As a volunteer in the Molly Pitcher Division, you are enrolled under the Melrose War Services. You were enlisted primarily for the Grease Saving Campaign and such other Salvage material as would be the household's responsibility. You were told that your help would be asked from time to time to take to your neighbors other essential information.

We face a New Year— we are now in our second year of war, constantly called total war. You are a vital unit in the success of the home-front offensive. That means total effort from every one of us. We have done well with our grease collection; we can do better. We have done well with most of the salvage program. There still remains missionary work on the tin-can situation.

The most effective method of getting information to the householder is the Neighborhood or Block System. The government has requested that every community organize and put into operation the Block Leader Plan. Melrose already had the Molly Pitcher Division and it was deemed inadvisable to recruit a new group—rather to augment the one organized. It is desired that there be a Block Leader or Molly Pitcher for every ten families—one for every five would be better. This is the ideal war service for that great number of women who are eager to help but are unable to do specified work at specified hours or take specialized training.

Block Leadership has a definite and vital place in the Civilian Defense Program. Information important to the success of the various rationing and other programs must be taken to the householder when need arises. Every household should know who the Molly Pitcher in the district is and where she may be reached. Every householder should be encouraged to ask for information and help on problems that are daily becoming more complex. A Molly Pitcher isn’t expected to know all the answers, but she should know how and where to get the necessary information. The good old custom of neighborly service must be brought back into our lives and put to work to hasten the day of victory.

From time to time it may be necessary to call the Molly Pitchers together for instructions. Should you be unable to come, please consider it a duty to send someone who will take back to you needful information and literature. This is important work and should be regarded as a serious obligation and nothing except physical inability of unusual circumstances should interfere with your attendance.

The Melrose War Services Division will meet on January 6th as listed above. In order that you may know who the Chairman of the special committees are and learn what information must be presented immediately to the householders, you are asked to be present at this meeting. Will you take it upon yourself to urge as many of your friends and neighbors as possible to enlist and bring them to this meeting. The more Molly Pitchers we have the less each one will have to do. Bring a note book and pencil, register at the desk when you come in, your name, address, phone and ward.

Melrose women have always met an obligation. As the first Molly Pitcher took her stand with her husband’s gun, so shall we take up the fight with a different kind of weapon. We dare not fail those loved ones who have gone out to fight that we may keep the pleasant ways of living they dream of “back home in Melrose”.

SHIRLEY G. SPURR,
CHAIRMAN, MOLLY PITCHER DIVISION
Telephone - Melrose 1172-M

December 29, 1942.
[1942-12-29; form letter to the volunteers of the Molly Pitcher Division of the Melrose Committee on Public Safety, no doubt to Gertrude Crowell Taylor.]