

F. Russell-Fisher. May I ask you to pass on the enclosed to Min Fowler to save a stamp?

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

CUMBERLAND & WESTMORLAND BRANCH

Tel: Penrith 265.  
28th September, 1940.

11 Crown Square,  
Penrith.

Dear Land Army member,

As I meet so few of you, I am sending out a news letter to let you know what the W.L.A. is doing in this district.

First of all, greetings to the 36 recent newcomers, most of them from the North-East. Some of you must be anxious at times when you hear news of air raids; it is good to know you are so ready to serve wherever you are needed.

You may be interested in a few facts about the Land Army in this district. There are 136 on the register, and at the moment of writing 122 are employed, most of the others not being at present available. 59 are in forestry work, 18 of them as timber measurers. The following have now earned Good Service Badges; for those who have not seen one, this is a green and red half-diamond sewn on to the armlet, and shows that the wearer has completed six months satisfactory service.

W.L.A. 3846; Miss D. Coates, Brow Foot, Dacre, Penrith.

5962; Miss M.C. Crossland, Packway, Windermere.

3982; Miss R.A. Forbes, Brunstock House, Brunstock, Carlisle

29065; Miss D.O. Gilbert, Walls, Ravenglass.

29064; Miss F.O. Gilbert, Walls, Ravenglass.

25350; Miss M. Harrison, Romanway, Penrith.

8118; Miss M.K. Hill, Walton Wood Head, Low Row, Carlisle.

21207; Miss M.B. Hodgson, Helsington Laithes, Kendal.

25874; Miss P.M. Nickson, Matson Ground, Windermere.

27303; Miss A. Stephenson, Leadgate, Alston.

22086; Miss A. Taylor, Cliburn Hall, Penrith.

25164; Miss M. Taylor, Cowroy, Kirkby Lonsdale.

Quite a crop will be due next month. Let us hope all the newcomers will be with us until they receive the same decoration!

UNIFORM. Do you know that:-

Leather ankle boots (14/-) and windbreaker jackets (3/6d) can be purchased if desired? Special application forms on request.

A small stock of secondhand uniform is kept at the office for sale to anyone requiring extra? Prices on request.

The following may be replaced after six months wear, if worn out? Stockings, one pair dungarees, one shirt, gumboots, overall, pullover. The rest is expected to last a year.

Forestry workers in particular are advised to have sufficient changes to avoid having to put on last night's damp clothes.

Instructions for knitting Land Army stockings are given in the September issue of "The Land Girl"?

"THE LAND GIRL" is the monthly magazine of the Women's Land Army and is a very readable little publication, containing news, information and contributions from Land Girls all over the country. If you would like it, would you send me 3d for one issue, or (preferably) 1/6d for six months, and I will send next month's? By the way, I don't think a member from this district has yet contributed. What about it?

FORESTRY WORKERS. Some farm trained people are at present in forestry work; anyone who would like to be transferred to farm work should inform me now. There may soon be a shortage of farm workers.

Several people have asked about training for timber measuring. Suitable people are from time to time admitted for training to the school at Parkend, Gloucestershire; they should be of good physique, fairly bright at figures and have done mathematics up to school certificate or matriculation standard, and be at least 18 and



preferably 20 or more years of age. If anyone, other than those who have already enquired, would like to apply, please let me know; but it should be made clear that after training you may be sent to any part of the country. Our 18 timber measurers come from eleven different counties from Westmorland to Devon.

ARE LAND GIRLS REALLY NEEDED ? You bet they are ! There have been periods when the supply exceeded the demand, but enrolments were slowed down accordingly and now it is very hard to fill all vacancies. There is no need for anyone to retire for the winter; as far as can be foreseen every capable member will be able to carry out her promise to serve for the duration of the war. But if your job should come to an end, so let me know at the earliest possible moment - posts are now so slow that it takes some time to make arrangements by letter.

A NOTE for those who feel their jobs fall short of perfection. People who join the Land Army are prepared to rough it to some extent and know that bathrooms and electric light are not always to be had in the country. They also make up their minds to face a certain degree of loneliness if need be, for many of the jobs are bound to be in isolated places. But if anything is really wrong, what should you do? Not, please, leave, either with or without notice, without doing what you can to cure the trouble. If it is some difficulty about work or pay or living conditions, mention it to your employer first; if it cannot be settled in that way, tell me or your nearest committee member. Girls have been known to leave because of difficulties which were quite real, but which could probably have been put right by a conversation between a Land Army official and the employer. Even if loneliness is your trouble, it may be quite possible to put you in touch with other young people. You will find attached a list of other Land Army members within, roughly, ten miles of you.

SPACE forbids any more, but please let me know if I can help you in any way or give you any information. I should like to explain to the old hands that Mrs. Cartmell and Miss Greenwood are still doing the visiting and are working as hard as ever; but the Land Army is growing so healthily that it now keeps three of us well occupied.

With all good wishes.

Yours very sincerely,

M.A. SOULSBY  
County Secretary.

YOUR NEAREST COMMITTEE MEMBER is myself.

YOUR LAND ARMY NEIGHBOURS are:- Miss G. Banks, c/o Scott, Greengill, Penrith; Miss C. Fowke; Miss M. Harrison, Romanway, Plumpton; Miss A. Taylor, c/o Bowness, Cliburn Hall, Cliburn; Miss K. Molyneux, c/o Mrs. Finch Dawson, Burwain Hall, King's Meaburn; Miss M. Thwaites, Bolton Lodge, Bolton; and in forestry at Greystoke, Misses M. Bennett and N. Dawson, c/o Mr. Boyd, Flatwood; Misses E. Holmes and D. Hetherington, c/o Mrs. Titterington, Greystoke; Misses A. Tonks and M. Macfarlane, c/o Mrs. Routledge, Scale Farm, Greystoke. In forestry, Cliburn: Misses Newton, Trinder, Simpson and Hannah, Railway Inn; Misses K. Roberts and J. Dowling, c/o Miss Collin, Thornleigh.

Would it be convenient for you to call at the office about 5.30 some Tuesday about the 20th of the month for your magazine ? Other days of the week I may be away earlier.

M.A.S.