

THE LAND GIRL



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Price 3d.

NOW WE ARE THREE

WITH this issue the Land Girl celebrates its third birthday. The W.L.A. is now about ten times the size it was when the magazine started and it is certainly ten times as much appreciated. It plays, in fact, an important part in our national achievement of producing at home two out of every three meals we eat. That still leaves forty-seven million meals a day, however, to be brought in from overseas.

Our emotional experiences of the last three years have been very wearying. Backs to the wall and a sense of desperate urgency after Dunkirk, stolid endurance through the blitzes, anxious preparations for invasion, elation and disappointment about Libya, dismay over Malay, delight in a North African victory—and a gradual, relieved conviction that the tide had turned at last.

Three years ago our certainty that, despite all the evidence, we would win the war was founded on the failure of the man in the street to believe in the possibility of defeat. No matter what happened or what it cost, Britons never, never, never would be slaves.

Our belief in victory has much more foundation in fact now, but that carries its own danger. The Germans thought they had victory in their pocket in 1940, and that is a lesson for all who run to read. Oddly enough, it is very much more difficult when you are winning than when you are losing, to go on working your hardest, grumbling least and accepting all the inconveniences and injustices that come your way. Everyone is overtired and overworked and the Land Army in particular has won a nice comfortable bed of laurels on which it is very tempting to rest. But there can't be any rest for us until we are producing those forty-seven million meals a day which our ships now have to bring, instead of carrying men and munitions for the Second Front.

M.A.P.

WAR-TIME ADAPTABILITY

IT is perhaps fortunate that women have a greater gift for adapting themselves to circumstances than men, for it is on them, in war-time, that the heaviest burden of change falls. The man in the Forces? Yes. He has to adapt himself to complete change. But that is easier than coping with the continually differing aspects of the old life. Making-do with remnants of life as it was before the end of 1939 calls forth all the ingenuity and practicality of women.

It is everybody's first duty to save. For economy of clothing coupons I think that the best idea is to concentrate on preserving the clothes one already possesses, and buying the best one can afford when the necessity arises. The girl who wears a uniform should find this fairly easy. I have not bought a pair of stockings for over two years. I keep one very good pair for absolute best, otherwise I wear woollen stockings or ankle socks with costumes or slacks. Always slacks in the house, to save my better clothes, and nearly always slacks for wearing outside in summer. Cotton frocks on very hot days and bare legs. Uniform for going out in winter. All my old narrow-skirted frocks of a few years ago I have turned into working shirts and made knickers from the skirts. I have made a vest from the best parts of a blue silk shirt for wearing under thin blouses. Handkerchiefs can be made easily from parts of clothes cut up for other things. Mittens, fingerless gloves and short boot-socks from men's worn out socks and Land Army stockings. Dungarees patched at the knees with the cut-off bib, the waist put on to a band made of the straps. Converted pair of men's flannels for cooler summer days—pockets very useful. I have also discovered that an old evening frock will make a slip and knickers. Worn skirts can often be quite simply unpicked and "turned."

We have found several foods that are new to us. Among wild foods there are elderberries for pies and, dried, for currants, and lepiota and beef-steak—two types of fungus which we gather in season. The beef-steak grows on trees and looks like its name and the lepiota is a kind of mushroom of a creamy colour. We have tried dandelion coffee and herb tea—neither very exciting but nevertheless a change and a saving of rations. We eat horse meat—very tasty

—especially steak and kidney pie. As for soya-bean flour—that is a definite discovery, for, with a little almond essence it makes a remarkable substitute for almond paste and can be used in very many other ways—sweet or savoury. We now cover the egg situation by keeping a few hens in our garden in a converted summer-house and put a considerable number in preserve for when they go off laying.

For soap, in the kitchen and bathroom, we have instituted soap dishes with holes and use the soapy water drained off to help in washing rough articles. When washing my hair I *always* use rain-water and keep each rinsing of water for washing clothes. I do all clothes washing in soft water as it saves the soap by half. (It also saves a lot of the tea ration if available for drinking.)

I have not used face-cream for well over a year now but have instead a little bottle of glycerine and rose-water which is lasting indefinitely, for a tiny touch of it spreads all over the face and holds powder marvellously. I only use powder on Saturdays and Sundays—if I go out. Lipstick I must have all the week. If one is used to lipstick one must always wear it for the sake of morale! It is still quite easy to obtain — of a sort and at a price!

Hair curling is a problem. I have made a few curlers with a piece of copper wire cut into short lengths to replace ones that have broken. I roll my hair upwards round a ribbon and if I help this to stay up with pins on damp days it goes two or three days without curling. I have two shorter, flat curls on the side of my head and these I keep so firmly, though invisibly, pinned down that even the rain cannot harm them. I keep an old Land Army hat for really wet days.

My hobbies and leisure times have not changed much. Before the war they were amateur dramatics, writing, music, reading and occasional pictures. Amateur dramatics have now changed to the activities of a local writer's circle. My occasional extravagances are books and magazines. While I was isolated in the country at one of my jobs, I bought a concertina to fill the place of the piano, which I missed. There is a piano where I am living now, but I am afraid it gets neglected a little these days, as I am concentrating on writing and reading, to the exclusion of most other activities. In



A Thatching Demonstration in East Sussex

By courtesy of Sussex Express & County Herald

the coming winter I intend to take a course of short-story writing by correspondence. I think the Land Girl has ample opportunities for taking up some course of home study in winter months. She could even study agriculture that way. I am thinking also of organising some sort of group for light study. There are many Land Girls who work near me and I think we might get a lot of pleasure out of a weekly meeting for discussions, play-reading and so on. We might even get up a small concert party for the troops. I hope to do something like this to brighten our lives after harvest is over and we have more time.

There is one thing that I do much more these days—and I dare say this goes for a good many girls, especially in out-door work—that is SMOKE. Just lead me to the man—or woman—who says that we girls should not smoke in these days of comparative shortage! There is more nerve-strain on women than on men during a war and if a woman—doing a

man's job (and not getting a man's wages!)—cannot have the consolation of a cigarette if she wants it, then it is a harder world for women than ever I thought it—and I think of it very often and very intensely!

Many of the things that we have had to become used to in these days have come to stay for a long time. Should the war end to-morrow it would be a long day before we saw the old life back again. When victory is ours we shall have to adapt ourselves anew, for it will be a world we do not know that spreads before us. There is one thing that the war has brought to me that has come to stay for ever—and I hope that I am one of many who feel the same—that is, a deep love for and interest in farming.

The first thing I shall do when I am "demobbed" at the end of the war is to go and look for a job on a farm—and when I am rich—buy one!

D. Hudson, 33083 (Essex.)

Our readers will be interested to know that the poem on page 8 was written by Mrs. Lea, Chairman of Worcestershire W.L.A. Committee, some of whose work has appeared in *The Poetry Review* and *Time and Tide*.

P. Edmonds, of E. Suffolk, writes: "We had a lovely week thrashing, and I thoroughly enjoyed myself, although you could hardly tell me from the chaff heap."

Alpine Dairying

When I first came to England I was surprised to see so much permanent grass and that cattle were left in the open day and night even through most of the winter. Of course the high English hedges give them good shelter. Much of the grass is now gone and in the early summer the country side is variegated by an assortment of crops. As I knew Austria, every scrap of suitable land was under the plough, grass was grown on the hill sides, a rather rank grass amongst which many flowers grew, buttercups and hemlock chiefly. Higher up, the shorter the grass, and over four thousand feet it is like a green carpet, adorned with gentians and other alpine flowers. The dairy farmers on the mountain side—dairy farmers is rather too grand a term for the hill peasants—lead a strange life. Quite often their land is snow bound for half the year. The children go to school on skis. They stay all day, they don't come home for midday. They can get down to school quickly enough but the toilsome climb home takes sometimes an hour or two. The children are none the worse for it.

