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## SOUTHERN FRONT

IF MATILDA of the Cautionary Tales "told such dreadful lies it made one gasp and stretch one's eyes" Herr Goebbels' efforts in the same direction ought to make one's eyes pop out of one's head without hope of ever getting back again. We need not, therefore, attach undue importance to Goebbels' tales of new weapons the sight of which made his heart stop (unfortunately only for a moment) but we can be sure that the Germans will do their utmost to carry out his threats against this country.

The object behind the flying bomb and its possible successors is simple—it is to induce the "civilians" of this country to throw up the sponge and beg their leaders and Allies to make peace—or at least, give up their work and demand diversion of effort from the war fronts to their own protection.

The answer given by the Women's Land Army to this fatuous hope is typical of the whole country. Southern England contains headquarters, several county offices and thousands of volunteers. All of these are getting on with their job and will continue to do so, even if sometimes in tin-hats or basements.

As in danger of defeat in 1940 and 1941, so in 1944, in certainty of victory, the citizens of this country take their place in the front line, confident that by so doing they will stop Herr Goebbels' heart for a good deal more than one moment, and proud to shew the herrenvolk how impotent such are to break the courage of a decadent democracy.

M. A. P.



## BIRDS AND FARMERS

*Sir William Beach Thomas, who has very kindly written this article for the LAND GIRL, was the pioneer of country journalism in popular newspapers. He was one of the four great Correspondents of the last war and his recent autobiography has fascinated a wide public.*

The human inhabitants of our island are of course not nearly so numerous as the birds. Probably blackbirds, chaffinches and starlings—to take only three species out of the several hundred—would amount to more than half our population. While most of the people live in the towns, most of the birds—in spite of the hosts of sparrows and starlings—live in the country. This implies that they are also much more wisely dispersed than we are. There are no slums (though here and there sparrows have been found building in flats made of grass and straw. The wide (and wise) dispersal of birds is helped by our hedges which are peculiarly typical of England, which is a sort of mosaic of rimmed right-angled figures. The hedges provide birds, as well as stock with shelter. They often make ideal nesting sites and they are plentiful sources of food. Where hedges are few birds often are few. For example, one of the best and most successful of farmers known to the writer of this, farms on the edge of the Fen country where the ditch takes the place of the hedge. He became concerned that his crops were suffering from a number of noxious insects owing to the comparative absence of birds. He therefore bred a certain number of pheasants and they multiplied exceedingly, taking to the sides of the ditches as kindly as to the woods they are supposed to need. The birds may be seen running about his farm almost like poultry. Since their multiplication—he shoots several hundred every winter—the insect trouble has quite disappeared.

Now this experience suggests that birds are a necessary ally to good farmers, though a good many people talk more loudly about the harm they do than the good they do. What is the truth about this? It is well to come down to hard, well-ascertained facts, before being in any degree sentimental—and it is tempting to be a little sentimental for birds are lovely beings, lovely in flight, lovely in colour and singularly interesting in their ways of life.

For a good many years a group of men of science have been investigating the food of birds; and the results have surprised even the most whole-hearted friends of birds. The

most unpopular sorts have been found to do a deal of good, at any rate at certain seasons of the year, and the best to do good on a larger scale than was thought. To begin with those about which criticism has been most severe. The sparrow, which eats a deal of corn just before harvest time, and even flies out into the country from towns for this purpose, feeds its young almost wholly on noxious insects. The little owl (which was introduced to England from Spain by several landowners) was generally accused of eating young birds. We now know that whatever harm it does its principal food is the beetle. Rooks have often been unpopular with farmers (and in the past have been poisoned as well as shot in large numbers) kill wire-worms, perhaps the worst of all insect enemies in grass districts, in quite fantastic numbers.

Some birds of course are rightly known as "birds of prey." The presence of either magpies or carrion crows (which are not very easy to distinguish by sight from the beneficent rooks) is or may be a very serious threat to any poultry farm; and jackdaws and jays are not to be welcomed. Nevertheless in spite of such exceptions it may be said that there is only one bird of which the general farmer need have any fears. That bird is the lovely, soft-voiced and indeed soft-billed bird, the pigeon or ring-dove. Our native birds of this species are not as a rule numerous enough to do much harm, but pigeons may come to us in hosts; and their power of consuming green crops is scarcely credible. One may occasionally, especially in the Eastern counties, see a turnip field that looks almost as if sheep had been hurdled on it, but it is only the green top that has gone, and you may have trouble to find a single plant unattacked. Even geese do not graze so voraciously as pigeons on a clover field.

No other bird, except sparrows round the edges of cornfields, do harm on the pigeon scale. When any particular bird is blamed, as sometimes larks are blamed for scratching up the young corn, it is a good plan to look for proof. The rooks that uproot a certain number of wheat plants may be searching for wire-worm or other grubs underneath, and many of those who have complained



## THE LAND GIRL

that such and such a crop has been ruined have found later that it was not a penny worse for the alleged damage.

It is a happy fact for the farmer that virtually all birds feed their young on insects, and one pair of such tiny birds as blue-tits, sometimes accused of eating flower buds, will get rid of over a thousand caterpillars or grubs in a day. One may easily imagine what would happen if there were no birds or indeed if there were many fewer birds. The wise cultivator will remember that in general the bird is a friend, even when he has to defend his peas from jays and hawfinches or his chicks from magpies or his clover from pigeons.

### JUST AN ORDINARY DAY.

"Joyce!" "Right, coming."

I lie for a few minutes trying to remember what day it is and what jobs are likely to be done. Then I hear the cows coming down the cartroad and make a grab for my clothes. A quick cup of tea and out to the sheds.

By the time I'm milking my second cow I'm fully awake, and I have to be as she's fidgety and not particular about putting her foot in the bucket. Milking finished, there are the hens to bed and water; of all the creatures on the farm, these are the only ones that I really dislike. It being market day, there are two hens to be caught and, amidst much fluttering and squawking, I manage to grab them. Whether I haven't the right technique for dealing with poultry I don't know, but one blighter manages to rear up her head as I'm tying her legs and gives me a vicious peck.

By this time the sun has risen over the woods and is reflected in the lake. The water fowl are out, some of them with their families behind. Coots, moorhens, widgeon, ducks and a couple of wild geese. There was a Sunday evening a few weeks ago when, after milking, I waded thigh deep through the rushes to a coot's nest for eggs for the children's collection. No, there is no need to raise your hands in horror at the thought of a land girl robbing birds' nests. The keeper has to go round in his boat to collect and destroy the eggs, otherwise the place would be swarming with them. As it is, numbers manage to survive.

After breakfast, across the fields to a neighbour's farm to help finish the threshing. There is a horrid moment when a pulley works loose and flies off the drum. The man whose head it

narrowly misses remarks laconically, "I shouldn't 've to come to work tomorrow if that had clapped me at th' side o' th' ear, should I?"

Then the rats began to run. One man shifts the old straw "steadle" whilst the rest of us stand round armed with sticks like a lot of excited schoolboys. Altogether 64 rats are accounted for, I having 6 to my credit. If anyone had told me two years ago that one day I should tread on a rat without turning a hair, I should have thought them crazy.

In the afternoon back to the endless singling, and am I relieved when it is time to take the cows down? I think I prefer milking to any other farm job.

The most welcome meal of the day, tea-time, after which I spend an amusing half hour watching the ducklings, hatched out some hours ago, being taught to eat (or is it drink) milk and oatmeal. They will persist in paddling in it and making grabs at each other.

I come back to earth with a start and realise I've got half-an-hour in which to make myself look less like a tramp and more like a girl. There's a mad scramble and I just manage it. One must not keep a neighbouring farmer's son waiting too long.

Derbyshire.

