

THE LAND GIRL



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CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

IN "Time and Tide" recently, Rose Macaulay satirised those people who think that the reason why this country is often not loved as a brother even by the more friendly parts of "abroad" is that we don't even praise ourselves enough. The idea seems to be that every day and in every way we should tell everyone how wonderful we are and eventually they will all believe us. The probability that if they did they would like us even less than before does not appear to have occurred to the advocates of the theory on which Miss Macaulay based a typical example of her delightful wit.

That is not the way of the Land Army. Other people have said very nice things about it, but the comments of volunteers (when they make any) are only that it's a grand job and much to their liking—rarely they add that it is well worth doing. Perhaps they don't give quite enough thought to the W.L.A. as a Force, apart from their own jobs. In any case, charity, if not praise, does begin at home and now that we have bought our Typhoon, THE LAND GIRL will collect for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund which has just been started.

The object of the Fund is twofold. There are "hard cases" now of accident, illness or troubles which cannot be helped in any other way; and, after the war assistance will be given to members of the W.L.A., particularly to those who either need a little help to enable them to start on their own or to go to an Agricultural College or Farm Institute. There are endless possibilities if sufficient money can be raised and THE LAND GIRL confidently asks its readers to combine the duty and pleasure of helping their fellow members by working for the new Fund as splendidly as they did for the last one.

M. A. P

GETTING THE HARVEST HOME



Mr. Angus Thompson, Farm Manager of the Cheshire School of Agriculture at Reaseheath, has very kindly written the following helpful and interesting article for THE LAND GIRL.

PEOPLE engaged in agriculture never suffer from monotony, for as the seasons change so does the work. Sowing is followed by hoeing, haytime, corn harvest, potato harvest, root and beet lifting and ploughing. Certainly one of the most important in this year's work will be the corn harvest, which is one of the most enjoyable of all forms of farm work; to newcomers to agriculture, a little guidance as to what to expect and what mistakes to avoid, may make it even more enjoyable. Taking the harvesting operations from first to last the following will explain briefly what is the usual practice on farms.

At this point it is as well to mention that climatic conditions play a very important part in deciding what is the usual practice. For instance, the West of England is wetter than the East and the South is earlier than the North and Scotland. Therefore greater precautions are taken against bad weather the further north you travel. Another confusing thing will be the different terms used in varying districts, e.g., the stook in the West Mid-

lands is termed a mow (pronounced like cow); a haycock in the North of England is a ruck or coil in the West; and a hayfork a pikel.

The corn harvest differs from hay because it is largely dependent on one implement, the self-binder, whereas hay needs in addition to a grass cutter, a swath turner, hay rake, etc., with which by now you will be familiar. Long before harvesting commences the binder is overhauled and put in order. The good farmer will have seen to this at the close of last year's harvest. The straps of the canvasses are treated with harness oil, all working parts well oiled and knives sharpened so that the minimum of delay will occur once the grain is ready. The binder is drawn by either horses or tractor, cuts and ties the grain, and ejects it in the form of a sheaf. During the last ten years there has been a big increase in the use of the Combine Harvester. This machine, in addition to cutting the corn, threshes it whilst travelling and the corn is left ready for picking up in the sack. However, it is still not

a very common sight in British Agriculture.

Before commencing harvest operations the farmer decides which corn is ready for cutting. He is governed by several factors. Wheat is cut when it looks ripe and before shedding takes place, that is before the grain commences to fall out or shed from the ears by the action of wind and rain. Oats on the other hand are cut when they still look green. In war-time most farmers are having to feed oat straw to stock, and by cutting when not completely ripe a greater proportion of the feeding value is retained in the straw instead of all going into the grain. Barley is different. What is required is a hard white grain, the guiding principle being when you think barley is ripe, leave it a fortnight and then cut.

Where time and labour allows, the farmer will make an opening round the field with a scythe. You will have seen a scythe in use during hay time, but now you have to make the corn into sheaves by hand. Make sure you do this properly as nothing is more annoying than sheaves badly tied. A good way is to get one of the old farm men to show you how. He will probably remember the day when it was all tied by hand! If you can't get anyone to show you, here's one method. Get $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. pieces of corn and lay them neatly together, then place just as much corn as you can carry under one arm on top, at right angles. Now take both ends of your $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. pieces and pull towards each other as far as possible, twist both ends together and double the twisted ends under.

The binder now comes into the field. It may be that you will be asked to act as a relief on the binder. If so, remember the levers on the binder were not put there to look at. As the corn will vary in height so will the levers need changing. See that the string ties each sheaf in the centre, and does not tie round either the ears or the bottom. Either of these mistakes will make stooking much harder and the corn dry slowly. At the same time watch the reel—it will want raising or lowering. The string may break and if you aren't watching the ejected sheaves several may be thrown out loose. When the machine is drawn by a tractor and you want it to stop to re-thread the string or make any adjustment, remember there is a lot of noise going on and SHOUT! A good plan is to have cord attached to the driver's arm and pull this when you want to stop. Careful attention to the string box, which should hold

two balls, will prevent the string running out altogether.

After the corn is cut it is stooked. In stooking, work round the field the opposite way to the binder, so that the base of the sheaves faces you. Take five or six rows of sheaves for one stook row, according to the number of stookers per row, and number of sheaves per stook. If you look closely at the base of a sheaf you will find that it slopes, and look again and you will find the knot on the string round the centre of the sheaf. Pick up the sheaf by the knot, pass the sheaf directly under your arm, take one similarly in the other arm and drop the two together base first and about three feet apart on the ground, with the heads of corn well interwoven. When you have done this you should find that the two knots are facing each other on the inside of the beginning of your stook, and the sloping base of each sheaf fits in with the sloping sides of your stook and the ground level. Complete the stook by putting sheaves in the same fashion at either side of your first two, alternately. As a general rule wheat is put in twelve sheaves per stook, and oats ten, but this is liable to variation in different districts. The position of the stook in wetter and later areas is important. All the stooks should point North and South, so that their sides are facing East and West. The sun then shines on each side during the day.

As soon as the grain is hard it is ready to carry home. Wheat, if fairly hard when cut, can be carted in a few days. You may see farmers carting wheat when it is wet or drizzling. This is often done, as wheat sheaves are so straight in the straw that most of the rain runs off, and whilst they are in the stack the wind gets through easily and dries them out. There is, however, one proviso—wheat carted damp should not be threshed until the New Year to make sure it has dried out completely. Barley can be carted straight away if cut dry and free from undergrowth and weeds. It is important that barley is really fit, as if not it will heat in the stack, and this will discolour the grain making a bad malting sample. With regard to oats the old saying is "leave them in the stook three Sundays," or in other words at least a fortnight.

If pitching sheaves to a wagon or cart, remember that the man on the top is a human being and not an object for a "blitzkrieg"! Nothing is more painful than to get a sheaf banged in the face and possibly a straw in the eye. When

near the top of the load and your sheaves look as if they might come rolling off again—let them! The loader may have his hand on the sheaf and if you try pushing them up you may run your pikel into his hand.

The corn may be carted to a thrasher in the field and threshed straight away, or carted to a stack. By order of the government, corn must be dispersed as a precaution against incendiary bombs. This will mean more stacks and less corn in Dutch barns. Stacking is an art. You will notice how the stacker works round and round, fastening the outside row of sheaves by the next row, and so on till the middle is full. When he is building the roof of the stack you will see how he keeps the middle full so that the outside sheaves slope down and all the heads of corn are covered, so that the rain will run off, leaving the ears of corn dry. If you are picking the corn to him—passing the sheaves of corn from pitcher to stacker—remember you have to consider him all the time, and put the sheaves where he wants them and right way round.

