

THE LAND GIRL



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UNIFORMITY

"THERE is no doubt that the Land Army has the most attractive uniform of all the women's Services," wrote someone who had been watching a Warships Week procession, and that is an opinion that is heard on all sides. Volunteers are proud of their uniform, both for its looks and for its significance; it is a pity that some of them attempt to improve upon it. Uniform must be *uniform* or it loses all its point. Come out as gay or as shabby or as Bohemian as you like in civilian clothes, but don't try to express your personality in your uniform.

This does not, of course, refer to tweed coats or old jerseys worn for dirty work on the farm or in the garden; but a volunteer seen in the streets of a large town (this is a true story) wearing a hat cocked on one side and tied on with red ribbon in a large bow under her chin, red tie and fancy shoes with otherwise correct uniform, makes passers-by gaze at her with a wild surmise as to whether it is she or the Land Army which has gone crackers. Nor do green corduroy trousers and the Land Army overcoat go well together. There is no obligation on members of the W.L.A. to wear uniform, but if and when they do they should let it do its own work, and make its own effect, without any embellishment.

One other point—even uniform should not be worn in excess. It is rumoured that some volunteers decorate themselves with badges, worn here and there simultaneously. To save metal and work, please don't buy more than one badge—at least until you have lost the first one! And remember that you can buy a badge for 6d. from your County Office. In various parts of the country, Land Army badges are being sold at from 1s. to 3s. each; don't waste your hard-earned pence by paying some hundreds per cent more than is necessary.

M. A. P.

CROPPING OF VEGETABLE GARDEN

Mr. Herbert Muller, who was instructor in Practical Horticulture at the East Sussex School of Agriculture, Plumpton, from 1935—1940, has given us the benefit of his experience in this article written for the LAND GIRL.



Photograph by Associated Newspapers Ltd.

THE Ministry of Agriculture has published a little pictorial leaflet (Dig for Victory Leaflet No. 1) which consists of an illustrated plan explaining the method in which a ten rod plot may be cropped to its best advantage on a three-year rotation. The plot is the size of an average allotment (90 ft. by 30 ft.), and is intended to feed a family of four during one year.

Those W.L.A. members who are in charge of gardens will probably have a larger space of ground to look after, but even so, the same principles of cropping can be carried out and will give the maximum result with the minimum labour and expense.

The principle may be simply explained thus: The part of the garden intended for vegetable growing is divided into three (called for convenience sake, A, B and C). The first year (A) is used for root crops and potatoes, (B) for green crops, and (C) for miscellaneous crops.

The following year the root crops are followed by miscellaneous crops, the greens by root crops, and the miscellaneous crops by greens. During the third year, the root crops will occupy the space which was used in the first year for miscellaneous crops, while on the next two plots will be greens and miscellaneous crops respectively. Thus for a three-year rotation we shall obtain the following plan:

1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.
A	C	B
B	A	C
C	B	A

This rotation enables the best use to be made of the garden without unnecessarily exhausting the ground, and also enables the cultivator to thoroughly "work" one-third of the whole plot each year.

If, for example, we compare the potato plot with that used for onions, it will be seen that where potatoes are grown the ground is dug or stirred

at least five or six times during the course of twelve months—once when the ground is dug in the autumn, once when the potatoes are planted, and again during earthing up, forking and harvesting. The onion plot, on the other hand, is dug during the autumn, a seed bed is prepared during February and the onions are sown. Nothing more can be done in the way of cultivation beyond surface hoeing until the onions are harvested. Therefore, if the plots are changed every season, the whole of the garden will have a chance to be well cultivated once every three years.

Another important reason in favour of rotational cropping is that unnecessary application of manure is avoided, and farmyard manure, fertilisers and lime are applied to one-third of the whole plot at each season.

The plot which has been used for potatoes should be double dug and manured with dung in readiness for onions and miscellaneous crops.

The green crop plot should be dug in the normal way after the crop has been taken and manured with fertiliser ready to receive root crops.

Lime should be added to the plot which has been used for miscellaneous crops after it has been dug in the normal way. Lime is particularly necessary for green crops, because it lessens the possibility of club root disease.

It will be seen that only one-third of the garden need be double dug and dunged each year. The effect of the dung will remain in the soil long enough to benefit the other crops.

Much may be said regarding the actual cropping and I hope to be able to supply a few hints from time to time, but at the beginning it is certainly well worth while to consider carefully, with the help of a good cropping plan, how the garden should be cropped.

Many districts have specimen allotments managed by local allotment holders, and carefully cropped on a three-year rotation. The allotments are well worth a visit, and can always be easily distinguished among the others.

It is late in the season to discuss the method in which a garden ought to be cropped, but having obtained the knowledge it will be interesting to

observe the way in which professional gardeners crop their gardens.

The probability of insect pests is also lessened through correct crop rotation.

In most cases the life history of any particular pest coincides with the life of its host plant. For example, the cabbage root fly remains in the soil as a chrysalis during the winter and emerges in the spring when fresh plants are usually planted. If, therefore, cabbages are followed by cabbages, the pest will be encouraged, whereas if a crop of a different type is grown afterwards, the newly emerged flies will not be able to survive owing to the absence of their food plant. It might be as well to point out that many pests will attack plants of the same natural order. For example, celery fly will attack parsnips. Therefore it is not wise to follow one crop with another of the same natural order—this is where an elementary knowledge of botany will be helpful.

And now a few remarks on garden rubbish. The tissues of which plants are composed are made from the chemicals obtained from the soil and the atmosphere. If, therefore, the parts of the plant which are not required as food are returned to the soil, we shall be replacing a certain amount of the plant foods taken from the soil during the season. The best way to avoid waste is to stack up all our garden rubbish in the form of a compost heap at one end of the garden. Make a saucer-shaped depression in the ground about the area at which the compost heap is to be, next add a twelve-inch layer of dung or rotted refuse, and tread it down to a thickness of three inches. Gradually build up the heap as rubbish accumulates, and every nine inches sprinkle a little sulphate of ammonia over the heap. Turn the heap sides to middle several times during the summer.

The compost may be dug into the second spit of soil during the autumn over that third of the garden which is due to be double dug.

It may be appropriate to conclude with two little hints. Firstly do not sow seeds too thickly, and lastly always use a garden line where row work is in progress.

H. MULLER.

With this number THE LAND GIRL celebrates its second birthday, so it is a good opportunity to thank all those members of the Land Army who have sent articles, drawings, verses and letters during the past year, and also the many kind people in the counties who have helped in the task of distributing the magazine. The circulation has reached 11,000 copies this month.

The new cover drawing this month is by Miss R. Morris, W.L.A. No. 44,240, of Worcestershire, the carpet designer mentioned in the article "Life in a Bothy," which appeared in our February issue. We hope to reproduce later some of the designs which did not win a prize, and now we await entries for a cover for the third quarter of the year.

BEES

I WORK on a farm but not an ordinary farm. Instead of cattle, we keep bees and have about sixteen hundred hives scattered over Wiltshire and parts of Berkshire. As each hive has to be seen to at least every ten days during the summer, I see a lot of the countryside, travelling on the back of a lorry.

The work is very interesting and very varied. From October until March we do not touch the bees but are busy with repair work. We clean and paint the supers (bodies of extra combs which are put on the hives during the summer for the honey), clean the queen excluders (used to stop the queen going into the supers to lay her eggs where we want the honey), make new frames, repair old ones, wash bottles ready for next year's crops and generally clean and tidy up.

Sugar Babies

In the Spring we start feeding the bees with candy and when the queen begins to lay her eggs, which she will do in March if the weather is fairly warm, we feed syrup to the bees. This encourages the queen to lay, and helps to build up a good strong hive of bees early in the season so as to get the most out of the dandelion crop, the first honey-producing flower of the season.

During March and April we change floor boards in the hives and take home the dirty ones (which are covered with capping and dead bees) to be scrubbed and, if necessary, repainted. We still feed syrup to the bees and, as the hives get fuller, we place another body of combs on top, allowing the queen access to them to lay her eggs as, the more bees in a hive, the more honey we can expect.