Skiing is much easier than walking in deep snow or over frozen roads. Cattle have to be confined to stables and led out only for watering. Sometimes the weather is so severe and the ice on the trough or pond so thick that blocks of it have to be cut out, melted and taken in buckets to the stables. Of course the stables have to be mucked out daily. Straw is not much used for bedding, it is chiefly pine needles and bracken.

Milking is done by hand, and butter is made in the ordinary old fashioned barrel churn. They do however use separators except in the very high crofts where they use dairy pans. They make a good deal of cheese. The men have plenty of work in the winter in getting the hay which has been stored in the summer in small stilted hay lofts, scattered about the hill sides. The rest of their time they spend in bringing logs down to the saw-mills for planks, fire wood and wood pulp. Sometimes they load big sledges with hay or faggots, and toboggan down.

When the snow is melted on the high pastures young cattle and a few cows are driven up. Hamlets in the mountain valley have a common pasture, though some of the richer peasants have their own grazing land. The cattle woman is called a Sennerin, she often has a boy

of fourteen or so to help her. In this high altitude called "Alms" there are no cart tracks only paths and men carry up provisions in heavy rucksacks. Sennerin and boy sleep in wooden huts. They cook their food on an open fire in the hut. The cows are bedded in their milking sheds. There are rough wooden huts provided for the other cattle to take shelter in bad weather. All of them wear bells, the leader has a specially big one. At these heights the air is so rarefied that the cattle enjoy a natural course of ultra violet rays.

No artificial noise except the tinkling of the bells disturbs the stillness of the Alps. The natural sounds are the thunder of the waterfalls and the lowing of the cattle. The Sennerin also is fond of jodling as in such lonely places they like to hear their own voices.

The Sennerin makes cheese and butter and gathers fungi and medicinal herbs. She also collects cranberries and wortle-berries.

They don't get much variety in food and hardly any meat.

On Sundays, foresters and gamekeepers visit the Sennerins and they have parties. They play the zither and mouth-organ, and in the evening they have a dance. Sunday afternoon in Austria is a recognised time for pleasure. These peoples' songs are mostly about the strife of gamekeeper and poacher and of the loves of Sennerin and Woodcutter. Some of these songs are very outspoken.

When the first snow falls in September the cattle are driven down to their winter quarters. Each Sennerin and her boy help make wreaths of alpine flowers to decorate their kine; the leading animal always has a large golden star, cross, or looking-glass fixed to its horns. When they get down to the valley they find the whole village arrayed in their Sunday national costume awaiting them, and each beast is taken by its proprietor and driven home. After that there is a fair and folk-dancing, and after dusk the public-houses are crowded with people celebrating the occasion. There is plenty of dancing and they dance well. Many of them do not think the celebration complete without a good fight and a broken head, if nothing worse. When the beer mugs begin to hurtle through the air the ladies take refuge under the tables.

The men have been working hard in the summer to get enough hay for the winter; only big peasants use silage. The labourers often have to fix three-inch spikes to their boots so as to move on

the steep grass slopes, and sometimes they have to rope themselves to rocks or trees.

To make the best of the short summer they work fifteen hours a day, from dawn to dusk, master and servant alike.

It is a hard life, but only a few leave it for the towns. Most of them can't leave the mountains. Anyone who knows and appreciates their beautiful country can understand it. Francesca Enns.

Industrial Disease

There are two complaints to which land workers are subject, especially those new to the job. They are known as "Industrial Diseases" under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The most prevalent is Teno-synovitis. This is usually caused by excessive use of the wrist joints on such jobs as hoeing, potato picking, beet knocking, etc. A swelling appears round the wrist and is painful. The worker should see her panel doctor, and if he certifies Teno-synovitis she should ask the name and address of the nearest certifying surgeon. Sometimes it is the same doctor. She should then ask the certifying surgeon for a certificate under the Workmen's Compensation Act. He will charge 5s. for this. The certificate should be handed at once to the employer, with a statement that the worker desires to claim compensation. The ordinary National Health Insurance certificate should be handed or sent to the secretary of the worker's approved society. It is necessary to obtain both certificates.

Dermatitis is caused by dust or liquids, and usually shows itself by a rash on the hands and arms. The same procedure should be followed as outlined above.

If the worker is a paid-up member of a Trade Union she should report at once to the Union and they will see to her claim. They may also pay the cost of the certifying surgeon's certificate. In any case it is necessary to act promptly.

In April, the Women's Land Army broadcast, which follows immediately after "Farm Record," will deal with Land Army conditions of employment, including leave, sick pay and compensation. If you are not quite sure how you stand in regard to any of these matters, be sure to listen to the Home Service programme on Thursday, April 29th, at 6.45.

"What! You a Land Girl?"

Yes, that's what my friends said when I told them in what way I had decided to help my King and Country. "You don't mean to say you've really joined. Just think, you'll have to rise at some unearthly hour, and wear nasty, clumsy boots, and live on nothing but porridge, and work for absolutely hours and hours on end. Oh! it'll be a nightmare. You'll never stick it!"

So much for those dismal forebodings. They belong to the past, and after having "endured" the Land Army for many months I think I can truthfully say that I have never been a happier or a healthier person!

My particular job is market gardening, and I am working in the vegetable gardens of one of Scotland's largest estates. Here we grow fruit and vegetables of all kinds for the general market, and since coming here I have learned more facts about gardening than I ever thought existed! I have done an almost bewildering number of different jobs, too, including pruning, hoeing, thinning, watering, planting-out vegetables (all kinds), wheelbarrowing, fruit pulling and earth treading. This last amused me enormously at first, as it is such a ritual—a whole line of people bobbing up and down on the earth, for all the world like a Zulu war dance!

I think the fruit season must have been our busiest spell. We were certainly on the go all the time, as we had to pull strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, red currants, and black currants while the weather lasted. We pulled and sold over 500 lbs. of strawberries alone, and for weeks after I could not even "look one in the face."

Later, we harvested our autumn crops—potatoes, beetroot, carrots, onions, etc., and it was not far behind the fruit season for activity.

Well, after all these crowded months I still feel very, very thankful that I stuck it and held to my first decision at the beginning, when I so nearly weakened and took the easy way out. So, up, all you uncertain ones, and don't be misled! And, by the way, up Scotland! We should like to see your name a bit more! S. M. Porteous, 2,409.

Congratulations to Blodwen Davies, 57812, aged 20, of Carmarthenshire, who won both 1st and 2nd prizes in one ploughing match, and 1st in another. Both were open competitions, including men entrants.



Spring in Gloucestershire

By courtesy of Bristol Evening World

Dagging

Edna and I have been "dagging" the sheep. A messy but necessary job, which consists of first penning the sheep, catching them one by one and clipping off the dirt which has accumulated and adhered to their hindquarters. It all sounds quite simple, but the fun starts when we select a victim.

If the pen is a bit large and the sheep few, much energy is expended by chaser and chased. I find the best method is to dive for the nearest hind leg, hang on like grim death and wait till Edna anchors herself to the animal's neck. I then seize the shears and attack it from the rear. A false move on the part of the sheep may mean a nasty cut for either the "dagger" or the "dagged," and with obstinate or unruly ewes we gently but firmly put them on the ground and sit on 'em. One ewe finished, we dive for the next, and so on, till the job is done. My hands become filthy at this game and my back is one continual ache, but it is worth all that to see the flock trot off, wagging nice clean tails, attached to perfectly respectable rears!

Warwickshire.

L. Vickers, 23,641.

Hows Your Bicycle?

In many counties bicycles are being lent or hired to volunteers, and complaints have been heard in some areas as to the treatment these bicycles receive. Rubber, metal and other rare and precious products besides a high degree of skill are needed to make bicycles. On no account should moth and rust be allowed to corrupt nor should volunteers compete in a deplorable race to reduce their bicycles to scrap metal at the earliest possible moment. Rather must these bicycles receive the treatment we gave to the very first one we were so proud to own, and cherished with such loving care.

