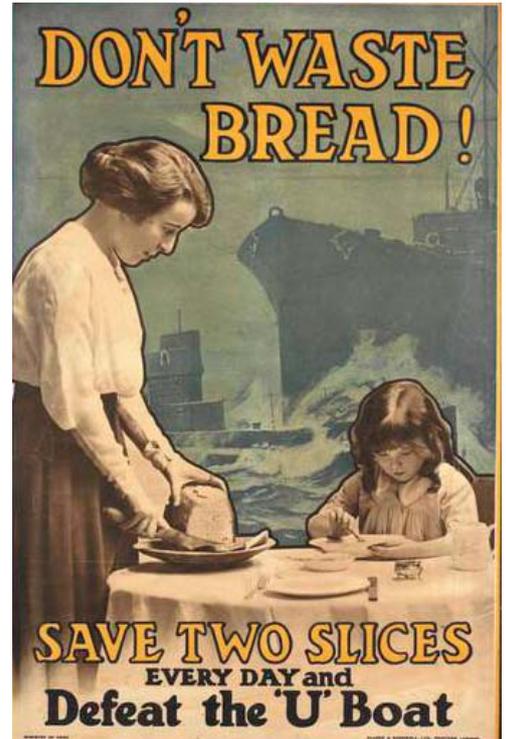


BACKGROUND

The U Boat campaign by Germany started to take a toll on British food supplies. In this scene, at the Francis Stores on Runcorn Road, the situation is discussed with Fred Grimsley—the postman (who reads all the cards in advance).

The added bite to the situation is that Elizabeth's husband Bill has enlisted with join the army, and is serving as a cook in the Service Corps.

Bill's relationship with his wife has altered slightly with his absence. He finds he misses her more, as his cards make explicit. For Elizabeth, left with the shop to run, she finds the romantic overtones in his cards to be perplexing.



GRIMSLEY (postman): Hello Liz. I have got something here will cheer you up. from Bill. He's a cook, funny that. I never saw or heard of him cooking.

Elizabeth (shop owner): Give it here then and let's have a look. Yes you are right Mr Grimsley he IS a cook. He never did any here and he certainly never did any washing up. I can't imagine him in an army kitchen.

VICTORIA (Elizabeth's mother): (*shouts out from her seat near the counter*) A crook? I always knew he was no good.

ELIZABETH: Well it's nice to have a card

VICTORIA: What's he sending a postcard for? Doesn't he know there's a war on?

ELIZABETH: (*reads aloud*) Dear beloved Elizabeth,

To others Hear that? I'm beloved now. Well distance makes the heart grow fonder.

(from letter) Hope this finds you well. I am settling back into army life. I couldn't say before I went, due to military secrecy, but I can now tell you I supply food to the army...

(speaks aloud to the others) He's a cook that's what he means.

(reads aloud from letter again) Give my best to Jane and tell Albert to keep the shop properly stocked. Lots of love to you my sweet darling, kiss - kiss - kiss....

(speaks aloud) The army seems to have affected him funny. He's gone all romantic.

VICTORIA: Did you say he's frantic? Is he in an asylum?

ELIZABETH: He becomes a cook and now we've got food on ration. It's ironic isn't it?

GRIMSLEY: The bread ration hasn't been so difficult, though it doesn't seem to taste right any more. I haven't seen what they're going to ration next.

ELIZABETH: It's in the papers Mr Grimsley – butter, margarine, lard, meat and sugar.

GRIMSLEY: That IS serious. Those infernal U Boats. We've lost a lot of ships because of them. They are trying to starve us into defeat.