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Price 3d.

BIRTHDAY BROADCAST

We print below the text of Lady Denman's Broadcast on Saturday, July 3rd.

THIS has been a wonderful day for the Land Army. To mark our fourth birthday, The Queen—our Patron—received over 300 representatives and members at Buckingham Palace to-day.

Volunteers and officials were there from every county in England and Wales, from Scotland and from the Timber Corps. Nearly all these volunteers have been working since 1939, some of them in the same jobs all the time. Her Majesty talked to everyone, and asked me to tell other members of the Land Army how much she wished they could all have been there and with what great interest she has followed the devoted work they are carrying out daily.

At this time of year we are apt to think of agricultural work as hay-making and harvesting—hard but pleasant work done in friendly company and summer weather. But as *you* all know, most of the Land Army's work consists of the steady day-to-day unexciting jobs like milking and cleaning utensils, spreading manure, digging and hoeing. How is it then that 80,000 of you have chosen the Land Army as your war work? and as we can only accept people who are strong, intelligent, enterprising and have, indeed, practically all the virtues, there are a great many more than 80,000 who would have liked to join us.

I think the reason is that not only do you realise the *immense* importance of the work but also you have that love of the country which is a fundamental part of any strong and vital nation.

You are the answer to those who prophesy disaster because of the growth of what I might call the cinema-and-suburb life.

I don't for one moment think that the pre-war tendency for the town to spread its tentacles wider and wider, to absorb the best of our brains and energy at the expense of our villages can be countered by a return to smocks and hand-looms and an out-of-date Merrie England. To put the clock back is no remedy.

What you have proved is that the *instinct* is still as strong as ever, and that the town-dweller (for you've been, in the main, town-dwellers) can not only find

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a happy and useful life in the country but can help and strengthen the lives of those who have always been there. You have thrown yourselves into village activities; you have helped to run Savings Groups and libraries and entertainments; you have learnt from your new neighbours, but you have also taught them.

I don't want all this to end with the war. I want all those of you who return to the towns to keep with you always your understanding of the life and problems of the country, of the need for the kind of houses and education in the country which will give its dwellers and its children as good as an opportunity as the town-dwellers and children get. And I want those of you who stay in the country to take your part in the fight for the conditions which are essential to a good life. I know that many of you want to remain on the land and Government training schemes and our own Benevolent Fund should help you to do so.

But first we have got to win the war, and the harder you work the quicker we'll win it. The milk you produce, the crops you gather, the timber you cut are all nails in Hitler's coffin—the harder you hammer them in, the sooner can we all turn to reap the harvest of peace.

GOOD HINTS COMPETITION

This was rather a disappointing competition as there were so few entries, but some of those sent in should be helpful to others.

I. F. Hanson, 42354 (Lancs)—

1. Keep your watch clean. This is almost an impossibility even if you carry it in a purse or bag in your pocket; for every time you open its container with dirty hands some soil gets in, and sooner or later the wheels just refuse to go round! So take a cardboard pill-box, and from the lid cut out a circle larger than the face of your watch. In its place stick a circular piece of celluloid through which you can see the time without removing the lid. To keep your watch from moving about put a whisp of tissue paper round the inside of the pill-box. If you want to strengthen the whole cardboard case give it a coat of clear varnish. I have used mine for several months, now and it is still as good as new. Cost, nil.

2. Safety first. On dark nights, especially on country roads, I wear an ordinary cycle reflector in the middle of my back! This is easily done by punching two holes in a leather strap that is just large enough to make a loop that will slip on a mackintosh belt. You can fix the loop on the back of the reflector by using a nut to keep it in place. My "rear light" has aroused many amusing comments in the village—at the same time nearly everyone ends up by saying "It's a good idea, anyhow."

*J. Berry, 62919 (W. Sussex).—*In order to simplify the hitching of implements to tractors I use a block of wood, 4 ins. in diameter and 1 in. shorter in length than the tractor draw-bar plate; the block is placed under the draw-bar of implement and the tractor backed into position for the connection. Formerly I always required assistance to secure attachment to implements; by the use of this block of wood, which is carried on tractor platform, this is no longer required.

*W. O. Walker, 83183 (Oxon).—*Tomatoes can be very successfully grown outdoors if a corrugated iron shed or fence is handy (we have put a temporary fence up, by simply putting a few stakes in the ground and wiring the sheets of corrugated iron to them). Plant the tomato plants about 12 inches away from the fence or shed so that the plants will not touch the iron, as anyone knows corrugated iron draws the heat when the sun is out, and can get very hot, and so would burn the plants if they were too close, but the idea of the iron drawing the heat acts in the same manner as the glass in a greenhouse would do on the plants. We have proved this with success both in quality and quantity.

*A. J. Dunn, 4170 (Cumberland).—*In rough weather to prevent wearing and soiling the cuffs and lower sleeves of your greatcoat, cut the feet from a discarded pair of stockings and using the straight leg pieces pull these over the top of your greatcoat sleeves, to the elbow, tucking the end in under the cuff.

FIRST HARVEST

6 a.m.—A loud knocking is heard at the door and the voice of the farmer penetrates through the heaped bed clothes into our dreams. A muffled yawn, and a faint "Thank you" rise from the depths.

6.15 a.m.—"Don't you think we ought to get up?" No answer. "I say, it's a quarter past six." Muffled grunt. "I said it's a quarter past six." The bed clothes lap round us, tempting us with their warm softness, but no, duty calls. Four bare feet patter across the linoleum to the bathroom where a hasty splashing of icy cold water serves to restore consciousness. Shirts and overalls are hastily donned, then we grope our way down to the warm kitchen.

6.30 a.m.—A cup of tea and a "jelly piece" are hurriedly consumed and grabbing our macs and boots, we dash outside to where the farmer and his hands are waiting impatiently by the tractor. We clamber unobtrusively into the trailer, trying to look as wide awake and active as possible. With a resounding chug the tractor lumbers down the hill. The cool morning breeze blowing in our faces, and the jolting of the trailer wake us up completely.

6.45 a.m.—The tractor stops with a sudden jerk at the gate of a twenty acre field of wheat. We tumble out, grabbing "whankies" and pitchforks for poker-ing up. Having been on the job for some weeks now, we set to work tying bands and collecting the scythed grain ready to be made into sheaves.

8.30 a.m.—By the time the field is sufficiently opened up for the binder to begin work, our breakfast has arrived. Bowls of hot porridge and cream, and large hunks of bread and jam are soon devoured. Even though we have bread and jam for every meal, we could always eat more!

8.45 a.m.—Now the fun begins, and we set to work to stook up the wheat which the binder has cut, each sheaf growing heavier as we move onwards. As the cutting progresses the thistles grow thicker and thicker. "Tired?" says a hardened worker, as we stop to remove a few invisible prickles. "Oh, no, just taking out a few thistles." "You should wear gloves." We glance at his bare hands as he grasps a sheaf, almost all thistles, and continue working—in silence. We eventually get to the end of the row, and looking back, see that at least half our stooks have fallen down.

1 p.m.—Dinner over, and back on the trailer again, this time making for a barley field which we intend to "lead in." "Along both sides and plenty of heart-in," is the golden rule for loading carts, but the barley field is on a slope. Higher and higher we rise, being thrown on our backs with each sudden movement of the cart, and buried by the sheaves the forkers hurl at us. At last the cart is loaded and we nestle down on the top to enjoy the "hurl" back to the stack yard. The trailer turns slowly to go down the hill, suddenly there is a weird sensation of space, and we find ourselves lying on our backs on the stubble with the contents of the cart sliding down on top of us. We shake ourselves free—we have had our first experience of a "coup." We bring in many more loads that afternoon, but have no more "coups."

4.30 p.m.—Tea is a welcome sight, with its accompanying bread and jam. After a few more loads we are "loused" to help the farmer's wife with the cows and hens.

5.30 p.m.—We bring the cows in, do the milking, collect the eggs and shut down the hoppers.

7.30 p.m.—Supper is ready when we return to the farmhouse, and the smell of sizzling bacon and eggs is most appetising after our diet of bread and jam. Our ablutions are rather hasty.

8.30 p.m.—Supper over, we go out to shut the hens up for the night. The moon has already risen; the stars one by one come sparkling out—it's going to be a lovely day to-morrow!