You Have Been Warned

Some volunteers leave the posts which have been found for them and find their own jobs near home. Volunteers have all promised to be mobile, and MUST GO where they are needed. If they find posts without the consent of the W.L.A. office in the county where they are working they are liable to dismissal from the W.L.A.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I thought perhaps other Land Girls might like to hear a word from the Worcestershire W.A.C.'s spraying gangs. The rush of winter spraying ended on March 6th, when the last tractor rattled back to the depot, drawing the spraying machine on which were perched four happy, but yellow-looking Land Girls.

Spraying started in November, when we had five machines, each run by three or four Land Girls and a tractor driver, by the end of the season we had increased to nine gangs. We have been spraying apples, cherries and plums with D.N.C., which is the latest winter wash and is thoroughly recommended by Long Ashton. The most unfortunate part about it is its objectionable habit of staining yellow. We have to pretend that the latest fashion is yellow nails and hair, as it just won't come off!

My job in the scheme has been mostly driving, taking girls out and fetching fuel, etc., so I have had a good chance of seeing every team at work and I would like to say that in spite of all the drawbacks and technical hitches which do occur sometimes, I think everyone has stuck to the job very well.

We have now finished our contracts and most girls have gone back to other work, meanwhile mopping up operations are going on at the depot, servicing the machines ready for Spring spraying.

Wishing the best of luck to Sprayers everywhere.
Worcs.

J. Baldwin, 6470.

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read in the February issue, of the plan set afoot by the L.E.A. for Educational Facilities. Besides the fact that the subjects entailed are likely to prove useful in post-war days, it is always an interesting way of spending a few spare hours.

At the moment, I myself, am studying three modern languages, and hope, in the course of a few months to enter for a Fellowship of Linguists' examination. However, I still manage to do the required 9-10 hour day in a market garden—so I agree with L. Croft that it is possible to combine business with study.

Scotland.

P.R., 5620.

Dear Editor,

Is there any Land Girl keeping rabbits in her spare time; I can give a few useful hints, my doe is soon due to have her

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second litter, her first litter were born seven weeks before Christmas. If there is anyone who would like to correspond and exchange hints, I'd be pleased to hear from her.

M. Ligat, 37477.
Forest Green, Holyport,
Maidenhead, Berks.

Dear Editor,

My friend and I joined the W.L.A. when the National Service Book was first issued. We were given the numbers 27 and 29, and should be most interested to know how many original numbers below 27 are still in the W.L.A.

Devon.

G. Gould, 29.

Dear Editor,

I am situated right on the North East Coast, near Flamborough Head, at, I should imagine, one of the most healthy places in Yorkshire. My work chiefly consists of milking, stock and poultry feeding and helping in the fields at busy times. I am extremely fond of animals, horses and pigs being my favourites. A black and white fat pig, which I christened "Rudolph," was really most intelligent. He would lie on his side to be patted and then turn over to have the other side patted too. Unfortunately, the day came for him to be killed, which hurt me very much.

Being in the Land Army is great fun. I never before enjoyed so many jokes. Here's wishing the Land Army every success, and I sincerely hope that all the girls are as happy as I am and that the farmer for whom they work is as considerate towards them as my boss is towards me.

Yorks.

V. M. Hall, 92311.

Dear Editor,

The death of our Registrar, Miss Clark, in a recent raid, was a great shock to those of us in her district and it is still difficult to believe that we shall never again look up from our work and hear her cheery greetings as she came to see "how we were getting on."

We shall always remember with gratitude the untiring way she worked on our behalf and how in her jolly friendly way she helped us to settle down to a new life away from home.

It is difficult to express our feelings adequately, but I should just like to say in conclusion, how proud we are to know that she died "on active service."

Surrey. W. M. Dullforce, 83817.

This month's cover design is by Miss O. Wakeford, 40838, of Berkshire.

A recent photograph of Lady Denman, Honorary Director of the Women's Land Army. Lady Denman is Chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, and was a member of the Scott



Committee which recently reported on Land Utilisation after the war. Many volunteers have received their Good Service Badges from her and many more have met her at County Rallies all over the country.

Poster Competition

Eight posters were sent up for final judgment, and the two judges reported that they did not think any of them really achieved "the necessary combination of artistic merit with selling the idea of supporting the Fund." In their opinion the entry sent by T. D. Hanan 63,288 (Hants), "succeeds best by combination of design and letterpress in putting over the desired appeal," while the two entries by I. Ketley, 74,002 (Worcs), succeed "best as regards design and general artistic treatment, but fail in the design, to bring out the required appeal." In these circumstances the original prize of £3 3s. for a poster selected for use will not be awarded, but £1 ls. each has been awarded to Miss Hanan and Miss Ketley. Other volunteers whose entries were commended are: A. Phillips (Oxon), R. Loop (Berks), E. and A. Arnold (Devon), Y. Instrell (Norfolk), B. Wenmoth (Bucks), and E. Copley (Dorset). It is hoped to show some of the entries at recruiting and publicity exhibitions.

To L, Who Asks Me a Simple Question

How many days in a year? You ask me: why, I cannot tell. There's an answer in three figures—you must know it very well, You learnt it in your copy-book the day you learnt to spell. But never trust the copy-books. I think they do not say That once there were a thousand, and that only Christmas Day Stood deputy for winter then, and all the rest was May. No, never trust the copy-books; I think they have not known How brief and how eternal the maturer years are grown. No copy-book can teach you that. You find it out alone. Some years have only half a day; but half a day can lend A radiance of summer to the last December's end. On half a day I met you first; and knew you for my friend. Barbara Lea.

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Harvest Memory

It is 6 a.m., yet everywhere seems astir; the cowman's methodical, unhurried tread on the cool stone floor of the cowshed, the sound of bottles being placed on stone dairy shelves and of cakes being stacked ready for loading, break the quietness. One by one the other workers appear, instructions are given, implements are collected and the jingle of chains can be heard as the horses are harnessed.

We make a pretty sight as we wend our way down the winding lane. Our wagons are blue, one drawn by a lumbering black horse, one by a sturdy chestnut mare, and one by an ungainly roan cob, which by reason of its size looks out of place in this little procession. None of the horses seem in a hurry and the carters are content to let them set their own pace, thankful perhaps for one last peaceful smoke before the day's toil begins. A smell of damp mossy earth comes from the hedgerow where the banks are wet with dew.

The haze is gradually lifting now with promise of a hot day. The sun is coming through the grey-blue mist, uncertain at first, then gradually stronger until quite suddenly it catches the dewy grass and turns it into a dazzling green carpet of shining jewels. Up above, the soft misty blueness of the heavens makes us silent and as we sit with our legs dangling over the side of the wagon I wonder what my fellow travellers are thinking.

We pass the grey stone buildings of another farm, no longer drab and for-

bidding looking, for the sun has caught and warmed the mauve-red and yellow tiles. Next stand two cottages with tiny latticed windows and doors with big polished knockers. The doorsteps are of dazzling hearthstone, worn down in the middle by the tread of countless heavy boots. Then the little ancient grey stone Church, standing like a small island among a sea of tombstones.

We leave our sleepy lane and its earthy smells and come to the main road with its white concrete surface, its sand bins and bold "Keep Left" signs, but here too, we have beauty. We climb gradually up hill, away on our left lies the superb panorama of the South Downs in all its morning glory. We seem to be on top of the world, as we look down on the tiny villages, the oast houses among the farm buildings, little cottages, and here and there a village Church.

At the top of the hill we leave the smooth surface of the main road and turn right, down a rough track, deeply rutted by wagon wheels and full of pot-holes. As the wagons jerk over the rough surface we are forced to grasp the side of the wagon with our hands clasped under our knees so that we are firmly anchored. The barking of a dog in the distance heralds our approach and when we come to the end of the track we find the farm and the farmer waiting to greet us.

This early morning journey has shown me what England and her Allies are fighting for, and even dying for, and I am thankful that in my small way I am doing my part in this fight for freedom. W. Kent. Hazel Mayer, 83256.