Finally the fields are raked and the rakings or gleanings carted home, the stacks are thatched and made safe to stand the winter.

Looking at them, you will have a feeling of great satisfaction and contentment, knowing that you have done your bit towards this greatest of harvests, and you will understand in its truest sense the meaning of Harvest Home.

ANGUS C. THOMPSON.

Me and My Sow

THE old sow and I are sworn enemies! We were quite good friends to start with, but her recent behaviour has shown her to have definite Nazi tendencies.

It started half an hour after we had moved the hen and her new and beautiful batch of chicks into the orchard which, up to then, I must admit, had been the domain of Mrs. Sow and her two offspring. I returned from fetching fresh water for my chicks, to find the old sow head and shoulders in the chicken fold, lapping up the chickmeal for all she was worth. She had not opened the door, oh, no! just shoved her way through the wire, leaving a large hole to be repaired. I got her moved to the next field, where she made her headquarters in the unoccupied bull pen.

Next day when I let the horses out at night and gave them a bite of supper, there was old Mrs. Sow ready to do her share of the eating of it. Having tussled with her for a while, I retreated in good order to find myself a weapon, but on looking round discovered it was unnecessary. "Prince" had his own way of dealing with intruding pigs with a good pair of heels.

For a few days all was quiet until we tried to pen the sheep to be examined for maggots. Would they go in? They stood and shuffled in the gateway, moving backwards and sideways but never forwards, and of course the trouble was the sow and her offspring. We had to let the sheep disperse and first dislodge the enemy before starting round the field to collect them all over again.

A series of "nuisance raids" followed—every morning when I went to feed the fowls, there she was waiting on the doorstep, so to speak, making the poor birds "that fidgety."

Yesterday came the big attack. What was my annoyance to find the enemy once more in the orchard. I chased her out, and within a few minutes she was back. Chased her out again then a quick search for her way through the fence—chased her out a third time before I found it and started to do temporary repairs, the sow remaining the other side watching and jeering all the time. She nuzzled the railing I had just erected and I, aware of its fragility, picked up a stick to show her what I thought if she should knock it down. I was just wanting the opportunity to give her a good sharp one on the snout. She seemed to know it, for she just gently shook the railing with her nose and turned away with an air of angelic innocence, rather spoilt by the taunt she threw over her shoulder as she departed. I rushed to find hammer, nails and string to make my temporary work more permanent. I was not gone long but there was my bit of fence down again and the sow nosing round the chicken run for a suitable point at which to attack the wire. Even then I didn't manage to get her on the snout.

She was last seen still with her two offspring, routing in the potato field, two fields and a brook away from her headquarters. How and when she advanced, no one knows. Perhaps she was learning to hoe—and perhaps I am not her only sworn enemy.

UNA FERREY, W.L.A. 61829.
(Glos.)

A Treasure Hunt

By a Tomato Town Representative

"SO that will mean," concludes our County Secretary, "that we shall want billets for two girls by Monday."

These words I look upon as an invitation to a new and exciting kind of treasure hunt; a treasure hunt where the prize is the happiness of two Land Girls, and where the clues are supplied not by scraps of paper, but by living people, each of whom affords a glimpse of a different and intensely interesting personality.

The hunt proceeds something after this wise:—

Longdale Road:—"Somewhere," I say to myself firmly, "somewhere in this road is the Hidden Treasure—the ideal billet for the two girls who are starting at Longdale Nurseries in three days' time."

Where shall I try first? "Takiteezi" attracts me by its name but the house opposite has lovely blue curtains: perhaps I'll start there.

"Er, good morning, please forgive my troubling you, but do you know anyone who would like to billet two Land Girls?"

"Well, I couldnt myself and I don't know any other lady down this road who could, unless perhaps"—with a tightening of the lips and a sudden fierce gleam in the eye—"the PARTY next door would; but don't say I sent you!"

The Party next door says she can't because of poor auntie, but I might try Mrs. Harris, over the way.

Mrs. Harris turns out to be almost stone deaf and quite unsuitable, but after a good deal of shouting I am given the next clue—Mrs. Robson, of Rosikott.

So with renewed hope I trudge down to the end of the road and knock at the door of Rosikott.

No reply! Mrs. Robson is out. That is the worst thing that could have happened. I have lost the trail. I shall have to start again at my beginnings. But a neighbour looks over the hedge, and there is hope once more.

"There now," she exclaims when she hears my errand, "Isn't that a pity? Only this morning I promised my hubby that I'd take in my mother-in-law. I'd really rather have had the girls, but you know what men are about their mothers? But why don't you try Mrs. Williams, at Takiteezi?"

So there I am, back at my first love, and, oh joy of joys! Mrs. Williams is delighted to do what I ask. She is a charming person and I know the girls will be happy with her. So what matter that I have just missed one bus and have half an hour to wait for the next? I have found the Hidden Treasure! It has all been well worth while!

Devon Summer

One summer down in Devonshire
(Another life it seems)

I lay upon a heather bank,
Deep in its bucyant fragrance sank,
To lose myself in dreams.

And oh, but it was quiet there!
Enchantment waited on me there
And bore to me on scented air
A song of little streams.

That summer down in Devonshire
The sun was cloudless blue.
(Unlike the skies of other lands
Where clouds the shape of Nazi hands
To hideous thunder grew!)

The sun shone gold on silver wheat,
As larks sprang up around my feet,
And honeysuckle smelled so sweet
In lanes which lovers knew.

This summer down in Devonshire
The lanes still smelled as sweet.
But down the winding roads all day
One heard the army lorries sway,
The sounds of marching feet.

The quiet brown cow still stood
content
To watch in drowsy wonderment
A sunburned soldier leave his tent
To bathe in Watersmeet.

The sturdy sons of Devonshire
Are steady-eyed and slow.
Merry of heart and sane of mind,
Their speech is soft, their laughter kind,
As all their friends must know.

But in this hour of trial and wrong
These Devon men stand stern and
strong
On hill and coast, a stalwart throng,
On guard against the foe.

Through all this lovely peaceful land,
This soil which gave them birth,
Drake's countrymen, in valiant band,
Defenders staunch and ruthless, stand
To prove devotion's worth.

No enemy shall e'er surprise
By night or day their watchful eyes,
Who guard the heart's most
cherished prize . . .

This precious Devon earth!

BARBARA STUART.

FIGHTER FESTIVITY



IT was a very select band of Land Girls who came to London on 20th July for the presentation of our Spitfire cheque. Worcestershire, Cheshire, East Suffolk, Huntingdonshire with Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, Staffordshire, Cumberland and Westmorland, and Wiltshire, with Scotland and Wales were represented on account of their Spitfire prowess and Land Girls from Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, East Kent and Oxfordshire were invited because of various gallant acts in the face of angry bulls, drowning airmen, burning styes and enemy action.

