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## HEADACHE FOR HITLER

IT has been a pleasure to read the many entries sent in for the "Adaptability" competition—they give a picture of a cheerful determination to make the best of any conditions, however difficult and unfamiliar, and get on with the job, that would break Hitler's heart. "Anyone with a little will power can adapt themselves to new conditions" writes R. Robinson (Gloucestershire) and that appears to be the Land Army's motto. Willingness to learn even outside the sphere of work is expressed by D. Green (Hants) who says "getting water from a pump has made me realise what a sin it is to waste water" and she speaks for many other volunteers when she concludes that she will do her "utmost to uphold the good reputation of the W.L.A. whatever the odds," and she "would not change her uniform for any other in the whole world." K. Russell (Surrey) is something of a philosopher; she points out that "there is always some drawback to the most perfect billet and the only way to stick it out is to concentrate on the good points which must be there too." She used to work 37 hours a week before the war and thought she worked hard, which she now regards as a good joke. Now, despite her longer hours, she finds that "all the books one would never admit not having read can be read."

There are so many good entries one would like to mention nearly everyone: P. Tonkin (Essex) expressed in verse and conversation poor Grandpapa's depression at modern substitutes for old ways. G. Goddard (E. Sussex) found that her ingenuity in time-saving sometimes landed her in trouble. G. Curtis and her mother (Berks) who both joined at the outbreak of war sent a list of helpful hints. A. Daubeney (Somerset) retailed a most interesting conversation with her local postmistress. K. Rawkins (W. Sussex) struggled valiantly with an inferiority complex. E. Moss Holland (Oxon), who found "the actual work not so hard" as her previous job (unspecified), has made an interesting study of the origins of local place names and P. Fish (Somerset) finds time for riding, Guides, amateur theatricals, First Aid Classes, acting as night telephonist for the N.F.S. and as a blood donor.

The prize goes to U. Dacombe, of Somerset, whose entry appears this month. As and when space permits, the essays sent in by D. Hudson (Essex), D. Pembridge (Worcestershire), S. Stiven (Kent), J. West (Cambridgeshire) and W.L.A. 56579 (Devon) will appear at least in part, and a collection of helpful tips and quotations from Yorkshire, Norfolk, Cheshire and other counties will also be printed.

M. A. P.



work right away on the photo-gravure folders. They must go to press on Friday." Just twenty-seven cows, at once placid and nervous, absolutely alike and completely different, to be fed and milked seven days a week, the days themselves in theory identical, in practice infinitely varied.

Those cows which I knew in the first winter of the war have emerged from their original role of delightful company into the most absorbing work I have ever done. Consequently I, who formerly scanned first the dramatic, then the literary and finally the political pages of a newspaper and spent all my leisure, including mealtimes, devouring books on any subject, now read practically nothing beyond the farming trade papers, the Ministry of Agriculture quarterly journal and any book on animal husbandry I can obtain.

In the summer I am out of doors nearly all day long, pottering about the farm if there is no urgent work to do after tea, and coming indoors for little more than eating and sleeping. In the winter mending absorbs a good deal of time. To prolong the life of my Land Army kit has become almost a fetish. I assure scoffing friends that it would frighten the cows if I looked smart.

So when my shirts wore out across the back and shoulders, I turned two into one by making a new back and sleeves from one shirt out of the good tail part of another. I make stockings last by cutting off the worn feet of two pairs and sewing the legs of one pair on to the legs of another. The join comes just above the ankle and care must be taken to pick up all the stitches at this seam, or disastrous ladders appear. The turn-down tops of one pair are then cut off and the open end stitched up in the shape of a

I am making a collection of sheep's wool picked off bushes, brambles and barbed wire. I have only a fat little bag full so far, but nourish ambitious schemes of stuffing a baby's cot cover when the wool has been washed and pulled out.

Early last fall I caused consternation in the village by collecting cooking and eating fungi not commonly recognised as edible! I had a copy of a booklet, "Edible and Poisonous Fungi," published by the Ministry of Agriculture. Armed with this I found and ate chanterelles, edible boletus, lawyers' wigs, fairy ring mushrooms and, best of all, the giant puff ball. Cut in slices and fried, this tastes like a delicious cross between a soft herring roe and a mushroom. I think the village were a little disappointed that I did not die in agony.

The theatre has receded into visits to ballet and the latest revue, when I divide my week's leave between London and my home. Films, I have decided, are seldom worth cycling fourteen miles to see, and I have cut them out of my life without a pang. Shopping, I find, can nearly always be concentrated into an orgy at the county town about once in three months, and a quick sprint up Regent Street and Oxford Street when in town. The village shop or the shop in the next village supplies all essentials and, surprisingly often, stocks of goods long ago unobtainable in towns.

Inheriting from my mother's family a natural wave and the Quaker instinct to regard personal adornment as a waste of time if not a positive sin, I am happy to forget that in pre-war days I found it commercially imperative to be reasonably well dressed and go fairly frequently to a hairdresser. (Hayseeds make an excellent dry shampoo anyway.) However, I

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I keep a diary. It began as a service record for the dairy herd and grew into notes of work on the farm, so that I might quickly refer to the date when we drilled mangolds, for instance, thus concealing my abysmal ignorance of the farming year. I also hoped that from it I could learn a little about grassland management by noting the movement of sheep and cattle from one pasture to another and the dates on which various meadows were let up for hay. The livelier portions of this diary were enlarged in letters to a London friend. Inspired by this correspondence she has recently inaugurated a Field Club at a Youth Centre she is helping to organise in a London suburb, so that other "townees" may learn a little about agriculture and realise that the country is not just a place in which the townsman may relax but the factory of the oldest and most fascinating industry in the world, on whose products the life of all civilised human beings depend.

URSULA DACOMBE, W.L.A. 17366  
(Somerset).

## A Slug

(With apologies to W. Wordsworth)

Earth has not anything to show more  
foul;

Strange would he be of soul who could  
enjoy

Seeing a slug his energies employ  
In eating all his plants off one by one.  
Yet in the twinkling of an eye 'tis done.  
The garden soon doth like a desert lie,  
Plundered and ravaged by the robber sly  
—No use to tear one's hair—no help to  
howl.

'Twas only yesterday a slug did creep,  
Spurred on by hunger, keen to take his  
fill.

I think I never felt disgust so deep  
—The slug has eaten at his own sweet  
will.

Dear God! I feel that I could sit and  
weep,

For all my lettuce plants are lying still.  
A. R. HEWLETT, W.L.A. 36110  
(East Sussex).

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It is not very likely that any of you have had time this busy harvest season to visit the London Zoo. If you had, you would have seen the striking Land Army exhibit at the Ministry of Agriculture's Food Production Exhibition. By means of photographs and captions, the exhibit shows the great part you are playing. Miss Dow of Surrey and Miss Gould, of London and Middlesex, two volunteers temporarily on the sick list, have been in attendance to answer questions.

Another Land Army member, Miss Watson, may meet some of you in the course of her travels through the country with the "V" calf, collecting money for the Red Cross Agriculture Fund. This six months' old Ayrshire calf is the only one in existence in Britain with such a marking on its forehead. Miss Watson is taking it through the principal towns, where it is expected to raise large sums. Look out for them in the immediate future at Kingham, Oxford, Gloucester, Tenbury Wells and Reading.

In the film world, Land Girls at Ludham Hall, Norfolk, "starred" in a film of silage making. Another film event is the shooting of Women's Land Army members on the Home Front by the British Movietone News.