STOP! LOOK! THEN LISTEN! On Sunday, May 2nd, at 8.40 p.m., Donald McCullough, Question Master of the famous B.B.C. Brains Trust, will broadcast in "The Week's Good Cause," on behalf of The Women's Land Army Benevolent Fund. Tell everyone you know to be sure to listen.

A Post-war Agricultural policy for Great Britain is the title of a memorandum prepared by a group of peers of varying political views, under the chairmanship of Lord de la Warr. It has three main headings: (1) The Place of British Agriculture in Relation to the World; (2) The Best Use of Land; Ownership, Management, and Husbandry; (3) Efficient Distribution. It is short, and written with admirable clearness and simplicity. It contains interesting facts and figures, and outlines the problems that must be solved. Opinions on the suggested solutions will probably differ, but everyone

interested in post-war agriculture should read this memorandum. It can be obtained from leading booksellers, price 6d. or 7d. post free, from The Secretary, 20, Chester Square, S.W.1.

Five to One on the Land, published by Allen & Unwin, price 1s. 6d., is a collection of broadcast talks on Agriculture, with a foreword by Mr. Hudson. It is a record of many interesting experiments and experiences, both of established agriculturists and war-time newcomers to the land, including Miss Ann Taylor, W.L.A.

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THE LAND GIRL In Huntingdonshire



LEFT TO RIGHT—Queen Marie, Lady Shepperson (Chairman, Hunts W.L.A.) and Mrs. Warde (Org. Secretary).

Saturday, March 13th, was a great day for everybody connected with the Women's Land Army in Huntingdonshire. The weather was glorious, and one hundred and eleven Land Girls marched through the county town headed by an A.T.C. band, and followed by three tractors, to be inspected in the Inner Courtyard of the New Grammar School by Her Majesty, Queen Marie of Yugoslavia. Her Majesty, who was accompanied by the Lord-Lieutenant, Lord Sandwich, the Chairman, Lady Shepperson, and the County Secretary, Mrs. Warde, walked along the lines of smart, bronzed volunteers, and six of the members with the longest service were presented to her.

The gathering, which included the Chairman and members of the War Agricultural Executive Committee, county notables and the W.L.A. county officials, then adjourned to the School Hall, where Her Majesty presented the Good Service Half Diamonds and Two-Year Armlets. In a beautiful speech she told how the women of her country all worked on the land and how they were growing and harvesting the food to feed their men folk fighting in the mountains. "When you are hoeing," she said, "remember that you are working not only for your own country, but to help people like me to get back to theirs. I thank you for

all you have done and all you are doing for my country, and God bless you all."

Lord Sandwich, in moving the vote of thanks, called on the girls to give three cheers for Her Majesty, and how those girls cheered! Previously, Major R. G. Proby, the Chairman of the W.A.E.C., had spoken on the grand work the W.L.A. was doing and appealed to farmers to apply for their labour now.

During the tea interval most of the girls were to be seen round the literature stall, and not many went home without some kind of book or leaflet. A cheery, forty-minute musical concert was given by E.N.S.A. Miss S. Bosley, W.L.A., 3411, thanked the artists on behalf of the girls, and everybody agreed that it had been a most wonderful afternoon.

Very many congratulations to D. Adams, 39026 (Leics.) who, with complete disregard for her own safety, saved two lambs by diving under the nose of an infuriated bull, snatching them up in her arms and intimidating the bull by a combination of audacity and the toe of her Land Army boot.

In reply to an enquiry from a member of the Timber Corps, the Land Army Charter now applies to the Timber Corps as to all members of the W.L.A.

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Scottish Notes

Message from Mr. Allan Chapman, Joint Under Secretary of State: "In meeting the national food requirements we shall in some crops touch new all-time records in Scotland this year. At the same time the military and manpower situations are likely to set us no easy labour problem. I make an urgent appeal to farmers to help us in this matter, and in so doing to help themselves, by applying for land girls now and by training them on their own farms."

Alford & Deeside.—Aileen Moir, gang leader at Dessmuir hostel, Aboyne, organised a most successful dance at the Victory Hall, in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund. During the evening Lady MacRobert presented G.S. Badges to several girls from the district. In the course of a stimulating speech she announced that arrangements were being made for the training of land girls with her British Friesian dairy herd. Owing to transport difficulties only a small proportion of the girls due to receive badges could get to Aboyne, and the following week nearly a hundred girls received their badges at St. Katherine's Club, Aberdeen, from Lord Glentworth. A number were able to stay on for the Services Dance at the club in the evening, and a few lucky ones were able to stay in Aberdeen overnight in the newly-opened Y.W.C.A. Services Hostel, at Castle Terrace. The Alford and Deeside W.L.A. sub-committee have presented the Scottish W.L.A. W. & B. Fund with a cheque for £50, raised at various functions throughout the district by Alexina Argo, Wilhelmina Dickson, Aileen Moir and Alexina Bevis.

North Ayr.—A cheque for the W. & B. Fund, proceeds of a dance held in Troon, for £32 12s. 7d., has been handed over by some of the North Ayr girls. These girls are hoping to organise a daffodil sale and a raffie for the same cause in the near future. Exciting things, such as a bull calf, eggs, and chickens, have already been promised by certain employers for this effort.

Dumbarton & Renfrew.—A new club, to be known as the Paisley & District Land Girls' Club, has been formed, to meet twice a week in the Liberal Halls, Paisley, for alternate educational and social gatherings. It is proposed to start a dramatic club, a keep-fit class, and a country dancing class. Talent is not lacking.

Dumfriesshire.—A cheque for £15, proceeds of a whist drive organised by the girls employed at the Crichton Royal Institution, was gratefully received by the secretary of the W. & B. Fund.

East Fife.—Mrs. Hayens, W.L.A. sub-committee member for East Fife, with the assistance of a number of residents in the Newport area, gave a party and dance for W.L.A. members in the Waterside and Rolliston hostels, and girls on private farms in the area. G.S. Badges were presented by Mrs. Fairweather, wife of the Provost for Newport, whose land girl daughter is doing good work on a dairy farm.

East Lothian.—A new club has been started at Aberlady for W.L.A. girls in the district. It meets fortnightly, and has about 25 members. A whist drive and dance at Oldhamstocks raised £14 for the County Comforts Fund. £5 16s. has been handed over by the Comforts Fund to the W. & B. Fund. A pair of runaway horses was stopped by Mrs. Allen (W.L.A. 14,587), who displayed courage and resourcefulness.

East Perth.—The girls of St. Martin's Hostel, Balbeggie, have sent £6 2s. for the W. & B. Fund, part proceeds of a dance, and are hoping to arrange another function in the early autumn.

Inverness & Nairn.—The counties of Inverness

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and Nairn combined to have a Badge Presentation and parade in Inverness. Sir Patrick Laird presented G.S. Badges to nearly 100 land girls and 18 girls from the Timber Corps. He congratulated the girls on the way they had proved their worth to the farmers. After a hearty tea the girls paraded through the streets to the Playhouse Cinema, headed by the pipe band of the Highland Squadron of the A.T.C. It was a particularly fine day, and crowds lined the streets to watch the girls march past. At the cinema the girls were the guests of the management, and thoroughly enjoyed an excellent programme.

Kirkcudbright.—A dance, run by H. McKenzie, N. Copland, and others raised £10 13s. for the Prisoners of War Fund. This is the third dance these members have got up.

Midlothian.—M. McCulloch and M. Hughes, from the Craiglea Poultry Farm, ran a very successful dance at Midcalder, as a result of which £30 12s. has been handed over for the W. & B. Fund.

North Lanark.—15 land girls were guests at a gathering of the Glasgow Islay Association. A whist drive was followed by a short concert given by the W.L.A. members, and by a showing of the W.L.A. film "The Land Girl in Training." During the evening G.S. Badges were presented by Miss Mechan.

Peebles.—£20 for the W. & B. Fund has been sent by Betty Reid, part proceeds of a dance got up by her and some others. These enthusiasts propose soon to hold another function, at which they hope to double the first amount.