Where the Bee Sucks

In April and May the bees should begin to bring in their honey from fruit blossoms and any wild flowers that are blooming. We hope to take away the feeders in May but this depends on the weather; if this is good, we start placing the queen excluders on the hives and adding another body of combs. In June we have our main honey flow and we are always watching the weather so that we can get the most out of the millions of blooms covering the countryside. If it is too dry for a long spell, the flowers do not yield; but if there is too much rain, the flowers bloom and are over before the bees, who do not fly during rain, can gather any honey. I think the best flavoured honey comes from limes—it is a lovely pale green in the comb and some trees are so potent that I have seen hundreds of bees on the ground underneath the tree, unable to fly, as the strong honey has made them rather drunk.

By July we have had as many as eight supers on one hive, making it taller than myself but we still hope that we may have just that extra bit of honey to enable us to put a ninth body on. It is during this month that we start removing these bodies of honey and bringing them on for extraction, and by the end of July we have all the honey indoors and extracted and, where necessary, we feed with syrup again so that each hive has at least thirty pounds of stores before being shut down for the winter in October.

Heather Holiday

Besides the regular daily routine life, there are many accompanying jobs. We pack stocks for sale as we sell from five to six hundred stocks of bees every year. We also prepare the strongest of the hives to take to the heather in July. Last year we took 250 hives to parts of Somerset and Devon and the year before we had some hives in Wales and some in Surrey; these travel to their holiday home by lorry. After they have had a six-to-eight weeks stay at the heather without being even looked at, we take them down to Buckfast Abbey to be pressed as we have not a press large enough to do all the combs. Ordinary honey goes through an extractor and the combs are used again the following year but heather honey is very much thicker and the combs have to be cut out and placed under tremendous pressure to squeeze the honey out.

Who Would Be a Queen

A queen bee lays between two and three thousand eggs every twenty hours and we think two seasons of this hard work is sufficient for one small queen so she is replaced at the end of that time. This hunting up of queens is a long and tiring job for you can go through thirteen combs of bees sometimes four times and then miss the queen. We rear our own queens and it takes two men three months, doing nothing else, to rear sufficient queens for our own use. We used to import queens for sale before the war.

When she hatches, the queen makes sure that there are no other queens in the hive; if there are some about to be hatched, she stings them to death and if one has hatched, they fight to the death. She then thinks of mating, takes a flight with the drones racing after her, mates with the first one to catch her and then kills him. After this, she goes back to the hive to lay eggs for the rest of her life. A queen will not sting a human being.

(Continued at end of col. 1, page 5).

Uniform Tips

BOTH for our own and the country's sake it is essential that we should wear every bit of our uniform as long as it can possibly be made to hold together. The experience of others in prolonging the lives of faithful garments will be helpful to all of us, and anyone who has discovered a good tip is asked to send it to the Editor so that its usefulness may be extended to a wider public.

In this issue please read Committee Member's very helpful letter on the Correspondence page. In addition, B. Puzey (Dorset) gives us two useful examples of her own ingenuity.

1. Land Army shirts have a way of wearing out along the fold of the collar. If this is very carefully unpicked and removed from the shirt neck a piece of soft muslin or fine tape can be tacked under the worn part or lightly darned over. Then stitch the collar back on to the shirt, putting the worn side underneath and the former under-side on top. This does not take an hour and gives weeks of extra wear to the shirt.

2. A piece of thick cotton material or cloth tacked inside the armlet prolongs its life very considerably, besides preventing it cockling up into a crumpled strip of felt.

W. Shorey (N. Wales) writes on darning socks: "Most girls dislike darning, while most like knitting. Why not knit a square in the heels of your socks instead of darning them? No need to be an expert on turning heels; just pick up a row of stitches, knit a square until you have covered thin places and holes, then cast off and sew down. Of course, pick stitches up on heel near leg, then it will hardly show. You can buy darning wool to match, coupon free, and once done, it will last a long time."

Make a note of these and other hints as they appear.

On March 31st there were 27,903 members of the W.L.A. in employment—a record increase of 3,500 during March.

The life of a worker is very short as they die of hard work at the age of six weeks unless one of them is bad-tempered and stings someone, when the other workers will kill it off as they do not like maimed fellow workers at all.

Last year we had about twenty-five tons of honey and the year before that forty—this year I hope we shall beat that as honey is a valuable food and highly nutritious. We always say that, should there be an invasion, we will certainly give the invaders a very warm welcome with a few hives of very bad tempered bees.

R. M. KNIGHT, W.L.A. 25,201 (Wilts).

Calling All Land Girls!

LAND ARMY BROADCASTS, PAST AND FUTURE.

THE Women's Land Army was "on the air" last month, both on the Home Service and overseas.

In a broadcast to South Africa and the United States, Mrs. Drexel Biddle, the wife of the American Ambassador to the Allied Nations whose Governments are in this country, called on representatives of the Land Army to describe their experiences. The speakers were Mrs. Monckton, a Land Army Representative in West Kent; Miss Jones, a tractor forewoman; Miss A. M. Eke, a general farm worker; and Miss K. Sandbrook-Jones, a member of a threshing team. On the Home Service, Miss Ann Taylor gave a talk on March 25th in the "Five to One on the Land" series, describing how from being a ballet dancer before the war she became a Land Army member, first in Cornwall and then in Surrey.

It is hoped to introduce members of the Women's Land Army into other broadcast features in the near future and, in particular, we are to have our own special time on the air, starting this month. This is to take the form of a five-minute talk on the last Thursday of every month, immediately following the "Farming To-day" broadcast at 7.10. Women's Land Army Headquarters hope to make the time allotted an opportunity for giving volunteers news about each other, and of any fresh developments as they arise; so make a point of listening to the first broadcast at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, April 30th, when the Honorary Director, Lady Denman, will introduce the series.

The Land Girl's Day

Sing a song of Land Girls,
Up before it's light,
With four-and-twenty jobs to do
Before the breakfast bite;
When the breakfast's over
There's little to be done,
Except to plough the furrow
And let the harrows run,
And shear the sheep, and top the beet,
And feed the squealing swine,
And brush the hedge, and thatch the rick,
And milk the gentle kine,
And spread the muck, and sow the wheat,
And clean and dress the land,
And things like that which city folks
Can never understand.

DOROTHY ALLEN, W.L.A. 9,334
(Norfolk).

Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

I am sure we all feel that looking after uniform is a matter of great importance nowadays, and possibly the following hints may be useful.

In the autumn in the West Highlands I have often seen fishermen getting their oilskins ready for the winter. They hang them on a line with the rope or a pole through the arms so that they hang with arms outstretched. An old Highland sea captain, who started work on a windjammer before the mast, gave me a recipe for the dressing of oil skins: A mixture of one part paraffin to one and a half parts ordinary copal varnish. If the oil skin is black a little powdered black lead can be added. This mixture dries quickly and prevents oil skins from sticking. Apply with a stiffish brush, sometimes giving two coats.

I went to a hostel a few nights ago with the Chairman of the local War Agricultural Committee, a farmer. The girls were complaining of their worn gum boots and showed them to us. In no case were they really worn—holes had been made by treading on stubs, or by side-shoots tearing them whilst hedging and ditching. Quite a number of soles were coming away from the uppers, but the farmer said he was sure this was caused by drying them against a fire. The girls on my farm, who have worked on the land for years, tell me that a pair of gum boots will last for a year at least.

Yours sincerely,

Essex.

COMMITTEE MEMBER.

DEAR EDITOR,

I may be wrong, but it seems to me that most of the letters in THE LAND GIRL are from girls in small gangs or from, perhaps, a girl who is enjoying the special advantages of being the only one on the farm. We started with one girl in May, 1940, and now we have 20, with three more waiting for the sunshine. This gang is probably the best that we have had. We have "rabbits" of course, but there are jobs for "rabbits." We have grumbles, but not half as many as we used to have. These girls have no clubs to go to and when we are busy they are given little freedom or sympathy, but there seems to be something that makes the landladies like the girls and the girls like their work (it must be these cold winds, I think).