Everyone met at the new Recruiting and Enquiry Bureau at 421, Oxford Street and admired, first the beautiful photograph of our Patron, the Queen, which Her Majesty has presented and second, the gay colour scheme and decorations of the new Bureau. At 12.15 Lady Denman made a short speech and

the Editor of THE LAND GIRL announced that the total sum collected for the Spitfire Fund was £5,691 5s. 10d.; gave a list of leading counties and explained some of the ways in which the money was raised. Miss Irene Marshall, W.L.A. 25199, of Worcestershire, then presented the cheque to Squadron-Leader Barrie Heath, D.F.C., who made a delightful speech of thanks and of admiration of the Land Army, and its work, said that the money would be used to buy the first Typhoon aeroplane (the very latest type of fighter) given to the R.A.F. and promised that it should be called "The Land Girl" and have the W.L.A. badge on it. Squadron-Leader Heath also explained how appropriate it was that a Worcestershire volunteer should present him with the cheque as he came from Worcestershire himself and his father was on the County War Agricultural Committee. Finally, Mrs. Hudson thanked

Squadron-Leader Heath charmingly for coming.

Refreshments and conversations with the Press concluded the party, after which all the Land Girls and a selected few among the other visitors adjoined to lunch with Lady Denman at the Dorchester, where the sight of sixteen sturdy Land Girls marching through the lounge refreshed even the weariest of the habitués.

The final list of County totals will be found on the back page, headed by Worcestershire, whose £533 represents over 12s. 10d. per head. The next best per volunteer were Cheshire (8s. 10d.), East Suffolk (7s. 10d.), and Huntingdonshire, Staffordshire, Cumberland and Westmorland (7s. 4d.). The best monthly total was Cheshire's £215 in April (largely due to the efforts of Miss Black, of Reaseheath School of Agriculture, which has nobly supported the Fund throughout), the best area total was Alford and Deeside's £255 in Scotland (over £2 per volunteer) and the best single efforts were the Springhill area (J. Baldwin) sale in Worcestershire and the Bognor (the Misses Lamb) sale in West Sussex, both of which raised over £50. Splendid individual helpers were Miss Bacon (Hertfordshire) the raffles of whose Land Army doll raised £40, several volunteers who subscribed regularly every month including Miss J. West who gave 50 separate donations and others who raised large sums by repeatedly organising dances, sales, whist drives and raffles. To these and the many others who have helped to buy our Typhoon, THE LAND GIRL sends its warmest thanks and heartiest congratulations.

Berks greatly regrets to report the very sad death on 17th July of Miss Joan Coleman, aged 25, of Maisemore, Mortimer Common, Berks, who was killed when a car skidded into her as she was walking along a slippery road.

Miss Coleman was trained at Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, Newton Abbot and went into employment at Deanwood Auxiliary Hospital, Newbury, on 3rd June, 1941, where she remained until the time of her death. She was a very good and conscientious member of the Land Army, and was highly thought of by her employer as by all who knew her. We feel that in her death we have lost a very valuable volunteer as well as an extremely nice girl.

Broadcasting the News

It is regretted that owing to a misunderstanding, the date of the Editor's broadcast was given last month as 23rd July, whereas it should have been 30th July. All Land Army broadcasts will be on the *last* Thursday of the month at 7.25, whether this is the fourth or the fifth Thursday.

Members of the W.L.A. have been in the "news" this month in a variety of ways.

At agricultural demonstrations arranged by the County War Agricultural Committees they have played a conspicuous part and their skilful handling of some of the latest farm machinery has won high praise.

In Worcestershire Land Army volunteers took part in an agricultural film which is going to Russia. They were shown not only at work in the fields but "at home" in their hostel which is one of the new hutment type.

News of the presenting of the Spitfire cheque at the Land Army Information Bureau in Oxford Street is given elsewhere. Two of the members who attended were staying on in London for a week's leave and so were able to represent the Land Army at the opening of a Club for the Merchant Navy provided through the generosity of some well-wishers in America. The other Women's Services were also present and the proceedings were broadcast in the weekly programme "Shipmates Ashore." Another London "occasion" was at the Florence Nightingale statue in Leicester Square. The Land Army was called upon to join with a detachment of nurses in forming a Guard of Honour for the Duke of Norfolk when he received a cheque to complete the first million pounds collected by the Red Cross Agriculture Fund.

Many thanks to those volunteers who have sent information about their experiences with R.H.S. examinations, and congratulations to Joyce Townshend (W.L.A. 34842) of Flintshire, who passed first class in the Preliminary Teachers Examination in School and Cottage gardening, and to her two sisters Emily (W.L.A. 34841) and Rosamond (W.L.A. 34840) who both passed first class in the Senior General Examination. There must be a good many volunteers who have taken examinations but not yet sent in the results. The Editor will be very glad to receive these.

Feeding Time

THE farmyard is silent and deserted on a hot day. The hens are too hot to scratch about and lie, feathers fanned out, under the sheds. First I step into the wheat barn to fetch a bowl of last year's rapidly dwindling heap of tail corn. The floor is raised off the ground, so that one steps up. There is a sweet smell of corn and sacks, and over one's head the roof reaches high and from the rafters hang the white plywood apple tubs that will soon have to be fetched down again. The blower stands in a far corner, and next to it the old butter churn which we now use for dressing seed corn.

The right hand wall is wood only half way; above that it is wired and I can see my two youngest calves lying in the straw. They rise stiff-leggedly, greeting me with an expectant "Maaaa!" but I say, "All right, little ones; not just yet."

From the wheat barn I go to the mill shed to fetch a pail of meal for the baby chicks. The concrete floor is cool, and there is a constant drip of water from the pipe leading out to the horse trough in the yard. The mill shed smells of meals and rolled oats and the air is thick with powdery dust even when the grinding machine is at rest. As I go in, Whisky, the black and white cat, shoots across the floor, alert, after mice, as usual.

I feed the chicks, now about eight weeks old and ragged as to feathers, particularly one who always manages to find some hole in the wire of the run, and comes to meet me, getting a ride back in the pail, and pecking energetically all the way. Next to the stable, to put out some chaff and oats for my mare. It is cool and dark in there, with a pleasantly pungent scent of ammonia everywhere.

I let the cows into the yard for a long drink, and they march solemnly into the cow lodge, the coolest building in the yard. It faces west, so the sun has not shone into it all day, and the thatched roof is about two feet thick and covered with moss. Clean straw is knee deep, and the pleasant smell of cows always reminds me of childhood visits to farms where one always went to see the cows milked, whatever else one missed. The cows have their order of precedence, first, the Red Devil, head going up and down purposefully, tail swinging, then Tiger,

the pretty striped roan, dull but honest, and finally Plum and Apple, the black and white lady with short sight and a somewhat crushed air. She came to us a great, raw-boned beast, and we could never satisfy her lust for chaff, chaff and still more chaff. I leave them munching sonorously, while I go to fetch the pails from the milky-smelling shed called the "Dug-out." Back in the cow lodge, I wash the cows down with warm water, then close the doors to keep the flies out, and for the next half hour there is silence, except for the ping of the milk in the pail, the steady munching of the cows, and an occasional instruction to "Get over there!"

Milking over, I measure out the milk, mix the calves' portions with gruel and wash out the pails, feed the calves and gather a fresh armful of hay from the big barley barn. A glance at my watch shows me it is nearly tea time. The cows are back in the meadow and by 5.30 the yard is empty and I am on my way back to the hayfield, with feeding time over for another day.

E. M. BARRAUD, W.L.A. 9600.
(Cambs.)

On the first Saturday afternoon every month, a room at Morpeth and Hexham in Northumberland, is open for volunteers, farmers and applicants who want to join the Land Army to visit the Committee member for the area. When first opened, an advertisement was put in the local paper and every volunteer notified by letter. It is proving so popular that it is hoped to extend the scheme to other areas in the near future.

