

Written by Madge Neal

I first was sent to a W.L.A hostel in North Petherton in Somerset. The farmers would let the forelady know how many girls for how long he needed them. We would be taken each morning by lorry where we were needed, after we made our own packed lunch from our weekly ration. The farmers would give us a drink.

I worked in the fields with German P.O.Ws, D.Ps (displaced persons, I think Russian) with Jews who all lived together and pooled everything to go to Israel.

Some of the work I remember doing – ditches, one girl dug and one shovelled.

Market gardening

Hay making

Harvesting

Dairy farming – milking

I asked to get nearer home (London) after one and a half years. So was sent to Delaford Manor, the Duchess of Kent's house in Bucks. There I got a job in the walled kitchen garden of Sobells head office. I can't remember what that house was called.

Most of which was hard work and a very big difference from working in a factory making the early nylon stockings. But I wouldn't have minded it. I left to get married.