

**DEFENCE OF THE REALM. C.P. 4.**  
**MINISTRY OF FOOD.**

## BREACHES OF THE RATIONING ORDER

The undermentioned convictions have been recently obtained:-

Court	Date	Nature of Offence	Result
HENDON - -	29th Aug., 1918	Unlawfully obtaining and using ration books -	3 Months' Imprisonment
WEST HAM -	29th Aug., 1918	Being a retailer & failing to detach proper number of coupons	Fined £20
SMETHWICK -	22nd July, 1918	Obtaining meat in excess quantities - - -	Fined £50 & 25 Sh. costs
OLD STREET -	4th Sept., 1918	Being a retailer selling to unregistered customer	Fined £72 & 25 Sh. costs
OLD STREET -	4th Sept., 1918	Not detaching sufficient coupons for meat sold -	Fined £25 & 22 Sh. costs
CHESTER-LE-STREET	4th Sept., 1918	Being a retailer returning number of registered customers in excess of counterfoils deposited - - -	Fined £50 & 25 Sh. costs
HIGH WYCOMBE	7th Sept., 1918	Making false statement on application for and using Ration Books unlawfully - - - - -	Fined £40 & 25 Sh. costs

Enforcement Branch, Local Authorities Division,  
**MINISTRY OF FOOD.**  
 September, 1918.

Notices such as the one above appeared in national and local newspapers. They were designed to warn people of the penalties for breaching the rationing order.



Whiskey came back on sale in Birmingham after World War One on 21st December 1918. Two long lines formed outside this Dale End store, one stretching back towards the High Street, the other going around Henn's Walk, a side street no longer there today. The focus was the premises of Edward Hill James Limited, which appears in a 1918 trade directory as Wine and Spirit Merchants of 29, Dale End. The firm was established in 1861 and rebuilt in 1906. The expectant faces of many in the queue suggest relief at the lifting of wartime restrictions on alcohol sales. The queue ironically passes the Birmingham Sunday School Union Bookroom. The Protestant Nonconformist figures that traditionally dominated this movement, many having lectured on the social ills of alcohol consumption, might have been appalled by such a gathering outside their shop!