J. Wright, 61865.

### "Britain's Brain Trust," Howard Thomas. (Chapman & Hall, 15s.)

What is the great attraction of the B.B.C. Brains' Trust? Its success astonished everybody, not least those who started it. The chief attraction, I think, is the same as that which gathers a crowd around a dog-fight, or brings people out of their houses, regardless of risks and official scoldings, to see one of our fighters chase a doodle-bug across the sky. Howard Thomas, in this story of the Brains Trust, does not say that he chose the original members for their pugnacity, though he mentions other qualities he was looking for; but they were all warriors in their way. Joad, Huxley and Campbell, and yet trained and disciplined warriors who kept to the rules and so saved their verbal combats from degenerating into unintelligible slanging matches. Moreover it is a public fight—everyone has a chance to join in, if he or she can produce a question that pleases and stimulates sufficiently. With a little ingenuity, it is even possible to express one's own views quite forcibly in framing the question.

When there is added to this element of



sport, the belief that one is at the same time improving one's mind, listening to the Brains' Trust becomes one of those rare and delightful occasions when duty and pleasure coincide. Who would miss such an opportunity if he could help it?

Without immodesty, Howard Thomas makes it clear how greatly the success of the Brains Trust was due to this happy choice of the original members and their incomparable chairman. Later introductions have not all been equally successful, for good debaters are rare and still rarer speakers who can keep to the point, especially among politicians with a Cause

to push. Everyone has his own opinion about this, but it is interesting to learn the producer's views, fortified by an immense post-bag.

Mr. Thomas's attitude to his performers and their performances is naturally that of the showman, though he suggests also something of the awe of a hen who has inadvertently hatched out a young swan. And what went on behind the scenes makes as good a show for anyone interested in his fellow human-beings and their eternally odd behaviour as does a lively session of the Brains Trust itself.

M. Jaeger.

## MISS BAXTER AND I.—No. 10

Last month my friend Miss Baxter and I were invited to a Parade to have our new armlets presented by a General. Miss Baxter said did we think it would be General Eisenhower and I said it might be General Forces of the B.B.C. but our farmer said if we were going it was sure to be General Pandemonium.

The Home Guard and the Corporation Utilities were going to parade too and we asked our farmer if that would be the Town Council in their new Robes of Office but he said no, the Cleansing Department and the man from the gas works and he was to be in town anyway and there was nothing funny on at the pictures so we had better go.

Well we had never been to a Parade before because of the way Miss Baxter's breeches look from the side and mine from practically anywhere but we got my hat out of the corn chest in the stable and collected the three Service Badges and the one armlet that our farmer hadn't used to stuff up mouse holes in the granuary, and set off.

When we got to town we saw a soldier and I said would that be General Pandemonium but it was only Sandy the Cattleman who is in the Home Guard and was looking for the Parade too. Well, I asked some men if they knew where the Parade was and one said was it the Horses or the Fancy Dress we was entered for and another said was that Montgomery we had wi's and Sandy said aye was it, and to get away back to his ice-cream barrow afore he learned him the Reel of the 51st and then we went away and found the Parade for ourselves.

The Home Guard was first and the Land Army second with Miss Baxter in front with the banner which she said reminded her of the good old days when

she led her Bloodhound Patrol of the Girl Guides to a Church Parade only she had landed them in the morgue instead.

I was put in the back row in front of the Cleansing Department and the Gas Works and we must have left some corn in my hat because the Cleansing Department horse took a fancy to it and by the time we reached General Pandemonium I was in the back row of the Home Guard beside Sandy the Cattleman and the Cleansing Department horse was in the front row of the Land Army beside Miss Baxter.

Sandy said did I think this was the Derby? and I said yes, and I was Garden Path keeping a neck ahead of Ocean Swell and I was just telling him about my Cousin Bob (by Uncle Terrance out of Aunt Winnie) who was tossed at the Gold Cup at Ascot and Sandy was saying them bulls was treacherous brutes and was the Cup much dunted, when the General began to speak.

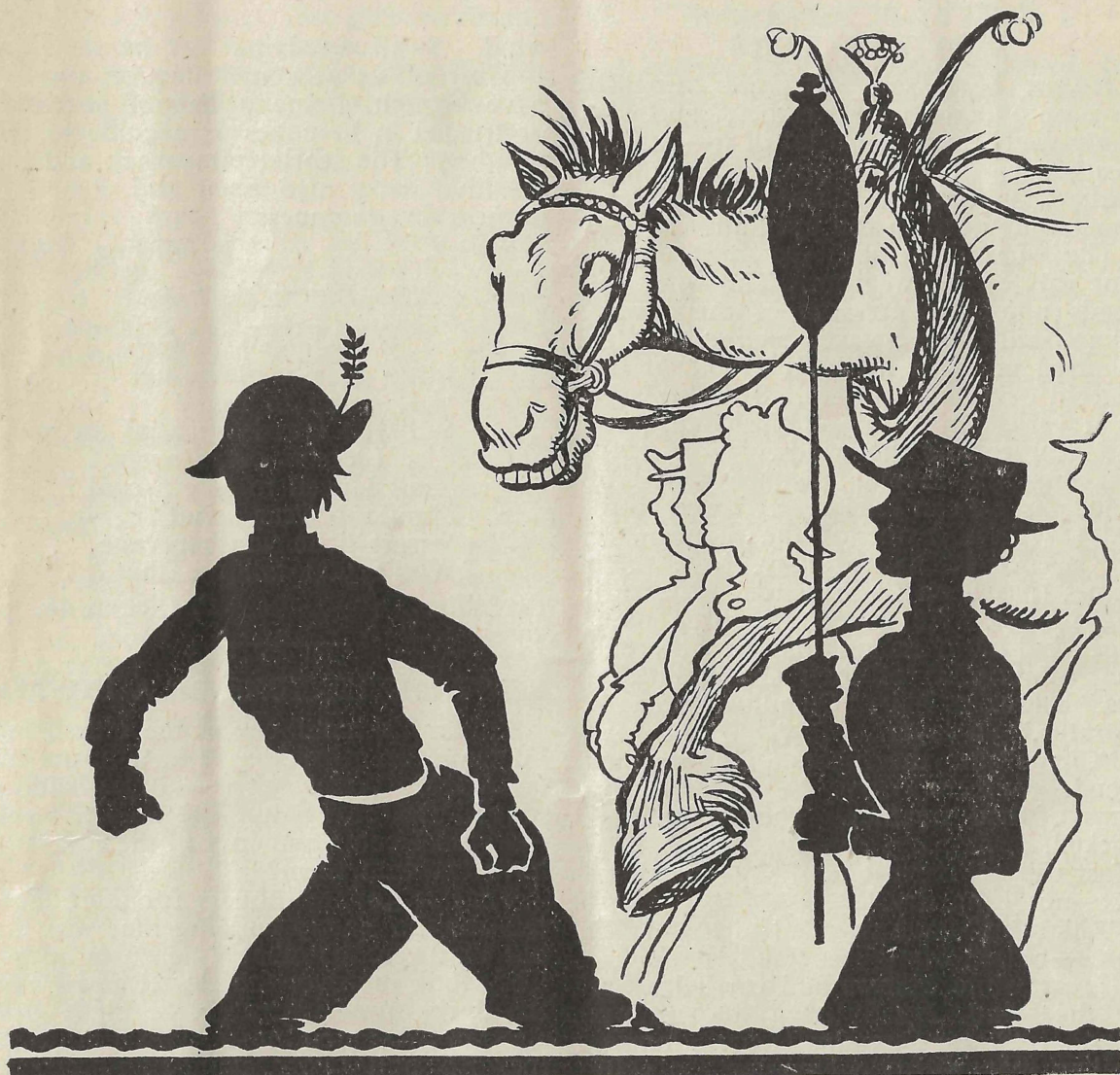
Well, after he had told us that the Home Guard and the Cleansing Department and the Gas Works and the Land Army were a credit to England (and when he said 'England' he naturally meant Scotland too) and how nice he thought it was that there were so many different shapes to choose from in our breeches and hats and what would Hitler say if he could see us to-day?

