

Transcript of Eileen Powles Audio Clip

I worked in the Food Office which was a reserved occupation, you see and I didn't think I was gonna get away. I thought everybody was going, you see, all my friends and everybody was going. Anyway, the government had decreed that ten percent of the staff in Food Offices between the age of twenty and thirty would have to go and in the Ramsgate Food Office there was two of us. The lady who got the option she started a week before me so she had choice. Unbeknown to me she went up to the boss or was called up to the boss came down the stairs and says, 'The boss wants you'. I thought, 'Oh God, now what have I done', you know, you think, don't you, you've done something wrong. Up I went and they tells me this story and then he said, 'I'm very sorry but Miss Wood doesn't want to go', I said, 'Oh, Mr Presitt, I wondered why I hadn't been called on you'. I was the right age group. 'Well, I have reserved you twice' [laughs]. I could have killed him [laughs]. There's me sitting downstairs issuing ration books and Identity Card and things, itching to get away, anyway, so that was it I was then able to get away, you see. That was September '42, yeah.