lb     | Granulated Sugar  | 1        | 0        | 2 lb      | Granulated Sugar  |           | 6½        |
| Large    | Crema Oats        |          | 7½       | ¼ lb      | Red Cheese        |           | 4         |
| 1 lb     | Pearl Barley      |          | 3        | ¼ lb      | Gorgonzola        |           | 7         |
| 1 tin    | Corn Beef         |          | 8        | 1 Jar     | Pan Yan pickles   | 1         | 6         |
| 1 bar    | Legion soap       |          | 3½       | 1 tin     | Peaches           |           | 9½        |
| 1lb (12) | Candles           |          | 5        | 3 tins    | Cream             | 1         | 6         |
| 3 tins   | Cream             | 1        | 1½       | Small Jar | Jelly Marmalade   |           | 6½        |
| 1 doz    | Matches           |          | 8½       | Large tin | Golden Syrup      |           | 5½        |
| ¼ lb     | Cadbury Cocoa     | 1        | 0        | 1 lb      | Legion soap       |           | 3½        |
| 1 tin    | Libby's Cream     |          | 5        | 1 packet  | Table Salt        |           | 2         |
|          |                   |          |          | 2 tins    | Grape Fruit       | 1         | 1         |
|          |                   |          |          | 1 packet  | Corn flakes       |           | 5         |
|          | <b>Total Cost</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>3</b> |           | <b>Total Cost</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>4½</b> |



Bill Bayliss  
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