Well, Sandy suggested "Play up the Rangers!" and Ocean Swell's driver shouted "Time gen'lemen please!" but the General didn't tell which was right but began talking about the Luftwaffe instead and asked where was it now?

Miss Baxter said "Under the counter" and that must have been right because the General said he had now much pleasure in presenting our Good Service



## THE LAND GIRL



badges and would Miss Baxter please come forward.

So Miss Baxter propped up the banner in Ocean Swell's dust-cart and the General looked surprised and pleased when he saw her and asked her what she did before the war and what she was doing after the Parade and about ten minutes later the secretary said something and called out my name.

Well, the General asked me if I liked the Land Army and I said I did and how was he enjoying the Home Guard? Then he asked how long I had been a Land Girl and I said since the beginning of the war and he said which war? and called out the next name. Sandy said you was a silly question. He should 'akent it was the Boer War.

When all the badges were presented the secretary asked Miss Baxter to say a few words of thanks so Miss Baxter said how the General's presence with us had brought home to us what our soldiers had to suffer and that so long as we could keep such men on the plat-

forms of Scotland (and when she said 'Scotland' she naturally meant England too) victory would come. Words from such speeches had a way of returning to us like a dog to the hair that bit him and she herself never went into the byre without recalling what Gladstone said at the famous wet Review of 1603—"Up boys and at 'em!" In conclusion she would like to say that she was proud to march under the banner of the Women's Land Army and that was it in the dust-cart at the side door of the Royal George.

Then everyone clapped and we were dismissed.

Our farmer met us and said we had better come home in the car with him or what Boadecia said to Bing Crosby in 1066 would be nothing to what Gladys the cow would say to us in 1944 and Sandy said aye, wi' oor way o' workin' puir Gladys would never win the Gold Cup at Ascot.

Scotland.

Isobel Mount.



## THE LAND GIRL

### WEATHER LORE

It has been said that the "English have no climate, only weather," and certainly we seem to get a lot of it—but the weather is of vital importance to our soldiers, sailors, and airmen, and indeed to all who work in the open air.

The wind is perhaps the most important part of the weather. The wind depends upon the pressure of the atmosphere, said to be a vast ocean of air two hundred miles or more in height, at the bottom of which we live. This pressure as it varies brings about the changes in the weather and the winds.

There are several distinct types of clouds as we can easily see. Luke Howard (1772-1864) one of the pioneers of the science of meteorology, gave them names (based on Latin words) which are still in use. He called the three main types by Latin names that he thought were descriptive of their shapes. "Cirrus," a lock of hair; "Cumulus," a heap; "Stratus," a layer.

"Cirrus" are the highest; fine weather clouds, but they may be followed by signs of bad weather. They sometimes thicken, giving the heavens that rippled effect we call a "mackerel sky—not long wet—not long dry."

"Cumulus" have rounded tops and flat bases—cotton-wool like clouds rising into great white billows and carried away by the wind, usually seen on summer days. "Strato-Cumulus" are lumpy, trailing masses, often covering the skies for days in winter. Sometimes rifts separate the lumps and shafts of sunshine fall to earth.

"Stratus" are the lowest clouds of all, the "spread" clouds, not so attractive in appearance as the cumulus or cirrus. When they are near enough to the ground we recognise them as mist or fog.

Another form of cloud most of us know only too well, is the "Nimbus" or rain cloud, of no special shape, which pours down upon us the water it contains. All these types of cloud often combine and blend to form others.

When the air is very clear, and faraway objects stand out plain, it is usually a sign that rain is ahead.

When cattle are seen grazing on top of a hill, a fine day should follow. It is said to be a sign of frost when the cat sits with his back to the fire.

Rooks are especially sensitive to the weather; if they fly low it means rain; if they hurry about, and feed busily together, a storm is imminent; if they sit on fences, or dart and wheel about, expect

wind. Swallows flying low herald rain.

Most of us at some time or another have brought home a flag of seaweed; or trusted in fir cones as a guide to the weather. The scarlet pimpernel, and the sensitive daisy also open and close for dryness or dampness.

Warwick.

K. Girling, 18166.

### WEATHER VANE

Little scarlet pimpernel  
Is it going to rain?  
Will the clouds descend on me  
E'er I come home again?  
Shall I need to take a coat?  
Should I wear a hat?  
Wisest little weather vane  
Won't you tell me that?

Berkshire.

P. Dicker, 46236.

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF A HOSTEL

I'm an old hand, one of the oldest, but I'd never been inside a W.L.A. hostel till last week! Wendy were taking a leading part in the local Salute the Soldier week—would I come and join in the fun, and have tea with them?

They've got two houses for their Hostel, one the stately building that was the old Vicarage, the other Vine Farm house. They took me over the Hostel and I saw the dormitories where six or eight girls sleep in two-tiered bunks, with a tall blue locker and washstand-cum-dressing-table for each girl. The windows look out on to the garden, a long-standing wilderness, but they are licking it into shape gradually. Downstairs, you step from the stately pillared drawing-room that is now the Common Room, with comfortable chairs, a radio and a piano, to the Conservatory. The girls have got some fine tomato plants there. They showed me the kitchen, the wash-house where the girls do their small laundry jobs, the bathrooms.

And then the loud-speaker began to give out its tunes and I was glad to pull on my greatcoat to step out into the cold drizzling rain in time to see the procession come along the winding lane from the farm. The girls on the decorated trollies and carts wore no coats. I felt ashamed of my softness! They were standing there as though they had ridden on farm carts all their lives. The horses, well aware of their important part in the festivities, prinked and tossed their heads so that the shining brasses twinkled and the little bell on the head of one of them



## THE LAND GIRL

gave out soft music. Two girls on decorated bicycles led the way.

One cart showed girls in different stages of development from the raw recruit to the hardened veteran. This was where I recovered a little of the morale sapped by my greatcoat: none of them could yet boast my scarlet four-year armlet! I had one up on them there. On another trolley, a band of girls handled pitch-forks, muck forks, and hoes, while at their feet lay a pile of the old enemy—spuds. Across the waggon swung a banner: "Danger! Girls at work!" The leg-pulling criticism of the old hands who give every newcomer with a pitch-fork a wide berth, but it's danger to the enemy too, when these girls get to work!

The last cart meant business. From the freshly painted sides, girls leaned out with buckets, inviting us to throw in our money, "Coppers will do, but we'd rather have silver!" And silver they got. When tea time came, the money was counted. It was a wet afternoon, and the procession had been through only two or three little hamlets, yet they had roped in more than £9. That wasn't good enough, they decided. There was a whip round, and they made up the £10.

Behind the last cart marched the local Home Guard, the village Red Cross people, and the Civil Defence in their blue and gold. That's how it goes, you know, all over England. We're all in something and proud to belong, our only reward the knowledge that it is work like ours that keeps the more spectacular jobs going. Even as they marched that wet afternoon, huge bombers soared up from the trees a few miles away, circled, formed up and skimmed away. France is not so far from Wendy these days, and it all links up. Cambs.

E. M. Barraud, 9600.

A reader from Southern England offers a prize of 5s. for the best answer in four lines of verse to the following question. Answers must reach the Editor by **September 2nd**.

When doodle bugs drop in to tea  
There's just one thing that puzzles me  
Do doodles bug? or should I say  
The bugs are doodling down our way?

### The Women's Land Army

by V. Sackville-West

**Don't forget to place your order—**

*see page 10*

## WORKERS' PLAYTIME

I happen to have been stationed, for two years, well off the beaten track in Pembroke, or "Little England Beyond Wales," as it is called. We think that we are part of a forgotten army down here—we never seem to do any of the exciting things mentioned in *THE LAND GIRL* by other members of our ranks; however, we do try to make the best of life and make our own amusements, succeeding very well I think.