Senior girls from the Queen's School, Chester, call every day at the Land Army County office in Chester, to collect parcels of uniform and deliver them to the post office. This practical help and the lively interest shown by these amateur postwomen in the Land Army, are greatly appreciated by our Cheshire office.

MAKE A NOTE OF IT!

The Land Army's Own Broadcast
Listen to the Home Service
Programme at 7.25
on Thursday, 27th August.
Talk to the Women's Timber
Corps

Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

On Saturday, June 26th, at Kelsall Lodge, a big demonstration took place. Land Girls from Blomville Hall, Y.W.C.A. hostel at Hacheston were lucky enough to be selected to take part and thoroughly enjoyed showing just what they could do. There were gangs of girls threshing and on the silage making plant; whilst others demonstrated a planting out machine. Quite the most popular, however, was a thatch-making gang of six, which gave visitors lots of food for thought, the thatch being made by machine and stitched to the roof of the stack. Questions were very ably answered by Miss J. Woodgate, Labour Officer to the East Suffolk W.A.C. by whom these girls are employed and although they were all from the town, an excellent show was given.

There were numerous stands at the Demonstration and all the L.A. present were delighted to meet again Mrs. Sunderland Taylor, the County Secretary, who had a ready smile and a bright welcome for all. Mr. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture spoke very confidently about the support he hopes to get and will, from all Farmers and the W.L.A.

Yours sincerely,

E. Suffolk.

K FLORIO.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been wondering why so few girls write to you from Norfolk, perhaps it is because we work so hard.

I have been gardening for nearly three years in the L.A. and my present job is quite the most interesting. There are twelve Land Girls on a Market Garden of roughly 200 acres, actually still being converted from two ordinary mixed farms. At present we are planting 25,000 ridge cucumbers and have lately planted 50,000 tomatoes outside. Four of us on a robot transplanter got in approximately 40,000 broccoli in less than two days and similarly there have been thousands of practically every vegetable plant such as onions, lettuce, leeks sprouts. There are acres of haricot beans, peas, gherkins, vegetable marrows, cabbage, savoy, etc., growing fast. The thought of harvesting all these crops is at present rather a nightmare, but at the moment picking peas is quite a change from the eternal planting and hoeing. Stringing tomatoes is a favourite job which has to be

tackled in earnest now, as some of the plants have set fruit.

We are so busy and the days go by so fast, there is really very little time to think of all the dreadful things happening all over the world.

Yours sincerely,

F. LAMBERT, W.L.A. 31918.

Norfolk.

DEAR EDITOR,

We held our first dance at Somerby hostel on June 11th. It was a great success. We were fortunate in having a military band. We all contributed to buy the refreshments and prizes. There were two prize dances, and by a strange coincidence were won by the same couple. The hostel garden has undergone great changes since we came on 4th May. We had a tractor and three men ploughing up the ground and now the greater part of it is planted with potatoes, also some greens and salads. We are all looking forward to the blaze of colour when the antirrhinums, nasturtiums and marigolds are in flower. The hut looks a bit grim and drab on the outside and needs a bright touch somewhere. We are all surprised that the seeds and plants grow so quickly. Already we have had some home-grown mustard and cress, radishes, mint, sage and lettuces. These all help to give a little variety with our sandwiches and of course taste far better than bought salads! We are beginning to realise that farming and gardening is not so easy as it looks, this newly-ploughed grass-land abounds in wire-worms and leather-jackets and we have discovered that they also like lettuces. They have destroyed quite a number of our plants but we soon track them down and behead them.

Yours sincerely,

Leicester.

K. LEMON.

DEAR EDITOR,

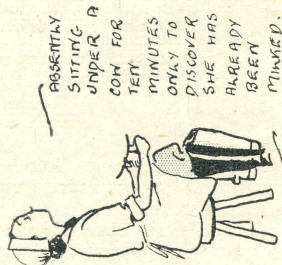
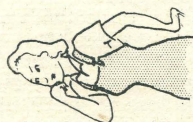
My reason for writing was to pass on this tip which may prove useful to many who find it difficult to keep their hands in a good condition.

When I first joined the W.L.A. my hands got into a terrible state and no amount of oil would improve them. At last I tried washing my hands with a piece of Welsh Flannel and good toilet soap. Now I am never afraid to have my hands in view.

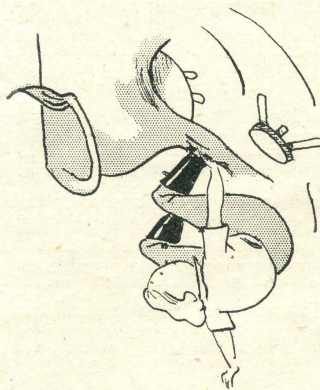
Yours sincerely,

A. K. WEDLAKE, W.L.A. 61347
Glamorgan.

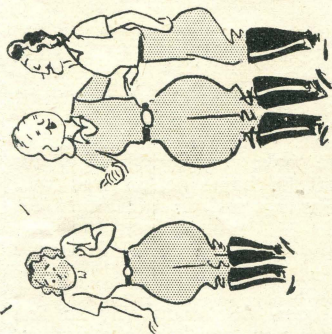
THE LAND GIRL



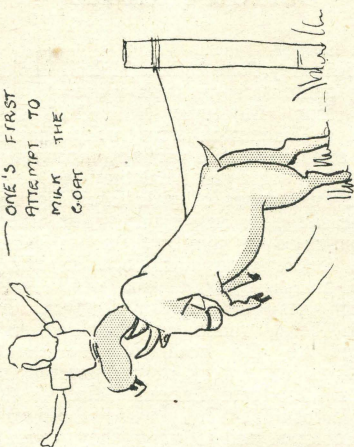
THE FEAR THAT FARMER GILES
IS KISSING THE POOR DEAR



—WE HAVE NO KICKERS
IN OUR HERD...



THE GIRL WHO SPOKE
OF THE COW'S "BACK KNEES"



—ONE'S FIRST
ATTEMPT TO
MILK THE
GOAT

A. Baxter W.L.A. 34803 (Kent)

Scottish Notes

Aberdeen and Ellon.—Two jolly gatherings were held in this district, as a result of which the Spitfire Fund benefits to the amount of £18 12s. 1d., of which £11 2s. 1d. represents the proceeds of a dance at Grandholm organised by Anne Parker and £8 10s. from a whistle drive and dance organised at Culter Cullen by Peggy Thom. In addition to this amount Mrs. Manson sent £5 from a grateful farmer-employer of the W.L.A. and £2 3s. collected from the trainees at Craibstone by Mrs. Duguid and Jemima Lawrence.

Alford and Deeside.—A most successful hoeing match was held at Lumphanan when the principal prize-winners were:—1st Robina Bruce; 2nd Annie McPherson and 3rd Louisa Smith, while first off the field with a prize were:—1st M. Grieve, 2nd Louisa Smith; and the best looking was judged to be Z. Elrick. After the match Good Service badges were presented by Mrs. Cook and later in the evening there was a dance organised by Myrtle Abernethy and Charlotte Robertson, which raised £9 3s. 0d. for the Spitfire Fund.

Other donations to the Fund come from Iris Burnett, £1 10s. 0d., the proceeds of a dance at Keig, and £5 10s. 0d. from Alexina Bews, who had a dance at Craigievar for the purpose.

Altogether this district has contributed £248 17s. 0d. to the Fund, a most creditable effort, and now they want to know what they're to collect for next!

Ayrshire.—No. 3 of the County News-Letter has just been issued and very good it is—congratulations to the editors.