The B.B.C.'s service to Portugal, one of Great Britain's oldest friends, included a talk on the Women's Land Army recently. Your part in the war is of special interest to this agricultural-minded and industrious people. Did any of you hear Mrs. Marjorie Dempsey, of the Wiltshire W.L.A., on the Forces Programme on 19th August? She featured in the "War Worker's Choice" variety programme.

And here is a nice compliment from a townsman which appeared in the South London Press:—"Sir, I should like to say a word of praise concerning the Women's Service we town folk so seldom see: the Land Girls . . . I think we ought to let them know occasionally that we don't forget them and that we appreciate the grand job they are doing." J. Seago, Bermondsey.



## AUSTRIAN ALLY

I joined the Land Army one year ago to help this county in some ways against an enemy, who I have personal as well as general reasons to dislike. I chose the horticultural section because I had a big garden in Vienna; but am afraid my knowledge of gardening was limited to cutting flowers and picking fruit.

*Peace and Plenty*

My first employer in Oxfordshire proudly showed me a cherry wall-tree bearing a few dozen cherries, protected by muslin, a few peaches on a tree in a greenhouse and an anæmic-looking vine. It seemed very funny to me. I had every year hundreds of pounds of cherries and peaches off each tree in my garden and, walking under an arch of vines, could pick bunches of grapes without the trouble of using steps. You can understand my feelings in knowing that all these good things are being enjoyed now by twenty members of the Nazi Youth movement, who installed themselves in my house.

Due to its mountainous character, Austria is neither a vegetable nor a grain-growing country on a big scale, only the dairy farming of the mountain peasants (very different from how it is done in this country) and forestry are of importance. It is also known for its vines. Most of these grow near Vienna, on hills which are terraces. Many vine growers make and sell their wines on the spot. It was a habit of the Viennese to take some food with them and to spend many a summer evening in these vineyards drinking the very cheap new wine while being entertained by a band of minstrels.

*Austrian Vitality*

The Austrian, and foremost the Viennese, like to enjoy themselves, although their idea of enjoyment differs widely from the British. To leave Vienna Saturday, midday, to sit eight hours in an uncushioned, overcrowded tourist train to get to the high mountains, to carry a heavy ruck-sack and skis, in winter, 4,000 feet high up to a chalet, to rest a few hours on mattresses on a floor, to get up by daybreak to climb another 4,000 feet, to ski or climb down, to sit another eight hours in the train and to return to Vienna Sunday midnight, is for most young Viennese an enjoyable week-end. I myself spent most week-ends this way when I wasn't canoeing or swimming.

Generally speaking, I think the Austrians like physical strain much more than the British do and they are earlier risers, they are very entertaining people with a lot of vitality, but I am not unfair to my countrymen in saying that they possess less of the qualities which I have learnt to appreciate in the British.

*British Organisation*

I have worked in the Land Army first in Oxfordshire and now in Devon and in both counties I was impressed by the efficiency of the Land Army organisation, and by how well each volunteer is looked after; I am deeply impressed by the high standard of living of the country folk, of their friendliness towards a stranger, of their eagerness to help, and of the amazingly good manners even the poorest farm hand displays. They work well and hard without making such a parade of it as the Germans do and I am convinced the British women beat the German women hollow in organisation. In Germany girls between 16 and 25 were compelled to help peasants but there is no comparison possible between the achievement of the Land Army and the women's labour force in Germany. Hardly any of their members were able, even after years, to take on a position of responsibility.

*A Different Climate—and the Results*

It was some consolation to me at first, that even if I had understood gardening it wouldn't have been of great help here. The climate is so different. There is no green to be seen in Austria from mid-October till the end of March. The ground is either black with white frost on it or snow bound. I never stopped marvelling the first winter I spent here at seeing flowers and green hedges in December. To leave cattle in the open in winter would of course be an impossibility in Austria and to get the winter's supply of hay under roof is the main summer work of the dairy farmer.

Different vegetables I didn't know at all, like broad beans, parsnips, turnips, celery and asparagus. We grow a bigger relation of the turnip, the Kohlrabi, and the celeriac instead of celery. In Vienna I had only seen the blancher asparagus with pink tops. Our Kohl and Kraut are much bigger than cabbage and savoy, but sprouts are smaller. We don't know black currants, loganberries and damsons but grow a great variety of plums and green-

## A Message to the Land Army

*from Mr. W. Shepherd, member of the Gloucestershire War Agricultural Committee and formerly a prominent Organiser for the Labour Party.*

I wish to send a message of encouragement and advice to the women working on the farms because I think that sufficient publicity is not always given to their good work. Away on the farms, in the backwoods of industrial life, these women are delving and ploughing that the town population may get its rations. For six months of the year they plough and seed in the cold wintry blast, the other six they sweat and toil beneath the summer sun. Yet, smilingly and cheerfully, they work to produce two thirds of the nation's food.

In return for their service, what about our obligations to this army of women? Is there nothing which wants putting right? Frankly, I think there is. Wages and hours should be conditioned nationally so as to place all women land workers on equal terms. Many of these women have been drawn from occupations where wages were much higher but surely where the work was of less importance. Therefore, let us all work for one end—a fair and square deal for them.

And now a question to the volunteers themselves. Have you ever sat down and thought about the vicissitudes of life in industry? about any protective agency in case you need it? about arrangements in case of an accident arising out of your employment? about Court proceedings which might arise and the Workmen's Compensation Act and Employer's liability at common law? For a very small weekly contribution you may join a Trade Union and get all the help and advice you need on any or all of the above points.

In conclusion, I claim to have no mean knowledge of the Land Army volunteers of Gloucestershire and I say that, taken as a whole, they are really top-notch. I have not so much knowledge of other counties but I have faith that they are the same and I want to thank you all for the job you are doing and the way you are doing it. Greetings and good wishes to you all.

W. SHEPHERD.

gages. Favourite vegetables with us are the green paprika and Indian corn.

I think grumbling about the climate here is very undeserved, it is simply an ideal climate for gardening. I have lived in many countries of Europe, but I have never tasted anything like the flavour of English vegetables. I don't believe Cox's orange pippin can be beaten by any apple the Continent produces and English beef and mutton is a hall mark.

I wonder whether the first class qualities of meat and vegetable in this country are in any way responsible for the pleasant disposition of most British people I met.

Thanks to the patience of my employers and help and advice I got from books, I was initiated in the secrets of early, second and main crops, of the use and name of different tools, and I am now working a big garden alone, and enjoying some of the lovely British vegetables, sown and grown by myself.