The lack of organised entertainment is due partly to the fact that we are not in an hostel, but in private billets being mainly in the farm cottages. However, four of us were very lucky, being very kindly offered a flat in a big house near the farm. We each have our own duties in the upkeep of our home, these do not take up all our time though, and when we are not working overtime, work finishes at six, with Saturday afternoon and all Sunday off.

Luckily one of us is a pianist, and we have many jolly evenings round our piano in winter when we stay behind the blackout with a roaring log fire, cosily enjoying our sweet ration. In summer we live near the coast, and have the choice of two beautiful beaches, the week-end nearly always finds us on one of them with a picnic basket. Once we tried to kindle a fire and boil a kettle on the beach with drift wood, but as none of us is very skilled at leading a Robinson Crusoe life, we decided that a thermos is a far simpler method of relieving thirst than 'going native.'

Several times we have organised Land Army dances for our Benevolent Fund, and quite a few cycle miles to village whist-drives; no one has won a prize, but we once nearly captured the booby.

The countryside here is very beautiful, though the roads are shocking. However, we manage to explore quite a lot as of course we all have bicycles.

We are very lucky in being within cycling distance of a camp with a Garrison Theatre. Here we may go to the cinema twice a week, a dance every Wednesday, or a Concert on Thursday. The latter may be a play, (with a famous actor, or a West End production), or an orchestra, or a dance band, or perhaps a variety show. Whichever it is, we see, for one and sixpence, something that would cost quite double that at home.

Altogether since we came here we have had more fun than ever before.

Pembs.

M. Lane, 93830.



# LAND ARMY FASHION PAGE



A RALLY

OF L.A. HATS



E.B. Wells  
86576  
SMERSET

AND THEY ALL LOOKED THE  
SAME BEFORE THEY LEFT THE  
UNIFORM DEPT. — IN FACT  
JUST LIKE THIS —>

The photograph is of Mrs. R. S. Hudson  
wearing a Land Army Hat—taken when  
she visited the Uniform Store at Balcombe.





## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

Three of us from here were at the London Club when Mrs. Churchill visited it. We spent the night at the Club which is a beautiful place, complete with the most luxurious bathrooms, we should have thoroughly enjoyed our night, had it not been somewhat disturbed by the pilotless planes. It was very exciting meeting Mrs. Churchill who seemed very interested in our work, and wanted to know whether it was difficult to plough a straight furrow.

We arrived back on Wednesday night thoroughly exhausted, having found shopping in London far more tiring than any day's work.

Wilts.

Penelope Ripman.

Dear Editor,

The other day when I went into the farm kitchen after milking I found parachutists being fed in relays as each batch came in. I went into the dining-room and saw seven tough un-shaven Americans sitting round the table. In between bites all were talking excitedly about their re-actions to their first jump.

I soon discovered that it was not a practice jump but the real thing. They were the crew, or part of it, of a Flying

Fortress and had been on a raid over Hamburg. Their "ship" had been hit and they had limped home on only one engine with their compass smashed. Finally the captain had ordered them to bale out over Looe and the Flying Fortress had gone down into the sea.

They feared the pilot had stayed until too late, but later news told us he had been picked up, after being in the sea for half-an-hour further up the coast. One member had broken his leg another his ankle, so all were accounted for. One of our guests had landed in a tree, another had come down not 100 yards from our potato digger.

Cornwall.

M. Peel, 72331.

Dear Editor,

The Hostel at Kimble was recently honoured by a surprise visit from Mrs. Winston Churchill. She expressed her pleasure in all that she saw, and to know the women of the Land Army had yet another bright and cheerful residence, such as "Kimble House," in which to live. Although, owing to work, so few of the Land Girls were at home, at the time of the visit, every resident of the Hostel feels highly honoured to know they are not forgotten.

Bucks.

Ethel M. Akhurst (Warden).

## CORRESPONDENCE COURSES 1944-5

The Royal Horticultural Society and the College of Estate Management have agreed to continue correspondence courses for members of the Land Army during the coming autumn and winter. Volunteers may enter for only one course at a time and entries must be received **not later than September 30th**. Entry forms and full particulars will be supplied on application to the County Office.

The following courses have been arranged, the fee for the course being in each case exclusive of the cost of any text books the student may be required to use:

### AGRICULTURE:—

**The Elements of Agriculture**—student's fee 15s. (This course is the same as that held last year).

**Dairy Husbandry**—student's fee 15s.

**Farm Book-keeping**—student's fee 15s. (A course for volunteers wishing to obtain posts as farmers' secretaries upon demobilisation).

### HORTICULTURE:—

**Vegetable Production**—student's fee £1.

**Crops under Glass**—student's fee £1.

**Fruit Production**—student's fee £1.

(These courses are the same as those held last year).

*Ready shortly*

## THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

by

V. SACKVILLE-WEST

The full story of the Women's Land Army is published under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. To Miss Sackville-West's text are added 63 full pages of illustrations. Members of the W.L.A. anxious to possess a copy should place an order *immediately* with their local bookseller.

5/- net.

*All proceeds from the publication of this book are to be given to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.*

MICHAEL JOSEPH LTD.



## THE LAND GIRL

### Scottish Notes

Fifty girls in the West of Scotland Agricultural College area underwent tests for Certificates of Merit at Auchincruive on 29th June. The tests were comprehensive, including dairying, horse work, tractor work, field work and stock management. Some of the most difficult work was that done with a Fordson tractor drawing a two-wheeled trailer. The girl drivers had to service the tractor, start it up, and back the trailer between two posts representing a field gate or cartshed entrance. Backing the trailer gave most of the entrants difficulty. They had also to extricate a tractor left in an awkward position at a field gate and this they managed remarkably well. The standard of horse work was high. The dairying tests included both machine and hand milking and the girls were questioned to assess their general knowledge of the operations they are asked to perform on the farm. In livestock management the girls were examined in the routine of calf feeding, management of dairy cows, and in their knowledge of byre space, provision of water, ventilation, and lighting. The field work consisted of singling turnips, hoeing, back-weeding of sugar beet, sowing of fertilisers by hand, hand haymaking and barn work. In the gardens the girls were put to planting out broccoli, using their own methods.

**Dumbarton and Renfrew.**—A most successful Rally was held at Barshaw Park, Paisley on 17th June. Mr. A. A. Hagart Speirs, Lord Lt. of Renfrew presented Good Service Badges, three girls getting Badges for 4½ years service and two receiving 4 Year Armlets. The A.E.C. organised sports and tea was served in a hut lent by the A.T.C. On 22nd. June a new Club was started at Helensburgh. 19 girls attended the first night and a Committee was formed. The Club is to meet weekly in the Girl Guide Hut.

**Kirkcudbright.**—On the invitation of the local G.T.C. members of the W.L.A. took part in the annual church parade to St. Ringan's Church, Castle Douglas, on Sunday, 25th June. On Friday, 30th June, a successful dance, organised by the staff and girls of Dalarran Hostel, New Galloway, was held in Balmacellan Hall. As a result, over £25 will be handed over to the W. & B. Fund.

**Inverness (Mainland).**—A parade took place on 1st July in Inverness when Major the Hon. A. J. Fraser, Chairman of the A.E.C. presided, and presented armlets and badges for 4 years, 3 years, 2½ years, 2 years, 1½ years and 1 year's service. The girls were entertained to tea, eatables being kindly sent by several farmers. Surplus fare was auctioned and realised the sum of £11 8s. 6d. for the W. & B. Fund.

**Kincardine.**—On 8th July, through the kindness of Mr. MacKie, members met at Bent, Laurencekirk for the presentation of Good Service Badges. Mr. Russell, Chairman of the A.E.C. addressed the girls and Mrs. Russell presented the badges. Tea was served and during the afternoon the girls were shown over the Model Dairy at Bent and over the Hostel.