E. Grant, 12788
Scotland. N. Gower, 8788.

Previously printed in the "Merchant Maiden" Magazine

LAMENT FOR MY INNOCENCE

I used to love the baby bunnies,
Demure, ridiculous wee funnies.
Entranced and whimsical I'd see
The sparrow's antics on the tree.
While buttercups in sheets of gold
Did my young heart enraptured hold.
Ah me! The things I did not know
Two years ago—two years ago!

Now joyfully, the buttercup
And blue-eyed speedwell, I root up.
I tie black cotton everywhere
The little sparrow to ensnare.
That rabbit (should I catch him) dies!
I . . . even swat white butterflies.
Ah me! The poet's killed stone dead!
I am a gardener now instead.
Worcs. B. Hughes, 45078.

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QUEEN MARY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Gloucestershire Women's Land Army was greatly honoured by a visit from Her Majesty Queen Mary to Mickleton Hostel in May. The girls employed on local farms and their area representatives were also invited, so it was a great day for the district.

Miss Smith, the Warden, and her staff, had made the hostel even tidier than usual and Mrs. Muir, the area representative, had done some lovely flower arrangements in the common rooms and it all looked very cheerful and pleasant. Unfortunately, half an hour before Her Majesty was due to arrive, the weather changed from beautiful hot sunshine to a tropical downpour, so all arrangements for a guard of honour, buffet tea for the girls in the garden, and so on, had to be altered at the last moment. There was a great scramble to arrange the 70 girls inside so that they could see and be seen, and yet leave Queen Mary space to move in. However, all was ready by the time the message came through that the outriders' motor bicycles could be heard.

Mrs. Morrison, our County Chairman, and Miss Smith were the first to greet Her Majesty; Mrs. White, the hostel gangleader, presented a bouquet, after which Mrs. Morrison introduced various members of the W.A.E.C. hostel and office staff, and the tour of the hostel began. Her Majesty spoke to several

volunteers, asking many questions about their uniform and work; she admired their clothes and their looks, and was much struck by their healthy appearance. As Queen Mary moved on to inspect the bedrooms the girls gave three ringing cheers, which caused her to remark there was certainly nothing the matter with their lungs anyway. The rain still continued to pour down, so it was decided the Good Service Awards would have to be presented indoors when Her Majesty had finished tea. There were 24 girls to receive diamonds, which Queen Mary very graciously presented, after Mrs. Morrison had thanked her on behalf of the W.L.A. and county for coming to visit us.

The cameraman was busy taking flash photographs during the ceremony, and when it was finished Her Majesty very kindly asked him if he would like a final photograph with all the girls grouped round her. Her Majesty then drove away to the accompaniment of many more ringing cheers.

So ended a very happy afternoon, and we hope that Her Majesty could feel by the warmth of her reception what very genuine pleasure her visit had aroused. As one of the girls said afterwards: "What a wonderful lady, just like I thought a Queen would be, but more human and ever so interested in us all."

LAND GIRLS' and TRADE UNIONISM

This article has been specially written for the Land Girl by Mr. Arthur Holness, Editor of the Land Worker the journal of the Nat. Union of Agricultural Workers.

It has long been the fashion—for men—to look down on women as helpless creatures who have to be sheltered and protected. Some women have contributed to this delusion by posing as clinging vines, but the day has gone by when men worked and women wept. Women are not innocent bystanders in this war. They are doing hard, substantial work in munition factories, aircraft plant, and on the land.

Ships, Bread and the W.L.A.

No industry is more essential to the successful prosecution of the war than agriculture. Land workers are playing their part just as surely as our soldiers, sailors and airmen. For the gallantry of our fighting men would come to naught if hunger invaded the home front or if any big proportion of the ships normally bringing food imports to this country could not be employed for transporting troops and munitions to overseas theatres of war. Each of the 70,000 Land Army volunteers should be conscious, during every minute, of the urgency and importance of her job.

The measure of the success of the Women's Land Army is the demand for volunteers. Early in the war it was difficult to place recruits; now there are not enough to go round. Women have to their credit magnificent records of successful effort. None have been finer in spirit or achievement than the record of the Women's Land Army. They are doing most valuable work and their organisation is essential to our war effort.

A Sign of Intelligence

It is a tribute to the intelligence and good sense of the women now working on the land that they appreciate the efforts of the trade union movement on their behalf. They make good members—as the National Union of Agricultural Workers can attest. Large numbers of them have joined up promptly and backed up the movement loyally. This reflects the growing importance of trade union organisation among all kinds of women workers. Although official figures are not yet available, the total number of

women trade unionists in Britain is certainly nearly two millions.

All along, the Union has fought for the rights of Land Girls, while not forgetting its obligations to other wartime land workers, local women labour, and the skilled and experienced male workers. Overtime rates have also been improved. The Union is constantly taking action, often in co-operation with the Women's Land Army, to improve conditions and remove grievances. Recently the wages of women and girls have been raised in most counties, the advance in weekly rates being 9s. in several areas.

Practical Benefits—and Other Values

In nothing is the value of Union membership more clearly shown than in the free legal help it arranges. As a rule, solicitors charge anything between 3 and 5 guineas to attend Court, and when one considers the small contribution paid by members, even on this benefit alone they reap great advantage. If members of the Union meet with accidents they are well looked after. In addition to accident benefit and weekly compensation payments, the Union obtains lump sum settlements in many cases. In running down and miscellaneous accident cases outside working hours legal advice and assistance is given. The total amount secured for members in lump sums to the end of 1942 was approximately half a million pounds. Recently the Union has dealt successfully with a number of claims on behalf of volunteers.

Of course, the greater part of Union benefits cannot be valued in money. Who can say what the Union's long and successful agitation for many rural reforms is worth to members? Who can put a value on the unceasing efforts of the Union to promote the general economic advancement of all men and women working on the land? There is no matter affecting the conditions of rural life which is not a matter of interest and effort to the Union. It works not only for economic, but also for social and cultural ends. Many women will want to stay on the land when the war is over. They cannot do better than join the movement upon the success of which the future of the land worker depends.

**West Suffolk challenges all other counties to beat its record for the Benevolent Fund...It has raised the magnificent sum of £1. for every volunteer employed.
Which county will be first to beat this?**

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ROYAL PARTY

WHEN I was told I was one of the four chosen from Norfolk to go to London for the W.L.A's Fourth Birthday Party I was naturally very excited; but not so excited as when a week later I received an "Express" letter marked "CONFIDENTIAL," (all very mysterious), informing me that the Party was to be held in Buckingham Palace. To keep this a secret was like trying to keep the lid on a kettle that wanted to boil over! However, I think we all managed to suppress ourselves fairly well until Miss Tillett informed us in the train on our way up to London that we were each to be presented to the Queen individually. Then we really did boil over with excitement.

When we left Norwich it was quite cold and looked as if it were going to be a dull day, but as we were drawing into London the sky cleared and a perfect day came into being.

We arrived at the Palace at about 2.30. There were three hundred of us, including County Chairmen and Secretaries. After taking off our hats, much titivating and anxious peering into mirrors, we were all lined up in our Counties in alphabetical order, when we received yet another delightful surprise. We were to be presented to the Princesses as well. The presentations began at 3 o'clock and took place in the Bow Room. The Bow Room is very beautiful, all gold and white, except for the crimson carpeting. The Queen herself was even more charming and gracious than I had imagined her to be. She was wearing a lovely mauve dress which showed up to perfection her delicate colouring and beautiful dark hair. The Princess Elizabeth wore a white dress sprayed with brightly coloured flowers, and Princess Margaret Rose was dressed in pink. Attending the Queen were her Ladies in Waiting, including the Duchess of Northumberland (Mistress of the Robes) and Lady Spencer. When we had been presented to the Queen and Princesses we passed through the double doors into the Grand Hall where refreshments were served at the long buffet tables. Everything was indeed perfect! The glittering glass and silver, the lovely gold and white china, the silver sugar bowls, the dainty sandwiches. We were very intrigued with the little silver strainers suspended from the spouts of the tea-pots.