I'd like to end with a word of persuasion to those who don't like these beastly war weapons parades. None of our girls wanted to go to the Dartford Parade—too cold, waste of time, there'll be enough without us, made other arrangements and so on. But in the end, out of the 45 girls in the parade 19 of them were ours, and not one of them would have missed it for anything. By "pooling" their uniforms and borrowing greatcoats they were smarter and warmer than any W.A.A.F., W.V.S. or W.R.E.N. Be sporty and help in the next parade round your district.

Yours faithfully,

Kent.

J. J. BARKER (Farmer).

DEAR EDITOR,

I am wondering if any other Land Girls are having the same luck as I am with the lambs? To-day quadruplets were born to one sheep—and out of 46 other lambs only three were born singles. I am aiming at 120 lambs from 83 sheep. Fifty-five sheep are yet to lamb, so I think I shall manage it.

I have been in the Land Army two years now and I wouldn't change to another service for anything. I hope to continue after the war. I have been very lucky—was placed straight on to a good farm, where

I was treated as one of the family from the start, which goes a very long way. I was the only girl on the farm for a year and a half, but now there are four of us, ready to cope with the extra work this year.

Yours sincerely,

Northants. JOAN WRIGHT (W.L.A. 29,658).

DEAR EDITOR,

I have pleasure in bringing to your notice a very brave act which Miss B. I. Potter (W.L.A. 45,677), Leicester, performed on January 5th, 1942. My neighbour's Black Poll bull broke through the fence and got in contact with my Shorthorn pedigree bull, and consequently a desperate fight took place. On hearing the disturbance, Miss B. I. Potter detached the two bulls from the herd and brought them across a 21 acre field to the homestead entirely on her own and separated them. I consider this a very brave act and no doubt saved damage to valuable livestock at a very great risk to herself. Miss B. I. Potter is filling her post well and I thought your readers might be interested to read of her brave act.

Yours faithfully,

Leics.

F. W. K. GLEDHILL.

DEAR EDITOR,

Please could you tell us the proper way to wear the Land Army hat? So many varieties of fashions are seen that I think a fine should be imposed upon everyone seen with the hat not worn correctly, and these fines could help the Spitfire Fund.

Yours sincerely,

Bucks.

M. HAMP (W.L.A. 35,782).

[Illustrations of how to wear the L.A. hat appeared in THE LAND GIRL of August, 1940—back copies are not obtainable from Headquarters, but try to look at one if you visit your county office.—ED.]

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AN AFTERNOON IN WARWICKSHIRE



By courtesy of "Leamington Spa Courier."

FEBRUARY 28th in Leamington was a grand day for the Warwickshire Women's Land Army. Assembling at the Y.W.C.A. Land Army hostel, some hundreds of volunteers, led by the band of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, marched past the Mayor, Lady Denman, Mrs. Fielden (County Chairman) and L.A. officials and friends assembled on the Town Hall steps, paraded round the town and then returned to settle down in the Town Hall for the subsequent proceedings. The swing and precision of volunteers in L.A. processions is really remarkable and their smartness is always appreciated. At Leamington most of the marchers wore overcoats which looked grand, but the jerseys in the last part of the procession looked even better; there is no doubt that the brilliant green of the Land Army jersey brings life and colour to any gathering.

At the Town Hall (kindly lent for the occasion) the Mayor welcomed the Land Army, Mrs. Fielden made a charming speech and Lady Denman (who was given a beautifully illustrated programme) spoke of the achievements, value, duties and potentialities of the W.L.A. and afterwards presented Good Service Badges, including a large number of the smart new two year armlets.

Mrs. Pyke, Editor of THE LAND GIRL, talked about the magazine, and after that four Land Girls presented contributions from their respective areas to THE LAND GIRL Spitfire Fund, which totalled the magnificent sum of £83 16s. 4d. Mr. Hughes, Chairman of the Warwickshire W.A.E.C., proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Denman and spoke warmly of the good work of Warwickshire volunteers. This was ably seconded by Miss Margaret Rotherham and then Miss Estelle Morris (W.L.A. —) presented Lady Denman with a spirited recruiting poster which she had designed and painted. Miss G. M. Holfgaard (W.L.A. 27,066) thanked Mrs. Fielden and gave her a delightfully illustrated book, signed by volunteers and others working for the Land Army in the county.

Tea was followed by a splendid entertainment by members of the W.L.A., produced by Mrs. Adkins and the Studley staff. The audience enthusiastically enjoyed every moment from the opening topical recruiting song to the grand tableau at the end.

The organisation of the Rally was admirable—everything went like clockwork, and this reflects great credit on the voluntary helpers and the office staff and, in particular, on the County Secretary, Miss Colwell, who must have felt rewarded for all the fine work she has done when she heard the spontaneous outburst of tremendous applause which greeted the mention of her name in Mrs. Fielden's speech.

A VISITOR.

SUCCESS FOR DEVON.

"You may be interested to know," writes a Devonshire employer to the County Secretary, "that last year, with three men and a boy, we produced the record yield of 867 gallons per cow. This year, with only one man, who is sixty-six years old, and two girls we have maintained last year's production, and at the present time are producing ten gallons a day more milk than at the same period last year. I think these figures speak for themselves."

HOME TUITION

Learn the science of farming with the practice. Mixed, Poultry, Pig Farming and Dairy Factory management. Diploma examinations.

(Secretary J.), Agricultural Correspondence College, BATH

MISS BAXTER AND I—No. 5

THE other day one of our sheep got through the fence and ate a rhododendron bush and died. The bush died too, but nobody cares about things like that, except Mr. Middleton at one o'clock on Sundays. And the farmer said what could you expect with all those evacuees gathering firewood as their daily good deed, and he would buy an electric fencer.

Well, he did, and put it up in the turnip field where the sheep are, and a week later he said would my friend Miss Baxter and I go and give them a new break, and Miss Baxter said well, of course, she couldn't work now if it was wet, because her gum-boots were split in six places and her shower-proof coat in two and her dungarees in eight, and they wouldn't give her new ones till the tenth of next month, but she could fill in the time by going to parades and air-raids, because she was beautifully equipped with walking-out shoes, breeches, greatcoat, hat, armband, half diamonds, and a lovely tin hat. And was the current turned off the fencer?

The farmer said he didn't remember, so that would make it more interesting. And Miss Baxter said who for? And the farmer said anyone within earshot, unless we put on her gum-boots, because then it wouldn't earth. And I said would that make us like the little birds on cables? And the farmer said practically indistinguishable, and it was time for his Sun-Ray treatment. He has it twice a week, because he is assessed at over £300, and all the time he isn't filling up government forms he is thinking up things to buy that will keep his Excess Profits Tax down, so he is never outside at all.

And Miss Baxter said did he think Sun-Rays would help her rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, fallen arches, and enlarged joints, because the beauty editress she had written to had suggested T.N.T., but the chemist didn't stock it, and the farmer said he thought the editress had the right idea and went away.

Well, we got to the field, and Miss Baxter had on her gumboots, so she said she would see if the current was on. So she took hold of the wire. And it was. When she came to she said where was the weasel that bit her and then she said who had kicked her elbow? Because all the farm workers from round about had collected, thinking it was a siren and not just Miss Baxter's boots earthing in six places.

Well, the Italian prisoners who had been spreading muck said it wasn't them signorina, and the soldiers from the A.A. gun who were feeding the sheep while the shepherd went to the

Home Guard, said it wasn't them lass, choose how, and the school children who were planting potatoes said figs, it wasna them wifie, and Miss Baxter said couldn't you tell the Scottish farm-worker anywhere. And did anyone else hear a noise like the B.B.C. interval signal? And one of the A.A. men said eh, that was nought but t'battery lass, and he turned a switch inside a little red tin and the ticking noise stopped.

The crowd all went away then except the Italian prisoners, and I said what had Miss Baxter been taught to do in the Girl Guides when things like this happened, and Miss Baxter said things like this never happened to the Girl Guides, and what about asking the Brains Trust? But I said things like this never happened to them either, so we made a noise like a bomber over Turin and the Italians went away.