**Midlothian.**—In aid of the W. & B. Fund a very successful and enjoyable dance was held on 30th June in Midcalder Masonic Hall at which the Army, Navy, Air Force, A.T.S. and Land Army were well represented. During the evening Lady Torphichen presented Good Service Badges. Miss McCulloch thanked Lady Torphichen and presented to her a flower casket decked in W.L.A. colours.

**Nairn.**—In connection with "Salute the Soldier" campaign, members of the W.L.A. held an enjoyable dance in the Drill Hall, Nairn, on Wednesday, 28th June. The catering was in the capable hands of a W.L.A. Committee. The amount raised was £127 which is to be invested in Government stock on behalf of the W. & B. Fund.

**Peebles-shire.**—As a result of a raffle run by the W.L.A. Sub-Committee the Welfare and Benevolent Fund benefited to the extent of £50 1s. To this was added £20, proceeds of a dance organised by the W.L.A. members at Kingsland Hostel.

**Ross-shire.**—A very successful Turnip Hoeing Competition was held for volunteers at Balnagore Farm, Fearn, on Wednesday, 21st June. There were 27 competitors and the standard of work was first rate. There was a large attendance of interested spectators. Tea was kindly provided by the W.V.S. and prizes were presented by Mrs. Budge.



*In the garden of the Scottish Rest Break House.*



## THE LAND GIRL

**YOUR VILLAGE AND MINE.** C. H. Gardiner  
(Faber 7s. 6d.)

**TO BE A FARMER.** J. Gunston.  
(Methuen 7s. 6d.)

If you intend to stay on the land, here are two books for your shelves. Mr. Gunston writes mainly for young men, but what he says is of general application, and he covers a very wide field, including educational courses and scholarships, opportunities as salaried workers, and general prospects. He gives sound advice even on the details of choosing your farm, and shrewd counsel on the relationship between townsmen and natives, employer and employed. "Your Village and Mine" is an admirable companion to Mr. Gunston's book as providing help in dealing with the background and surroundings to farming life. Mr. Gardiner gives a realist survey of village life as it is today and some suggestions as to its future. Sprinkled with amusing anecdotes, it makes pleasantly light reading and when you come to the end you are surprised to find how much instruction he has managed to hand over at the same time! I myself was particularly spurred by his remarks about Local Government. How much could be done if we ordinary citizens took even a moderate interest in the exercise of our rights—how responsible we are for letting so much go by default.

E. M. B.

### TWO HELPFUL BOOKS

The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs have issued two further volumes in their excellent series of "The Story of the Countryside."—*Farms and Fields* by C. S. and C. S. Orwin, and *The Care of Farm Animals* by F. Fraser Darling. The first gives a lively history of farming methods from the days of primitive man to those of Joseph Arch, the farm worker who founded the Agricultural Labourers Union of 1872, and should be read by every member of the W.L.A. The second is full of useful and interesting information about farm animals—did you know that there are as many of these in Britain as there are people—in fact more? Both books are well up to Y.F.C. standard and as usual, they are very well illustrated. The price is 2s. 6d. Order from a bookseller or from the N.F.Y.F.C. Selwyn House, Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

### BENEVOLENT FUND.

On July 31st the Fund totalled £86,488 2s. 6d. The monthly total was £1,641 10s. 9d. KENT still has the highest total of £6,623 3s. 4d., and NORTHUMBRIA the highest monthly total of £450.

This has been a quieter month but offensives are impending, and in some cases have already opened, on several county fronts. NORTHUMBRIA'S £450 includes £356 from a County Draw and £35 from Lady Grey's fete. Outstanding contributions this month include—WARWICKS, £73 from collecting tins in 6 months; LEICS. & RUTLAND, £50 from Rearsby House Garden Fete; DENBIGH, £40 from a Whist Drive at Bod Nod Hostel, and £24 from a Dance at Pulford Club; LONDON and MIDDX., £36 from the Harrow W.L.A. Club Garden Fete; GLAMORGAN, £41 from a Bridge Drive and Fete organised by Mrs. Evans Bevan. NORTHANTS sent £146 collected during June which included £46 from a Garden Party.

The prize of £2 2s. for the Rustic Romance competition in the Bulletin has been divided between A. Goodhart, M. Hood (both Timber Corps) and Mrs. K. L. Hill (W.L.A., Surrey) who all had 37 correct answers out of a possible 41—not 42 as by mistake the number 25 was not used. The competition raised £13 for the Fund and we should like to thank all entrants for the contributions. Some ingenious alternatives were found—we particularly liked "sugar-beet" instead of "bill-hook"! Here are the correct answers:—1. Harrow. 2. Beet. 3. Crop. 4. Threshing machine. 5. Cow. 6. Duck. 7. Sew. 8. Chaff. 9. Rye. 10. Mangel. 11. Glean. 12. Tractor.

- |            |                 |                     |                |
|------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 13. Rake.  | 14. Root.       | 15. Swede.          | 16. Sheep.     |
| 17. Rick.  | 18. Hoe, hoe.   | 19. Barn-door fowl. |                |
| 20. Drill. | 21. Turkey.     | 22. Shock.          | 23. Separator. |
| 24. Calf.  | 26. Bill-hook.  | 27. Ram.            | 28. Reaper.    |
| 29. Churn  | 30. Coop.       | 31. Ewe.            | 32. Flax.      |
| 33. Silo.  | 34. Spray.      | 35. Pig.            | 36. Bull.      |
| 37. Drove. | 38. Pen.        | 39. Lucern.         | 40. Stacks.    |
| 41. Cake.  | 42. Milk-round. |                     |                |

### WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS,

### Division 2.

**BENEVOLENT FUND.**—Proceeds amounting to £50 were realised at a dance held in Shrewsbury on July 6th, at which the Deputy Divisional Officer and Mrs. Cadman were present. Transport was provided to bring in members from the Baschurch and Pontesbury areas, and others able to attend came from the Salop Timber Company and the Divisional Office, among the latter being Miss Joan Bridden, to whom thanks are due for her large part in the organisation of the dance. Many gifts were received and an auction sale, ably conducted by Mr. Cropper, Trade Production Assistant, was one of the high lights of the evening. There was also an attractive cabaret interlude by Miss D. Craig (ballet and tap-dancing) and Miss M. Richardson and Mrs. E. Cartledge (songs). Many nationalities were represented, among both the W.T.C. and the Forces: American, Polish, Czech, French, Latvian, Belgian, etc., and the hall was packed to capacity.

**Country Magazine.**—Anthony Brown of the B.B.C. visited Beat 1 on July 10th, and talked with girls employed in and around Baschurch, measuring and lorry-loading; and the following week-end Margaret Dixon (who had previously broadcast in the Shropshire number of Country Magazine) went to London for another very successful broadcast.

### COUNTY NEWS.

**BEDS.**—Some beautiful work was exhibited around our L.G. Maypole in the Services Handicraft Exhibition held in Bedford last month, and H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent was full of praise when she visited the stall on the opening day. Special mention should be made of Miss Keable's (3796) fire screen, and an original set in leather (hat, bag and shoes) made by Miss Robbins, (42994) which was specially commended by H.R.H. The first complete series of Proficiency Tests have been successfully concluded with 3 G.F. and Field work Tests. Congratulations to D. Keable and E. Blaikie (58311), who obtained Distinction. Despite harvest and overtime, Hulcote Moors, our smallest Hostel, still finds time to swell our County Benevolent Fund. They are in the lead again with over £50 to their credit. Kensworth & Silsoe completed the highest rate of overtime. At Todington Park, our new Training Centre, we welcome a splendid batch of girls from the North and a new contingent from Durham is expected soon. Ravensden House has contributed some good milkers and we welcome applications from Volunteers who would like to take up this most interesting branch of farming. Some volunteers formed a guard of honour to line the route when H.M. The Queen visited the Biggleswade area.