FRANCESCA ENNS, W.L.A. 52296.  
(Devon)

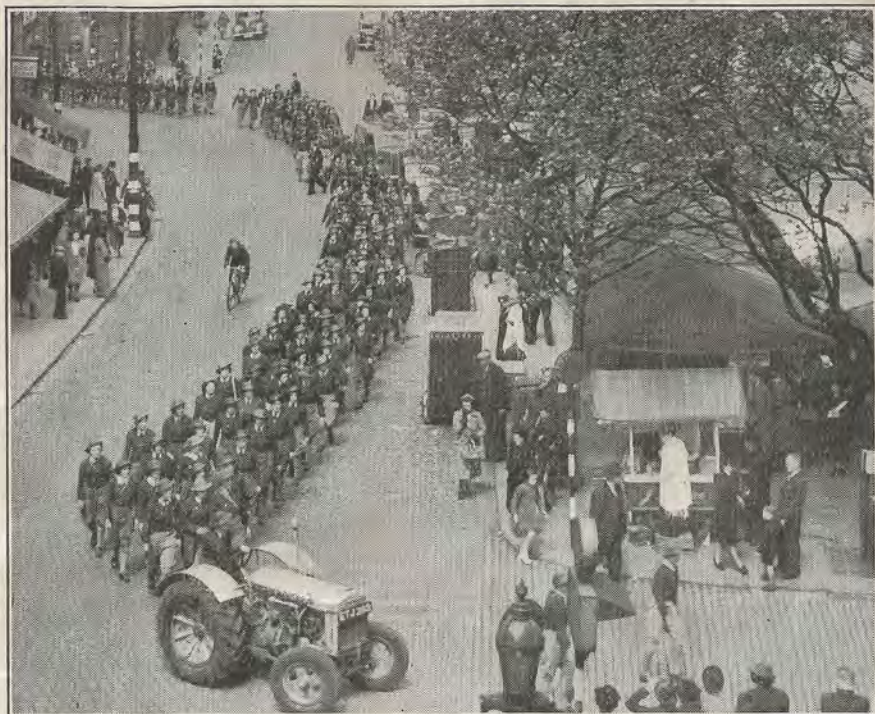
I love the women of this land  
Because they are so glad to stand  
To give example brave and sweet  
For Victory and Hun's defeat.

The above is a verse from a poem in praise of the W.L.A. by J. F. Rypkema, Paymaster Controller, Royal Dutch Army, dedicated to three volunteers whom he met in Wales.



M. Brumwell, W.L.A. 31771 (Dorset).





Lancashire on Parade

By permission of the Preston Guardian

## In Yorkshire Woods

MY friend and I joined the Women's Land Army in the early summer of 1941; were put into the Forestry Section and sent to the North Riding of Yorkshire, where we were lucky enough to be billeted together. There were six of us working under the supervision of a foreman. During the summer months we had to clear the undergrowth from amongst the young trees in the woods—this is called "slashing." Our next job was "burning-off," that is clearing the ground by burning up the rubbish where the trees have been felled and taken away and so making ready for further planting.

Summer passed and Autumn found us gathering potatoes in the estate gardens. This only lasted a couple of weeks and then back to the woods for a spell of felling. The trees are felled with a cross-

cut saw which was very hard on the muscles at first but we soon got used to it. It seems to take an awful long time to get through a tree while you are pulling at the saw all the time, but there is always a certain amount of satisfaction when you hear the tree go down with a swish and a bang.

Another thing we did was knocking the lower branches off the larch trees to help them to give better growth. After Christmas, snow came and although it was sometimes pretty rough we generally managed to get to work. Then digging the holes in which to plant young spruce trees and this brings me to a very amusing adventure we had one day. We were working on the level field on the top of a hill between two valleys planted with well grown trees. Four of us were digging holes in straight rows—at least trying to keep straight the other two following behind us planting the trees. The Foreman was slightly ahead marking

out our rows. While we are working, there are numerous topics of conversation, such as dances, pictures and things we did at home or in our peace-time jobs. All this was going on when suddenly there was a shout and then between 20 and 30 khaki figures armed with tommy guns and revolvers came rushing over the fence and made a bee-line for our foreman, whom they pulled towards the wood. A voice said "get those girls too," and when they got us into the wood the officer in charge questioned us. We realised they were only pretending to be Germans, so we thought we would play too, and we all acted very dumb. They asked us where they were and we replied "Oh! somewhere in England." Two of the girls were picked to show them down the wood while four or five soldiers—with their tommy guns—were left to guard the rest of us. After about five minutes the two unlucky girls having climbed back up the hillside, gave the message that we were to be released. The officer came back and apologised for taking us from our jobs and explained that the scheme was only successful if they had taken us by surprise and believe me, they certainly did.

V. THOMPSON, W.L.A.  
(Yorks.)

We know it will be with real regret that all Land Girls in Buckinghamshire will hear of the resignation of their Chairman, Lady Hermione Cobbold, for personal reasons. She takes with her our grateful thanks for all she has done and our very good wishes.

While the news of Miss Parry's resignation has been received with the greatest regret, it will be recognised that the increasing responsibility has been an enormous strain and that even Miss Parry's tremendous energy is not inexhaustible. Her services for the Buckinghamshire branch of the W.L.A. will ever be remembered with keen appreciation, and it is hoped that the good wishes of all its members will contribute to her complete recuperation.

"It is often stated that English farming has gone to pieces recently . . . but I do not agree. The numbers of workers on the land have decreased, but the value of the output per worker has increased and is greater than in any country in Europe, and both the pay and the standard of living are higher." Sir John Russell in the "Journal of the Royal Society of Arts," May, 1942.

## Canteens

As volunteers know, the principle that members of the W.L.A. may be admitted to canteens was conceded some time ago but the Council of Voluntary War Work asked that lists should be submitted of canteens to which admission was desired. County offices were asked to compile such lists: Nottinghamshire and East Suffolk do not find they want to use any canteens but all other counties have now sent in lists and some of these have already been agreed. Volunteers will be admitted to canteens and Rest Rooms at the following London railway stations: Charing Cross, Euston, Liverpool St., Victoria, Waterloo, Baker Street, Marylebone, Kings Cross, St. Pancras, the Women's Services' Club, Eastbourne Terrace, outside Paddington and also to canteens run by voluntary organisations in the following counties:

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bedfordshire          | Lincolnshire (Linsey) |
| Cornwall              | Monmouthshire         |
| Cum. and West.        | Norfolk               |
| Derby                 | Northamptonshire      |
| Devon                 | Northumberland        |
| Dorset                | Staffordshire         |
| Durham                | West Suffolk          |
| Essex                 | West Sussex           |
| Hampshire             | Wiltshire             |
| Hereford              | Worcestershire        |
| Hunts., Cambs., Ely.  | Brecon and Radnor     |
| Isle of Wight         | Denbigh               |
| Leicestershire        | Flint                 |
| Lincoln. (H. & Kest.) |                       |

Information about other counties will be given later.

Only volunteers in uniform will be served.

West Sussex volunteers won a cricket match against the A.T.S. at Horsham, despite losing their first four wickets for three runs. Their captain, Miss James, scored 23 runs and took five wickets for 20. Miss Cox, daughter of that well-known Sussex county player, George Cox, scored 36. Is this the only match on record when the winning run was a wide?

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## TRIALS OF TWO TRACTOR DRIVERS

"GOT a cuppa tea for a guy?" Slightly startled, we looked from our breakfast to discover the head of Hector, our Canadian foreman, peering through the caravan window, to find out if it was safe to come in. Not waiting for an invitation, he walked in and helped himself to the last of the tea. In the process of drinking it, he gave us our orders for the day. The first indication of which was the bread knife flourished in the direction of the window. This apparently was where our next job awaited us. "Now listen, you dames, fifteen acres of wheat to cut at Golden Haze, you'll find it about five miles up country. It's a straight road until you get to Old Penny's wheat rick, turn left there, and you'll see it. Get that cut by to-night, and I don't mean maybe." With that he departed, leaving two slightly dazed tractor drivers to their own devices. Obviously there was no time to do any house work, the washing up was pushed into the sink to be dealt with at a more leisurely time.