Roxburgh.—The girls of Cavers hostel held an enjoyable whist drive and dance in the Old Church Hall, Cavers, and at the close of the evening were able to hand over £21 5s. 1d. for the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund.

Stirlingshire.—G.S. Badges were presented at two parties in this county, one for the Milngavie-Campsie districts at Central Halls, Glasgow, and the other at Miller's Rooms, Stirling, for girls from Stirling, Kippen, Kilsyth, etc., areas. At both parties games and country dancing were enjoyed, and collections of £2 16s. 3d. and £3 15s. 6d. respectively were taken for the W. & B. Fund.

West Fife & Kinross.—A dance held by the girls at Balcroon Hostel, Culross, raised the good sum of £21 2s. 6d. for the W. & B. Fund.

Wigtownshire.—We hear from Wigtownshire, which now has three hostels running successfully that the W.L.A. is greatly in demand for early potato planting. One farmer has remarked that it was the most pleasant potato planting he has ever had!

The Guild of Agricultural Journalists Prize Scheme for 1943-4 is an essay competition on one of the following subjects: 1, Re-stocking Britain; 2, The Rural England I hope to see after the war; 3, The place of the primary producer after the war; 4, Back to poultry prosperity. Entrants are divided into three classes, one of which includes members of the W.L.A. Entries must be received by September 30th; forms and full particulars can be obtained from The Farmers' Club, 3, Whitehall Court, London, S.W.1.

E. Higgins, 37959, of the Timber Corps, has spoiled her beret by rubbing it against a larch tree. Can anybody give advice on how to remove resin stains?

Next Month.—Miss Baxter and I, No. 8.

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County News

Beds.—Everyone will be delighted to hear that Mrs. Heydeman, whom we have all missed so much, will be back at the office next month. Our Whipnade hostel opened on the 15th February, with 16 volunteers in charge of our first forewoman, Miss Daisy Beard, a veteran with 3½ years' service. This hostel has already done some good work in the south of the county. On 4th March the W.A.C. staged a farming demonstration at Apsley Guise, which showed our girls doing every type of work, including threshing, tractor ploughing, hedging, ditching, horse hoeing, etc. Representatives of the press took some very attractive photos, some of which will appear in the next issue of "Sporting and Dramatic News." Miss Williams, our Regional Officer, remarked that the sides of the ditches looked as though they had been polished with Ronuk!

Our chairman, Mrs. Graham, raised £40 for the Benevolent Fund by a dance in January. £36 10s. has come through Mr. Garratt, of Toddington, and £6 from Elstow Bright Hour party. Miss J. Cribb has arranged a dance at Woburn Town Hall on March 25th. ENSA concerts are now being held regularly at all the hostels, and all volunteers living near enough to the hostels to attend are welcome to do so. Further information can be obtained at the County Office. Our Uniform Department is very anxious to see Bedfordshire girls give a lead for smartness in the matter of uniform. Please do not wear half uniform and half mufli and strings to the hats—Land Girls are not cowboys!

Breca. & Rad.—We were particularly pleased to hear that the Brecon Hostel girls had placed £112 in the National Savings Fund since October last year. Other Hostels are doing well and monthly results will be given in our News Sheet, which I hope will encourage us all to further efforts. We are looking forward to talks by a well known Polish lady who is visiting all the Hostels in May; volunteers in billets, and their landladies, will have an opportunity to hear this speaker. Recent entertainments have included visits by E.N.S.A. and C.E.M.A., a Mock Trial, various talks, and volunteers have contributed to local Hospitals, W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, Y.W.C.A. and other good causes by the organisation of dances and social efforts. We liked the idea of Whitton Hostel running a potato pie supper to entertain local troops, and the same Entertainments Committee is raising funds to buy a gramophone. We would like to congratulate the 57 volunteers who have received G.S. Badges this month.

Bucks.—A Rally and demonstration organised in conjunction with the Bucks War Agricultural Committee, is to be held on Saturday, May 29th, at Walton Court Farm, Aylesbury, by kind permission of Mr. R. Rowland; the date, recently fixed for a week later, has had to be altered, owing to other local activities. We are looking forward very much to Lady Denman's visit on this occasion. The programme will include Dairy Work, Horse Work, Tractor Ploughing, and Silage and Threshing demonstrations, and many other types of farm work.

Congratulations to Mrs. C. Burgess, W.L.A. 47692, who recently showed great courage and presence of mind on the occasion of a threshing accident, by her action averting fatal consequences; the man, though injured, is once more at work. Our first Wardens' Conference was held on March 23rd, with Mrs. Grace, of Balcombe, as principal speaker, and was most successful. The first five day course for W.A.C. Forewomen, has been held at Aylesbury, with great success. One of the less technical sessions consisted of a frank talk between the girls and a farmer with considerable experience of Gang Labour, both sides declared themselves to be considerably enlightened at the end of the session which speaks well for future co-operation by all parties.

Cheshire.—A memorable gathering took place at Reaseheath on 26th February, when the Cheshire County Council celebrated the arrival of the 1,000th W.L.A. trainee. Mr. Done, who presided, paid tribute to the work being done by the L.A. The principal guest was Sir Thomas Baxter, and among other speakers were L.G.'s and employers. Our chairman, Mrs. Jonnson, asked Miss Armistead to accept an illuminated address as a memento of the occasion. After listening to the many complimentary speeches during the afternoon, we all felt very proud to belong to a Service which is so fully appreciated in this county.

We are glad to hear that the clubs at Bramhall and at Bowdon are so active. The club at Delamere is a very real help to the volunteers working in the Forest. The "Dig for Victory" weeks gave us an opportunity to show the town dwellers what we are doing to provide them with food, and Mrs. Moore's mole-catching demonstrations were a great attraction at Chester and Birkenhead. Mrs. Stapledon arranged an enjoyable tea party for girls in her area, who now hope to meet regularly. In Chester and other parts of the county volunteers have taken part in the "Wings for Victory" campaigns. Very successful dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund have been held, and more are being arranged. We send good wishes to the many volunteers who have been married during the month. One of our oldest members, Miss Mawrey, has married a farmer and will be still living in the county.

Cornwall.—The W.L.A. was well represented in the Wings for Victory procession in Truro on 20th March. We were anxious to show up well on this occasion in view of our present recruiting campaign and the local publicity we have arranged in the way of shop window displays and slide announcements at cinemas, etc. Seventy volunteers marched in threes, each carrying an appropriate farm implement; a pony drawing a seed-drill (manned by two L.G.'s) headed the contingent, and a tractor-driven hay-wagon (driven by a L.G.) brought up the rear. Cheers announced the public's approval of the L.A.'s contribution to the procession, and it is difficult to know who enjoyed the occasion more, the L.G.'s taking part or the spectators.

This month has seen the opening of our second dairy-training centre in the County, at Trengwainton, Penzance, on the home-farm of Col. E. Bolitho. This is in addition to our now long-established centre at Collurian, where some hundreds of Land Girls have received tuition from Miss D. Nicholas, the dairy instructress, seconded to us by the Cornwall County Council.

Cumb. & West.—Cliburn hostel opened on March 29th, with 12 girls (later to be increased to 20). This is our eighth hostel; eight others are under consideration, and the Appleby and Milnthorpe hostels are to be enlarged. One of our newer jobs is the driving of "Cub" excavators, and our three pioneers, Miss A. Cawley, Miss D. Delaney and Mrs. H. Roby are doing excellently at this exacting job. Milnthorpe hostel recently enjoyed a "Brains Trust," and flung questions as varied as any B.B.C. programme at a team assembled by the Youth Organiser of the County Education Committee. It was a most stimulating evening.

Denbigh.—We would like to congratulate Gresford Hostel in raising £52 1s. 6d. for the Benevolent Fund at their dance on Feb. 9th and to thank Mr. E. Davies and all the kind people in the area who helped in so many ways. Gresford has recently held another dance but the money from this has been used to buy a radio-gram. We hope that plans for concerts and dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund are progressing in other Hostels.