**BERKS.**—19 more volunteers have passed Proficiency Tests, several with distinction. It is hoped to arrange other Proficiency Tests during the autumn. A meeting of the Forewomens and Chargehands Guild took place at "The Grotto" on July 2nd, when a tennis tournament was held in which all hostels in Berks had been invited to compete. Ten hostels entered, but unfortunately, the play was spoilt by rain and had to be abandoned. Everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch by the river, and later sat down to an excellent tea in the hostel. Horticultural classes are coming to an end; they have been a great success. A contingent of the W.L.A. attended the Salute the Soldier parade in Reading, and were warmly applauded along the route. Brightenwell and Blewbury volunteers both organised successful dances for the Benevolent Fund.



## THE LAND GIRL

**BRECS. & RAD.**—A great deal of time and interest has been given to Proficiency Tests. Altogether 116 girls have been successful:—Pests Destruction.—1 Distinction. 7 Passes. Milking and Dairy Work.—4 Distinctions. 9 Passes. G. F. work.—4 Distinctions. 11 Passes. Horticulture.—6 Distinctions. 6 Passes. Tractor Driving.—25 Distinctions. 24 Passes. Field Work.—19 Passes. I think we have every reason to be very proud of these results. Our Hostels have responded wonderfully well and I would like to congratulate the girls of Brecon Hostel, accommodating 40 girls, for gaining 7 Distinctions and 24 Passes in 5 different Tests, a total of 31. Every girl who was eligible entered and all were successful. Second place was gained by Whitton Hostel and third by Maesllwch Hostel. The first American Wedding Dress to be loaned to these Counties will be worn by N. Evans, 66392, who is proud to be so fortunate. Two weeks' holiday was spent at the Llandudno Rest Break House by O. Bell, 94776, who wrote an enthusiastic letter describing her happy experiences. Her suggestion that it would be helpful to open a Rest Break House for County Secretaries and their Staffs has been warmly received. "Salute The Soldier" Week was wonderfully supported and great credit is due to Maesllwch Hostel for collecting £250 during the week. B. Elson, W.L.A., 99790 proved a first-rate secretary. Girls from Whitton Hostel attended a Drum-head Service on Farm Sunday, that was appropriately held in beautiful country surroundings.

**BUCKS.**—It is with great regret that we announce the death of Mary Jameson, killed by enemy action. Mrs. Jameson, who was employed by Mr. Stevens of Wormsley, on milking and general farm work, had been on the land for eighteen months, and no finer tribute could be given her than the words of her employer—"She was beautiful to look at and beautiful in all that she did." A memorial service was held for her in Turville Parish Church, which was attended by the County Secretary, the local Committee Member and District Representative, and several of the Land Girls with whom she had worked.

On July 18th, in Aylesbury, the Rt. Hon. J. J. Llewellyn presented the Victory Churn for the Southern Counties, won by Bucks, in the recent winter milk production contest. L.G.s. were present at the ceremony and were congratulated for their part in the work. One farmer had already recognised the good work of his L. G., Mary Mellars, 87945, by sharing half his prize with her. The girls at "Tower House," Slough, have sent £15 to the Ministry of Aircraft Production to provide a rubber dinghy for the R.A.F. This will be known as "W.L.A. Tower House." A very successful garden fete at Drayton Beauchamp Hostel, realised the sum of £25 2s. 3d. for the Benevolent Fund.

**CHESHIRE.**—Middlewich Club members enjoyed a visit to Bostock Hall, the home of Captain France-Hayhurst, who showed them points of interest, and after a picnic supper, presented Good Service Badges. A similar excursion to Davenham Hall has been arranged by this Club. Bowdon Club met at the Coppice, and members were photographed. Glove and handbag making classes will commence again in September. Malpas Club held a Garden Party which was attended by employers and members of the W.A.E.C. A Savings Group has been started at Audlem Hostel by one of the volunteers. Cheshire volunteers enjoyed the Brains Trust at Manchester with Mr. D. McCullough as Question Master. The collectors worked well, and the collection of just over £33 is being divided equally between Lancashire and Cheshire Benevolent Fund Contributions. The publicity Stall arranged by Miss Black was a great attraction. The second series of Proficiency Tests will commence again in September. We hope those volunteers who failed in the last test will enter again, and that the "new-comers" will also take this opportunity of proving their skill.

**CORNWALL.**—Successful "Salute the Soldier" parades have been held recently; those at Camborne, Looe, Penzance and in the Stokeclimland areas being particularly noteworthy for the fine show made by W.L.A. detachments taking part. West Cornwall was in the limelight lately when volunteers in that district were invited to two Workers' Playtime shows, at Camborne and Penzance. Both of these shows were broadcast and L.G.s contributed in no small measure to the success of the evening by their lusty community singing. Benevolent Fund subscriptions from volunteers continue to flourish. Outsiders, too, are helping. To mention only one instance, the Camborne Civil Defence Concert Party gave an entertainment recently for our benefit, and handed over £25 to the Fund as a result.

All 10 entrants passed Proficiency Tests in milking and dairy work at Helston; 5 with distinction; and at Liskeard all 4 entrants were successful.

We are very glad to welcome Miss N. Brodie, who has joined the office staff recently as Assistant Secretary. She has come to us from the W.L.A. office in Somerset and we are sure that their loss will be our gain.

**DENBIGH.**—There have been some very successful parties for the Benevolent Fund. Mrs. Bellis, Committee for part of the Wrexham area gave a garden party at which Pwllford Club presented £24 to our Chairman, Mrs. Wynne Finch. This club is on the borders of Cheshire who kindly invited Denbighshire members to join. We are honoured that the proceeds should be added to our county total. Mr. James, our Labour Officer, proved an able auctioneer at a whist drive at Bod Nod Hostel, which realised £40. On June 3rd, Abergele Hostel celebrated their second anniversary with a most enjoyable party. Mr. James, and Mr. Jones (builder of the Hostel) said many kind words of appreciation to Miss Harris, the Warden, who has been with us since it opened, also to the girls who are doing excellent work. Mrs. Mansell presented armlets and half diamonds. We have completed the first round of G. F., dairy, pest destruction and poultry Proficiency Tests. There have been 40 passes, 10 with distinction. Congratulations to Miss Aikenhead on gaining 99 marks for G. F. work. It was very kind of Mrs. Edmunds Edwards to ask us to join their Pest Destruction Tests at Bala; our 3 candidates all passed.

**DERBYS.**—We are all very sorry indeed that our Magazine Representative, Mrs. E. H. Clowes, has had to resign. Mrs. Clowes has devoted much of her time to the distribution of the "Land Girl" and in enrolling new subscribers. It is owing to her splendid efforts that the magazine circulation in Derbyshire is so high. Orders should now be sent to the County Secretary, Crompton Chambers, Dale Road, Matlock, and will you *all please note our new address*. Two very successful Garden Fetes have recently been held at our Eaves Hall and Trusley Manor Hostels. Half the proceeds were given to the Benevolent Fund. Eaves Hall raised £45 17s. and Trusley Manor £60, with further small donations still to come in. A Dance held at Walton-on-Trent, and organised by two L.G.s, resulted in £18 for the Fund. Proficiency Tests in G. F. work and Milking and Dairy were held on July 19th, at Ripley. The standard of work was very satisfactory. Four weeks' milking training for volunteers has been arranged by the D.W.A.E.C. amongst the Repton farmers and the scheme is going very well.

We welcome Mrs. Stanley, our new County Organiser for the North of the County.

**DEVON.**—The W.T.C. led a contingent of volunteers in Exeter's "Salute the Soldier" week procession. 7 volunteers, (J. Fisher distinction) passed Field Work Proficiency Tests, and 14, G. F. Tests, (B. Good 96 marks, H. Pearce 93). We regret an error in the June issue. It was D. Williamson who gained distinction in Field Work, E. Scott passed. Exeter's Flag Day, just held, reached our target of £300 for the Benevolent Fund.





*The Countess of Plymouth, County Chairman, presents Good Service badges and Proficiency certificates to Glamorgan volunteers.*

**DURHAM.**—The news that Mrs. Heydeman is leaving Durham for health reasons will be received with sincere regret. Her splendid work here has been of the greatest value, and all wish her success and happiness in the future.