We started up our two Fordsons, one of which we hitched on the caravan and the other on the binder, and took to the road in convoy. Our journeys are always made pleasant by the friendly spirit shown by fellow travellers and villagers, who wave a cheery good day to us as we pass by. After we had been on the road for about an hour, we began to look around for Old Penny's wheat rick. As there appeared to be five ricks dotted around, any of which might belong to Mr. Penny, we accosted a small boy on a bicycle, and asked him the way to Golden Haze. He said that he didn't know, he came from London, but he'd ask Ern. After a somewhat prolonged consultation with Ern, he returned with the information that we would find it up the lane, behind widow Pinhorn's house. We located the farm after a few more delays. The next difficulty was, as usual, to find the farmer, who appeared from the cow yard upon hearing the commotion outside. He looked rather dismayed at finding the Agricultural Committee had landed him with two girls. However, he was very kind and found us an ideal spot to pitch the caravan close to a forest stream, afterwards he took us to the wheat field, which proved to be a beautiful crop and mercifully none of it was lying flat, which meant no one-way cutting. After the farmer had gone we

set about unpacking the binder—a very complicated business! At last we were ready to start, one driving the tractor and the other riding the binder, the latter's job is to make sure the sheaves are tied correctly and to prevent the canvasses from blocking up or any other mishaps which are bound to occur.

As we cut our way slowly round the field in the hot sunshine, we always feel that harvest time is the reward for what seemed to be an endless succession of cold wintry days spent in ploughing and sowing. On this occasion everything went well, and we managed to cut quite a large portion of the field before twelve o'clock, when we went over to the caravan for dinner. One of the advantages of taking our home with us is that we always have our dining-room on the spot. Our dinner hour does not allow much time for cooking, so our staple diet is generally bread and cheese and a cup of tea; what a godsend our three-quarters of a pound of cheese is!

Back to our work at one o'clock, to find that Fred, our service foreman, had arrived with his van to re-fuel our tractors. However he finds us every day will always remain a mystery, because it is very rarely we are in one place for more than two days. As it is impossible to do any shopping, Fred brings us our letters, bread, groceries and with a little persuasion will even make an appointment for a shampoo and set.

We worked out that, all being well, we would finish the field at about eight o'clock. As the afternoon wore on, the sun got hotter and hotter, and by four o'clock we were just debating who should put the kettle on for tea when the farmer's wife appeared carrying a tray containing a large pot of tea, a plate of bread and butter and home-made scones. She poured out for us in the cool shade of an oak tree which we found very refreshing and afterwards we returned to work with renewed energy.

Towards the end of the evening, villagers began to drift into the field armed with guns and sticks to kill any unfortunate rabbits left in the standing corn. This is always a sure sign that our working day is nearly over. As we finished cutting the last strip the farmer came up and thanked us and said he hoped we would return in the Autumn to plough and stubble, so, feeling hot, tired and dirty, we walked over to the

caravan. Here we left our supper to cook on the oil stove while we took our soap and towels down to the stream, quite the nicest way of washing one could wish for in the summer. For winter months we wash in hot water drawn from our tractor radiators.

Washing up, house work, and supper having been disposed of, we were just thinking of bed when our foreman's head appeared again at the window. "Mackerel Christmas, you dames only just finished? Mind you're out on the road at half after seven to-morrow morning. I'll be seeing you." With that, he pocketed this month's edition of THE LAND GIRL which he reads regularly and drove off in a cloud of dust.

Hoping we should have no more hindrances, we crawled into bed, thinking how lucky we were being able to do work which was never monotonous and to live such a carefree, open air life.

M. WHITE AND K. HEANE,  
W.L.A. 46191 and 4283.  
(Hants.)

Miss J. Paterson, W.L.A. 12715, writes that she took the course advertised by the Agricultural College, Bath, and obtained her diploma. She would like to know how many other Land Girls have done the same. She also recommends two good books "Agriculture," by J. Watson and J. More, published by Oliver and Boyd, and "Soils and Manures," by Sir John Watson, published by Cambridge University Press. They can be ordered from any bookseller.

### W.L.A. BROADCAST

Once more we have to apologise for leading our readers astray over the Land Army broadcast. The time of the broadcast on 27th August, announced as 7.25 in our last issue, was unexpectedly changed by the B.B.C. authorities after the Magazine had gone to Press, to 7.15 p.m., to correspond with an alteration in the time of the farming broadcast, "Farm Record," which it always follows.

The Land Army broadcast this month will be on Thursday, 24th September, between 7 and 7.30 at the end of "Farm Record" on the Home Service.

## Brecon and Radnor Rally

The grey walls and spacious grounds of Maesllwch Castle, now a Land Army hostel, made a delightful setting for the joint Rally and Demonstration organised by the Brecon and Radnor War Agricultural Committees on 29th August. Thanks to the co-operation of the Committees' Machinery Department, a very large number of Land Army members were able to attend and to remain for the dance which followed.

At the opening ceremony, warm tributes were paid by the chairmen of both War Agricultural Committees to the part the Land Army was playing in helping food production in Brecon and Radnorshire.

A feature of the afternoon was the Finals of the Women's Land Army Milking Competitions, the winners being Euronwy Evans in the class for over six months' experience and Kathleen Davies in the class for under six months. Certificates were awarded to 12 others. The Competitions were not, however, by any means the only Land Army "event." Apart from stewarding and helping with the refreshments, volunteers took a prominent part in the Demonstrations, which included straw thatching, rabbit gassing, silage making and ploughing with tractors, and the Land Army stall with its photographs and gay posters was a centre of attraction.

B.G.B.

K. Hackett, of Kent, sends two hints for gumboots which she has tried herself. "I wore a hole in the sole of my gumboot, so I cut from the leg of an old pair which I had saved, two pieces the size of my foot and stuck them, waterproof side down in the pair with the holes; like that, the boots lasted me two months longer. Also, for a very bad pair with good legs, I cut out the size of my boots from an old motor tyre and tacked it right over the sole outside."

### Personal Advertisements

**WANTED.**—Leather riding boots, 6 or 6½, good condition. W.L.A. 61697, 119, Bullswood Lane, Enfield, Middlesex.

**WANTED.**—Any Girl Guide Equipment for East End Church Troop. Palmer, 17, Campbell Road, London, E.3.

**WILL** D. Chamberlin please write to J. West, at same address.





*Trainees at Dauntseys School, Wiltshire, thatching a rick of hay with sisal kraft.*

## Recipe for Risotto

Melt 1 oz. of margarine in a saucepan and add 1 chopped onion and 3 ozs. of rice. Stir over low fire till golden brown. Add 1 pint of water, bring to boil and simmer until rice is cooked (about 12 minutes). Add 1½ ozs. grated cheese and 1 peeled and chopped tomato (if procurable) and stir the mixture till it thickens. Then season and pour into buttered dish. Sprinkle brown bread crumbs on top and add small pieces of margarine. Brown under grill or in oven.

J. Chandler, of Kent, has two excellent economy ideas for garden tools—(a) if you have an old scythe, cut it off at the tip (not too short) and fit to a handle, making useful knife for cabbage or kale; (b) cut about 1 foot off the end of the handle of a broken and useless fork, sharpen, smooth and use as a dibber. She also suggests that the sump oil from a tractor can be used for farm implements after the season's work also for harness and boots, preferably applied with a paint brush.

## Reading Matter

A new edition of *A BOOK OF FARMCRAFT* by Michael Greenhill and Evelyn Dunbar is being published at 2s. 6d. It is an invaluable possession for anyone new to farm life and will be helpful to several who think themselves fairly old hands by now. It is published by Longmans Green & Co., and can be ordered from any bookseller.

For those who can afford it, *FRUIT*, published by the Wine and Food Society, Little Hedgecourt, East Grinstead, price 7s. 6d., postage 3d., will be a most interesting purchase. It gives names and descriptions of a fascinating variety of edible fruits and includes many recipes in which these fruits appear. It is beautifully printed and produced and is most comprehensive.