Whilst we were having tea, the Queen with the Princesses walked through and

chatted to us about our work. The Queen sent her best wishes to all those Members who were not present and said she was sorry it had not been possible for us all to come.

After tea we strolled out into the grounds. How smooth and soft the lawn seemed after hay-making in the rough fields! The trees and shrubs were very beautiful, but there were practically no flowers, only vegetables. It is surprising however, what a decorative effect rows of parsley, beet and carrots can produce, placed one behind the other.

We left the Palace at about 5 o'clock with very pleasant memories indeed. I think it can be truthfully said that it was the most exciting and pleasurable Birthday Party any of us had ever been to.

Norfolk.

P. Kirby, 489.

HEADQUARTERS' NOTES

No Admission

By a decision of the War Cabinet, recruitment to the Women's Land Army is closed until further notice. On July 30th, the employed strength of the Land Army in England and Wales was 72,408.

Correspondence Courses

Members of the Land Army who in the past have made enquiries about correspondence courses in agriculture and horticulture will be glad to learn that arrangements have been made for courses in both these subjects during the coming autumn and winter months. In addition to a course in "The Elements of Agriculture," the following horticultural courses will be available: Vegetable production, fruit production, crops under glass.

The courses will begin in October under the direction of qualified tutors appointed, in the case of the agricultural course by the College of Estate Management and, in the case of the horticultural courses, by the Royal Horticultural Society. The cost to the student will not exceed £2 plus cost of books and postage. Certificates will be awarded to those completing the prescribed number of lessons. Any members who are interested are asked to send their names to their Land Army County Office, marking the envelope or postcard "CORRESPONDENCE COURSES," so that they may receive particulars in regard to enrolment, etc. Information about the courses will also be given in the Land Army broadcast on Sunday, August 29th.

Inez Jenkins.

Applicants for the boots and shoes advertised last month are hereby informed that these have now been sold.



The longer one is in the Land Army the more one realises that farm jobs are skilled jobs, and that there is an art in every craft, hedge-cutting being no exception.

To tame a riot of wild growth into a good, thickset hedge, which leaves no loophole for straying sheep or cattle calls for considerable craftsmanship, as beginners taking part in a Young Farmers' Club hedging class at Fenny Compton soon found out.

The chief essentials (apart from a good instructor willing to impart knowledge) are keen, sharp tools—billhook, axe, splashing hook and mallet. A hedger wears very thick gloves, sometimes a strong apron, and some protection for the eyes is advisable.

There are three main operations—cutting, staking, and binding. First, the old "layers" and dead wood are cut out, leaving the young, strong "layers" standing, which are then hacked (or axed) and laid to form the new hedge.

Layers must always be cut *downhill*, as near the ground as possible, and *always* laid the same way. This leaves a "spur," which must be cut *uphill*, not

only to make for a tidier appearance, but to prevent water lodging in the cuts and so causing rot. All elder and brambles should be cut out (or stocked out) by the roots, as they are supposed to kill other growth.

To strengthen the hedge, stakes, consisting of straight, stout pieces, are sharpened and driven through the layers into the ground at equal distances apart.

Then the top of the hedge is bound down with long binders threaded in and out of the stakes, which are trimmed so that the finished hedge presents a neat appearance.

After that, the clearing up. All good wood is separated and used for other purposes on the farm, and the brambles and rubbish burnt.

In a competition held at the end of the classes organised by a Young Farmers' Club in Warwickshire, we were proud that the W.L.A., represented by Gladys Bayliss, carried off the honours.

The Y.F.C's are doing much good work in promoting interest in many farm crafts, and it is hoped that more land girls will become members.

Warwicks. K. M. Girling, 26006.

Many congratulations to E. Onions, 45248, (Worcs.) who saved her employer from an infuriated bull and afterwards collected help and captured and secured the bull.

In the Walton and Hersham area of Surrey, where 50 volunteers are in various billets, the Billeting Officer gives Land Girls priority because they are so popular with landladies.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

We had a lot of moles on the farm where I have worked for a number of years. The method we generally adopted was to find the run where the mole entered the field, then set the trap across it. From moles caught I have made a pair of bedroom slippers and still have quite a lot of skins by me. They are easy to cure, just soak in paraffin oil, wash and stretch out to dry by pinning on a board. When dry, rub soft.

Yorks.

E. M. Flint, 6035.

Dear Editor,

In reply to the letter in the LAND GIRL from J. Spurgin I cannot equal her record, but perhaps my sister and I between us can. We started work at a farm as poultry keepers on September 6th, 1939, and were with the one employer for 2 years 11 months, during that time I did not miss a day and my sister only missed one, quite against the wishes of our employer we would not take holidays as we were too happy.

We had a week's holiday before commencing our next job of market gardening and poultry, and since then have not missed a day.

W. Sussex.

A Land Girl, 15178

Dear Editor,

I think our family can beat the record of M. Jarvis. I had a fortnight's training in August, 1939, and a month's training in October. I started work in November, 1939, and have been at it ever since. My elder sister had a month's training in October, 1939, and is now engaged in horticulture. My younger sister joined the W.L.A. last August as soon as she was old enough.

I would add that my mother is a W.L.A. Local Representative, that my father is in the Army, and that we registered our dog—an Airedale—for War Service, and he is now awaiting his calling up papers!

E. Suffolk.

Maxine Lewis, 13102.

Dear Editor,

My sister and I have done $7\frac{1}{2}$ years in the Land Army between us. After 6 months on one farm we went as leaders to a large farm where we did market garden work; the gang varied from 60 to 50 while I was there. I stayed for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, then went as leader of the W.A.E.C. spraying gang. At present we are tomato spraying. My sister has just finished cherry tending; she shot 10 birds out of 11 one day.

Worcs.

J. Baldwin, 6470.

Dear Editor,

I wonder if another Land Girl has heard of anything like this; one of our hens, a brown one, hatched eight chickens on May 9th. She was an excellent mother to them for over a month, then they changed ownership quite suddenly—a black hen this time. She was an equally good mother, and has only just left them now they are old enough.

Isn't this very unusual? The brown hen hardly seemed to "turn a feather," so to speak, over the incident.

Derbyshire.

B. Furber, 68472.

Dear Editor,

Oil of sweet birch (not refined) dropped on to a rag and put on your hat or anywhere convenient will keep flies off. A chemist should be able to supply it at about 6d. a small bottle which will last for years. The stuff ruins anything it touches so do not put it on clothes.

Derbyshire.

E. Clowes.

The COUNTRYMAN once recommended bruised walnut leaves to keep flies away. D. Dale, 71978, (W. Sussex) says paraffin smeared over hands etc. is good.

Margaret Stacey, 67454, of Mascot, Guildford Road, Chobham, Surrey, would be very glad to hear from any other Land Girls who, like herself, comes from the Channel Islands—she came over here three years ago.

For nearly a year C. Williams, 42651, (E. Sussex), has been making toys and useful gifts and selling them for the Benevolent Fund, but this good work will have to stop unless more materials are forthcoming. If you have any sort of wool, bits of ribbon, beads, buttons or scraps of material, please send them to Miss Williams, 90, Hallyburton Road, Hove, 4, Sussex, who will refund the postage if name and address are enclosed.

Numbers 13 and 14 in the Young Farmers' Club Booklets have now been published, called FARM HORSES and ARABLE CROPS, price 9d. post free 1s. from N.F.Y.F.C., Selwyn House, Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1. Both of them maintain the usual high standard of these booklets and are liberally illustrated with photographs. ARABLE CROPS is written by Mr. Thomas of Dauntseys, Wiltshire, who is well known to many members of the Land Army. Every Land Girl should read this pamphlet—unless she already knows a great deal about arable crops.

IPSWICH RALLY

Pride and enthusiasm, music and friendliness—these were the keynotes of our Rally, held in Ipswich on one of the loveliest days of this summer. Some 600 Land Girls, proud of their Force and of the honour paid them by a visit from Lord and Lady Woolton, and led by a band of Royal Marines, marched gaily through Ipswich to the Public Hall to join a large gathering of representatives, employers and friends. Our Chairman, Lady Cranworth, introduced the Minister of Food, who, though his speech was throughout of a most delightful informality, stressed the vital necessity of maintaining a high standard of efficiency and keenness in our work as members of "the fourth line of defence." We were additionally lucky in having Miss Brew (Headquarters) with us, who made a charming and most helpful speech. Lord Cranworth, speaking as a "satisfied employer," said what he and other farmers urgently needed was more Land Girls. Mr. S. Paul, Chairman of the W.A.E.C., thanked the speakers, and a special message was sent by our Chairman to all employers who had allowed their Land Girls time off for this very important occasion, and to those girls whose work had prevented them from attending.