The Benevolent Fund Drive has produced well over £500 up to date. Of the hostel efforts, Wolsiston leads the way with well over £55. Iris Taylor, a noble volunteer at Old Elvet Hostel, mended stocking ladders for 6d. and has made 22s. Ruth Knox made an attractive apron decorated with pockets. She collected and painstakingly sewed money into the pockets, making 24s. Congratulations to the 6 volunteers who have passed their Proficiency Test, 3 in tractor driving and 3 in G.F. work. During the Salute the Soldier week, the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., gave a luncheon party; the guests included Lady Starmer, Mrs. Heydeman and 5 L.G.s from Wolsiston Hostel. They were shown the various interesting processes used in agriculture. There have been many activities to help the Salute the Soldier campaign. Wolsingham Hostel had a circus and fair! Ingleston raised £66. Chester-le-Street also had a special effort.

**GLAM.**—In our first series of Proficiency Tests we had 58 entries divided between milking, hand and machine, G.F. work, poultry, field work, horticulture, outdoor and glasshouse, tractor, and pests. Out of this number 50 girls passed, 9 getting distinction. To round up the tests a most successful ceremony was held. The Countess of Plymouth, our County Chairmain, was able to attend and so kindly presented the certificates and badges, the short speeches which were given by the Chairman, Mr. H. Alexander (Chairman of the G.W.A.E.C.), Mr. Harrhy, Executive Officer, Mr. Davidson, Director of Agriculture, and Mr. E. Verley Marchant, Secretary of the National Farmers' Union, were all great in their praise of the W.L.A. and those girls in Glamorgan whose work they had personally seen. After the official business was over everyone passed through to another room for tea. The club at Cardiff certainly has a firm footing, others in the making are at Swansea, Rhossilly and Wick. The party given by Mrs. Day to the L.G.s of her district and neighbouring Americans was thoroughly enjoyed, so also are the monthly evenings given by Mrs. Lynn Green to the L.G.s around Penarth.

**GLOS.**—H.M. Queen Mary, accompanied by Princess Alexandra, honoured Field Grove Farm, Bitton, with a visit in June. Here about 20 trainees

in different stages of proficiency were seen at work doing both hand and machine milking. A tour of the farm buildings was made and bull calves from high yielding dams inspected, which are being reared for stock purposes. Princess Alexandra's only regret was that she was not yet old enough to join the W.L.A.

**Proficiency Test Results:** **Milking and Dairy Work**, held at 5 centres, 9 distinctions, 40 passes. **Outdoor Garden and Glasshouse Work**, held at 2 centres, 1 distinction, 9 passes. **Fruit Work**, held at 1 centre, 1 pass. **Field Work**, held at 1 centre, 3 distinctions, 7 passes. **G. F. Work**, held at 4 centres, 5 passes. **Tractor Driving**, held at 1 centre, no passes. The L.A. Savings Group in Tetbury collects an average of £9 a week. The membership numbers 34—they exceeded their target of £25 by £40 in "Salute the Soldier" week.

Mrs. Birchall, our new County Organiser, will be starting work in the North of the County this month.

**HANTS.**—The first series of Proficiency Tests is now over and many volunteers who were unable to take them this year will be looking forward to the next series which will start early in the autumn. Out of a total of 154 entries, 130 passed, 60 with distinction. News has gone round that taking a test is not such a terrifying experience as might be expected and many more entries are expected this next time. Of the 67 girls who enrolled for the Correspondence Courses last winter we hear of 35 who have won through. Some results are still to come, so the percentage may be still greater. We should like to congratulate all the volunteers who stayed the course. Many letters of appreciation have been received, saying how interesting the Courses were and how they helped to pass the long winter evenings.

We welcome Miss Howe to our County as Assistant County Secretary. As she has taken on the responsibility for the Hostels, Clubs and Welfare Section, she should soon be known personally to many of the volunteers. Already plans for Club programmes, meetings and conferences are taking shape in the office. Details will be published in the next News Letter.

**HEREFORD.**—Plans are now being made for the winter for clubs and hostels. Several Dramatic Groups are being formed and at least three choirs will take part in a Festival in the late autumn. An exciting Rounders Match was played between Leominster and Bromyard Clubs—the latter eventually winning by 8 to 6. On Aug. 12th, at



## THE LAND GIRL

Ross-on-Wye, a Horse Show and Gymkhana was organised in aid of the Benevolent and Welfare Funds. A full account of this will be given later. Land Girls have taken part in "Salute the Soldier" Parades, and earned for themselves much praise for their smartness. It was well deserved, and it is hoped that their appearance in correct uniform will inspire those who still persist in "mixing" their attire, to alter their dress!

Several of our girls have visited Rest Break Houses and have returned full of praise for the arrangements made, and grateful for the opportunities afforded them.

**HERTS.**—5 volunteers passed a Proficiency Test for Field Work on July 3rd at Oaklands Institute of Agriculture. Messrs. J. A. Sinclair and H. G. Hartop acted as judges. Totteridge Hostel celebrated its first birthday in June and the Warden and the House-Committee arranged a most wonderful birthday party. The Treasure Hunt and the Charades afforded us all unlimited entertainment. A most beautiful birthday cake illuminated by one candle was cut by Mrs. Martin Smith, our Chairman, who had given up some of her precious free time to be at the party. Lower Woodside is also to be congratulated on their party given to a few of us on July 23rd. Lower Woodside is always a joy to visit; farm life is so very near to the hostel here and we feel the herd of Ayrshire cows should all wear W.L.A. badges. After tea, the volunteers acted an admirable and much appreciated sketch of hostel life entitled "Between the Hatch and the Scullery, 6 p.m., any W.L.A. Hostel," written by Mrs. Deacon, the acting Warden. This was followed by tap-dancing and by a charade, so well acted that we all failed to solve it and are still not sure whether the Mermaid on the Desert Island or Daisy Bell, the cow, was the star of the evening.

Can anyone lend or sell 8 m.m. films for showing in hostels? We have projector and operator but no suitable films. Please write to W.L.A., County Hall, Hertford, if you can help us.

**HOLLAND, Lincs.**—10 L.G.s passed a fruit work test on May 10th, and 4 on outdoor garden and glasshouse work test on May 31st, 2 with distinction. Mr. Glenny, of Surfleet, who employs L.G.s in his orchards, awarded £1 to the fruit work test entrant with the highest marks, E. Marriott, 96740, 89 per cent. Mr. Shaw, horticulturist, gave prizes for the best essay on the day's work in the second test. £1 was won by A. Sanders, 62036, 92 per cent., and 10s. each by H. Bryers, 75084, 85 per cent., and J. Macauley, 80545, 82 per cent. Mrs. R. T. Proctor, County Chairman, entertained spectators and L.G.s to lunch and tea. On June 15th a very successful whist drive and dance was organised by Mrs. Richardson's club at the Corn Exchange, Spalding, in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Mrs. Proctor drew the lucky tickets for prizes in competitions and Miss D. Brant, Regional Officer, thanked all those who had worked so hard to make the evening such a success. £66 was raised. L.G.s throughout Holland have worked hard to help "Salute the Soldier"—over £100 was raised at the W.L.A. hostels in Spalding, Leverton, Holbeach Drove and Gosberton. Mrs. Kettlewell (County Secretary) attended a happy birthday party at Dormer House for the Warden, Miss Cooling, which was arranged also to celebrate the first anniversary of Holland (Lincs.) as a L.A. county.