Well, the fence was fixed to the stobs by bits of wire bent round little china things, and the bits of wire took a long time to straighten out, and we had only done four when the 9.47 train passed, so we sat down to have our "elevenses." And I said I wished we could still get biscuits, because I was tired of sandwiches and cake, and who were the two people obeying the standstill order in the sixty acre field? And Miss Baxter said Sandy the cattleman's aunty and the foreman's grandfather, who were doing farm work so that they wouldn't be taken for munitions when their age group was called up.

And I was just telling her about my Uncle Percival, who had flown a kite from Kari to Hari, and Miss Baxter was telling me about her Cousin Periwinkle, who did the wireless exercises every morning before breakfast when the 10.23 passed, so we knew it was time to begin fencing again.

Well, we got all the little wire things straightened out and the stobs pulled up, and we carried the three that weren't broken across to the new break, and I said would Miss Baxter hold them while I hammered them in, but she said after you Claud, and I was just saying don't forget the weasel Ceasil, when we saw that Sandy's aunty and the foreman's grandfather had moved, so we knew it was dinner time.

When we got back to the farm the farmer said had we remembered to switch on the current again, so Miss Baxter said well we hadn't quite finished yet, but not to worry about the sheep getting out, because we had turned round the notice thing that said "This fence is electrified," so that the sheep could see it.

ISOBEL MOUNT (Scotland).

SCOTTISH NOTES

The rustle of spring brings the call for more and more Land Girls, so that at headquarters, as on the farm, we think in terms of the bustle rather than the rustle of the season. Some 2,500 girls are now employed or undergoing training, but it will take a great many more than that to meet the vacancies which are known to exist and likely to arise during the next few months. Despite the rush one member of the staff at St. Andrew's House—and a man at that—has found time (outside office hours needless to say) to write the following poem which we hope you will make use of when you are trying to persuade your friends to join.

THE CALL OF THE LAND

If you are young and strong, and free and fit;
Not shy of work and long to do your bit.
Then there's a job for you—you're in demand—
The Women's Land Army calls you, calls you to the land.

If you would feel the wind, the rain, the sun
Upon your face, and long straight furrows run,
Or tractor drive with skill, horses command—
The Women's Land Army needs you, needs you on the land.

If you would see the brown earth turn to gold
And Nature's gifts before your eyes unfold;
And feel this miracle is by your hand—
The Women's Land Army calls you, calls you to the land.

If you, with every care, dumb beasts would tend
And with their young, rich hours of pleasure spend.
If you are keen to learn and understand—
The Women's Land Army needs you, needs you on the land.

The nation asks your help, without delay,
The Women's Land Army waits you. ENROL TO-DAY!
GORDON GEDDES.

Off-duty activities, as far as we know of them, seem to have taken the form of parties and parades—the latter mainly in support of Warship Weeks.

Alford and Deeside.—Successful dances for the Spitfire Fund were organised by Williamina Dickson, Charlotte Robertson and Myrtle Abernethy at Glassel and Lumphanan.

Ayrshire.—North Ayrshire Land Army (with Miss W. E. Turner in charge) took part in a Warships Week Parade held in Kilmarnock. Afterwards they had a tea party, when addresses were given by Sir Neil Cochran-Patrick, Mr. K. M. Lindsay, M.P., and Mr. Kilpatrick, of Craigie Mains, the latter also presenting Good Service Badges to 21 volunteers, three of whom received the special armlet.

East Lothian.—Volunteers in the Innerwick district had a most successful dance, as a result of which they contributed £15 to Warship Week. Tea was served by the girls and music was supplied by the East Fortune R.A.F. Band. The Wheat-sheaf Club had another good Open Night when tea, billiards and darts were enjoyed by the members and their male friends.

Inverness-shire.—A successful gathering was held in Inverness one Saturday afternoon when a contingent of volunteers met at the Town Hall to receive Good Service Badges from Major Fraser, Chairman of the A.E.C. Music was provided by the A.T.C.

Band and afterwards the girls marched to the Playhouse, where they were the guests of the management at a showing of the L.A. film and other pictures. Miss Ellis, Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee, later entertained them to tea and complimented them on their good work and healthy appearance.

Kincardineshire.—Drumlithe district volunteers defied the wintry weather, and in spite of snow-bound icy roads foregathered in good number at a dance organised by Betty Craig and Ethel Hutcheson for the Spitfire Fund.

Kirkcudbrightshire.—A very successful evening party was held at Kirkcudbright for the Spitfire Fund. There was dancing and plenty of good things to eat, so a good time was had by everybody. St. Cuthbert's Church Guild gave a party for the girls in the district, when Mrs. Mothersill presented Good Service badges, and Mr. Picken, Chairman of the Labour Sub-Committee, gave a helpful address.

Renfrew and Dumbarton.—About 90 volunteers from this district took part in a recruiting parade in Glasgow on a lovely Saturday afternoon recently. The procession, which was headed by pipers and two Land Girls carrying a very effective banner, attracted a great deal of attention and favourable comment all along the route to the Astoria Ballroom, where tea was arranged. Good Service Badges were presented by Mrs. Lumsden, of Arden, to 67 girls, three of whom received the special armlet. Mr. Lumsden, Chairman of the Agricultural Executive Committee, presided and introduced the Lord Provost of Glasgow, who very kindly attended with the Lady Provost; they both gave encouraging addresses. The Misses Rowand, Bell and Doull are to be congratulated on the success of their plan to stimulate recruitment and thanks are due to the Ministry of Information for the use of their loudspeaker van through which the public was kept informed of the purpose of the parade.

SPITFIRE FUND

Alford and Deeside.—£13 2s. 3d., Robertson and Abernethy (dance). £6 10s. 6d.—Dickson (dance). **Kincardine**—£7, per Craig, Hutchison and Reid. **Kirkcudbright**—£5 per Mrs. Grierson. **W. Lothian**—£6, per Mrs. Tennant. Special thanks to "Sheila" (aged 8) who sent 10s. as the result of making and selling bookmarks.

WANTED.—Brown Leather RIDING BOOTS, 6 or 6½.—Write: TYMAN, Red Mill Bungalow, Shrub End, Colchester.

Winter Wild Flower Competition.

Results: Sketches—1st, D. Strange (W. Sussex); 2nd, M. Dicker (Berks). Pressed—1st, B. Puzey (Dorset); 2nd, M. Kennerley (Dorset); highly commended, M. Gameson (Somerset). A report will appear in the May issue. *All competitors who want entries returned must send stamps before May 15th.*

Leather Gloves Strong, pliable, for land work. 4/9 pair (post free).

Fabric Gloves Strong, warm, suitable for general work on farm, etc. 3/3 pair (post free).

COLLARD, "KERISYENE," TOLLGATE AVENUE EARLSWOOD, SURREY

HEREFORD RALLY



WE were delighted to see so many volunteers on March 1st at the very successful rally when Lady Denman presented the new armlets (with red borders) to those volunteers who had complete two years' good service. Out of a total of 307 volunteers "on the strength" (i.e. including those in training and on sick leave) about 240 were able to come. Arrangements for transport were made by the Committee Members and Local Representatives, to whom those present were very grateful.

The volunteers arrived at the Cathedral for the service at 2.15 p.m., which was taken by the Dean of Hereford, and together with the Local Representatives and the visitors, who included Lady Denman, made a good congregation. The Hereford Ladies' Choir (organised by Mrs. Richardson, W.L.A.) led the singing, and at the end the volunteers marched out and formed up in procession outside the Cathedral headed by the Hereford Silver Prize Band, and carrying a W.L.A. banner the procession marched through the City to the Shire Hall, where a meeting was held in the Assembly Hall. Lady Lettice Cotterell, Chairman of the W.L.A. Herefordshire Committee, introduced Lady Denman, who first spoke and then presented the armlets to the two-year volunteers present, to each of whom she said a few words.

After the presentation a vote of thanks to Lady Denman was proposed by Mr. Bray, Chairman of the W.A.C., and seconded by Mr. J. P. L. Thomas, M.P. A vote of thanks to our Chairman was pro-

posed by Colonel Verdin (Chairman of the W.A.C. Labour Sub-Committee) and seconded by Miss P. Curtis, one of the volunteers who had just been given her new two years' good service armlet. It is interesting to know that these armlets had only that week been received from the manufacturers, so Hereford can boast of being almost the first county to display this coveted award.