"Ducks, Geese and Turkeys," is the title of the latest pamphlet, No. 11, in the Young Farmers Club Booklet series. It maintains the excellent standard of all these booklets and the photographs are as good as ever. Price 9d., 1/- post free, from the N.F.Y.F.C., Oaklings, Canons Close, Radlett, Herts.

## Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

Perhaps *THE LAND GIRL* County News page will be interested to know how Warwickshire has "scored again." The W.W.A.E.C. has taken over the large historical farm called Warriors' Lodge and are going to make this into a Grade A Exhibition Farm, and on this place we girls are being trained as tractor drivers. Our training last two weeks under Miss G. W. Reeves, a farmer's daughter, and at the end of the first week we are examined and then, if successful, continue for a further week's experience. Our jobs are varied; the first day we become familiar with the different parts of the engine gears, etc., oiling and greasing points, then we learn bit by bit how to drive and so on to the land, sometimes scuffling or rolling, harrowing, sowing fertilizers, just according to what is required.

Our thanks go out to our instructress, as she is also helpful about our food, transport, health and many other items, too numerous to mention.

Yours sincerely,

The Kenilworth W.L.A. Tractor Drivers.  
Warwickshire.

DEAR EDITOR,

As the number of volunteers in Haslemere and district is growing rapidly, I feel that some mention should be made of them as they are all doing such grand jobs of work. As I go round on my visits, I am hearing nothing but praise from the employers and this is all the more gratifying as many of them were very reluctant to employ girls in the beginning.

Yesterday we had a fete in aid of the Air Training Corps and a number of volunteers turned up, looking very smart in their uniform, and worked most strenuously in helping in the effort. They are a splendid bunch of girls and I feel that I cannot speak highly enough of their work.

Yours sincerely,

Surrey. MARION CLARKE (Registrar).

DEAR EDITOR,

We Dursley area girls are very fortunate in being able to arrange meetings in our Area Representative's house every month and she very kindly provides us with a very good supper. There are about

a dozen of us and our Spitfire efforts have been quite cheerful. In March we had a dance and made £24 and a few weeks ago in June we had a concert and made £26. One of our girls, Mary Mitchell, collected £9 10s. and the rest did good work on our raffle. We are a very happy crowd and hope to stick together till "they sound the last all clear!"

Yours sincerely,

Glos. V. F. MADDEN, W.L.A. 31610.

DEAR EDITOR,

As I have just completed my first year in the W.L.A., I feel I should like to "tell the world" that this has been the best year of my life. I didn't think at first that I could stick land work, but after having worked through all the seasons, I wouldn't change my job for anything. My main job is a milk round which I thoroughly enjoy, but I have also learnt milking and feeding calves, farming out pigs, looking after fowl, working with horses—and all the back-aching jobs like hoeing—which seem quite easy now!

And after reading "Charity begins at Home," on the cover of last month's *LAND GIRL*, I certainly agree that this is a job that is really well worth doing. Also I enclose a Postal Order for 10/-, which is only a small sum, but I hope it will be of some use as a contribution to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

Yours sincerely,

N. NORRIS, W.L.A. 47505.  
Warwickshire.

DEAR EDITOR,

My girl friend and I think it would be a good idea if it could be made possible to organise a pen pal corner between the Merchant Navy and W.L.A. This I am sure would be appreciated very much by our friends at sea and girls posted in isolated districts.

We receive our magazine monthly and shall eagerly await your decision on introducing M.N.—W.L.A. pen pal corner, thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Yorks. J. ROBERTS, W.L.A. 66453.

*Any volunteer wishing to find a pen pal in the Merchant Navy, should address a letter c/o the Ladies' Guild, British Sailors' Society, 680, Commercial Road, who have kindly undertaken to put such letters on board a merchant ship.*



## Scottish Notes

**A Welcome Visitor.**—We were very glad to have Mrs. Jenkins from Balcombe with us recently at Scottish Headquarters to tell us all about how things are done in England.

**Aberdeenshire.**—The W.L.A. was well to the fore at a silage demonstration held recently at Craibstone as most of the labour in connection with the event was done by Land Girls—and done well.

**Alford and Deeside.**—Congratulations to this district on having attained the best area total in Great Britain for the Spitfire Fund. Alexina Argo represented Scotland at the presentation of the cheque to the R.A.F. and was thrilled with the experience.

**Ayrshire (North).**—Through the kindness of Lady Rowallan a most enjoyable rally was held at Rowallan Castle. First there were games and sports, with prizes for Rona Millar and Jean Gilchrist, Isobel Birnie, Elma Ross and Isa Glen. Then there was a lovely picnic tea after which the Home Farm was inspected and very much appreciated was the opportunity of seeing the splendid herd of Ayrshire cows as well as the ideal conditions under which they—and their calves—live.

Afterwards Lady Rowallan, who was introduced by Mrs. Kennedy, presented over seventy Good Service badges of which six were for 2 years' and one for 2½ years' service.

Mrs. Campbell spoke about the Club in Kilmarnock which, like the product which has made the town famous, "is still going strong." After everybody had had as much ice-cream as they wanted, Christine McRiner moved a vote of thanks, which was very heartily adopted, to Lady Rowallan and to Mrs. Kennedy and her Committee for having arranged the party.

Barbara Weighill is marrying her employer Mr. James Taylor, so she will be on the land "for keeps"—congratulations and best wishes!

**East Lothian.**—The W.L.A. was well represented at a recent Cadet Passing-out Dance at Dunbar, to which the girls from the Marygold hostel turned out in force—this no doubt pleased the cadets as much as it did the Land Army!

At least two of the inhabitants of Marygold are keen gardeners; we hear they are working wonders in the hostel garden.

The Club at Innerwick is chiefly busy at the moment on the library side and thanks are due to Mrs. Mitchell Innes, Mrs. Grainger Stuart and other kind friends for supplying books.

**Fifehire.**—The local Land Army took part in a beet singling competition held at Auchtermuchty when the Women's Land Army prize-winners were:—Skilled women and W.L.A.: 4th Annie Amot. Unskilled labour: 1st Annie Penman, 4th Elizabeth Williamson.

**Kirkcudbrightshire.**—Helen MacKenzie raised £15 11s. 9d. for the Aid to Russia Fund by running a dance in Kirkcudbright.

**Linarkshire.**—South Linarkshire has had several very successful events during the summer at which L.A. members have been presented with Good Service Badges. District 1 lead off for the season with a party at Symington at which the Committee entertained both the L.A. and the Home Guard to a whist drive and dance, during which the badges were presented by Mrs. Douglas. District 2 had members taking part in two parades during Warship Week, and at one of these Lord Inverclyde inspected, and afterwards gave a special address to the L.A. contingent and presented their Good Service Badges. District 4 had a big turn-out at Strathaven Show. The Committee invited all their members to tea in a special marquee, and included among their guests

some members of District 2 who were due to receive badges, the presentations being made by Mrs. Biggar, after Lord Provost Biggar had presented the show trophies. Nearly all the members present at the Show took part in the Grand Parade, acting as leaders of prize-winning animals and their uniforms added a fine touch of colour and interest to the show ring. Some members found that this job wasn't quite as easy as it looked, and one member gained a special round of applause from the spectators, when, in spite of being knocked down and rolled on the ground by her charge, she hung on manfully to the halter and managed to regain control!

North and South Lanarkshire together now have over 300 members at work in the county.