Miss Jagger, of Oakleigh, Llangollen, has visited all the Hostels, and her enthusiasm as organiser of entertainments and educational subjects has been much appreciated. She is doing her best to discover individual talent and would welcome suggestions and enquiries from any



On a Hampshire Farm

member on any subject. The Llangollen Club, organised by Miss Jagger has a membership of over 50. There is no Hostel at Llangollen, so the girls have hired a room in the town for one night a week. One girl rides nine miles over the mountains and returns in the dark; I think her keenness speaks for the success of the club.

Derbs.—Our second hostel has been opened at The Rectory, Staunton-by-Bridge, for 25 girls, some of whom are working in the market gardens at Melbourne, others on general farm work. The first hostel at Alveston has proved a complete success, and we are sure that Staunton is going to be equally popular.

On 21st February, 15 Sheffield girls took part in a march past of representatives of all the Services, in celebration of Red Army Day: after the ceremony nearly all the girls employed in the Sheffield area had tea with Mrs. Baker, their Area Representative. Between the end of December and 10th March, 1943, many G.S. badges have been earned, including one sixth and 64 first half diamonds.

On 24th February, the Derby "Evening Telegraph" printed a delightful picture of Mary Fletcher, W.L.A., 50,459, giving two motherless lambs their bottle, underneath which a black lamb of space was devoted to an interview in which employer and employee expressed their mutual satisfaction in glowing terms which no doubt will go far towards helping recruiting in this county.

We heartily congratulate C. Gilbey (3½ years' service), R. Martin (6 months' service), N. Tuckett (3½ years' service) and J. Petrie-Thompson (3 years' service) on their promotion to gang supervisors, although they were up against strong candidates. Several clubs have been started. Mrs. Dodds (Torquay) arranged an afternoon tea, at which films were shown. At the next meeting there is to be a speaker. A splendid contingent was mustered for the "Torquay Wings for Victory Week procession," and all the girls were invited to tea afterwards. The office has heard on all

sides that their marching has shown considerable progress since the last occasion! Okhampton.—The Yorkshire Circle meets once a month at the hostel, and this is organised by Mrs. Philip and the Warden, Miss Mountford. Chagford hostel has been enjoying evening lectures in musical appreciation, and Moretonhampstead has held a whistle drive in aid of the Benevolent Fund which made £6 4s. 9d. after paying expenses. We are very grateful to Mrs. Keane and Miss Amery for their help. Exeter has ambitious plans for a Club, of which Diana Boyes (Reed Hall, Exeter) is the energetic secretary. If L.G.'s near Exeter will back the committee up by becoming members, it should be possible to arrange an interesting programme. Kingsbridge area, under Miss Ilbert, have a hockey side which has been successful in beating the W.R.N.S. Sidmouth area, with the help of Miss Cox, organised a very successful dance for the Benevolent Fund, and hope before long to hold another. In Miss Bolitho's large district (Whimple) L.G.'s meet at her house once a month for tea. Bideford area enjoys the hospitality of the existing girls' club, and Mrs. Young is "at home" on the second Saturday of every month.

The office has outgrown its present accommodation and is shortly moving to new and larger premises at Fairpark Lodge, Magdalen Road, Exeter, and we shall continue to remain open on the second Saturday afternoon of every month. We hope L.G.'s will visit us in our new abode.

Dorset.—A W.L.A. club has been formed at Bere Regis and has had a most successful concert and two dances. Another dance was held in February by the W.L.A. members at Bradford Abbas. These activities have resulted in a substantial addition to our Welfare Fund. Manston hostel celebrated its first birthday with a party. W.L.A. members at Sherborne have formed a group and are practising for the Singing Competition to be held in the Autumn. Many C.E.M.A.

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concerts have been arranged in different parts of Dorset during April, and E.N.S.A. entertainments are being given every other week at the Hostels. All W.L.A. members who can get to these will be welcome.

We are glad to know that two of our members—Y. Slade and M. Ouelch—have been selected by the Royal Horticultural Society for Lease-Lend Seed Trials at Wisley. The Ratcatchers have had a fortnight's intensive course, and Mrs. Aston is presenting a cup to the best all-round Rat killer. The need of the Dorset farmers for milkers is greater than ever, and we are glad to be able to report that Miss Marjorie Graves opened Cocknowle Training (Dairying) Centre on April 5th. Last year over one hundred W.L.A. members were trained there.

Essex.—We now have 2,020 volunteers employed privately and 1,093 by the W.A.C.; we have 22 hostels. The Savings Group inter-hostel Competition was won by Mancroft Hostel, Gt. Yeldham, with a weekly average per volunteer of 3s. 9d. Second prize—Battlesbridge, with a weekly average of 3s. 2d. per volunteer. The darning competition was won by Miss D. Webb, 10s.; and second, Miss E. Watson, 5s. Twelve volunteers attended the first Pest Extermination Course, at Writtle, from March 2nd to 11th. We also filled the first two out of five vacancies under the national milk recording scheme. We in the office greatly miss our County Chairman, Miss Tritton, who has been ordered a month's complete rest with no L.A. problems to solve. We are very pleased to welcome Miss Sprent as our second Assistant Secretary. We are very sorry to have to record the death of Miss Taylor and Miss Francis. Miss Francis' funeral was attended by a small contingent of W.L.A., carrying our emblem in flowers and corn, as a last tribute to a very gallant comrade. I know all volunteers will wish to sympathise with the parents of both volunteers. One of our employers sending a gift to our Welfare Fund wrote: "I send it as a token of my appreciation of the splendid work these girls are doing in all weathers and in all difficulties. I am most grateful to the Land Army and, without its help, this farm could never have carried on. Miss Boyce is a remarkable worker and the young recruit, Miss Campbell is getting on fine under her."

Glos.—A new hostel at Coin St. Aldwyn, is to be opened this month, making eight in the county in all. We expect to double this number before the Summer is over, to help meet the ever growing demand for the W.L.A. The threshing gangs, who started work last October, have been a great success and we now have about 60 girls working in gangs of four, from billets, on this work, as well as many from the Hostels. One contractor, who started cautiously, with a gang of four girls, is now asking for sixteen. Successful dances have been organised for the Benevolent Fund and many more are being planned. All volunteers in the Cirencester district are welcomed at the United Services Club, at Bingham Library, Cirencester, which has a varied programme for every night of the week, meeting at 7.30 p.m. We are glad to welcome Miss Anderson as our new County Organiser.

Mary Lawton, 9811, writes: "The Campden W.L.A. Club only boasts about 12 members so far, and we ran a whist drive on Feb. 17th in aid of the Merchant Navy; we were lucky in receiving generous donations and prizes, and were also given a book, 6 eggs and 12 onions to be raffled. One girl who does a milk round collected over £4 by sheer hard work and force of personality! We managed to squeeze 23 tables into the hall and provided light refreshments. The total sum raised was £14 17s. 4d. I should very much like to say how we all enjoy THE LAND GIRL each month."

Wick and Doynton L.G.'s. raised £7 7s. for the Benevolent Fund by a dance. They meet once a

fortnight for "a cup of coffee and a gossip" and hope for great future activities.

Hants.—Volunteers in this county have raised the magnificent sum of £230 for the Benevolent Fund and the County Welfare Fund by selling 6d. tickets in a lucky draw. Nearly 10,000 tickets were sold; people vied with each other, and one tiny village alone accounted for 200. Employers, representatives and friends gave wonderful prizes, including a calf, a free journey to London and theatre tickets for two, besides many delicious things to eat and drink. The draw took place at a party at the Guildhall, Winchester, on March 6th, attended by the Chairman and members of the W.A.C., L.G.'s, and their friends. The principal of our County Farm Institute, who has trained hundreds of girls since the outbreak of war, was M.C. E.N.S.A. opened the proceedings with a variety show after which Miss Bower, Hon. Treasurer, spoke of the Benevolent Fund and announced two further donations of £20, one of which was raised by a dance at Beaulieu Hostel. The big moment of the evening arrived when Commander Stephen King-Hall, M.P., after a stimulating and entertaining speech, drew the winning tickets and the calf was won by a ticket holder at Briston! Dancing ended a very enjoyable evening. Of the £230, £160 has been sent to the Benevolent Fund and £50 has been added to the County Welfare Fund for the use of L.A. clubs, to buy comforts, and to give help to hard cases which do not qualify for help from the Benevolent Fund.