After this ceremony tea was provided, followed by a conjuring entertainment given by Mr. Jones, of Michaelchurch. Then those who could stay proceeded to the Public Library, where a film show was provided by the Ministry of Information, at which was given a preview of some of the films to be shown during the "Dig for Victory" Exhibition and of the new film "Land Girl." Volunteers then returned in the buses or cars of their Local Representatives with the pleasant and stimulating feeling, we hope, that they belong to an Army where comradeship and enjoyment as well as hard work and good service are to be found.

In conclusion, we should like to express our thanks to many people for their help, particularly to the W.V.S., who made all the arrangements for the excellent tea—a most unwarlike spread. To the Cathedral authorities for the service, to the County Council for the use of the Shire Hall, to the Ministry of Information for the preview of the films, and to the band who volunteered their services, and especially to Lady Denman for coming so far to address us, we are grateful and we should like to say how much we appreciate all they did.

Miss Sidgwick, Medina, Mid-Warberry Road, Torquay, Devon, says she is still willing to bind copies of *THE LAND GIRL* for 2s. post free (in aid of the Spitfire Fund) for twelve copies. The second volume is now complete, so it is a good moment to get your copies bound.

DON'T FORGET TO LISTEN TO THE LAND ARMY BROADCAST ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30th, AT 7.30 p.m.

COUNTY NEWS

Beds.—The Milton Ernest W.A. Hostel opened on Feb. 16th, and forty girls are happily settled there in the charge of Miss Taylor, the Y.W.C.A. Warden. In spite of the severe weather every one has stuck to the new work manfully.

Miss Read, the Luton District Representative, arranged for a contingent of the Land Girls there to take part in the Warship Week Parade, and, judging by the Press photographs, they were a credit to the Women's Land Army.

Cheshire.—We are glad to learn that members of the Alderley district are joining Y.F.C. clubs and taking part in the discussions. W.L.A. clubs continue to flourish, and plans are being made in every direction for dances, whist drives and tea parties. In many areas members are taking part in Warships Weeks.

Those recruits who attended the "Dig for Victory" week at Chester created a very favourable impression. The "important person" who opened the proceedings on one day remarked that the Land Army seemed to have enrolled all the best looking girls! Our model farm was a great attraction at the exhibition.

It was a great disappointment to several volunteers that the ploughing and hedging competition had to be abandoned owing to weather conditions.

Mrs. Beech, W.L.A. 41,047, writes: "The Macclesfield area have now a L.G. Club, held at the Y.W.C.A., where we have a lovely room and everything that one wants for comfort; also a new sports room not quite complete. All the girls in this area will be very welcome, we so much want it to be a success. Congratulations to Margaret Peterson on her engagement. We Land Girls paraded in the Warships Week at Macclesfield and were congratulated on our smartness."

Cornwall.—A W.L.A. contingent with tractor has taken part in Warships Weeks Parades at Launceston, Redruth, Torpoint and Wadebridge, in the last instance followed by a delightful party given by Lady Molesworth-St. Aubyn. Spitfire contributions have now passed the £50 mark; the latest efforts include a Truro dance and whist drive. The social activities have decreased as the comparative leisure of the winter season ends.

Reports from all sides show girls are standing up to greatly increased agricultural activities. Over 100 recruits from Lancashire and Yorkshire, straight from sedentary occupations, arrived during a raw, cold spell and spent their first days market gardening in the biting east wind. But in spite of this there was 100 per cent turn out. Many tributes from farmers have been received.

There is a greatly increased demand for dairy and general farm workers, which we hope to meet in a very short time, owing to the larger number of trainings which have now been arranged.

Cumberland and Westmorland.—Our numbers increased by about 100 during this month, to our great satisfaction, and we have a new hostel at Milnthorpe, built on the edge of the recreation ground in order to give our members a grandstand view of the local football matches. We have had a spate of Warship Week parades, with anything from 20 to 85 Land Girls at each, and are wondering how people who are never drilled manage to march as smartly as any girl in uniform. I hope this is not just our partiality, but quite a lot of impartial observers said the same thing. Perhaps the healthy life makes one naturally smart and erect. Nellie Jobson deserves

special mention for walking six miles from an isolated farm beyond Kentmere in order to catch a bus to the Kendal parade, and did the same walk back at night; she is probably the most isolated member in our district, having to travel those six miles whenever she goes to town, except when she can catch the once-a-week bus which comes within three miles of her.

Derbyshire.—The weather during the last two months has been such that news is scarce in Derbyshire, but the County Office has been busy enough enrolling new recruits daily, many of whom are being drafted to work in other counties.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Miss Funnell, Miss E. Wood, and Miss I. Crossland on their respective marriages.

How many counties number amongst their Land Girls any who work in a trout hatchery? Derbyshire can boast of two who work daily up to their knees in water at this somewhat unusual job.

Recent awards of Good Service Badges include one fourth, fourteen third, six second, and twenty-two first half-diamonds.

Devon.—On Feb. 27th the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. R. S. Hudson, came to Exeter to address the farmers of Devon. The W.L.A. seized the opportunity to ask him to present 39 members with their two years Good Service armlets. Of these 36 were able to be present. It was remarked by many in the audience how very smart, businesslike and happy our members looked, and they certainly were a real credit to the W.L.A. After the presentation the members remained to listen to the magnificent speech from the Minister to over 1,200 Devon farmers.

At the end of the meeting our Chairman, Mrs. Carew, kindly entertained the girls, some of their employers, and members of the W.A.C. to tea; it was altogether a most successful party.

During his brief visit to Devon we were delighted that Mr. Hudson took the opportunity to visit the small hostel at Moretonhampstead, and he was extremely interested to hear that converted poultry houses could be adapted to produce such a comfortable and attractive home.

The series of milking contests in the county having now been completed, arrangements are being made for two semi-finals to be held on April 25th at Hele Farm, Newton Abbot, and on May 2nd at Newtown House Home Farm, Newton St. Cyres. We are hoping to have two really big days, with final competitions in which all members may compete.

We now have four hostels: Braunton, Okehampton, Moretonhampstead, and Torrington, and hope to open another at Honiton at the beginning of April.

Trainees for farm or garden work are now asked to keep diaries as a record of their four weeks work. These give most useful, interesting, and sometimes amusing information to the office.

Dorset.—In the last year our number of employed volunteers has increased threefold, and it has now become necessary to have a County Secretary and a County Organiser. Mrs. Heenan, who has been since the beginning of the war our Organising Secretary, has become County Organiser, and most of her time can now be devoted to visiting farms, hostels, etc., to see that everything is running smoothly. Miss M. Bonar, our new County Secretary, will take over the office organisation. Our sincere appreciation of Mrs. Heenan's work in the county in the past will be coupled with our very best wishes to her and to Miss Bonar in their new appointments.

Our first W.L.A. hostel was opened at Manston on Feb. 28th, and it was universally agreed that the hutment hostel looked vastly different then from its appearance only a week or ten days earlier, thanks to

the splendid arrangements made by our Warden and her staff. Many of the volunteers come from Yorkshire, and we hope they will settle down and feel quite "at home" in the south.

Our Milking Training Centre at Church Knowle Farm, Corfe Castle (by kind permission of Miss Margaret Graves) has been reopened this month, and our first batch of milking trainees seem to be taking their new job in their stride.

At the risk of being bombarded with pathetic letters of request for replacements of worn-out kit, or for items of kit not yet supplied, we can give hopeful news on the uniform question to our members. One day in the recent past a ton railway container of uniform was halted outside our office doors. It certainly was overwhelming, but the railwaymen, with the aid of members of our staff, unpacked and stacked the kit in the uniform department in record time, and the railwayman was heard to say as he left: "If you ever lose your jobs in the W.L.A. office, the railway company would be glad of such efficient employees." Please, if you thought of writing for kit—*wait*. It is being despatched as expeditiously as possible, and your turn will soon come.

Durham.—Three more hostels have been started by the W.A.C. in this county, run by the Y.W.C.A., Sedgfield, Consett and Wolsingham. There are now eight hostels, and two more are to be started in the near future.