Then came the presentation of G.S.B.'s. by Lord and Lady Woolton.

The afternoon ended with a variety entertainment by Land Girls from many of our hostels and clubs. They put up a most excellent show, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. There were choruses by girls from Blomvyle Hall and Henstead hostels, solo singing by Miss P. Rufford and Miss V. Stevens, piano solos by Miss May Rose and Miss M. Leeks, a monologue by Miss J. Vokes, an accordion solo by Miss C. Gibson, tap dancing by Miss M. Turton, and a recitation of one of her own poems by Miss B. Miles.

Mrs. Sunderland Taylor reminded everyone present that Miss J. Woodgate (Asst. Lab. Officer, W.A.E.C.) would broadcast on July 25th, an honour of which we all and especially "her" hostel girls are very proud. A raffle, for the Benevolent Fund, of a secondhand bicycle (painted a lovely shade of Land Army green!), a rabbit, a sun hat (pattern obtainable from Henstead hostel), 100 cigarettes and an orange, brought in £11 8s., and £2 14s. was raised by contributions.

A SATURDAY IN SURREY

The Surrey Rally and Demonstration on July 17th probably broke all Land Army records to date, for there were 8,000 ordinary persons and 1,000 volunteers at Clandon Park, which was kindly lent by Lord Onslow. The whole thing went with a tremendous swing—a brisk march past was followed by speeches from Lady Denman, Miss Talbot, Lord Templemore, the Chairman of the W.A.E.C. and the Secretary of the N.F.U., which must have cheered and encouraged everybody. After this there was a general move to watch volunteers selecting poultry, thatching, hoeing, tractor ploughing, felling timber, handling horses and milking, though very few were allowed into the cowsheds. A charmingly designed programme was a most helpful guide and plan. It was all very businesslike and efficient and the calm of the competitors amidst the milling crowds of warm spectators was most impressive.

Sports, a fun fair, home produce stalls, pony rides, raffles and lunch and tea buffets absorbed large numbers of people, but everyone congregated round the platform at 5 p.m. to hear Miss Elsie and Miss Doris Waters auction the varied gifts sent by generous supporters of the Benevolent Fund. Gert and Daisy's first remarks were warmly applauded by a goat awaiting sale. A bull calf christened "Land Girl's Renown," a pig from the same stable as Hermann Goering himself, and a bunch of shallots which fetched £6 altogether, after being put up four times, were popular features of the auction. The day brought in £400 to the fund. Dancing (to the admirable band of the Queen's Royal Regiment) brought to an end a day which had admirably fulfilled Surrey's threefold ambition, as outlined by Miss Talbot—to show the public what the Land Army could do, to raise money for the Benevolent Fund and to give Surrey volunteers a good day out.

W.L.A. BROADCAST.

Sunday, August 29th, at 1.15 in the Home Service. This broadcast will deal with matters of considerable interest to Women's Land Army members, including the uniform rationing arrangements for the new clothing coupon year beginning in September; W.L.A. correspondence courses in agriculture and horticulture, and the introduction of Women's Land Army Proficiency Tests.

THE LAND GIRL



By courtesy of Eastern Press Agency, Cambridge

It was a great day for Cambridgeshire on Saturday, July 3rd, when 300 Land Girls marched through the town. The Home Guard band headed the procession, which included tractors, carts and a miniature stack, and the salute at the Guildhall was taken by H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester, looking charming in pink and white. The six volunteers with the longest service were presented to the Duchess, who also received a basket of sweet peas from Miss N. Wimpenny.

Lady Shepperson (Chairman) welcomed the Duchess, and the Deputy Mayor (Ald. E. O. Brown) spoke on behalf of the Borough of Cambridge. Addressing the meeting, the Lord Lieutenant (Capt. R. G. Briscoe) drew applause when he said, turning to the Royal visitor: "I doubt if you, in all your tours up and down the country, have ever seen a finer sample of British womanhood and girlhood."

The Duchess presented Good Service Half-Diamonds and Two-year Armbands to over 70 girls, and delighted everybody with a few informal words of congratulation and encouragement. The Chairman of the W.A.E.C. (W. C. Jackson, Esq.) voiced the vote of thanks, saying how all his doubts as to the suitability of women taking the place of men had been overcome.

An amusing touch was given to the proceedings by a white terrier dog who

obviously wished to be adopted as the Land Army's mascot, as not only did he take part in the parade, but he even sat on the platform with the Duchess!

A grand day ended with an E.N.S.A. concert and tea (ably supplied by the W.V.S.) and one Cambridge girl has since written to say that she tackled her job on the following Monday morning with renewed vigour and resolution.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Two hundred volunteers attended a very enjoyable Rally at Welshpool on May 29th. After tea Miss Owen, County Chairman, presided while Major W. M. Marriott, O.B.E., Chairman of the Committee, presented Good Service badges and congratulated the girls on their fine work. He generously promised £50 to the Montgomeryshire contribution to the Fund. Mr. Bradbury, Labour Officer, read a letter from Mr. H. E. Harrison, Chairman of the Labour Section. Mrs. Powell and Mrs. J. C. Jones, district representatives, thanked Miss Owen and Major Marriott.

Miss E. A. Evans, County Secretary, was unfortunately absent through illness, so much of the success of the Rally was due to Miss Owen and Mrs. J. H. Vaughan, County Organiser.

WANTED. Racing bicycle, good Condition. Cyclo or Derailleur gears preferred. Hewitt, Tyre Farm, Mickle Trafford.

AT LINCOLN

On Saturday, May 29th, about 140 Lindsey volunteers gathered in the beautiful old castle grounds in Lincoln for their rally, presided over by the Chairman, Mrs. Wintringham, who gave everybody a delightful welcome and opened the proceedings with an inspiring speech.

The Committee and County Staff had invited Major Proby, Liaison Officer to the Ministry and Sir John Vigor Fox, Chairman of the Lindsey W.A.C., to meet the girls—and two well-known farmers, Mr. Charles Dickenson and Mr. Tom Scholey, were also invited to speak in support of the W.L.A., which is doing such excellent work in their great farming county. Employing farmers and their wives were also among the guests.

All volunteers with two or more years' experience were presented to Major Proby, who gave much encouragement and spoke in high praise of the achievements of the W.L.A. throughout the period of war. Some friendly rivalry and amusing witticisms were indulged in by farmers Dickenson and Scholey, the latter in his speech "putting over" a winner by saying that "he knew where the best Land Army girl was and that place was *not* on Mr. Dickenson's farm."

Sir John Fox thanked the speakers, and spoke of the need for still further effort on the land ere we could win through to victory, and the Vice-Chairman, Lady Beryl Groves, in supporting the vote of thanks, extended this also to the unseen numbers of farmers' wives, cottage wives, hostel staffs and all others who helped so greatly in the daily round of work for and with the W.L.A. The proceedings finished with an excellent tea in Eastgate Hall, to which the volunteers marched.

Young Farmers' Clubs are being formed everywhere and they would be delighted to welcome Land Girls. Any Land Girl thinking of joining can find out the name and address of the nearest Young Farmers' Club Leader from her W.L.A. County Office.

A Cornish volunteer called the attention of two of the men working with her to a particularly beautiful and striking sunset. They looked at her and at one another, then one said, "You know, there's places specially built for people like you."

"Athene Palace, Bucharest." By R. G. Waldeck. (Constable, 9s.)

"Late and Soon." By E. M. Delafield (Macmillan, 8s. 6d.)