**Midlothian.**—Mrs. Paterson escorted the girls in the Penicuik district on a visit to Mr. Cowan's paper mills, where the whole process of paper-making was interestingly explained. Afterwards Mr. Cowan entertained the party to supper at his home and grateful thanks are due him for his kindness. The white heather presented to each guest was much appreciated.

**Perthshire (West).**—A hostel with accommodation for 30 girls has just been established at Alcombe, Ewanfield, Crief, the opening ceremony having been performed by Sir Patrick Laird, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, who gave a much appreciated address. For the occasion there was a parade of all the Land Girls in the district and Good Service badges were presented by Mrs. McNair Snadden whose husband, the M.P. for Perth and Kinross, was also present to take part in the proceedings along with Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Chairman of the A.E.C. for West Perthshire and Lady MacGregor of MacGregor, Chairman of the W.L.A. sub-committee.

**General.**—We are now some 5,000 strong—this being the number of members in employment or about to be employed.

## Benevolent Fund

By next month, the Fund will have been registered as a Charity and details as to its constitution and other particulars will be given in the October LAND GIRL. Meanwhile, the Fund has made a good start; thanks to the kind offices of Mr. Donald McCulloch, £105, has been received from Uruguay. Gloucestershire has started with £26, the result of great energy at Dursley and Hereford follows closely with over £23. Among our old friends who led the Spitfire race, E. Suffolk is the first county off the mark, while several other counties have begun well.

The following list contains all donations received before the 25th August. Please note that only donations received by the 25th of the month can be acknowledged in the subsequent issue.

Berks: 2s. 6d.—Harroway. Cum. & West: 2s.—Bryne. Devon: £2—Sidwick. Glos: £26—Dursley L.Gs. (dance & raffle per Mitchell). Hants: £1 6s. 3d.—Alresford L.Gs. Hereford: £18 3s. 2d.—Dance (per Turner, Whistdance, Caudle). £4 17s. 3d.—Ross Hostel (Whist Drive): 10s.—Richardson; 2s. 6d.—Marshall. Total—£23 12s. 11d. Herts: 5s.—Harland, Lynch; 2s.—Grant. Lancs: £7—Crabtree; 10s.—Boyle. Lines. (Lindsey): £2—Butters & Markham & Warburton. Northants: 1s.—Gee. Notts: £8 12s. 6d.—Four Volunteers (Whist Drive). E. Suff. £8 5s.—Beverley & Henham L.Gs. (Dance); £1—Creasey; 3s.—Anon; 2s.—Moring. Total—£9 10s. W. Suff: £5—Briscoe; £1 5s.—Lakenheath L.Gs. (Whist Drive). Total £6 5s. Surrey: £5—Bray & L.Gs. Warwick: 10s.—Norris. Uruguay—£105.

On 31st August there were over 46,600 in employment.

## County News

**London & Middx.**—Through the kind invitation of "Sound City" many Middlesex L.Gs. have had the opportunity to visit the model farm which is now flourishing on the site of a former film studio. Volunteers admired scores of rabbits which are being reared for their pelts, a model piggery, and vegetable cultivation, after which they were entertained to supper by their hosts. Excursions such as these are much appreciated by our volunteers. Thanks are also extended to Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Benson and Miss Davey, who have generously entertained the girls in their districts recently.

Recruiting in London has been very lively during the past few months. In at least one instance the sheep in Hyde Park have proved a good advertising medium. A lady presented herself at the recruiting office stating that she wished to join as a shepherdess. Tactful inquiries confirmed the impression that she was somewhat over the age for recruits, and she was asked what experience she had had with sheep.

"None," the would-be shepherdess admitted, "but I was sitting in Hyde Park the other day when a sheep came up to me with a twig in its mouth, and I am convinced it is an omen. I am meant to be a shepherdess."

**Northants.**—We now have 18 hostels open and all their residents are working very hard for the Northamptonshire W.A.C. We are also busily training tractor drivers for all their depots at the urgent request of the W.A.C. Machinery Committee and hope by the end of this month to have about 30 girls trained and employed by them.

In spite of war-time difficulties we have had some delightful parties through the kindness and very hard work of some of our Representatives and Hostels' Wardens. Lady Spencer our Chairman, has always been present to give us our Good Service Badges and we remember with pleasure and gratitude our evenings at Barnack and Brampton Y.W.C.A. Hostels and generous entertainments at Miss Allday's home at Fotheringhay and Mrs. Rennick's at Litchborough.

**Northumberland.**—For the benefit of employed members, an "Interview Day" will be held on the first Saturday afternoon of each month in market towns, when district representatives will be present to give help or advice on any women's Land Army matter. **BERWICK:** St. Leonards, 2 to 5.30. **WOOLER:** "Byways," Ryecroft, 2 to 5.30. **ALNWICK:** 4, Northumberland Street, Alnwick, 2 to 5.30. **ROTHBURY:** "Ballachan" 3 to 8. **MORPETH:** 58a, Newgate Street, 2 to 7. **HEXHAM:** Priestpope House, 2 to 7.

Nedderon Hostel asks if it holds the record for weddings—six in five months, all except one member continuing with her service. This hostel raised £2 by auctioning two tablets of soap and a prize given at a whist drive, given by a friend of the hostel living in the village. **Norham** Hostel raised £16 13s. 0d. by a whist drive and dance for the Red Cross and Nursing Association, and Matten Hostel ran a dance jointly with the "local military" for the Russian Red Cross, and raised £10 10s. 0d.

The Uniform Department asks all members awaiting items of uniform, not to write in about them, as there is a record kept of all uniform to be forwarded when in stock, and these will be sent as soon as received in the county.

**Notts.**—On 26th August our eleventh Hostel will open. Instead of the usual hutment, it will occupy part of Hodsock Priory, near Workshop and fifty volunteers will be billeted there. It is situated in very pleasant grounds and is partially surrounded by a moat. Yet another Hostel will open on September 3rd at Coddington, near Newark. This Hostel will accommodate twenty-five girls.

Quite a lot of social activity takes place now in the various Hostels. At Farndon recently a

M.O.I. film was shown, and money has been raised for various charities, including the Red Cross and Comforts Fund in the shape of whist drives, etc.

At Sutton-on-Trent and Retford, volunteers have entertained members of His Majesty's Forces to Socials and Dances, and occasionally return invitations have been received by the members of the Hostels in question to participate in the social activities held by the neighbouring regiments. Apart from all this gaiety, the girls put in a good day's work, and spend a considerable amount of their spare time in the gardens surrounding the Hostels which in most cases were quite uncultivated in the first place. We must not forget the majority of Land Girls who are working on individual farms. These girls do not always get the time and privileges enjoyed by Hostel members, especially those working on dairy farms, where it generally means seven days a week. Nevertheless, there are very few grumbles, considering there are nearly 900 volunteers in this fairly small county.

**Oxon.**—One more Hostel was opened during July at Deanery Farm, Bampton, for the W.A.C. and we welcome the Middlesex recruits who are in residence. They did so well in their first week that the farmers did not want to part with them when they were due to move to another farm. Hostel activities have been restrained owing to haymaking and harvest, but Woodstock Hostel has its weekly "Quiz," and Brains Trust session to which other Services are invited. Community singing on Sunday evening is most popular and dances and cinema shows have been arranged in all Hostels. The Woodstock Hostel Volunteers were invited to take part in the R.A.F. Sports Meeting; though rain rather damped the proceedings the L.A. did very well and defeated the R.A.F. in a tug-of-war.