Lanarkshire.—Good Service badges were presented by Mrs. J. M. Biggar, Lady Provost of Glasgow, at the Strathaven Agricultural Show and a party was given by Mrs. Jackson for the girls in her district.

Midlothian.—Hostels are being established apace—the latest, Airybank, Dalkeith, having been officially opened recently by Lady Elphinstone.

Mrs. Paterson gave another party at her house in Penicuik for the girls under her care and much enjoyed it was, what with the ice-cream and the fortune-telling.

Renfrew and Dunbarton.—The girls in the Milngavie district organised a dance for the Spitfire Fund, and one of their employers generously offered to add 50 per cent. of their drawings. The dance having realised £20, the Fund receives £30. Splendid!

Wigtownshire.—The W.L.A. were represented at the United Nations Day ceremony at Stair Park, Stranraer. The contingent looked grand under the smart leadership of Cochrane Kellock who, by the way, has now had her fifth Good Service badge. Congratulations to Ruby Goodfellow and Margaret Bunting on their engagements—also to Billie Laird who has got married but who is shortly returning to her job on the land.

It is hoped that the first hostel in the county will be opened in the autumn.

Scots War Gardens Van Tour.—A hearty invitation is extended by the Scottish Federation of W.R.I. to land girls to attend the demonstrations arranged as follows, during the second half of August.

Banffshire: 18th—Hall, Longmanhill, at 7 p.m. 19th—Church Hall, Fordyce, at 7.30 p.m. 20th—W.R.I. Hall Grounds, Arradoul, at 7.30 p.m. 21st—King Memorial Hall, Grange, at 7 p.m. 22nd—Secondary School, Aberlour, at 7.30 p.m.

Moray and Nairn: 25th—Crossroads, Cromdale, at 7.30 p.m. 26th—Hall, Carron, at 7.30 p.m. 27th—W.R.I. Hall, Longmorn, at 2.30 p.m. 28th—Garden at Speymohr, Spey Bay, at 7.30 p.m. 29th—Schoolyard, Hopeman, at 3 p.m. 1st Sept.—Hall, Kellas, at 7.30 p.m. 2nd, Brodie Castle, Brodie, at 3 p.m. 3rd—Cawdor Hall, Cawdor, at 3 p.m.

General.—The number of girls employed or about to be employed is now 4,500.

W.L.A. Helps Red Cross

Members of the W.L.A. have lately forwarded several generous contributions to the Red Cross Agriculture Fund, mainly from concerts and dances.

Three recent donations were £13 from Surrey, £11 1s. 2d. from a pony gymkhana at Ruthin and £6 6s. from Gloucester where Miss Jean Cameron (W.L.A.) organised a dance. At a Swansea hostel there is a box into which every week volunteers put all the coppers from their pay.

The Fund has lately passed the million pounds mark in less than two years and as the drain upon the Red Cross, especially for Prisoner of War parcels is a heavy one, it is not to be wondered at that the Red Cross Agriculture Fund is out now to reach the second million. It has in the past received the support of every phase of the farming community.

Personal Advertisements

FOR SALE.—Brown leather riding boots, size 5½; good condition, 40s., post free. Apply Corlett, c/o Editor.

CALLING ALL EX-GUIDES.—Please send old Guide trefoils to Rumbold, 7, Ruins Barn Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. Willing to buy; need very urgent. Please help.

SABLE RABBITS.—Siamese and martens; lovely shadings. Apply Burton, Heatherlands, Aldringham, Leiston, Suffolk.

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County News

Beds.—In connection with the War Work Campaign for Bedford, six of our land girls took part in the Pageant-Meeting presented at the Granada Cinema by the Ministry of Information on Sunday, 19th July. The girls looked very spick and span, their green pullovers making a pleasing splash of colour amongst the khaki and navy blue uniforms.

W.L.A. 75934, B. N. Howard, was married in July and Hilda Tarbun, W.L.A. 10738 is to be married in August. We wish them both the best of luck.

As readers of our July news sheet will have seen, Mrs. Dallas has had to give up the uniform work, which is very sad, but she will continue to be Magazine Representative and so is able to keep in touch with W.L.A. volunteers and they with her.

Miss Read, of Luton, arranged for a contingent of volunteers from the south of the county to attend a parade and service in Luton on August 2nd, when Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, G.C.M.G., etc., inspected military and civic services before the presentation of the Admiralty Plaque following the adoption by Luton of H.M.S. Ceres.

Berks.—At Cumnor, Berkshire, Mr. Nurse, an evacuated London Headmaster, has very kindly arranged a hot mid-day meal on five days of the week for the Land Girls in the district at the very low charge of 9d. each. The local Women's Institute were originally asked to help with meals for agricultural workers, and Mr. Nurse took a considerable amount of trouble to arrange these dinners for the Land Girls by extending the communal feeding of school children. Needless to say they are very much appreciated and are a great improvement on the daily sandwich lunches.

On 10th June a concert was given at the Y.W.C.A. Services Club, Reading, by members of the W.L.A. in aid of the Y.W.C.A. at Southampton which has been bombed out. The concert was a great success and over £10 was raised. On 21st July a very enjoyable dance was held, also at the Y.W.C.A. Services Club, Reading, and the proceeds are to be given to the Lord Mayor's Air Raid Distress Fund. Both these events were arranged by Miss Prebble, the local representative for Reading.

One of our volunteers, Miss K. N. Turner, was present when a cheque for a "Typhoon" was handed to a distinguished fighter-pilot in London on 20th July. Miss Turner displayed considerable courage when her pony was killed by a bomb in Reading in 1940.

Brecon & Radnor.—An Inter-County Rally will take place on Saturday, 29th Aug., in the park of Maesllwch Castle Hostel, Glasbury-on-Wye. This event has been planned with a view to increasing agricultural interest in the two counties, and the whole-hearted collaboration of the Demonstration Sub-committees of the Brecon & Radnor W.A.C. has been obtained. All kinds of most interesting demonstrations and exhibitions will be held in which our volunteers are assisting. Silage making, straw thatching and ploughing are amongst the wide range of demonstrations, and there are competitions for milking, butter and dressed poultry, and generous prizes have been granted by the Brecon & Radnor Agricultural Education Committee for this purpose. There is to be a large dance in the evening to complete the day.

A very successful dance was organised by our volunteers residing at Crossgates Hostel, Llandrindod Wells, as a result of which £20 was contributed towards our own Spitfire Funds. Volunteers in each of our three Hostels now functioning organise a Penny-a-week Fund and National Savings Group, which in each Hostel is well supported. Our congratulations to Bertha Pickles

and Mildred Knott on the occasion of their marriages; we are glad that these volunteers are continuing their service as members of the Women's Land Army.

Bucks.—July has seen a big increase in the number of Buckinghamshire girls joining the W.L.A., the grand total now being about 1,150. Groups of girls employed by the W.A.C. on seasonal work have been welcomed into the County at the rate of 40 each week since the end of April. On 6th July, 200 of these girls arrived at High Wycombe from various parts of the country and have been housed under canvas at Holmer Green—an entirely novel experience for the majority, and a welcome and interesting one for most of them.

The new Hostel recently opened at Shelburne Road, High Wycombe, is one of the W.A.C. hutments; it houses 40 girls, and the pleasant atmosphere and comfort provided is most encouraging, since several more such Hostels are shortly to be opened.

