

TRANSCRIPT

M&S Forces Bulletin December 1945 pp10-11

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED IN REPLY TO A LETTER AND QUESTIONNAIRE SENT BY MRS. F. SOLOMON, HEAD OF THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT, TO MEMBERS OF THE FEMALE STAFF ON NATIONAL SERVICE, CONCERNING THEIR REINSTATEMENT WITH THE COMPANY.

Miss D. Irvin, V.A.D. (Blackpool). "My first experiences in Germany were very grim and some of the things I saw I never want to see again. You see I was working with one of the medical units which was sent to Belsen concentration camp. There we were confronted with a difficult task, for the internees were sick in both body and mind. There were 8,000 patients very ill when we arrived and when we left there were only 2,000 patients left to be evacuated."

P.O.P. Tomkins, Malta (Chester). "My job has been very similar to that of Staff Manageress. We buy the food, supervise the cooking and look after the welfare of the Wrens in general. All our staff are Maltese; they do not speak much English but we soon got over that difficulty."

L.A.C. W. Wetherby, W.A.A.F. (Liverpool). "Returning to civilian life after nearly four years in the services is a wonderful feeling but also a great worry in having to think of future employment. Therefore, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for the interest shown by Marks & Spencer in their old staff who were called away during the war. Not many firms would bother."

L/Wren C. Harris (Chatham). "Whilst with the firm, I was very happy and I am always bragging about Marks & Spencer to my ship-mates and telling them what a good firm it is to work for."

Miss R.T. Stewart (Dundee). "As I am stationed not far from London I come up to town quite a lot. At first I was tempted to come to Baker Street, but the nearest I ever came to this, was the ornamental gates and I lacked the courage to come in and introduce myself."

Miss I. McLintock (Putney). "Before the war, I had spent eight of the happiest years of my life at Putney store, being very interested in the work, and the way the staff were looked after there is not comparable to anything I have met since and we felt as if we were members of a very happy family. When I come back it will be wonderful to watch the way the stores will once again reach their high standard of pre-war efficiency."

Wren Millington Sydney, N.S. Wales (Woolwich). "Like many other girls I have wondered what I am going to do when I am demobbed, and I would very much like the chance of returning to the firm. The job I am doing is not very glamorous as I am looking after and waiting on the surgeons, but that has helped me to become domesticated. I spent sixteen happy years at Woolwich store and if the clubs are restored once more, I would like to do that job again."

Mrs. W. Cross (Taunton). "Since being released from war work I have become a mother. I would like to say, however, that my job as window dresser was a very pleasant one. I worked in the old Penny Bazaar days at Walworth Road branch and it was great fun on

Fridays when the van (horse drawn) arrived from Mile End from the Warehouse with the weekly orders.”

Mrs. D. Cullinon (nee Eccles) (Halifax). “I must decline your offer of reinstatement as I am now a mother and have a baby daughter who takes up all my time and I have settled down to civilian life as well as the average house-wife.”

Miss E.F. Emslie (Romford). “The need to do work of national importance was the only reason I left your Romford store. I trust the firm has not suffered too much loss by enemy action during the war years.”