Warship Week marches have been taking place throughout the county, and it is agreed that the girls attain a very high standard of smartness.

Tuesday, March 3rd, was a memorable day for the residents at the hostel at Grindon, as Dame Sybil Thorndike visited the farm of Mr. Greenshields, which adjoins the hostel, and saw the girls employed by him at work. Dame Sybil saw the milking of a fine herd of Ayrshires, bottle washing, then the gaily painted milk floats returning from their rounds. Afterwards Dame Sybil was shown all over the hostel and had tea with the girls; she captivated the hearts of everyone completely, and after playing Auld Lang Syne on the piano, in which the girls joined, singing with a will, she left the hostel to the sound of three hearty cheers.

At the hostel at Chester-le-Street a short terminal course of six lectures on current events is being given by the Secretary of the local branch of the Workers' Education Association. Each lecture is followed by discussions and questions, which shows that the students take a lively interest in the momentous affairs of to-day. The lectures deal with the war in the Far East, U.S.S.R., Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, U.S.A., and post-war problems and reconstruction.

Essex has now risen to the proud position of third highest in the county employment—532 are working for the W.A.C.—we have eight Ministry "barrack" hostels, one hutment, and eight house hostels. Nearly all these hope to be self-supporting with regard to vegetable production, and by the kind permission of the W.A.C., Mr. Ewing, Acting Principal of the Institute of Agriculture, and Mr. Shemming, Horticultural Instructor, an intensive but most instructive practical and theoretical gardening course is being held for 10 selected W.L.A. "Staff Gardeners."

Clubs are booming—Thundersley Ministry Hostel was the scene of an excellent dance given by the volunteers in aid of the Devonshire Regiment, who have so kindly entertained the W.L.A. Peldon has been the centre of the village Warships Week and "Friday Night at 7" at Woodham Walter is becoming famous. Maud Martin and other volunteers working for Mr. Stanley Ratcliffe are running a dance

at 1s. 6d. per head (1s. for the troops) in aid of war charities. Refreshments are collected by the volunteers, and a band worthy of Harry Roy is provided by the local unit. Hazel Spear is starting a club at Nazeing, and E. Toomey has secured accommodation at Waltham Abbey.

Ivy Summer and Irene Stokes were married this month, and Joan Emeny will have a W.L.A. guard of honour for her wedding in May. Lily Thorpe married Jon Parker, R.A.F.V.R., on Feb. 17th. Miss L. Robinson is now Mrs. Haslem, Miss E. Byford is Mrs. Marshall, and Miss Gatehouse is Mrs. Hickley. Margaret Ling, Pauline Weston and Margaret Mann are all engaged, the last to Mr. B. E. Webb. Warship Weeks have been held all over the county, and the W.L.A. have taken part in parades at Ilford, Walthamstow, Braintree, Witham and Colchester. During the past two months, Essex has added £6 14s. 6d. to the Spitfire Fund, the best contribution being from Phyllis King, who sent 10s. collected in 3d. bits.

Owing to the great increase of work it has been found necessary to appoint a County Organiser, and we are glad to say that Miss Western has been promoted to this post, and her place as Assistant Secretary taken by Mrs. Melville, whom we are pleased to welcome to Essex.

Flints.—Great admiration was expressed for the courage of two Land Girls who entered for the ploughing match held last month in sleet and wind at Dyserth. In spite of the weather Miss Brookes, W.L.A., won 3rd prize for horse ploughing, and Mrs. Roberts, W.L.A., had the consolation prize for tractor ploughing.

The W.L.A. has been represented in Warships Week parades at Mold, Holywell, Flint, Prestatyn and Rhyl. Unfortunately all parades were on the same day but were nevertheless a great success. The Land Girls were most popular. I'm sure lots of polish and elbow grease had been used, the girls looked so smart! In Prestatyn parade Mrs. Roberts drove her tractor and harvest trailer with a large stook of straw in the centre and girls at each corner. The orange tractor, the girls' green jerseys and armlets made a nice spot of colour in the procession.

A new W.A.C. hostel has been opened at Rhuddlan this week and 26 girls are settling down in their new home. We send them welcome and good wishes.

Hants.—Volunteers have marched in Warship Week processions in many parts of the county during the past month, and everywhere pleasant things have been said about them. The Third Sea Lord, Sir Bruce Fraser, speaking at the opening of the Stockbridge and District Warship Week, described the Land Army as one of the two women's services "directly connected with the Navy." He said: "They are growing more and more food to help us. Employers should remember that they are doing hard work and strange tasks, and a little consideration, a kind word or deed, not only makes for happiness but also for efficiency."

And in connection with hard work and strange tasks, the volunteers employed by the Hampshire W.A.C. have found that four months field work in very heavy weather has made them so tough that they are ready for anything. These volunteers are housed in four hostels, all run by the L.A.

More and more clubs are springing up through the kindness of Area Representatives who have given house room for regular meetings, with opportunities to talk, eat, dance and play games.

Herts.—Warship Weeks have been the high light of the last two months. At St. Albans we again marched with the Mayor to the Abbey, this time in overcoats. Afterwards we were entertained to tea by the



The Minister with Devon volunteers

Y.W.C.A., who invited Volunteers to use their club when in the city. At Letchworth the L.A., A.T.S., W.R.N.S. and W.A.A.F. marched as one section of the parade, and afterwards were entertained to tea by the W.V.S.

Our large family of nearly 100 in the Cheshunt area have been invited to join the W.V.S. and Ministry of Labour Club for Transferred Workers at Waltham Cross, where for 2s. per month facilities such as the canteen, baths, laundry and recreation rooms can be enjoyed. The club is open daily from 10.30—12.30 p.m., and 2.30 to 10 p.m. Sundays, 2.30—10 p.m. Uniform or L.A. Badge must be worn, and it is hoped that all Volunteers in that area will take advantage of this offer.

Herts has been in the Press lately when five girls demonstrated at a Press gathering how to work a Cub excavator. These girls, the first in the country to work this machine, have been three times to Hull for training courses, and have passed out high each time. We now hear of other counties employing girls for this work, and we wish them the same success we've had.

Our Spitfire donations have rocketed this month by over £32. £21 raised through the second raffle of "Lottie the Land Girl," and £11 by half the proceeds of a show organised by Mrs. Macdonald and the Chorley Wood Girls. Now we are looking for similar efforts for our Welfare Fund, and have already been promised the proceeds of two hostel socials.

Hunts, Cambs, Ely.—During March Miss Frowd left the area to take up new duties in Holland and Kesteven. We now have two new organisers; Miss

Beckett, who will live in Cambridge and be responsible for the Cambs and Ely districts; and Mrs. White, who will live in St. Ives and be responsible for Hunts. We wish them both the best of luck in our midst.

HOSTELS.—All the hostels housing W.L.A. members are to be handed over to the W.L.A. to manage; the Isle of Ely is opening its first hutment hostel at Thorney on April 20th, and a new one was opened at Sawtry on April 6th.

The first Y.F. Club in the area has been started at St. Neots, where Miss J. E. Taylor, W.L.A. 43,047, has been elected treasurer. A very enthusiastic testimonial from a farmer states after one month's training: "This volunteer is the best we have come across; she is a good timekeeper, willing to do anything she is asked, and she has already taken over the milk round. *Nobody could wish for a better girl to do the work, and we are very satisfied*"; whereas one happy comment from a volunteer says: "To-day I have been two years in the Land Army, and I can honestly say they have been the best two years I have ever spent. I must thank you for all you have done to look after us."

SPITFIRE.—The great event was the pantomime at St. Neots, where the hostel girls, led by Audrey Bowman, W.L.A. 43,325, produced "Mother Goose" to packed houses. Dorothy Rogerson, W.L.A. 43,352, was an excellent and witty Mother Goose. Other activities were a dance at Swaffham Prior, another at Knapwell, and sundry individual but equally praiseworthy efforts.