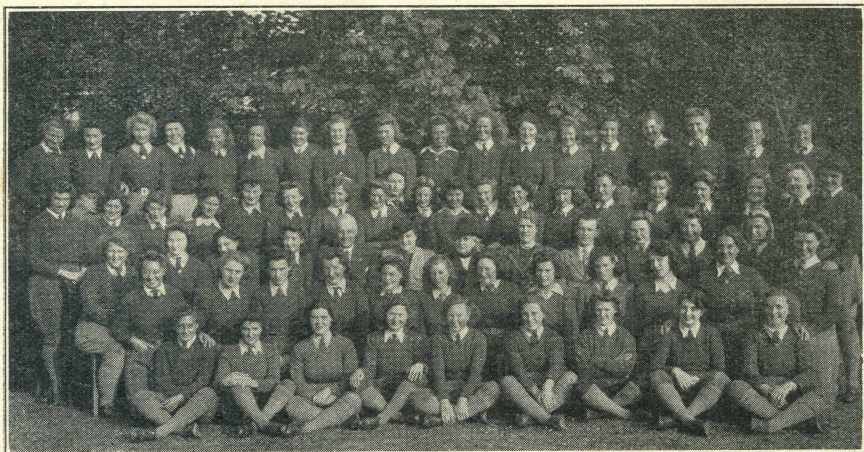
Under the auspices of the W.A.E.C. a thatch-making machine was recently demonstrated, near Buckingham, by 4 Land Girls; in various parts of the county girls are learning to use dredging machines, while others are being trained in general farm and dairy work, and in tractor driving. Some of the girls in the Slough district by the way, have been surprised to discover that one of their local representatives was the first woman ever to drive a Fordson tractor at Dearborn, Mich. U.S.A.—in 1917!

Cheshire.—We are glad to be settled in our new offices. In future, the office and uniform store will be open on the first Saturday afternoon of each month. The volunteer who raised the largest individual sum for the Spitfire Fund, Miss W. Davenport, was chosen to represent Cheshire in London on 20th July. Miss Davenport writes that the ceremony was most impressive. We wish all Cheshire volunteers who worked so hard for this fund could have been present. Members of the Macclesfield W.L.A. Club are to be congratulated on the very successful dance which they recently organised in aid of the Red Cross Fund.

On passing the thousand mark of employed volunteers, we have received a letter of congratulation and appreciation from the W.A.C. This committee is full of praise of the work done by volunteers in Cheshire. We hope that all our volunteers will be encouraged in their work by the knowledge that their efforts are a very real help to Agriculture in Cheshire.

Cornwall.—We took part, on 21st June, in the demonstrations at St. Columb, arranged by the W.A.C., Young Farmers' Clubs and the W.L.A., the first of its kind in the county; it attracted more than a thousand spectators. Most of the manual work in connection with the demonstrations of Silage-Making, Straw-Pulping, Tractor-drawn potato-spraying, Cabbage-planting with Robot transplanter, etc., was done by some 15 W.L.A. members who had, with difficulty, obtained the whole Saturday off (generally by arranging "to make up the work later") who received most generous praise. Later in the afternoon these and others competed in special W.L.A. classes and open classes. To quote the press report: "One of the most congratulated prize-winners of the day was Miss Betty Elliott, of Gwinnear, a member of the W.L.A. who won a first and special prize for hoeing. She won the second award for being the best competitor in three hoeing classes, including two classes for young farmers. The special prize was given by Mr. W. C. Bice, one of the judges, who said "The Land Girl did far and away the best job. She beat the young farmers easily. We had not the slightest hesitation in awarding her the prize."

The W.L.A. came in for a good deal of praise generally. Hedge pruning was another class singled out



Volunteers at Usk Agricultural Institute, Monmouth

by the judges for praise and extra prizes were given because of the high standard. Land girls also competed enthusiastically in the Points' judging, in which Miss B. Curnow was a prize winner.

To conclude with another quotation, here is an extract from a letter which is typical of other complimentary remarks which we have been hearing lately. A farmer writes "Our land girls are proving very satisfactory, they seem keen on their work and very appreciative of anything that is done for them. The foreman told me he could find no fault with them whatever, and never once have they been late in the morning. As you know, I was always a confirmed old sceptic where the land girls were concerned, so I'm conceding a great deal when I hand out these laurels and admit they can do other things besides dairy work."

Cumb. & West.—Our representative at the presentation to the R.A.F. of the Spitfire cheque quite clearly had to be Mrs. Bath or Miss McKissack, but there was nothing to choose between them since they have worked in partnership the whole time. They had to resort in tossing up for the honour of attending the presentation, and although Barbara McKissack won, both took a day's leave and had a week-end in London.

Our fifth hostel opened with 30 members on 15th June at Bolton Hall, Gosforth. It is a delightful country house with a lovely view, a garden, four bathrooms and an Aga cooker. (W.L.A. members may not understand our rapture at this last item, but hostel staffs and county secretaries will!) There will shortly be a sixth hostel at Appleby.

Two items from our varied post-bag: the first from a volunteer: "I wanted to ask if you could possibly arrange for me to have a pair of gumboots, as to my horror they have slit right up the back. It was with regret that a sheep planted its big feet on them." We are glad to know that the creature realised the enormity of its action. The other letter is from a prospective employer and begins "Dear Madman." Unfortunately our acquaintance did not ripen as she required "a girl for the house."

Derbs.—The W.A.C. have started a small hostel for four girls working at Butby Park.

Congratulations to Kathleen Beresford who has become so expert with a shot gun that she has been able to contribute 5s. towards the Spitfire Fund from the sale of rabbits that she has killed.

Devon.—A splendid contribution of £12 10s. 0d. to the Spitfire Fund was made by the 10 Land Girls working for the W.A.C. at Holsworthy, who organised a dance. They deserve to be congratulated on a very good effort. We have now started a County Welfare Fund to help our Devon members in cases of hardship, and it is hoped that similar functions may be organised for this very good object.

20 rat catchers have arrived in Crediton from Yorkshire, where they received a fortnight's intensive training, before being drafted into other parts of Devon.

Several tea-parties have been given during the summer and a large picnic is being organised by the chairman for girls in the Moretonhampstead area. We should like to have arranged many more of these functions but petrol restrictions make travelling very difficult.

The office has now moved to more roomy premises at 34 Richmond Road, Exeter, and we hope Land Girls will find their way there if they happen to be in Exeter. Later on we may be able to arrange to keep open on some Saturday afternoons.

Dorset.—Owing to the pressure of work, Miss W. Marsden, O.B.E., J.P., has most reluctantly resigned the Chairmanship of the County Committee. We should like to thank her most sincerely for her devoted service to the W.L.A. from its very early days. She will be greatly missed in the county but we shall hope to see her at many W.L.A. functions from time to time.

Girls in the Sherborne area held yet another most successful dance and raised £5 for our newly-formed Benevolent Fund and £5 for other charities. Congratulations to them on this splendid effort! Interesting lectures by a County Organiser and a Member of our County Committee have been given to girls of the G.T.C. in different parts of the county and have been greatly appreciated. Two more Hostels have been opened in Dorset recently to house "Gang Labourers" working for the W.A.C. We extend a warm welcome to the girls from London, Yorkshire and East Sussex who are now in our midst.

A Birthday Party given by Church Knowle Farm, one of the farms co-operating in Cocknowle W.L.A. Training (Dairying) Centre, developed into a W.L.A. and Timber Corps tea and dance on

THE LAND GIRL

21st July. Over fifty W.L.A.'s and T.C.'s sat down to tea and the dance which followed overflowed out of the village hall through Church Knowle! We have heard great accounts of this event and know that Miss Graves' kindness is much appreciated.

