

# Got Any Gum Chum?

Local children in particular often made friends with the airmen, through special events like Christmas parties on the airbases, or just because they knew the Americans were likely to have chocolate and chewing gum !

After years of rationing in England, food was precious. Many young people saw their first oranges, apples and ice cream on the American bases.



The airmen genuinely cared about the children that lived around their bases, and would do things like smuggle them movies shown on the base under their coats. Of course they could also get the children to do favours for them, like deliver fish and chips, or have them pass messages to their girlfriends when they couldn't leave their base.