P.S.—If any of the girls at Woolley Rectory are late

for breakfast they have to buy an extra 6d. Savings stamp as a punishment

I. Wight.—A social afternoon has been started with much success in the W.L.A. County Office at Newport, I.O.W., on the first Saturday in every month. It is run by the volunteers, and is self-supporting. Lectures on milking have been given by the County Council. It is hoped to start a club for outdoor amusements during the summer months.

E. Kent has been very well represented in the Warships Week processions lately, and we were delighted to see how many girls turned up to represent the L.A. 80 Land Girls marched in the Canterbury procession, and Mrs. Kennedy, W.L.A. 6,206, drove her tractor ahead of them. Misses Curties, Garlinge, Puddington and Rumbold acted as leaders. Tea was provided afterwards at the new Women's Services Club in Burgate Street. Forty girls marched in the Sittingbourne procession, and were afterwards invited to tea by the Chairman of the Procession Committee. The girls who were at Margate drove in style, sitting in a specially decorated farm wagon, while Miss May led their horse. They were all given tea by the Mayor. The L.A. was also represented at Ashford and Deal.

Misses Ottaway and Setterfield organised a most successful dance at Petham in aid of the Spitfire Fund, and made £4 3s.

Congratulations to Miss Eke, who spoke for E. Kent Land Girls in a most successful B.B.C. broadcast to America and Africa.

Now that the threshing season is ending we get many complimentary reports on the work done by the gangs. Several farmers have said their threshing has never been done better. Well done, threshers!

W. Kent.—At her party for about 30 Land Girls on March 21st, Mrs. Heron Maxwell followed the example of the B.B.C. and arranged a Brains Trust to answer questions previously sent in by some of the girls. The "Trust" consisted of Mrs. Heron Maxwell as Question Master, several members of the Executive Committee, and a kind neighbouring farmer who came to assist with technical information. It was great fun, and both girls and trust members enjoyed themselves immensely. In answer to questions all sorts of helpful and curious information came to light. One member told of the model cowsheds where a wireless was installed, not to help the milkers as might be supposed, but to induce the cows to give more milk! The eccentricities of mushrooms, and how to keep on a L.A. hat in the wind without disarranging elaborate front curls, were fruitful subjects of debate. An excellent tea, songs and games filled up the rest of a happy and instructive afternoon.

Another bright idea comes from Tunbridge Wells. The District Representative sent a circular round to see if a Sunday afternoon tea club would be popular. Within a fortnight over 100 members had enrolled and paid the annual subscription of 2s. 6d. asked of them. The numbers are to be strictly limited to between 20 and 30 girls at a party, and attendance is to be by personal invitation from the District Representative only. A secretary and committee of eight have been chosen from among the members, and it is expected that the first party, complete with darts and table tennis, will be held within the next week or two.

A new departure in training has been sponsored by the W.A.C. 12 Kent girls were sent to a training school for excavator drivers for a one week's course at Hull. A most excellent report was received of the girls' work, and it was said that they had done better than the men. All twelve are now at work in the county, and we hope they will prove that, given the chance, this is one more job that girls can do as well as men.

Lancs.—It was good to read in the March issue that Lancashire girls were keeping the flag flying in Shropshire, and that they were settling down and working happily in this one of their many new counties. There must be Lancashire Land Girls in almost every county, from Cumberland to Cornwall and Sussex.

Here, as in other places, Warship Weeks are the order of the day, and more than a dozen Land Girls took part in the procession at Clitheroe on March 21st and a very excellent tea was provided afterwards by Lady Worsley Taylor; everyone enjoyed the afternoon. On March 17th, at Preston, local representatives were very glad to welcome Miss Doman from Headquarters, who gave useful help and advice on many matters.

We would like to thank Mrs. Aubertin, who worked in the uniform department here for a long time, and who has now a farm of her own which keeps her fully occupied. We wish her every success in her new work.

Congratulations to Mrs. Hardie who, before her recent marriage was Beryl Hines, one of our very first volunteers. We hope to arrange a rally in Preston at the end of May for all our volunteers.

Work in the W.L.A. Office, Preston, proceeds, as Miss Robertson and her colleagues battle cheerfully and bravely with the ever-increasing demand for Lancashire girls. Wherever you may be sent may good luck go with you.

Leics and Rutland.—On Feb. 24th we opened our first hutment at Lutterworth with 40 girls from our own county. This is being run by the Y.W.C.A. They were given a hearty welcome by the W.A.C. and the W.L.A. hostel representative, Mrs. Avery, and I have had a good report of their work during their first month's employment. Eight girls rode on a trailer drawn by a tractor on which there was also a potato riddle, in the Leicester War Weapons Week procession on Feb. 28th. They looked very smart in their new overcoats. Sixteen girls took part in the War Weapons Week at Melton Mowbray, Market Bosworth and Oakham. Our second hostel was opened on March 23rd at Sapcot with 40 girls from Notts. This is being run by the L.A. The party went by special bus from Leicester, and on arrival were welcomed by Mrs. Fox, their representative, the Chairman, the District Officer of the local W.A.C., and residents of the village.

Lincs (Kesteven).—A third W.L.A. Club has now opened at Bourne for Land Girls, men in the Forces and Land Girls' friends. It is being held in the Methodist schoolroom—darts, table tennis and

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draughts, etc., are the games. Sing songs are held on some nights. Cups of tea and light refreshments are provided. The club opens four nights weekly, with two men and two ladies to act as hosts.

The Grantham Club, under the kind supervision of the Church Army sisters, is going well, and a smaller club has been opened at Martin.

Lincs (Lindsey).—A new recreation room at Owston Ferry Hostel was officially opened on Monday, March 16th, when 20 girls asked their boy friends and friends from the village to a whist drive and dance. For some time now the girls in this hostel have been running affairs in the village schoolroom in order to make sufficient money to buy a radio gramophone for this new room and extra comforts, and they have now enough money to buy a gramophone. This was to be the night of nights, but alas the best laid plans went astray, and the gramophone did not get there in time. To the rescue came a good friend in the next house who lent a gramophone, so the dance was quite successful. During an interlude Lily Hargate played on her accordion. Mildred Whyke sang a solo, and several others proved that this batch of W.L.A. girls had lots of talent between them. But, oh the heat! when 55 people got into that room. Anyway, it was a memorable night, and one to which we shall all look back with happy memories in the—we hope—not far distant days of peace.

The hostels in this area go merrily—if not always easily—along, and with a band being formed here, dramatic classes, V.A.D., fire fighting, gas lectures, dances in the villages, and pictures in the towns at the week-ends, all is well with the girls. They are getting down to hard work in the daytime, and their evenings are definitely not boring.

London and Middx.—The Club for Volunteers employed in London and Middlesex and for recruits awaiting their call-up meets each month at the Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, W.C.1. Talks take the form of questions by our Chairman, Mrs. Beale, playing the part of the complete novice, and answers by an expert. The horticultural expert found it difficult to believe that there might be people who didn't know what a seed drill is! Miss E. Jones, member of the Land Army since September, 1939, talked to us on tractor driving at the February meeting. We believe that this is the first time a Land Girl has lectured to other Land Girls. Miss Jones has been engaged in ploughing up the East Sussex Downs; she is a forewoman, and helps to train tractor drivers, two who had been trained by her were among the audience. She surprised many of her audience by telling them that no physical strength is needed to drive a tractor.

Land Girls were asked to take part in London's Warship Week, and the Misses Spencer, Keatley and Duncan, working at the Royal Masonic Hospital, W.6, took part in a procession. Miss Spencer writes: "We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly, and judging by the remarks we overheard from the crowds, like, 'Coo! Look, Land Girls; don't they look smart!' and 'Those are the girls for me, bless 'em,' and the number of waves and thumbs-up we received, I think we went down quite well. We rode on a 'Dig for Victory' lorry laden with potatoes, carrots, parsnips, and other vegetables, including onions. The other two girls held banners with exciting-looking seed packet labels stuck on them, while I alternately pretended to do a spot of hoeing on a pile of earth which was heaped on the lorry, and distributed leaflets to the crowd from the Ministry of Agriculture, enticing people to 'dig for victory.' I stuck my leaflets on the prongs of my fork and passed them to the people like toast on a toasting-fork."