We send sincere thanks to Miss Blake, who has had to give up her work as Magazine Representative and also to Miss E. M. Keate, c/o Mrs. Graham, East Hill Lodge, Charnminster, near Dorchester, who has succeeded her and to whom all Magazine queries should be addressed in future.

Miss Colwell, an additional County Organiser, will be with us by the time this issue is printed. We would like to extend to her a cordial welcome and hope she will enjoy her work in Dorset.

Durham.—There are now ten Hostels in this county and another is to be opened soon at Shinccliffe, near Durham City.

Each Hostel is to be visited in September by the Ministry of Information mobile film unit for the purpose of displaying a sound film, part of which will be devoted to instruction.

A rally for the whole county is to be held in Durham City on Saturday, the 26th September. There will be a special service in the Cathedral followed by a parade through the city, then there will be speeches, presentations of half diamonds and tea.

Flints.—On 20th June H.R.H. Princess Mary inspected Volunteers at Bodrhyddan and spoke to many of them. This was a great day for the county. On July 21st at a Clean Milk Competition held by Mold Y.F.C. Miss Cann, W.L.A. 44940 won the championship prize for the best milker in all three classes as well as the W.L.A. class prize. She joined the W.L.A. last year and was trained at Llysfas. Miss Haynes and Miss Jones were 2nd and 3rd in the L.A. class and Miss Symons won the competition for L.A. members who had not been milking for more than three months. At a sheep shearing competition last month Miss K. Brookes was awarded a special prize.

Hants.—It is with regret that we have to announce the resignation of Mrs. C. L. Chute, County Chairman for Hampshire since 1939. She has been succeeded by Miss Woolmer White, formerly our Vice-Chairman. Miss White has also been associated with the Land Army since its beginning, and was a Land Army representative in the last war. We also have to welcome our second County Organiser, Mrs. Kendall, who has just taken up her duties and will soon be well-known to all our volunteers.

On the great occasion of the handing over of the "Spitfire" cheque, Hampshire provided one of the volunteers who had acted with special bravery. We should like to take this opportunity of congratulating Mrs. K. Bevis, who helped with great fearlessness to rescue animals from a fire at the farm where she is employed.

Hereford.—We were very glad to see so many volunteers at the parade on United Nations Day. We were glad to be able to give our support to the parade in honour of our Allies and we were also very glad to take part in the parade on July 18th on behalf of the Mayor of Hereford's "Aid to Russia Fund."

We offer our congratulations to E. Armitage, now Mrs. Taylor, and to D. Thorpe and E. M. Skinner, who will probably be married by the time these words appear.

We regret that it has not been possible to arrange a milking contest this year, but the County Council's Agricultural Department will be holding clean milk demonstrations at local centres this summer and committee members will let volunteers know when there will be one in their area. These demonstrations are a splendid opportunity both

to learn something and to make friends with other Land Girls.

The Spitfire Fund concluded in good style with £15 from a dance at Kington and £6 10s. from another at Mathon.

Herts.—The last two months have been very busy ones in this County. Our number of employed volunteers will be over 1,200 by the end of July. We have opened four more hostels, Hadley Wood (11 girls), Verulam Golf Club (20 girls), Bury Green House, Cheshunt (30 girls), Barnes Lodge, King's Langley (35 girls). Before the end of August Shenley Lodge and Holmes Hill will also be in commission. Our total number of hostels will then have reached 13 and we hear there are still more to come.

Clubs have been started for volunteers at Rickmansworth, Goffs Oak, Gustard Wood and Waltham Cross and more will be started after the busy harvest season. In addition we have been lent the Y.W.C.A. room at St. Alban's for the use of volunteers on Saturday afternoons and the Recreation Room at the County Hall, Hertford, is also put at our disposal on Saturday afternoons. It is hoped that the volunteers in the neighbourhood of these towns will use these rooms for meeting their friends and the officials of the W.L.A.

Miss Rachel McClintock joined the Staff as Assistant Secretary on 8th June, and before this magazine is in print, a second County Organiser will have joined us.

Hunts, Cambs. & Ely.—We have to welcome two new Organisers, Mrs. Charlesworth for Hunts, and Ely, and Mrs. Gurrin for Cambs., and we wish them the best of luck in their new work. We must congratulate Miss Freda Cook, W.L.A. 10974, on running two allotments in Cambridge in addition to their full time Land Army work and being able to continue to study for horticultural examinations. Since she came to Swavesey in January, Miss Josephine Grimsey, W.L.A. 57848, has formed her own company of the Girls' Life Brigade and is its Captain.

Hostels continue to take up the main bulk of our news. Thirty-two girls from Essex are now installed at Six Mile Bottom, thirty-two from Yorkshire at March and twenty-four from Essex at Portland House, Whitteley. Thorney sends news of Whist Drives for gramophone records and the Red Cross. A Savings Group is going great guns and classes for first aid and home nursing have been formed. Twenty of the girls took part in a Church Parade on Sunday, 14th June, and the whole village turned out to see them. At Sawtry, Mrs. Coleby, the District Representative has been especially good in arranging for the Club Tennis Courts to be used free of charge. Advertisements were put in the local press for balls, racquets and nets, and there is also a Croquet Set for the more sedate. Dances, of course, are always on the programme.

E. Kent.—The miniature Rally held at Godmersham Park for girls with long service was perhaps the best Land Army party we have ever had. A fine day, the beautiful surroundings, the presence of Lord and Lady Cornwallis, an entertainment by B.B.C. artistes and a splendid tea all combined to make an unforgettable afternoon, and the girls left their hostess, Mrs. Robert Tritton, in no doubt about their appreciation of her kindness as they reluctantly departed in their bus.

The Canterbury blitz brought unforgettable experiences of a different kind to many Land Girls, and all our sympathy goes to those who lost parents and relations, and those who lost their homes and possessions. But only one girl was slightly injured, and all were back at work with the least possible delay, a fact which was duly noted and gratefully commented on by several employers. The East Kent offices and uniform store were also swept away. The office staff would like to thank the many girls who sent

letters of sympathy and to express appreciation of their splendid co-operation and thoughtfulness in many directions while the office was being reorganised.

The group meetings have met with a general welcome and have been very well attended in spite of the varied distractions of summer evenings. Lectures on agricultural subjects have been given by eminent specialists, and though the meetings will be discontinued during August, owing to pressure of work and overtime, a fresh programme will be issued for September.

W. Kent.—We have just taken over from the W.A.C. the Hostels they have been running and we are also opening two others shortly, and hope when all the Hostels are available to house about 170 Volunteers. Many arrangements are being made for their interest and entertainment, such as games, lectures, community singing and First Aid classes.

Plans are already in hand for organising our gangs for the coming threshing season. Last season's gangs were congratulated at a meeting of the W.A.C. Machinery Sub-Committee, when Lord Northbourne referred to the splendid work done by the girls and proposed that an expression of appreciation should be forwarded to the Chairman of the Kent W.L.A.

The thatchmaking girls live in caravans and travel round to the different farms as required. A visitor to one of the caravans gives us the following description:—

"In the evenings the caravan looks very gay. Its little windows are lit up and music comes from it. The gramophone plays and the girls dance together on the grass outside. They have been working hard all day, but in the evenings they want a little fun. All day they have been operating their machine which looks like a sewing machine designed for the use of a giantess. It stitches the straw into mats for thatching stacks. Up and down go the huge needles threaded with string. Their average day's output of 12 foot mats is sixty; but they have touched their record in this farm, 154 mats turned out in one day."