It is with great regret we announce that Miss Barton is leaving us to take up further work of national importance with the British Council. During the 15 months she has been with us we have found her guidance and quick grasp of essentials invaluable, and we shall be left with a deep sense of loss.

Hereford.—February opened sadly, for on the 8th of that month Mollie Peacock, one of the County's senior girls, met her death as the result of a road accident. The funeral was attended by a detachment of 24 members of the W.L.A., together with the chairman, vice-chairman and organising secretary.

Charity continues to benefit by the "after work" activities of our members. Dances at Kilpeck and Orpoc have added to the Merchant Navy Fund, and one at Bodenham will produce a very substantial increase to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. The hostel at Kingsland were thrilled by the festivities for the wedding of their Clerk Driver, who remains at her post as Mrs. Edwards. A new hostel has been opened at Adzor House, Wellington.

Herts.—Great interest has been roused in the W.A.C. training scheme for forewomen and gangers. Verulam Golf Club hostel has been turned into a training school, and each fortnight 15 volunteers go there to receive intensive practical and theoretical training. During the day the girls work at different jobs under the tuition of Mr. Hawkins, Assistant Labour Officer, and in the evenings lectures and cinema shows are arranged to give them some ideas of the reasons for their work. The course is proving immensely popular, and soon we hope to have a competent forewoman in each hostel and one ganger to every six girls. We try also to impress on forewomen and gangers how much willing co-operation eases and improves host life. A milking competition organised by Miss Beck is in progress, it is good to hear that the standard attained by more competitors is high. Miss Peacock, from the Oaklands Institute of Agriculture is judging for us. We have 26 hostels opened, and before long our total will reach 30, with more to come. The clubs at Turnford and Goff Oak are thriving and should be most useful this summer, when more new recruits will join those already working in the glasshouses.

E. Kent.—Mrs. Spicer gave a splendid party for the girls in her District and Mrs. Joy gave a

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tea-party to the girls in the Sheppey area. Faverham girls were entertained by Miss Finn and Miss G. M. Smyth, and received a warm invitation from the organisers of the new Youth Centre to share its activities. Ashford girls lunched with Miss M. Smyth and Mrs. Walker. There have been a number of lectures and E.N.S.A. concerts at hostels and group centres, and Mrs. Kemewich has opened a club and library in Bethersden. The agricultural lectures arranged by the Kent Education Committee have been keenly attended. The examination will be held on 6th April. Two more Romney Marsh hostels are opening and more volunteers from London and Yorkshire are coming to inhabit them. There will be about 300 L.G.'s, in the marshes this year producing crops from newly ploughed-up land. Their help is particularly valuable in these sparsely inhabited districts.

W. Kent.—We feel very proud that two of our W. Kent girls, Miss Richman and Miss Jillard, have been selected by the Friends' Service Council to help with relief work among Polish refugees in Africa. The request came through the Foreign Office from the Governors of N. Rhodesia and the East African Colonies; it is anticipated at least 25,000 refugees will arrive before the end of April. We are very sorry to lose Miss Richman and Miss Jillard, but all our good wishes go with them in their new and valuable work.

Plans for our Spring milking competitions are in full swing, and the preliminary judging of the 75 girls who have entered is taking place this month. The Kent W.A.C. has opened a milking training centre for us on Capt. Beale's farm at Sistraining. Five girls are housed in one of the farm cottages with a matron to look after them, and the great advantage of the training is that it covers a period of eight weeks. Many of our Land Girls have been busy getting up dances and entertainments in aid of the Red Cross and W.L.A. Welfare and Benevolent Funds. Hostels are encouraged to grow more vegetables, and Lady Cornwallis has offered a Hostels Challenge Cup to the girls producing the best vegetable patch.

Lanes.—The office moved at the end of February from Jordan Street, Preston, where the county organisation has been carried on since the beginning of the war. We now have a house to ourselves at 16, Winkley Square, Preston. The connection with Jordan Street is not completely severed, as the Lancashire County Council has very kindly agreed to use one of our old rooms as a club room. The furniture for the room is the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Fazackerley, Preston, and the Club will move into these new premises quite soon. The W.A.C. has recently opened another hostel at 12, Lancaster Road, Southport. Money-raising efforts for the Benevolent and Welfare Funds are the chief items of news this month. Members of the W.L.A., including Timber Corps held a very successful Whist Drive and Dance at Graythwaite Hall, Newby Bridge, where the recreation room was kindly loaned by Colonel and Mrs. Sandys. Supper, provided by the helpers, was greatly enjoyed and Mrs. Marsden presented the prizes. This part of the Lake District thus raised the very excellent sum of £40 14s. 3d. Successful dances have also been held at the Parbold Club (result £20) and the Woolton and District Club (result £22 12s. 6d.). Every girl employed in the County has now been given an envelope in which she may place her weekly contribution, however small, to the funds. These contributions are being collected by the district representatives and the donations are coming in very well as a result. Lancashire volunteers, not only in this County, but in all other parts of the country, will have heard with very great regret of the loss which Mrs. Robertson has suffered in the death of her husband. We all offer her our very deepest sympathy.

Lincs. & N. A. house has been opened by Mrs. H. for the use of Service Women (including

L.A. members) at 15, De Montfort Street, Leicester. There will always be a welcome there for girls in Leicester and reading and rest rooms, and laundry and baths are available, also a night's lodging. This is quite near to our County Office. With the object of stimulating enthusiasm and promoting friendship, the Chairman of the Market Bosworth District, fixed up parties at the W.A.C., and Bosworth Hostels. Officials from the W.A.C., W.L.A., and Y.W.C.A., met the girls and after chicken dinners, social evenings were arranged which were very much enjoyed by all. L.G.'s took part in the Red Army Parade in Leicester and received much applause from the onlooking crowds. A most instructive and amusing Farmers' Braint Trust was held at Melton Mowbray on March 25th, at which L.G.'s took a keen interest. L.G.'s, about the county are becoming more and more interested in the Young Farmers' Clubs.

Lincs. H. & K.—W.L.A. members working for the W.A.C. in Holland heard with regret of the death of their Executive Officer, Mr. E. J. A. Christie. His funeral service was held in the "Stump," on Tuesday, March 16th.

Longer evenings make entertainments fewer, but there have been numbers of socials, dances, concerts and debates. Many hostels had the opportunity of seeing the film "Mrs. Miniver." With the "anniversary" of the opening of many hostels, the birthday parties are being held. Mrs. Neville is unveiling signed portraits of the King and Queen at Little Ponton hostel on March 27th. The girls contributed to buy these, and are delighted with them. Work is now in full swing on the land, and overtime hours are mounting up. We can do with any number of volunteers to keep pace with it. The tractor school at Basingham is very busy, and volunteers do not spend so much time getting "bogged" and "unbogged." Thatching is also being taught to gangs from hostels.

A very successful milking competition was held on February 27th, at Foston, seven girls competed, and the standard was exceptionally high. The prizewinners were: L. Codling, 97 per cent.; R. Roberts, 94 per cent.; and E. Thirle, 93 per cent. L. Codling received a Savings Certificate as first prize. M. Micklethwaite, who fractured her spine, and is now at Elton Hall Convalescent Home, had a long talk with the Duchess of Gloucester when she visited the Home recently.

Correction.—In the February issue it was stated that Uffington L.G.'s had collected £2 10s. by carol singing. In fact, L.G.'s from both Uffington and Barholme took part and the final total was £3 5s.

Lindsey.—We congratulate seven more volunteers on getting their special armlet for two years' work. The Lindsey has to date contributed £192 4s. 6d. to the Benevolent Fund. Girls working on the Stenigot Estate raised £35 by a whist drive and dance.

