

Thursday 29 June 2017

Women's life in WW1

*My name is Catherine. I am married to Eric who is away fighting on the western front with the first battalion of the Norfolk regiment, but I don't know exactly where as they are not allowed to tell us. The last card I received was after Christmas, when Eric talked about all the lads playing football with each other. They also swapped gifts. He said he was given a bar of chocolate although he said it didn't taste as good the Caley's chocolate they make in Norwich.*

*Because so many men have had to go to war, lots of us have now had to take up jobs and that's on top of all the work we have to do at home. I am working in the local munitions factory.*

*have been making arms and explosives in the factory. It is quite nice earning money of my own-which I never did before the war and its fun working with lots of girls from Heigham street. We are becoming quite independent and there is lots of talk about us fighting to get the vote after the war. The best bit though is that we all feel as if we are doing something to help our boys. To begin with I wasn't used to a lot of the heavy lifting we had to do, but my muscles have got used to it now. The best bit about it is that I have learnt lot of new skills but the worst bit is that we have to work with horrible chemicals like cordite. They give us overalls to protect our clothes and mask but still lots of the girls are getting very ill from breathing in the fumes. One poor girl died of toxic jaundice last week.*

*After everything in the factory is done, I will get home at 9:00 pm*

*When I reach my home, I need to feed my 5 children who are all under age 5. After that, I had to make food. My children don't like cod liver oil. I also need to knit the socks, hats and gloves and repair my children's clothes. The last thing I do before I go to bed is fill the coal bucket ready for the fire in the morning.*

*by: Jacob k*