We are thrilled to have an actor and his wife as Wardens of our Curbridge Hostel and look forward to great things in drama during the winter evenings. The L.A. Vegetable Show takes place this month in St. John's College and we are expecting a good show of garden produce grown by Volunteers. We welcome our new County Organiser, Mrs. P. Lacey, who has already made the acquaintance of a number of Volunteers.

**Salop.**—During the past few months three new hostels have been opened and we expect to open three more in the near future. An unexpected visit was made to Bridgnorth hostel the other Saturday by the Mayoress of Bridgnorth and Miss de Jonge of B.B.C. fame. Needless to say the girls were delighted, particularly as the latter entertained them at the piano. Tea was served by the volunteers and the Mayoress said she had not spent such an enjoyable afternoon for months. We watch with interest and some anxiety the progress at this hostel of Anne Curley and wish to congratulate her on her most gallant attempt to save a boy from drowning within a few minutes of her arrival in this county from Lancashire. Two days later she had a cycling accident resulting in several days spent in hospital and more recently when rabbiting with her employer she received more than her fair share of the shot intended for the quadrupled!

We welcome Mrs. Twinbrow who has joined our staff as Organiser. We hear that Land Girls in the Whitchurch area are taking a very active part in the Red Cross Fete to be held during September and that they have already collected £50.

**Somerset.**—Between 30 and 40 of our members were proud to take part in a special Agricultural Demonstration held at the Somerset Farm Institute, Cannington in June. The County Office had a stand and their "wares" were displayed everywhere doing a variety of jobs. Mr. Hudson urged the farmers to apply for workers and during the three days of the Show many registered their needs.

In addition to a great extension of private employment, the summer months have seen the opening of new hostels for employees of the





Lady Denman with the Chairman, Secretary and two-year volunteers at the Cumberland Rally

Somerset W.A.C. at Stoke under Ham, Priddy, Asham House, Nynhead, Beckington, and Whitehall, Old Cleeve.

Some of the hostels find their entertainment ready on the doorstep. Others have to go further afield and it was with the idea of a pleasant outing that Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Young invited the Loxton Hostel girls to a picnic at Weston-super-Mare in June. A very cheerful party set out armed with baskets of strawberries, bathing costumes and a splendid lunch provided by the Warden, and the party looked like being a success, but alas! the Hun had been there the night before. Half the party were in the swimming pool and others in various stages of undress, when the loud speaker announced "all out of the pool, unexploded bombs outside." In the words of one of the girls, "What a shemozzle!" Everyone hurriedly decamped on to the shore, trailing their belongings behind them. Then followed a grand set to on the strawberries, some of the surplus ones going to the Scots Guards who were guarding not only the road but 20 fine recruits of the W.L.A.

Yeovil and District Club had a very merry time in July when they were entertained by a splendid band of artistes at a concert arranged by Mrs. Ricketts. Mrs. Young, Chairman of the Club engaged the Company which found its audience so appreciative that it has offered to come again.

Staffs.—There is very little news this month to report as, though all our girls are working full time on their jobs and with a good heart, this

everyday work does not come into the limelight. All honour to those who keep on "keeping on."

We are opening a new cottage Hostel at Smestow, Swindon, Staffs, this month, and hope to open a bigger one at Eccleshall shortly.

During the winter we shall all devote our evenings to raising money for our own W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and are very glad to think such a fund has been promoted by our Headquarters.

E. Suffolk.—Harvest work is now in full swing and in most parts of the county crops look particularly good. We were delighted to receive an "unsolicited testimonial" from a well known farmer, who has recently been employing a gang of hostel girls. He was surprised, certainly, but quite definite that they had set about the work as well as any men and had in fact been on the whole more thorough. Three more hostels have been opened recently, making a total of seven to date, with yet more to follow until the W.A.E.C. has Land girls available for gang work in every district. We hope to get a really good response for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and were delighted to have our county represented at the Spitfire party by Miss M. Forrest, W.L.A. 11433, who sent an excellent and most interesting report of the great day's event. One of our dairy girls, Mrs. S. Hawker, W.L.A. No. 53211, in writing of the August monthly party for Land Girls in her district shows how much these regular reunions are appreciated, "altogether you can gather we had a most enjoyable time . . . there is nothing

we look forward to so much as a Land Girl party, where we can meet old friends and make new ones, not forgetting the village representatives who make these meetings possible. I only hope that other girls in other districts fare as well as we do."

W. Suffolk.—A very interesting demonstration of mechanised farm operations entirely carried out by women took place at Shimpling on 3rd July. Volunteers demonstrated all forms of tractor work, thatch-making and the preparation of silage, and the efficient way in which they handled the machines drew praise and admiration from many a sceptical farmer. A new hostel is to be opened at Shimpling on 15th September for the W.A.C., from which girls will be given training in specialised branches of farming.

On September 30th we are holding a Rally in Bury St. Edmund's to celebrate the gathering of the harvest, at which we shall welcome Lord and Lady Cranworth. Lord Cranworth has kindly consented to present the prizes, generously given by the Suffolk Agricultural Association. There will be two prizes in each Good Service Badge Group. We specially welcome Lady Cranworth as Chairman of the "Other Suffolk." She has kindly consented to present G.S. Badges due during August and September.

East Sussex.—No less than 15 of our Land Army girls were married during the last two months. We send them our best wishes and are glad to know that very few of them are leaving the Land Army.

A full scale farming demonstration was held at the East Sussex School of Agriculture at Plumpton on August 1st, at which the 40 Land Army trainees and the 15 permanent employees took a prominent part. They demonstrated silage making, thatching, cabbage planting by machine, ploughing, clean milk production and tomato seeding. They also gave very valuable assistance to the W.V.S., who were coping manfully with the job of supplying gallons of tea to the visitors on the hottest day of the year.

Our flax workers are very keen, so much so that many of them volunteered to spend their August Bank holiday helping on a farm, where, owing to weather conditions, the flax crop had to be pulled by hand. Their help was very welcome and the authorities most grateful.

In the Uckfield District two very pleasant social events took place, a small supper party at the District Chairman's house, and a rally of girls billeted in Uckfield, who were entertained by the Local Representative, Mrs. Campbell, and addressed by their Chairman.

Miss M. Budgen, a member of a lime spreading gang, is to be congratulated on her quickness and presence of mind. Although she had only driven a tractor for two weeks she helped to save a member of her gang when his tractor overturned on to him. She was able to get a rope from a nearby farm, which she fastened to the overturned tractor, and to her own machine, and succeeded in pulling the tractor off the injured man.

A County Welfare Fund is being collected with two objects in view—the equipment and running of Land Girl Clubs, in the County, and as a Fund which can be drawn on in cases of hardship or misfortune, not covered by the ordinary insurances. Our Committee, Local Representatives and Land Girls are all taking a share in raising this money, by personal donations and by organising dances, garden fetes, etc. A very successful dance was held in Eastbourne, which brought in over £25. The credit for this result must go to Miss Constance Williams and Miss Anne Turner, who are indefatigable in the efforts, and who have organised several most enjoyable dances.

Mrs. Carlisle Sayer and many L.A. friends in the Battle district arranged a garden fete and dance at Fairlight Place on 19th August. Despite the

fact that many of the soldiers who were expected were not able to come owing to urgent military duties, and the fact that air battles were going on overhead, the fete was very successful, and realised £37 for the Fund.

The first East Sussex Land Girl's Club to embrace a whole rural district, will be opened in Lewes early in September at 4 Lansdowne Place, Lewes, 3 minutes' walk from Lewes Station. Land Girls, not only in Lewes but in the surrounding District, are invited to join. The subscription will be 1s. a month. The Club will be open from 2.30 till 9 o'clock. Members may invite their men friends to tea. Arrangements have been made for the girls to get hot baths at a small charge. We hope this Club will be a great source of pleasure to our members, and that many others will be started this Autumn.