Spitfire Fund

One of the nicest gifts this month was an anonymous one of £10 from a Northants volunteer, saved entirely from overtime and rise in wages. Herts "Lottie" (Land Girl doll) has now raised nearly £40, and dances, raffles and whist drives have done very well. Lack of space prevents further details, but we must apologize to Derbyshire for having given Mrs. Colley and Miss Carr (never-failing donors to the Fund) to Yorkshire for so many months. For various reasons, some our fault and some not, some February donations were omitted last month and are included in the list below of donations received by March 31st. £259 was raised during the month, and the Fund is now £3,097. Shropshire has passed £100.

Berks: £12 10s.—Allum and Lane (dance); 5s.—Dicker; 2s. 6d.—East. Total—£12 17s. 6d. **Bucks:** £2 2s.—Price (whist drive); 10s.—James. Total—£2 12s. **Cheshire:** £2 5s. 9d.—Wren (whist drive); £1 1s.—Dawson (collection at Rally); £1—Simnett; 16s. 3d.—Office Box; 10s.—Gilliland; under 5s.—Bean, Smith. Total—£5 16s. 6d. **Cumb. and West:** £4 12s.—Walters (raffle); 5s.—Patrick. Total—£4 17s. **Denbigh:** 8s. 6d.—Jones. **Derbs.:** £2 2s. 10d.—Colley and Carr. **Devon:** 5s.—Sidgewick (binding magazines); under 5s.—Berringer, Boatfield. Total—10s. **Dorset:** 10s.—Beazley, D. and M. Yeates; under 5s.—Dunkley, Office; Coombs. Total—£1 5s. **Essex:** £5—Woodham Walter Volunteers (dance); 10s.—King; 5s.—Spiceir. Total—£5 15s. **Glos:** £6 8s. 1d.—Carter (dance, Badminton); £1 10s.—Stratton Hostel; 5s.—Willis. Total—£8 3s. 1d. **Hants:** £11 3s.—Baker and White (whist drive and pig raffle); 10s.—Pardoe. Total—£11 13s. **Herts:** £21 7s.—Bacon (raffle for doll); £11 3s. 6d.—Chorley Wood Area (dance, per Macdonald); under 5s.—Grant. Total—£32 11s. **Hunts, Cambs and Ely:** £4 10s.—Swaffham Prior Hostel dance (per Borland); 17s. 6d.—West (43rd); 6s.—Clapton; under 5s.—Parr. £5 10s.—Harradence, Dewar and Coyne (dance). March total—£5 14s. **Kent:** £4 3s.—Atterway and Setterfield (dance); 4s.—Payne. Total—£4 7s. **Lancs:** £1 5s.—W.L.A. at Silcock and Sons; £1 1s.—Law; £1—Morgan; 10s.—Haley, Taylor, Vernon, Wilson; 6s.—Aubertin; 5s.—Ashton, Brown, Dollimore, Dickeson, Kearney, Rimmer, Lycett, Williams, Bell, Burnett, Bourne, Cunningham, Fenton, Forsyth, Mackinson; under 5s.—Walsh, Conkerton, Wilson, Toole, Taylor, Kirkbright, Burnett, Morse, Sefton, Roscoe, Dickson, Burler, Myers, Dawson, Holcroft, Bell, Robertson, Boulton, Muldoon, Collier, Grimes, Anon, Office Raffle. March Total—£5 15s. **6d. Leics and Rutland:** 10s.—Burgess, Solesbury; 7s. 6d.—Faulkner; 6s.—Beadell; under 5s.—Bott, Hammond, Hudson, Outram, Rushman. Total—£2 5s. **Lincs (Lindsey):** £25 7s.—Scamblesby Vols. (whist drive and sale); £2 1s. 9d.—sundry donations; £1 1s. 3d.—Trafford (whist drive); 10s.—Vols. Thornton Lodge (dance). Total—£29. **Norfolk:** 10s.—Anon; 7s.—Betts; 6s.—Long; 5s.—Riches. Total—£1 8s. **Northants:** £10—Anon; 5s.—Alexander, Norcott; under 5s.—Pack, Potter. Total—£10 14s. **Northumberland:** 1s. 6d.—Smith. **Notts:** £12—Staunton, Orston and Hawbro L.G.s (whist drive). **Oxon:** £1—Tetley; 10s.—Anon., Phillips, Webb; 7s. 6d.—Mallinson; 5s.—Fitchett. Total—£3 2s. 6d. **Salop:** £7 15s.—Hyslop (dance); £3 10s.—A Land Girl; £1—Plowright, J. and M. Yates and Ball; under 5s.—Sedgwick. Total—£13 7s. 6d. **Somerset:** £10 5s.—Wellington (dance); £1—Gibson and Hurle; 7s. 6d.—Hartnell. Total—£11

(Continued on next page).

COUNTY RETURNS

COUNTY.	No. of Vols. now working, placed in empmt. since outbreak of war.	Spitfire Contribution £ s. d.
Kent	1,995	44 10 2
Yorkshire	1,510	25 2 3
Essex	1,433	59 2 3½
Hants	1,230	87 11 9
E. Sussex	1,003	42 14 6
Surrey	940	73 13 6
Leics 740, Rutland 159	899	71 19 6
Northants	789	70 6 6
W. Sussex	788	37 3 8
Wilts	783	138 0 10
Herts	716	86 9 2
Cheshire	714	141 17 10
Berks	710	35 7 9
Wores	686	223 19 9
Norfolk	671	15 9 6
Lancs	669	32 11 2
Notts	669	25 10 6
Northumberland	642	5 17 0
Lincs (Holland and Kesteven)	632	144 5 9
Somerset	632	77 18 9
Devon	627	15 14 3
Glos	627	55 15 7
Warwicks	613	123 15 1
Oxon	549	51 15 7
S. Wales	533	11 15 2
Hunts 173, Cambs 301, Ely 43	517	185 4 5
Bucks	498	11 15 6
Salop	477	110 13 8
Cornwall	472	52 17 5
Dorset	444	33 12 1½
Staffs	434	104 5 4
Lincs (Lindsey)	401	55 5 0
Cumberland and Westmorland	390	110 12 3
Monmouth	343	6 18 9
N. Wales	339	40 19 9
E. Suffolk	336	77 9 6
Hereford	324	45 5 2
W. Suffolk	305	10 7 6
Durham	248	—
Beds	228	6 13 6
Isle of Wight	227	3 4 3
Denbigh	205	14 18 6
Derbyshire	178	27 13 0
Brecon and Radnor	174	—
London and Middx	166	3 4 0
Flint	164	4 16 6
Scotland	—	358 18 0
H.Q. and "Land Girl"	—	127 18 9

12s. 6d. Staffs: 6s.—Bate (rise). East Suffolk: £10 10s.—Beaumont and Benham (whilst drive); £1—Taylor; 15s.—"Polly" (6th); 6s.—Leavold; 5s.—Forrest, Moyse, Walters; under 5s.—Beaumont, Anon., Farthing, Hawes, Walne, Horne, Anon. March Total—£13 15s. W. Suffolk: 10s.—Davies, Maiden. Total—£1. W. Sussex: £7—Morgan (dance); £1—Morgan; 8s.—Page. Total—£8 8s. N. Wales: £23 10s.—Morris (dance); £2 13s. 6d.—Morris. Total—£23 3s. 6d. Wilts: £31—Bowood Forestry Girls (dance); 10s.—New and Chandler; 3s.—Birtwistle. Total—£31 13s. Wores: £5—Springhill Group, via Baldwin; £3—Coll-lyer (sale of lambs); £1 15s. 3d.—Penrose; £1—Mills; 17s. 6d.—Hihes (raffles); 10s.—Bateman; 9s. 9d.—Office; 6s. 3d.—Harris (3d. bits); 6s.—Anderson, Milne; under 5s.—Broadway Group, Hunt, Perkins, Schwartz. March total—£6 4s. 3d. Yorks: £1—Dalton; 11s. 3d.—Ball; 6s.—Barton; 5s.—Boothroyd, Wise; 2s.—Spencer. Total—£2 8s. 3d. Scotland: £38 2s. 9d.

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