Carrington hostel are celebrating their "anniversary" on April 13th with a dance for the Benevolent Fund. We are to have a training centre for dairy workers and milkers and possibly tractor drivers, organised by the W.A.C., and a house is to be taken over as a hostel for this centre. Betty Brock W.L.A., 92,409, who was working in an office before joining the Land Army, now doing a dairy work and a milk round, amongst stock, as a veterinary course and remain amongst stock, as she has no desire to return to her old office life. Several others wish to make their career on the land when the war is over. A new hostel at Revesby Abbey Garden House, be opened in the Revesby Abbey Garden House, and there are several others "in the air." We have a number of girls, mostly from Yorkshire, engaged in pest destruction, others are working on the big Lincolnshire drainage schemes, and many are now turning their attention to the potato planting programme as the "settling season" has begun in earnest.

WANTED.—Lady's 2nd-hand bicycle, upright handle bars, Mackenzie, Tanillex, Middle Road, Sway, Hants.

Benevolent Fund

A tremendously good piece of news has just reached us. The B.B.C. has promised an appeal for the Fund in the "Week's Good Cause" one Sunday night. Stop Press—see page 9.

On March 25th the Fund totalled £7,406 14s. 5d. The monthly total was £1,729 13s. 7d. Norfolk has the highest gross total £440 16s. 8d. and also the highest March total £316 13s.

Beds: £23 15s. 3d.—Misc. Berks: £20—Skinner. £2 0s. 6d.—Misc. Bucks: £12—Fingest. £7—Liscombe. £5 7s.—Leighton Buzzard (whist drives). £5—Heywood Lonsdale. £5—Vansittart (Deed of Covenant). £3 16s. 10d.—Misc. Chesh: £70 6s. 9d.—W. L. Worth & Kylands (whist drive). £30—Barrow L.G. s. per Joosey (whist drive). £26 2s. 7d.—per Marshall Brooks (dance). £18 5s. 6d.—Malpas W.L.A. club (dance). £17 14s. 8d.—Ravenscroft & Catterall (dance). Cornwall: £15 8 L.G.'s (dance). Cumb: & West: £16 16s.—Pitt (dance). £7 10s.—Gill House Hostel (dance). £5—Bath and McKissack (dance). £1 1s. 6d.—Misc. Derby: £5—Wright. £5—W.V.S. Sheffield Rest Centre Personnel. 8s. 6d.—Misc. Devon: £1—Misc. Durham: £15 3s.—Ingleton Hostel (dance and raffie). £1 7s. 6d.—Misc. Essex: £28 4s. 4d.—Misc. £2—Misc. Hants: £178 15s. 10d.—County Draw (part proceeds). £20 10s.—Dock House Hostel (dance). £20—Dymoke White. £10—Rosary School, Whitchurch (antomime, part proceeds). £3—Misc. Herts: 7s. 6d.—Misc. Hunts: £16—Thorney Hostel (dance, third donation). Isle of Wight: £4 15s. Misc. Kent: £7 3s. 6d.—Gayler (two dances). £5 7s.—Garlinge & Kesby (dance). £2 12s. 11d.—Misc. Lanc: £16 19s. 4d.—Nichols (dance). £15—Parbold and District L.A. Club (dance). £4 2s. 10d.—Misc. Leics: £20—Lutterworth Hostel. £13—Sapcote Hostel. £9 12s. 6d.—Green (dance). £6 12s. 2d.—Lawrence (dance). £4 17s. 8d.—Misc. Lines, H. & K.: £11 6s.—Billingboro' Hostel (dance). £8 5s.—Corby Hostel (entertainment). £5 11s. 6d.—Bassingham Hostel (whist drive, half proceeds). £5—Chatterton & Co. £45 19s.—Misc. Lines (Lindsey): £35—Ston-on-Bair (whist drive and dance). £10—Brigg Hostel (whist drive and dance). £3 11s. 6d.—Misc. London: & Middx: £10—Osterley L.G. Club (dance). £5—Lowell. Mon: £6 6s. 6d.—Misc. Norfolk: £200—Norfolk & Norwich War Charities (grant). £22 10s.—Breeze (dance). £94 3s.—Misc. (per N. & N. War Charities). Northants: £6—Thornhaugh Hostel (whist drive). £5 9s.—Misc. Notts: £21 8s.—Collingham Hostel (dance). £13 15s.—Stanton Flayboro' & Kilvington L.G.'s (whist drive and social). Oxon: £7—Cropredy L.G.'s, per Walker (dance). £5—Little Bourton Hostel (second dance). Salop: £53—Sidbury W.A.C. L.G.'s (whist drive and dance). Somerset: £55—Misc. E. Suffolks: £27—Helmingham & District L.G.'s, per Cutting (concert). £11 5s.—Hoyland & Tapp (whist drive, Bacton). £9 10s.—Eyke (whist drive) per Talbot. £7 3s. 6d.—Cordock Club, per Rudland (whist drive). £6—Columbyne Hall Hostel (concert, social). £5 10s.—Campea Ash Hostel (whist drive). £5 1s. 6d.—Misc. W. Suffolks: £25—Mildenhall (dance) per Lowe. £1—Misc. W. Sussex: £15 1s. 6d.—Horsham W.L.A. Club (dance). £8—Perworth Waste Paper Salvage Fund, per Houseman. £7 6s.—Misc. Warwicks: £25—Fildren. £10—Berkswold L.G.'s, per Millburn (dance). £2 2s.—Misc. Wilts: £15—Devizes W.L.A. Club (dance). £11—Tiltman (dance). Worcs: £106 0s. 10d.—L.G.'s, per Coombs. Yorks: £5 15s.—Smith & Scaise (dance). N. Wales: £5—Abercynant Hostel (whist drive). £2 15s.—Misc. S. Wales: £3—Misc. Glam: £5—John. Montgomery: 3s.—Misc. Individual Donations: £100—Boots Cash Chemists. £10 10s.—Parker Shoes. Ltd. £10 2s. 5d.—"Young Revellers" Concert Party, per Sellars. £9 15s. 2d.—Ford Motor Co. collected at Farming Exhibition. Headquarters: £2—Misc.

County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total			Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Yorks	97	3	0	4512
Kent	123	7	11	3311
Essex	61	7	4	2934
Herts	43	5	3	1908
Hants	365	7	10	1873
Leics 1565	173	19	4	1840
Rut. 275				
E. Sussex	29	4	0	1819
Surrey	137	13	9	1683
Northants	273	2	11	1525
Worcs	232	16	2	1502
Warwicks	235	16	6	1490
Bucks	115	8	1	1456
Somerset	46	18	0	1436
W. Sussex	137	5	11	1367
Lancs	88	12	5	1323
Holl & Kes.	124	5	6	1295
Cheshire	194	13	9	1291
Wilts	103	16	6	1236
Norfolk	444	16	8	1208
Glos	181	17	4	1188
Berks	206	6	2	1148
Devon	79	12	1	1144
Notts	44	19	6	1065
Cornwall	44	3	0	1036
Salop	172	9	0	891
E. Suffolk	164	9	6	858
Hunts 246	84	2	5	857
Camb 443				
Ely 168				
Dorset	36	17	6	751
Staffs	30	5	0	715
Durham	21	10	6	702
Lindsey	183	7	6	640
W. Suffolk	145	6	1	586
Beds	97	3	0	567
Mon.	30	0	4	510
Hereford	58	12	5	508
N. Wales	199	2	9	422
Derbys	36	14	6	403
Lon. & Middx	59	3	0	403
Debig	15	2	0	398
Flints	3	12	0	393
I. of Wight	4	15	0	336
Carm. and Car'd.	134	4	10	335
Brec. & Rad.	56	11	11	304
Pembroke	—	—	—	298
Montgomery	5	4	0	157
Glam	193	5	6	Not rec'd.
Oxon	52	10	6	Not rec'd.

On March 31st, there were 58,000 volunteers in employment.

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