W. Sussex.—Two volunteers have distinguished themselves by being placed first in open Bee Singing Competitions in the Chichester and Midhurst Districts. Our hitherto rather poor total for the Spitfire Fund was raised with a jump when the Miss Lambs, the Bognor Regis representatives, and their Land Girls, together with those living at Yapton Hostel organised a sale of work which, brought in the splendid total of over £50. During July and August we have welcomed a large number of girls from other counties who have combined with our own members to form 28 threshing gangs for work under the W.A.C. The work was at first held up by the weather, but they are now getting down splendidly to this vital and dirty job.

Henfield members have now a really delightful Club Room which has been lent by Miss Milne, the local representative, and is the granary of an old mill. Everyone has combined to provide the equipment and the result is excellent. Horsham Land Girls have formed a Cricket Team which defeated an A.T.S. team in June and has since been itself defeated by a team of Post Office Girls. It is hoped to start practice earlier next year and to have a really good fixture list.

We very much regret the resignation of Miss Varley, W.L.A. 5200, one of our original volunteers, who has had to give up land work after an operation. Miss Varley was taking a peace time training when war broke out and has been working here ever since. We send her our congratulations on this magnificent record of service and our best wishes for her marriage which is to take place after Christmas.

Warwicks.—Seven more hostels have been opened during July and August. Two of the smaller prefabricated hutments have been taken over from the pioneers at Dunchurch and Southam and we welcomed 26 new recruits from Leicestershire to each of these. The Hostels at Rugby, Temple Grafton, Kineton, Long Marston and Penny Compton are houses of various sizes which have been adapted to hold from 16 to 40 Land Girls each.

Last month we were very pleased to welcome Miss Hiron, who has been appointed Organiser for the south of the county.

A "W.L.A. County Welfare Fund" is to be started in Warwickshire, and a dance will be held at the "Palais de Danse," Leamington, on 1st October to start the fund.

One of our members, Miss K. Girling, has recently been appointed a member of the Advisory Committee of the Young Farmer's Club in Penny Compton, and we congratulate her on being the only woman on the Committee. Girls in the Rugby district have adopted a Merchant Ship and are proud to feel that they have made this personal link between the Land Army and the Merchant Navy, who are both helping to feed the nation in such different ways.

Wores.—Worcestershire has opened three more hostels during July, which are accommodating 175 girls. The W.A.C. are arranging for the employment of 250 Land Girls to work in



threshing gangs. Our employment figures have doubled since March and are still soaring.

Land Girls throughout the county are now enthusiastically supporting the County Welfare Fund, and through it the Headquarters Benevolent Fund with the proceeds of dances and entertainments.

Through the summer months representatives in many districts have arranged garden supper parties, and other outdoor gatherings and one group of Land Girls has been fortunate in having the regular use of bathing facilities.

Worcestershire Land Girls took part in a Drum Head Service on United Nations Sunday, at which all the services were represented. A large contingent of volunteers made a brave show swinging down the main streets of the city to the point of meeting.

Yorks.—Several girls have recently taken up work as pest destructors, drivers of cub-excavators and within the next few weeks we hope 400 girls will start work in threshing gangs. Our numbers grow steadily and many volunteers are being entertained by District Representatives and committee members. Mrs. Fife has started a bond club, this time at Kirbymoorside.

Miss Woodward of Driffield writes "On July 1st Mrs. Blakeston took some of us to Bell Busby where we saw our precious grain being ground into flour after what seemed delicate processes. Everyone enjoyed the day; before we left we braved the washing machine and sighed with relief when it was pronounced intact after the last Land Girl was weighed. Then Mrs. Blakeston took us to her house by a short cut which we didn't even know existed, and lastly, Mrs. Jordan invited us to coffee, but judging from the groaning tables in her lovely sitting room she must have known that Land Girls like substantial support with their coffee. We really had lots of fun."

North Wales.—When the Minister of Agriculture opened the Montgomeryshire W.A.E.C. Demonstration at Powis Park on Bank Holiday he was able to see members of the L.A. assisting at the various sections. The W.L.A. Travelling Exhibit was shown in the Education Section and here we met many of our girls now working in the Area and also some of their employers. We are very grateful to E. Dobie, W.L.A. 59736 and her employer Miss Priddle for making arrangements for a L.A. Club for the Crickieth Area and to our representatives Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. H. A. Jones for arranging a tea for the Corwen Land Girls. Menai Bridge Hostel girls have been very active arranging dances to secure funds for a Hostel piano. We welcome the staff and Land Girls now living at Llannerchymedd Hostel and hope they will settle happily in this very typical Anglesey village. The Editor has invited Welsh articles for the magazine, surely there is amongst us someone sufficiently inspired to write "Hanes gwys ffasiwn newydd."

## County Returns

| COUNTY                             | EMPLOYED     |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Kent                               | 2943         |
| Yorks                              | 2838         |
| Essex                              | 2302         |
| Hants                              | 1800         |
| E. Sussex                          | 1612         |
| Leics., 1332; Rutland, 256         | 1588         |
| Surrey                             | 1433         |
| Northants                          | 1400         |
| Herts                              | 1338         |
| Lincs (H. & Kest.)                 | 1338         |
| Bucks                              | 1210         |
| Worce                              | 1172         |
| W. Sussex                          | 1165         |
| Warwicks                           | 1158         |
| Somerset                           | 1126         |
| Cheshire                           | 1116         |
| Lancs                              | 1116         |
| Wilts                              | 1053         |
| Berks                              | 1045         |
| Glos                               | 1003         |
| Norfolk                            | 998          |
| Northumberland                     | 945          |
| Notts                              | 890          |
| Devon                              | 880          |
| Hunts., 249; Cambs., 398; Ely, 162 | 809          |
| Oxon                               | 800          |
| Salop                              | 739          |
| Corwall                            | 710          |
| Cumb & West                        | 694          |
| E. Suffolk                         | 660          |
| S. Wales                           | 656          |
| Dorset                             | 648          |
| Lincs (Lindsey)                    | 616          |
| Monmouth                           | 514          |
| N. Wales                           | 507          |
| Hereford                           | 486          |
| W. Suffolk                         | 476          |
| Glamorgan                          | 408          |
| Leeds                              | 392          |
| Denbigh                            | 346          |
| London & Middx                     | 333          |
| Derbs                              | 296          |
| Flints                             | 292          |
| Brees                              | 287          |
| Isle of Wight                      | 260          |
| Durham                             | Not received |
| Staffs                             | " "          |

## Spitfire Fund

A few donations received since the Fund closed are listed below. These have been sent on to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, bringing the final total of the Fund to £5,780 18s. We apologise for having entered in a previous list £3 as the result of a dance organised by Miss Reay, of Yorkshire. This should have been £7 15s., a very good effort.

Bucks.: £34 2s. 2d.—Aylesbury L.Gs. (dance); £10 10s.—Brill L.Gs. (dance); 11s. 6d.—James (milk round). Denbigh: 13s.—Ruthin Hostel. W. Sussex: £20—Steyning L.Gs. (dance). £1—Alexander. Wilts: £17 4s. 6d.—Corham L.Gs. (dance per Woodroffe & Settle). Scotland: £5 10s.

### STOP PRESS

See page seven. Lists of Canteens sent in by rest of Counties have now been agreed.

### "THE LAND GIRL"

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