One gets a new picture of the Nazis from "Athene Palace, Bucharest." This is because the Nazis were on their best behaviour in Rumania, which they did not wish to conquer, but only to keep quiet, so that they could draw on its oil and other supplies without trouble. Accordingly, they sent their most civilised specimens there, and tried to interfere in internal affairs as little as possible; one of them told the author (an American) that they refused to play "nursemaid" to Rumania—which shows once again how little the Germans understand the business of empire-building, and how wise Hitler was if, as she was also told, he was reluctant to destroy Britain because he wanted to keep the British Empire for Europe and thought no other country could run it. This is an amusing story (with the grim relief of horrors, for once, not Nazi, but purely local) how the Germans failed to remain benevolent on-lookers and became hopelessly involved in the feuds and intrigues of the country, with loss and delay to their precious supplies. The author (then a neutral) liked some of the Germans that she met, finding several who detested many Nazi actions, while thinking the régime "a good thing" on the whole. When she informed one lofty personage that in America they did not believe in the right of the strong to harm the weak, he beamed and said, "I like to think that there is a great and rich people which can afford the luxury of being good." Fortunately, it is sometimes still more expensive not to be.

Valentine Arbell in "Late and Soon" is a woman of charming incompetence in practical matters, but of undoubted social tact; that is to say (since the story is of the present time) she is a middle-aged woman and a "lady" in the old sense. Her two daughters, in their several ways, are highly competent and have no manners worth mentioning. One of them is quite savagely hostile to her; the other treats her with detached indulgence. But to Rory Lonergan, the fascinating Irish colonel who is billeted on them, she means something that her daughters do not, since he, too, is middle aged. It cannot often happen in real life that the two types of women are so strongly contrasted in one family, but everyone will recognise them none the less, and their clash makes an interesting story full of humour and pathos with the issue as exciting as a thriller.

M. JAEGER.

SCOTTISH NOTES

Ten Scottish Land Girls, as well as their escort, will long remember the 3rd of July, 1943, and the experience of having tea at Buckingham Palace and talking with the Queen and the Princesses. They were thrilled with it all and were proud to note how interested Her Majesty was in their work, and in the different districts from which they came. They returned to their jobs with a renewed enthusiasm, determined to carry on as long as their services are required in Scotland's fields.

Everybody will be proud to learn that the Queen has honoured Scotland further by sending a donation to our W. & B. Fund.

ABERDEEN & ELLON.—The magnificent sum of £127 5s. has been raised for the W. & B. Fund by dances and concerts at Bucksburn and Old Meldrum, a Cafe Chantant in Aberdeen, a collection and a gift.

ALFORD & DEESIDE.—Wilhelmina Dickson, Glassel, organised a dance for the W. & B. Fund which raised £8 2s. 6d. F. Cuthbertson has contributed 10s., M. Beaton 5s. and L. Marshall 5s. The proceeds of a dance at Ballater sponsored by Myrtle Abernethy amounted to another £25 5s. 6d. for the Fund.

ANGUS.—£28 7s. has been received for the W. & B. Fund, made up as follows:—£11 7s. donated by members and farmers; £13. from a dance organised by Downfield Nurseries girls; £4. from Inverkeilor W.L.A. Club.

ARGYLL.—48 South Argyll girls made a good show at Lochgilphead Wings for Victory Parade in spite of unpropitious weather. An excellent lunch and high tea were provided at the Tea Rooms, Lochgilphead. About 12 girls attended a similar parade at Dunoon.

AYRSHIRE.—£2 has been sent for the W. & B. Fund from the Kilmarnock W.L.A. Club collecting box. Land Girls took part in the Ayr Wings for Victory Parade.

BERWICKSHIRE.—£4 14s. from the private farms and £3 13s. 6d. from the hostels have been contributed by Berwickshire girls towards the W. & B. Fund. The girls in this County keep up a steady contribution in monthly collections.

CAITHNESS.—A competition run in aid of the W. & B. Fund has resulted in a gift of £6 14s. 6d. with best wishes from Caithness.

DUMFRIESHIRE.—Violet Neely, a Land Girl at Riggmuir, Gretna, showed great presence of mind and bravery in saving her employer's little son when he was attacked by a bull. The boy had run to fetch in the cows when the bull twice attacked and knocked him down. Violet rushed in and rescued him without thought to herself and both reached the fence, shaken, but little the worse of an adventure which might have been serious but for Violet's prompt action.

Mrs. Fleming, Becks, entertained the girls in her area to tea at Morrison's Cafe, Langholm, when G.S. Badges were presented by Lady Milne Home.

A whist drive and dance organised by members at Holywood has contributed £10 8s. to the W. & B. Fund.

DUNBARTON & RENFREW.—Paisley L. G.'s Club had a wet but successful picnic to Glentyon, Kilbarchan. At the bi-monthly meeting, Miss Agnes Meikle gave an interesting talk on "Farm and Garden Pests."

E. FIFE.—The matron and girls at Lathones Hostel have made a splendid effort for the W. & B. Fund and raised £50.

A beet singling competition has been held at Newburgh.

A gratified potato grower at Newburgh writes: "It would have been quite impossible for me to have dressed 70 tons of potatoes at this time of year without very severely neglecting my ordinary field work. To get 40 tons dressed by the W.L.A. made all the difference. Please allow me to state how much I appreciated the girls' work which was really of a very high standard. Their willingness, punctuality and standard of work is such as to make them a vital help in our agriculture."

KINCARDINESHIRE.—Dances organised by the girls in the Durris, Arbuthnot and Fordoun areas have contributed £33 10s. 9d. towards the W. & B. Fund and £6 10s. 6d. has also been received from Land Girls throughout the County.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—A dance got up by Catherine Lang and the Lauriston girls has made £8 5s. for the W. & B. Fund and another at Dalry raised £6., while a concert and dance organised by the girls at Whinnyliggate has added the fine sum of £25 2s. 6d.

LANARKSHIRE.—One of Scotland's largest tomato growers, Mr. C. H. Gilchrist of Kennington is very complimentary about his L.G.'s. "They are," he says, "proving first-rate workers and very keen."

NAIRNSHIRE.—In presenting G.S. badges to L.G.'s, before a parade in Nairn, Col. the Hon. Ian Campbell congratulated the girls on their appearance, their enthusiasm and their good work, stressing the importance of the last. At the parade the L.A. elicited a spontaneous round of applause as they passed the Saluting Point.

ROXBURGHSHIRE.—The girls at Cavers Hostel have sent £6 2s. for the W. & B. Fund.

STIRLING & CLACKMANNAN.—Miss Aitkenhead, Agricultural Organiser for the County, has started a series of talks on agricultural subjects to the girls at Fairhill Hostel: it is hoped she will also visit Cambus Hostel in the same way later on.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.—This county had a turnip thinning competition, and the W.L.A. members finished on time with the other competitors. The prizes were 1. Mrs. McFetridge (who has been in the L.A. only two months) 2. Noel Blair 3. Susanne McLeish.

Benevolent Fund

On July 31st the Fund totalled £31,864 17s. 8d. The monthly total was £2,788 8s. 10d. Northamptonshire has the highest total £1,115 4s. 1d. West Sussex the highest monthly total £475 19s. 4d.

We congratulate NORTHAMPTONSHIRE on retaining the lead this month, though WARWICKSHIRE is a good runner-up and now becomes the second county to reach the £1,000 mark. BEDS, NORTHANTS, OXON, STAFFS, WARWICK and W. SUSSEX secured Farm Sunday collections which benefitted the Fund by over £100. Volunteers in KENT and HERTS have generously contributed a proportion of their first week's rise in wage. KENT contributions already amounting to £70. ESSEX W.A.C. has given £86 6s. W. SUSSEX appeal to firms and employers has resulted in £180 to date, a number of employers having given large donations. YORKSHIRE has sent its largest contribution so far, amounting to over £200. CORNWALL, PEMBROKESHIRE, and SHROPSHIRE have raised sums between £20—£60 as results of single dances.

First contributions are £25 from the Scilly Isles, raised by Miss Searle and £33 from HOLLAND (newly separated from Kesteven) raised by SUTTON BRIDGE Hostel. HEREFORD sends £23 10s, from the Ledbury British Legion and BUCKS Farmers' Union County Committee £21.

Her Majesty, the Queen has honoured the Fund's first birthday by sending her second donation. Follow her lead and send your presents quickly—the list is still open!

WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS

DIVISION 3.—Members have been taking part in great numbers at all the "Wings for Victory" Parades. Hayne Hostel held the opening function for the "Wings for Victory" week in their district. Very successful dances have been held at Lostwithiel, Hayne Hostel, Boyton Hostel, Puddletown Hostel. The girls are rehearsing for a concert to be held shortly at Hayne. Contributions to the Benevolent Fund are coming in regularly.

DIVISION 5A.—As this is the first time W.T.C. notes from this Division have appeared in the "Land Girl," here are a few items of general interest. This Division covers Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, and the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire. This is a very large area, and as W.T.C. members are working in all parts of it, both with timber merchants and with the Ministry of Supply, the Welfare Officer has not been able to see members as often as she would like. Some of you have already received a visit from Miss K. M. Salmon, who has recently been appointed Assistant Welfare Officer. She has for the past year been one of the uniform staff at Bristol, and is now dealing, among other things, with all uniform questions in the Division. While on the subject of uniform there may be a few girls who imagine that a Welfare Officer's interest in her begins and ends with her uniform. She would like to assure you that she is anxious to help you in all your problems, and will welcome every opportunity of getting to know you more personally.

Our first Divisional Hostel has been opened at Ripon, near the lovely old ruins of Fountains Abbey. Although we have as superior Miss de Trafford, who has held a commission in the A.T.S. for four years, there is no foundation in the rumour that the girls are now learning to salute and do early morning P.T. All the girls already in residence are thoroughly enjoying it, and we are looking forward to some very happy times there.

At **Culford**, we have found holding a Ranger evening each week very successful. As so many here are trainees who only stay four or five weeks we cannot hold a proper company meeting or do badge work but we do country dancing, morse, keep-fit, gym, campfire nature rambles, supper hikes and outdoor games. We have a surprising number of ex-Guides and Rangers who come here for their training and find these meetings a great asset in helping them to become friends. Resident Rangers have a great opportunity for real Ranger service.

County News

BEDS.—Daisy Beard (13620) and Pat Johnstone (21121) went to the party given by H.M. The Queen at Buckingham Palace. They both started work in 1939. An interesting sequel to this was that Pat Johnstone was chosen to broadcast to America last week. There is no W.L.A. in America as yet, and the American Commentator who visited Pat on her farm collected a story of a Land Girl's day on a farm. Of course her visit to Buckingham Palace took a prominent part in her story. On Farm Sunday, two parades were held in Bedfordshire—one at Bedford and one at Luton. About 400 girls took part in the parades which included tableaux and exhibitions of farm instruments of all kinds and ages, live-stock, farm produce, and tractors driven by L.G.'s. One particularly attractive turn-out was a model work-shop mounted on a tractor, drawn by a Fordson, driven by D. Robinson (103895). The Wardown Park girls from Luton, marching with their tools at the slope made a striking picture. Concerts were held in the evening and the proceeds of the day amounted to £40 15s. 0d. for our Benevolent Fund. We have opened two new Hostels recently, at Houghton Conquest and at Hulcote, with Miss Lamb and Mrs. Whatling as the respective Wardens.

BERKS.—Four long service volunteers represented us at Buckingham Palace—one is a shepherd, one is in charge of a large number of pigs, and the

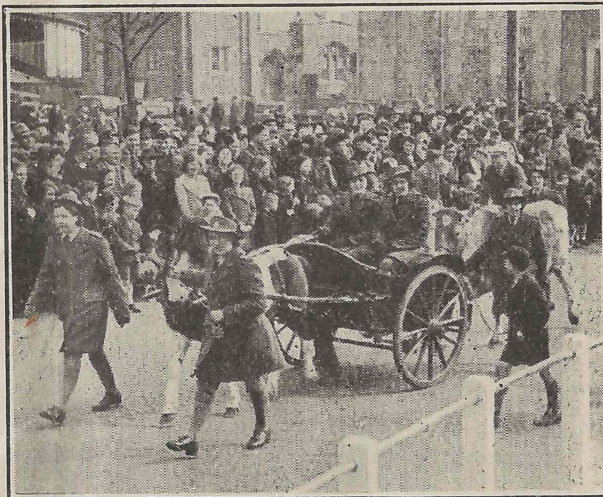
two others are dairy experts as well as doing general farming. It was an unforgettable day for them all. Wings for Victory Weeks Parades have been well attended, and Ascot members even had drill instruction previously from a Guards sergeant, and made a very smart unit. Windsor girls had the honour of taking part in a procession at which the King took the salute. Six new hostels have been opened and several more will be ready during the next two months. We have had some delightful drawings sent us for the competition for suggestions for a W.L.A. Benevolent Fund wrapper for a Collecting Tin, and we hope to make a selection shortly. There is one new venture in the way of a W.L.A. Club, where employers have become honorary members, and on social occasions have the right to attend the meetings. It will be interesting to see how this experiment works.

BUCKS.—Those from Buckinghamshire who were fortunate enough to attend the Party at Buckingham Palace on July 3rd. feel that they have had a most happy and memorable experience, and an opportunity that was deeply appreciated. On "Farmer's Sunday," celebrations, in which the girls joined, took place in various parts of the County.

An extensive Winter programme of lectures, entertainments and classes of various kinds—including physical training has been prepared for W.L.A. Members living in hostels and in billets and much interest in these has been shown among the girls.

CHESHIRE.—Pleasure has been expressed by Cheshire Volunteers and Agriculturists that our County Secretary was awarded the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours. In the intervals of hay making volunteers all over the County have been taking a very active part in Wings for Victory. Parades in many cases have been well drilled by instructors from military or airforce Camps and H. G.

The Bring and Buy sale held in the garden of the Bishop's House was a great success. The Chester W.L.A. Club has decided to close down until September when the usual activities will recommence. On July 2nd. Miss Manley and Miss Dewhurst attended the opening by the Bishop of Chester of a very well equipped Club for service girls at Foregate Street, Chester. W.L.A. volunteers will be as welcome here as they already are at the Watergate Street Club, where Mrs. Halifax is the presiding genius. The Romily Club have now made their H.Q., at the Guide Hut, Gaywood Lane where all visitors are welcome, until September, meetings have been curtailed to once a month. The collection at the Farm Sunday Service at Nantwich was for the Benevolent Fund and we have already received ten shillings from one volunteer who could not be present.



*Wings for Victory at Weston, Somerset
"Photograph by Warrilow."*

THE LAND GIRL

L. V. Crossland, 99262 sends a very interesting account of the cheerful life and happy residents at Cholmondeley Hostel, despite no trains, no daily papers and no cinemas and 60 hours work a week. She calls it "Who wouldn't be a Land Girl" a fine testimony to the spirit of Cholmondeley.

DERBYS.—Various dances have been got up by kind and energetic people in aid of the Benevolent Fund; the latest of these, got up at Matlock by the County Staff and organised by Miss Purslow, was a very successful evening and resulted in the sum of £30. Mrs. Wright has instituted Sunday afternoon tea parties for the girls in her area which are proving most popular. Bakewell has formed a W.L.A. club and we hope now that more girls in other districts will follow Bakewell's example.

CORNWALL.—Congratulations to all those members of the W.L.A. who carried off awards at the Y.F.C. demonstration at Tencreek, Liskeard in June. The classes in which they excelled were Clean-milking, Hoeing, and Manure-spreading, K. M. Chilwell (W.L.A. 51845) giving an outstanding performance in the last named. L.Gs. have attended in encouraging numbers two recent meetings of the local branch of the Women's Farm and Garden Association, the first in June at Morval House, Looe, where by the kindness of Miss Tremayne, a tea-party was arranged. The second was held in July at Port Eliot, St. Germans, at the kind invitation of Lady St. Germans. Tea was preceded by a demonstration of clean-milking, given by Miss W. Nicholas, County Dairy Organiser, and afterwards the party was conducted round the extensive gardens by the head gardener, who was a mine of information. Two successful W.L.A. Dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund have been organised here recently, one by the rat-catchers of Grampound, who made a contribution of £9 to the Fund, and another by the L.A. club at Liskeard, who made a profit of £15. It is hoped that other clubs in the county will follow this lead. Land Girls in Tresco, Isles of Scilly, have formed a company of entertainers under the guidance of one of them, K. Searle, who some months ago invented and manipulated a clever marionette show. "Farmyard Frolics" is the name of the very clever entertainment given by this company and it has brought in £25 to the Benevolent Fund—a really splendid result as the area is so lightly populated.

