

F.R. Fisher

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY.

CUMBERLAND & WESTMORLAND BRANCH.

Tel: Penrith 265.
20th November 1940.

11 Crown Square,
Penrith.

Dear Land Army Member,

It is hard to believe that it is almost two months since the last News Letter went out, but by now you will be getting a foretaste of winter. This will be the testing time for the Land Army, as few of you were on the land last winter, and I hope it will prove that Cumberland and Westmorland girls can "take it".

MARRIAGE. Congratulations and good wishes to Miss P.Greenwood, now Mrs A.C.Smith, who is continuing her work as timber measurer at Whitbarrow, after a short leave in which to get married.

GOOD SERVICE BADGES. The following now have the distinction of two Good Service Badges:-

Miss N.Crewdson, Helme Lodge, Kendal.
Miss H.Frankland, Needlehouse, Ravenstonedale.
Miss M.K.Hill, Walton Wood Head, Low Row.
Miss P.Nickson, Helm Farm, Windermere.

In addition to those mentioned in the September letter, the following have now gained their first badge:-

Mrs Atkinson, The Bungalows, Cotehill.
Miss N.Barker, Hewthwaite Hall, Cockermouth.
Miss A.Brown, 11 Belle Vue Road, Appleby.
Miss M.Bennett, Flatwood, Greystoke.
Mrs Burnell, The Cottage, Battlebarrow, Appleby.
Miss E.Carrick, Boxwood House, Knock, Appleby.
Mrs J.Cross, Braithwaite Hall, Southwaite. (Transferred from Yorkshire)
Miss N.Dawson, Flatwood, Greystoke.
Miss A.Dunn, Muncaster House, Loweswater, Cockermouth.
Miss D.Dunn, same address.
Miss G.Edgar, 5 Hill Close, Kirkbarrow, Kendal.
Miss F. Russell Fisher, Albert Villa, Graham Street, Penrith.
Miss P.J. Hannah, now transferred to Lancashire.
Miss M. Hayton, Syke House, Brigsteer, near Kendal.
Miss K. High, Coupland House, Hilton, Appleby.
Miss M.E. Henthorne, High Bridge House, Raughtonhead, Dalston.
Miss S.B. Page, Muncaster House, Loweswater, Cockermouth.
Miss K. Paton, High Birks Farm, Crosthwaite.
Mrs. Power, 2 Rose Cottage, Cotehill.
Miss K. Simpson, Railway Inn, Cliburn.
Miss C.E. Wilford, The Clints Cottage, Great Corby, Carlisle.
Mrs. Woods, 9 Thanet Terrace, Appleby.

Apologies to N. Barker, whose name should have appeared on the previous list.

UNIFORM. One or two changes in arrangements:-

Leather boots are temporarily rather scarce, so until the end of the year they are not available for sale as an extra. There are still sufficient to issue as part of the ordinary uniform equipment, however, and they may be issued as a replacement instead of gumboots or instead of shoes if you wish. They are of course expected to last a year at least.

Owners of leather boots are reminded that they should be kept soft with dubbin, neat's foot oil or some similar preparation, which also keeps them waterproof. They will be very hard and uncomfortable otherwise.

Dungarees will not be issued after six months, but two new pairs can be obtained after a year's wear.

Pull-on trousers are available from W.L.A. headquarters, as mentioned in the "Land Girl"; navy blue only, and sizes to fit heights 5'4", 5'6" and 5'8". Price 8/- per pair; application form on request.

A good stock of secondhand shirts in particular is available, at prices ranging from 6d to 2/- each. Many of the sixpenny ones have had comparatively little wear, but have been marked by coloured pullovers.

CHURCH PARADE AT APPLEBY. On Sunday November 10th (Mayor's Sunday) the Church Parade at Appleby included for the first time a contingent of the Women's Land Army. The Mayor and Corporation, the Home Guard, the various A.R.P. services V.A.D's, Boy Scouts and Brownies were also present and only ten places could be allotted to the Land Army; however, a representative group attended and looked very smart. The Bishop of Carlisle preached. It is good to be reminded now and then that we are one of the national forces, and not just a number of individuals.

THE W.L.A. IN THIS DISTRICT is still growing. At the end of last month there were 148 on the register, of whom 130 were employed (most of the others being temporarily not available for work). In the early spring I hope it will be possible to arrange a series of local rallies, so that members can meet one another.

RECRUITING. All the local recruits are now in jobs, and nearly half of those working in the district come from other counties. If you know of anyone really suitable for the Land Army who would like to be enrolled, please tell them that they would probably be called up for service very quickly, if free to leave their present employment. Girls are not now accepted under 18, or in exceptional cases 17½. There are vacancies both in farm work and forestry.

MAGAZINES. Miss J.M.Greenwood of Bannel Head, Kendal is the representative for the "Land Girl" for both Cumberland & Westmorland. Anyone wanting the magazine may therefore write direct to Miss Greenwood, enclosing 3d. for one issue or (preferably) 1/6 for six months. Magazine subscriptions sent to the office will, of course, be passed on to Miss Greenwood.

I was very pleased to hear from so many of you after the last news letter went out; I am always glad to hear about you and whether you are enjoying your work, and am only sorry I don't have more opportunities of seeing you. But the work in the office must be done, and as a famous politician is reported to have said, "Not being a bird I cannot be in two places at once."

May I once more ask people to give as long notice as ever possible if they are changing their jobs, or are likely to do so? Letters now almost always take twice as long as before the war, and as arranging a new job usually means a letter from the farmer to me, from me to you, your reply to me and then mine to the farmer, it is very hard to settle anything in a hurry.

May I also remind you of the various people who have to be informed when you move from one job to another:-

- (a) Your approved Society.
- (b) The National Registration office, who will change the address on your Identification Card.
- (c) The Food Office in your new district; this must be done before rations can be drawn for you.
- (d) The Doctor in your new district on whose panel you wish to be placed.

Mrs Cartmell and Miss Greenwood join me in greetings to you all.

Yours very sincerely,

M.A.SOULSBY.

County Secretary.