A member of a neighbouring W.V.S. writes of a conversation with a local farmer as follows. "He told me he had eleven Land Girls and he said he would never have men again if he could help it, as the women were cleaner, more conscientious and worked far harder."

Lancs.—After the excitement of the Rally, news this month comes mainly from the office where activity has been considerable. Lancashire volunteers wherever they may be working will have been delighted to hear of the honour bestowed upon Mrs. Robertson and will wish to send her their congratulations, upon this recognition of her valuable work. Mrs. Robertson has now taken up more extensive work out in the county where she has become a County Organiser. We take this opportunity of welcoming her successor, Miss Arnison as our new County Secretary. We wish them both every success in the future, in their different spheres. Our congratulations and good wishes go also to Miss Ramsay, our Assistant Organising Secretary upon the announcement of her engagement to Capt. W. T. N. Reeve, R.E. We are delighted to hear that she will be going on with her present job after her wedding on 18th August.

The number of volunteers employed in the County is expected to reach the 1,000 mark this year; from the number of Good Service badges presented by Lord Derby at the Rally it was obvious that many of these girls are old hands in the W.L.A.

Two new hostels are due to be opened in the near future, one in the Warrington and the other in the Hawkshead area, the latter for forestry workers, which concludes the news from Lancashire until October.

Leics. & Rutland.—The Spitfire Fund has received two substantial contributions this month, £8 from the Tilton girls, the proceeds of a social, and £6 from Miss Hincks and the Sheepy girls, who organised another whist drive and dance.

Four hostels have been opened since the last news; we now have 12 running, all housing W.A.C. employees except Wycliffe House, Melton Mowbray, where half the girls work on farms.

The W.L.A. was represented by Madge Kilham at a pageant held at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester. This was in connection with a special campaign for the recruitment of women for work of national importance.

At the request of the G.T.C. several meetings have been addressed telling the girls of Land Army life and work.

Lincs., Holl. & Kest.—Our volunteers have been much in the news lately. In May, three of our girls created a record by winning first, second and third prizes at a talent contest at a cinema in Grantham. They were Mabel Shaw, who sang "The Holy City," Ann Wrigley, who sang "The White Cliffs of Dover," and Gertie Wright, who gave two very amusing monologues of her own composition. All girls live close to one another in Yorkshire where, before the war, they worked as weavers in the same factory. Ann Wrigley and Gertie Wright have been life-long friends and now live and work on the same farm.

When the Duchess of Gloucester visited Spalding, three of Holland's volunteers who had been longest in the county—Hilda Reed, Betty Supperia and Pearl Taylor—represented the Women's Land Army at the inspection in Aysgoughfee Gardens. Many girls turned out for parades on United Nations day; there was an especially good attendance at Spalding, when over 40 girls were present.

Lily Jary, W.L.A. 40887, was present on July 20th, when the final cheque for the Spitfire was presented to a distinguished fighter pilot. She was invited with a few other girls who had performed brave deeds during the course of their work. In September 1941 Lily Jary showed great courage in helping her farmer to separate two fighting bulls. She led her employer's bull away after the incident and put it in its stall, saying it was a routine job of no importance, though her employer stated that none of the farm men would touch it.

When Mr. Hudson visited Holland on 18th July, there was quite a good attendance of W.L.A. girls at the Demonstration which he opened at the Kirton Farm Institute. Unfortunately rain ruined the opening. Girls employed on the Institute farm and from Swineshead hostel took part in the silage making at the Demonstration.

Lindsey.—We have now six hundred girls employed in Lindsey. About a hundred and fifty of them live in our six hostels at Brigg, Carrington, Waltham, Wainfleet, Owston Ferry and Woodendby, and the others in private billets. Carrington hostel is forming a choir and all the other hostels have had social evenings to which they have invited their friends. Classes in basket making are being arranged for the winter and there have been classes for first aid and A.R.P. work in several of the hostels.

Mrs. Wintringham had a party at a cafe in Lincoln to which she invited the thirty girls who were due for their special armlets after two years' good service. A committee member presided at each small table and after a marvellous tea, the armlets were presented. Four W.L.A. members in Welton organised a whist drive and dance in the village and raised over £20 for the Red Cross.

Three gangs of girls have been travelling round the countryside in caravans doing silage work, and one gang has entire charge of a straw baler. We also have a girl driving an Excavator for drainage work. Some of our people are working on one of the new pea podding machines.

THE LAND GIRL

Spitfire Fund

County Returns

	£	s.	d.	COUNTY	EMPLOYED
Worcs	533	2	10	Kent	2808
Cheshire	403	9	4	Yorks	2698
Wilts	300	2	4	Essex	2174
Hunts, Cambs, Ely	243	10	0	Hants	1698
Staffs	198	3	4	E. Sussex	1613
Warwicks	184	6	10	Leics., 1187; Rutland, 252	1439
Salop	182	8	9	Surrey	1432
W. Sussex	179	11	7	Northants	1310
Hants	173	12	1	Bucks	1265
Lincs (H. & Kest)	173	9	3	Herts	1220
Cumb & West	171	9	3	W. Sussex	1138
E. Suffolk	163	8	7	Worcs.	1101
Glos.	159	15	7	Cheshire	1091
Hereford	125	7	7	Somerset	997
Surrey	119	19	6	Wilts	997
Northants	104	14	6	Glos.	993
E. Sussex	102	19	6	Lancs.	990
Cornwall	100	5	8	Berks	958
Yorks	100	0	0	Norfolk	940
Somerset	93	17	3	Northumberl'd	874
Berks	90	3	0	Notts	869
Herts	89	6	8	Devon	803
Leics	86	14	6	Hunts 254, Cambs 397, Ely 146	797
Essex	84	18	0	Oxford	784
Kent	81	9	4	Salop	715
N. Wales	81	0	3	Cornwall	646
Oxon	79	10	4	Cumb & West	630
Lancs	71	16	8	Dorset	614
Lincs (Lindsey)	67	13	6	E. Suffolk	588
Derbs	60	0	6	S. Wales	587
Flints	55	0	0	Lindsey	585
North'd	44	1	2	Staffs	549
Beds	40	3	0	Monmouth	502
Devon	40	0	3	N. Wales	496
Dorset	39	8	5	Hereford	479
Durham	30	0	0	W. Suffolk	457
Brecc & Radnor	27	10	0	Durham	439
Notts	25	10	6	Beds	364
Monmouth	24	10	3	London & Middx.	344
Bucks.	21	14	9	Denbigh	338
Norfolk	19	11	6	Derbs	288
Denbigh	16	18	6	Flint	285
S. Wales	14	18	2	Brecc & Radnor	261
W. Suffolk	14	0	0	<i>The above includes all Returns received by August 4th.</i>	
London & Mdx.	4	4	0		
Isle of Wight	3	18	9	<i>There were over 43,900 volunteers in employment on July 31st.</i>	
Scotland	512	3	8		
Headquarters	129	7	8	<i>The cover design for the last quarter of the year has not yet been chosen and further entries are invited. They should be the same size as the present design.</i>	
Land Girl	5	0	0		

Bank Interest added to the above brought the total to £5,691 5s. 10d. Postage, prize money and other expenses have been paid by THE LAND GIRL.

Oil perishes rubber—any oil splashed on gumboots should be removed immediately.

THE "LAND GIRL"

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