CUM. & WES.—We regret very much to report that Miss Fletcher, warden of Bolton Hall, died on July 11th. in Whitehaven Infirmary. Miss Fletcher is a great loss to us; she had never allowed anyone to suspect that she was not well until she was suddenly taken ill.

Millgrove and Scaleby Hall Hostels opened on July 12th. and Causewayhead, our fifteenth, on July 26th. We have still gumboots for people in particularly wet jobs, but a local representative's certificate is required. We can now issue our News Letter every two months only, owing to paper restrictions; no issue in August. Farm Sunday, July 4th. was celebrated in Carlisle by happy co-operation between the W.A.C. and the organisers of a Youth Service to close Carlisle's "Holidays at Home" week. L.G. members of Y.F. Clubs and other young people attended the service along with other youth organisations and afterwards the speech of the Minister of Agriculture was broadcast and a message from the heads of the churches read. We hope that many young people were given ideas of helping with this year's harvest, encouraged by the presence of a bevy of healthy and happy Land Girls.

DENBIGH.—The two volunteers who went to Buckingham Palace were Mrs. Bennison, enrolled in June 1940, who has done particularly good general farm work on the same farm for two years, and Miss Laycock, enrolled in December 1939 who has been on a lonely mountain farm for three years, her nearest post office being four miles away. We were very proud when Miss Laycock was specially presented to Her Majesty for her good service. The Benevolent Fund has been well

supported during the last three months. The Llangollen Club gave a dance in June and sent £11 16s. 6d. and I am told that The Rhosnesney Hostel is sending us £35 10s. 0d. as well as various subscriptions from employers and members. We have several gangs installed for what has come to be known as "The Kent Threshing Scheme." It is hoped that by the autumn all full time threshing sets will operate with four girls attached to each. We wish these gangs success and hope that they will keep up the reputation gained by the girls in the eastern end of the County, who have previously been employed on threshing. Prejudice has to be overcome in lonely areas where hitherto land girls were seldom seen. It will be hard work and many of the billets are tucked away in the Welsh Hills, but we know we can make a success of it if we grit our teeth and remember what others are doing in this war.

DORSET.—Three more Hostels—Rothesay House, Dorchester, North Farm, Yeovil Bridge, and Woodyates, Handley—have been opened and we hope that these will prove additional centres for social activities. A Rally at Sherborne (with Milking Competition), a Party given by Mrs. Golledge, one of the Sherborne area representatives, and a Dance at Wimborne for which Mrs. Sumpson worked very hard, have all been great successes. It is hoped that the County Welfare Fund will benefit to a considerable extent by some of these efforts. There was a well attended Broadcast Service in Puddletown Parish Church on Rogation Sunday; the Bishop of Sherborne paid tribute to the important work which the W.L.A. is doing. Visits to Bovington Camp to talk to the A.T.S. have been made by some of our girls and even rat-catching experiences were eagerly listened to. "Wings for Victory" Processions in the county have been well supported by the W.L.A. Bridport Club has been opened with a most attractive autumn and winter programme. "Farm Sunday" was attended in Dorchester by many of our girls. Miss Bonor spoke to the assembly at Maumbury Rings, reminding them of the work which the W.L.A. girls are doing, and thanking farmers and their wives for the manner in which they had helped and welcomed them. We are delighted to learn that Miss Colwell is making good progress after her serious and unfortunate accident. We wish her the best of luck and are very pleased to welcome Miss Kennedy who has come from Shropshire to help us during Miss Colwell's absence.

ESSEX.—Since our last news we have exported 325 volunteers as well as meeting all our needs for employment. We now have 28 hostels and 9 more will open during the next 6 weeks. Our volunteers who went to Buckingham Palace were D. Hawes, (shepherdess), J. Hawes, (W.A.E.C. Leader), E. Beswick, (Tractor driver), Mrs. French, (Fruit framing), P. Boyce, (Assistant Manageress, Silverpines Poultry Farm) and Mrs. Davies who is in charge of a dairy herd. Miss Baker, Warden of Princess Louise Hostel, was one of the two Wardens to go to the Palace. In July we had the great pleasure of a visit from Mrs. Jenkins who attended our County Committee meeting and was a great help and encouragement to us. We are very sorry to lose Mrs. Herdman, our Hostels Organiser, who has done such splendid work; we welcome as our two new Organisers, Mrs. Cubitt, (formerly on our office staff) and Miss Bentley. Area meetings have been held in 7 centres. Mrs. Phillips from the Central Council for Health Education has given some very popular talks. 50 volunteers have received training at Leaders' Courses and others have taken short courses in pest destruction which is becoming one of our most important tasks. Mrs. V. Gale aimed at £100 in her savings group and reached over £1,300—can any volunteer beat that? We have received generous subscriptions and donations for the Benevolent and Welfare Funds and should like to thank the many people who have worked so nobly for these two causes.

THE LAND GIRL

HANTS.—Please **BOOK** Saturday, Sept. 25th, when there will be a great Rally, with the Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Winchester Cathedral. The Bishop of Winchester will preach, the collection will be for the Benevolent Fund, and there will be a Parade and speeches. G.S. Badges have been widely distributed, sometimes with parties. A typical note from a farmer of his Land Girl was "she is a grand girl and there's nothing she cannot tackle." Club Secretaries will be getting busy over winter programmes: a panel of speakers has been compiled and is now available. An "Ideas for Clubs" meeting will be held in Winchester on Oct. 16th, to which all Club Leaders, Secretaries, Treasurers, Committee members and Representatives are invited and we shall also be pleased to see volunteers who are as yet unattached to a club but would like one in their area. Talks will be on Why have a club, Handicrafts, Games, How to form a discussion group. Notices will be sent with Sept. News Letter.

HEREFORD.—The fortunate ones to go to Buckingham Palace were Pat Curtis W.L.A. 3190 who has worked continuously for Mr. S. C. Andrews, Sutton St. Nicholas, since October 1939 and who represented employees of private farmers, and D. Collings W.L.A. 46775 representing hostel employees who has worked for the H.W. A.C. since July 1941 when the first hostel in this country was opened.

From the office point of view, the chief event of the last two months has been a "general post." The increasing numbers of volunteers had produced such overcrowding of equipment, that fresh premises had to be sought. The uniform department has moved to more commodious rooms within five minutes walk of the main office. The increased office staff has re-arranged itself in the vacated rooms. We congratulate that "live wire" ratcatcher Mrs. Whistance W.L.A. 70854, not only on leading a detachment of volunteers at a parade on Farm Sunday; but also on writing a short article published in the June number of "The Dairy Farmer." Volunteers working in and around Hereford will be pleased to hear that Mrs. Hodgson, Sutton Hill, Fownhope, has consented to become their Committee member in place of Mrs. Russell resigned.

HOLLAND.—A volunteer from the Boston and one from the Spalding area, represented Holland at the Queen's party and had a very happy day which they will never forget. In the "Wings for Victory" weeks, the girls at Swineshead W.L.A. Hostel raised £100 and they took part in the parade with Boston W.L.A. members at Boston. In the Spalding area £100 was also raised by mem-



It is much regretted that, owing to a printer's error, the photograph on page 13 of the July issue was wrongly described. The photograph of Swineshead volunteers appears above—last month's photograph was of four volunteers from Rockingham Hostel, Northants.

bers of the W.L.A., and girls from Bank House, Gosberton, and Holland House, Spalding, joined with other volunteers in Agriculture's Parade in Spalding. Well saved, Holland W.L.A.! On Farm Sunday two demonstrations were held—one in Boston and one at Long Sutton, and members of the W.L.A. took an active part; never did two companies of the W.L.A. look smarter or march with such grace and precision! Tributes were paid at both meetings to the excellent work done in the County by the W.L.A. A whist drive and dance was held on the 16th July, organised by the Warden and members at the Villa, Sutton Bridge, assisted by Mrs. V. Hailey, the Local Representative. It was a great success and £33 was raised for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund—a most creditable result! Mrs. M. A. Kettlewell, County Secretary, presented the prizes.

The Hostel Wardens in Holland were kindly invited by Kesteven to attend a most interesting and helpful conference held at Leasingham on the 22nd July at which Mrs. Grace (Headquarters) was present.

HUNTS. CAMBS. & ELY.—Miss J. West was one of the volunteers who took part in the M of I Empire Broadcast, having originally lived in British Columbia, Canada. After meeting press correspondents at the new London University Building, the L.G's. went to the B.B.C. to record their speeches and were photographed at the Ministry of Agriculture's allotment in Hyde Park.

Mrs. Godfrey Phillips of the Central Council of Health Education gave a series of talks in the hostels in June which were greatly appreciated. Farm Sunday parades were held on July 4th. Benevolent Fund dances and efforts are going well. Other news includes:—Miss E. Mortram, W.L.A. 78764, is described as being "as capable as any man;" while Miss E. Moritz, W.L.A. 56696, is very proud of the fact that she has been taken to Shows where she grooms the cows and shows the cows in the ring. Miss M. J. Clark, W.L.A. 109682, was put in charge of four glasshouses after only two months service in the L.A.

E. KENT.—The finals of the Kent Milking Competition were held at Blacksole Farm, Herne Bay, on June 10th. Eleven girls took part, having obtained over 90 per cent. in the preliminary rounds and top marks in the semi-final rounds. Miss J. Drysdale won the cup, with Miss M. Ealdon and Miss Z. Hill as runners-up. Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Travers acted as judges. Capt. Barkworth gave an interesting lecture and demonstration on Clean Milk Production to the assembled company while the milking was taking place, and afterwards everyone adjourned to the W.L.A. Hostel where Lady Cornwallis presented the cup and prizes, and Lord Cornwallis presented certificates of efficiency to the volunteers who had gained over 70 per cent. marks in the initial round. Mrs. Tritton has once again given one of her very special parties at Godmersham Park for our long-service girls; over 100 volunteers with five and six diamonds spent a very happy afternoon. Congratulations to Miss R. Blyth, Miss D. Harris, Miss S. Bullen, Miss M. Thurley and Mrs. O'Connor, who have successfully completed the Forewoman's course and have now started on their new and important duties.

W. KENT.—Our appeal to each girl to send 1s. from her first week's wage when the increased rate came into operation at the end of June, is meeting with a good response. We hope that the girls who have been so busy haying that they have not had time to get to the Post Office to buy stamps will be able to do so before harvesting begins. We appreciate the many nice letters received with the donations. Several of our W. Kent girls have been materially helped by the Benevolent Fund and we are most anxious to raise the amount contributed by the county to a much larger figure, in keeping with the number employed in Kent. The Maidstone district girls got up a very successful dance on June 8th, and handed over the amount of £85 7s., £50 of which they sent to the Benevolent Fund. Friningham Hostel, where the

first Forewomen's course was held, entertained Lady Cornwallis, Deputy Chairman, Mrs. Heron Maxwell, the Organising Secretaries, and Lord Cornwallis, Chairman of the K.W.A.E.C.) with a well-acted and most amusing charade, a skit on hoeing, the word being "Food Production." The second course for Forewomen is now in progress, the first having proved a most successful one. The lecturers and instructors gave the students great praise for their hard work and attention during the course.

LANCS.—The Lancashire County Office was honoured by a visit from H. R. H. Duchess of Gloucester on June 2nd, when she inspected a Guard of Honour of fifty volunteers. Members of the Committee were presented by Lady Worsley Taylor and Her Royal Highness toured the office showing great interest in all the departments.

KESTEVEN—Our volunteers who went to Buckingham Palace were Edith Downes, tractor driver from Honington, Mary Thorpe working at Irnham and Ella Waldron of Uffington, market gardener—all have been in the county since 1939. Large contingents from Sleaford, Grantham, Bourne, Stamford and Lincoln attended parades on Farm Sunday; we have been lucky enough to have one hostel trained in marching by an Army officer. At Sleaford, volunteers took part in a Threshing Demonstration, a Tools and Implements Display and tractor driving. They also drove tractors in the Grantham display.

Many Hostels have been holding Anniversary Parties, and they have turned these to good account for the Benevolent Fund. Allington raised £20 at their party, North Kyme £12 10s., and Moorlands £8 16s. Girls and Wardens will soon no doubt have an opportunity of meeting Miss Lee Evans who has joined the office staff as County Organiser to help in the ever increasing work. We all wish her every success in her work, and hope she will be very happy in Kesteven.

LEICS. & RUT.—We offer our very sincere congratulations to our County Secretary, Miss Dorothy M. Elliot, who was awarded the M.B.E. in The Birthday Honours. Those of us who know her fully realise her organising capabilities and we feel very proud that this honour has been conferred on our leader. On Rogation Sunday a number of girls found their way to the little church in the farmyard at Potters Marston Hall and after a special service Mrs. Fox, the district representative, provided an excellent tea. At the Cathedral in Leicester 100 girls attended the morning service. The Land Army birthday party given by The Queen at Buckingham Palace was a real thrill for those who went from these counties and it was an added joy to meet the two Princesses. On Farm Sunday 250 girls took part in the procession in Leicester, and other processions were held at Melton Mowbray, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Hinckley, Uppingham, Oakham and Stamford. A letter was sent to the Secretary from the Chairman of the Executive Committee thanking L.Gs. for their co-operation and complimenting them on their smart appearance. We are hoping to open our new uniform storage hut this month, which will relieve the very crowded conditions in the offices at 132, Regents Road.

LINDSEY—We have opened three new hostels—Laceby, Revesby Gardens House and West Butterwick, making a total of 9 in the county, and there will be 4 more opened within the next month or so. Laceby opened with a two weeks' course for girls aspiring to be Leaders in the W.A.E.C. hostels. The volunteers were taken round several large farms and shown many different types of farm work and farm implements. They had lectures on agricultural subjects, the organisation of W.L.A. and social hygiene. The lighter side of life was not neglected, and there were talks on handicrafts and drama and one evening the students gave a concert to the other volunteers in the hostel. The keenest interest was shown in this course, and it proved so successful that the holding of other courses on somewhat similar lines is being considered.

County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total			Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Yorks N. & W.	382	17	1	4405
Kent	458	14	10	4169
Essex	523	3	1	3751
Surrey	742	13	6	2329
E. Sussex ..	58	14	6	2298
Hertfordshire ..	363	18	5	2288
Leics. 1952	400	15	10	2274
Rut. 322				
Hampshire ..	626	0	7	2115
Worcestershire ..	563	15	2	1857
Warwickshire ..	1009	0	5	1814
Northants ..	1115	4	1	1800
Somerset ..	210	18	0	1793
Buckinghamshire	829	18	10	1778
Devon	391	17	6	1665
Cheshire	477	0	4	1566
W. Sussex ..	697	16	3	1563
Wiltshire ..	315	17	3	1538
Lancashire ..	265	7	8	1478
Norfolk	734	11	11	1446
Gloucestershire	695	14	1	1406
Cornwall	118	19	6	1311
Berkshire ..	791	12	9	1292
North'I'd ..	153	17	2	1276
Hunts 320	399	19	2	1276
Cambs 556				
Ely 400				
Notts	157	3	8	1261
Yorks E. ..	1	5	0	1124
E. Suffolk ..	720	0	3	1114
Cumbs. & West.	227	14	3	1071
Oxon	280	0	0	1053
Salop	303	6	9	1035
Durham	118	11	5	1030
Kesteven ..	184	7	9	1002
Dorset	220	16	0	867
Staffs.	136	1	7	847
Lindsey	407	14	4	814
Beds.	255	5	11	792
Glam.	415	14	6	764
W. Suffolk ..	626	5	8	646
Monmouth ..	160	15	2	634
Herefordshire ..	384	17	11	601
Holland	159	17	3	588
London & Middx.	237	4	8	581
N. Wales ..	546	14	5	541
Flintshire ..	179	12	0	512
Denbighshire ..	224	13	0	505
Derbyshire ..	215	14	11	504
Pembrokeshire ..	106	4	0	447
I.O.W.	29	8	0	428
S. Wales ..	340	7	10	420
Brec. & Rad. ..	81	11	11	326
Mont.	144	19	0	243
Timber Corps ..	151	14	7	4170

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