**HUNTS, CAMBS, ELY.**—The Cambs and Isle of Ely W.A.E.C.s held an Agricultural Show at Histon on July 15th. The W.L.A. was in evidence and there was a very striking stall in the Demonstration Tent arranged by Mrs. Gurrin, the Cambs Organiser. Proficiency Tests have been held in Cambs—Milking and dairy, 5 entries, 5 passes; G.F. work, 5 entries, 2 distinctions, 4 passes; field work, 4 entries, 4 passes; outside garden and glasshouse, 5 entries, 2 passes. The Hunts and Ely tests will be held after the harvest. 15 girls have so far been awarded a certificate in connection with the correspondence courses held last winter. L.A. members took part in Salute the Soldier

weeks in Fletton, Ely, Wisbech and Wendy. Special congratulations to Pat Woolford, employed by the Ely W.A.E.C., who is in charge of a bulldozer and thinks nothing of ripping up whole trees on land clearance schemes.

Our best wishes to Mrs. Houdret whom we are very sorry to lose as County Organiser for Hunts. We welcome Miss Myer in her place.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the parents, friends, employers and colleagues of Clarice Brooks and Gladys Robinson who died on the same day after short and sudden illnesses.

**ISLE OF WIGHT.**—Work is proceeding normally here in spite of incessant rain after the long drought. The sky is sometimes somewhat overcast by another form of shower, but does not worry us unduly. After all, there have always been Harvest Bugs as a temporary evil! In May, we held the General Farming Test. 8 members gained honours. Miss S. Smith won 100 per cent. marks. We are holding the Field work Test in August. Miss D. Stotesbury has won the Royal Horticultural Society's certificate for out-door fruit growing. Miss D. King has won a substantial prize for an Essay on "Rural England After the War." Farm Sunday was well attended and we have saluted the Soldier with great vigour in various districts, taking part in processions, helping at stalls, etc., etc. It is too early yet to talk of Harvest Home, but when the time comes, we hope to have our usual festivity.

**E. KENT** has been doubly honoured recently in receiving visits from both Lady Violet Astor, now Chairman of Kent W.L.A.E.C., and Lady Denman. A reception to welcome Lady Violet Astor was held at the Women's Services Club, Canterbury, on June 17th, and after the addresses and presentation by Lady Violet of Proficiency Badges to 34 volunteers, we all enjoyed tea in a most happy and informal atmosphere. The day was beautiful, adding much to our pleasure. Prior to the reception Lady Violet had visited some of the hostels, and also the E. Kent office, speaking with each member of the staff.

Lady Denman attended the monthly committee meeting on July 3rd, and when the business reports and discussions were over she gave us an address full of interest and helpful advice. The meeting was held at Wye Agricultural College by the kind invitation of Mrs. Vickers, a member of the committee, who afterwards gave us all tea. The outdoor garden and glasshouse work test was held at Messrs. Court's Nurseries on July 19th. Congratulations to Miss M. Thomasson, Miss J. B. Paulton and Miss M. S. Wanstall who passed.

In **WEST KENT** just now tin hats are all the fashion, and we have distributed about 1500 to our L.G.s, particularly to those working in the barrage area. One representative was much amused by a group of girls whom she was supplying with tin hats, as their chief anxiety was to know if they were becoming! From day to day we get letters asking to have correspondence sent to billets because "home" has been bombed or for a new uniform because a billet has been hit by a "doodle bug." But everybody carries on. As one girl says "we get quite thrilled when we see them being brought down. It would take a deal more than these to scare us away." Four volunteers attended the opening ceremony of the W.L.A. Club at Chesham Street, London, and were much impressed by all its attractions. The Maidstone club invited to their June meeting a party of G.T.C. girls who had volunteered from Lancashire and other counties to spend their holidays helping with the Kent fruit harvest. They were living under canvas and doing over 10 hours work a day. Both L.G.s and G.T.C. girls were very interested to exchange experiences and even more interested and amused by an instructive and witty talk by Major White of the U.S. Army about his big ranch in Nevada. 52 W. Kent girls who entered for the correspondence courses have been awarded certificates.

**KESTEVEN, Lincs.**—A number of social gatherings in aid of the Benevolent Fund have been



## THE LAND GIRL

organised with great success; the most outstanding was the one which resulted in a donation of £35 from the Honington Hostel. Plans are going ahead for the big effort which we hope to make on behalf of the Fund in October of this year. Volunteers in all parts of the county have derived much pleasure in assisting to organise various functions on behalf of the "Salute the Soldier" campaign. 115 volunteers took part in the Women's Day Procession in the parade at Lincoln, and this did great credit to the W.L.A. L.G.s have been and still are busy helping with the organisation of functions to raise money for the Agricultural

Fund. E.N.S.A. concerts continue to be most well and are much enjoyed and Proficiency Tests in outdoor garden-house work and field work have been extended our congratulations to the candidates. We also extend our hearty thanks to E. Coles, B. Sibson, R. Gordon, and G. Archer, who have now qualified for their four-year red armlet.

The Horticultural Brains Trust in London on June 16th was of great interest to volunteers in that district. Lancashire and volunteers shared the responsibility of collection for the Benevolent Fund, bearing on the platform. The clubs at Preston and Wrea Green have entered into a friendly way, and the Wrea Green has other interesting news to report. A dance at church on Farm Sunday, helped in a Garden Open Day for the Nurses, visiting the County Institute of film shows, etc. A third County has been welcomed to the staff recently. One, who is already known to many as Magazine Representative and as representative for Brindle and Chorley, has been added, and her new area covers central Lancashire from Preston to the Yorkshire border, Blackburn, Accrington and Burnley.

**RUT.**—A Garden Fete in aid of the Rutland and County Welfare Funds was held at the Rutland House on June 24th. A hot Midsummer Day attracted a large crowd of L.G.'s and visitors to the beautiful grounds and everything went off well. The total proceeds from the Mid-Buy Stall, side-shows and competitions were over £60. The Chairman of the Rutland, Lord Cromwell, presented Proficiency Tests. Mr. Swain and Mr. Illson, the judges, set a high standard of work shown by most competitors. Their only regret was that a small percentage of volunteers had entered. They hoped that there will be more candidates next year. Since the last County News the Rutland have been held with splendid results, especially in the milking section. The V-sign transferred war workers, has been opened at the Rutland Place, Leicester, and a hearty welcome to L.G.'s. It is extremely well equipped with such facilities as baths, hairdressing, sewing machine and canteen are available. Offices have now been moved to more premises at 5, Salisbury Road, Leicester, close to the old building.

**LINDSEY, Lincs.**—We were all very sad when we heard that Mrs. Lindsay Scott had decided to leave us and to go to Dorset. Everyone with whom she has come in contact in Lindsey wishes her God-speed and good luck, and hopes that the warmer air of the south will suit her better than the harsh cold of Lindsey. We extend a very hearty welcome to Mrs. New on her appointment as County Secretary and hope that she will enjoy working amongst us.

Proficiency Tests have been held in tractor driving, field work, and gardening. 12 girls out of 15 have passed. We congratulate Miss I. Needham, 49968, on being the first volunteer to gain a distinction in any tests in Lindsey. She came out first in the field work test. Owston Ferry Hostel held a very successful garden fete on June 22nd, and raised £82 for their local "Salute the Soldier" week.

## County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em-
	£.	s.	d.	ployed
Kent ..	6623	3	4	4069
Essex ..	5177	16	7	3570
Surrey ..	1621	16	5	2291
West Riding ..	1062	4	3	2131
Hampshire ..	2063	3	1	2114
East Sussex ..	1611	2	8	2022
Leicester 1826 } Rutland 274 }	1537	0	8	2110
Hertford ..	3807	13	7	2083
Worcester ..	1705	7	11	1897
Northants ..	2121	1	6	1816
Somerset ..	1315	0	8	1801
Bucks ..	4103	9	4	1775
Devon ..	2628	1	4	1731
Warwick ..	2493	16	3	1717
West Sussex ..	2077	0	3	1647
Norfolk ..	2230	13	3	1617
Cheshire ..	1529	6	7	1558
Lancashire ..	842	19	11	1511
Wilts ..	543	15	8	1469
Cornwall ..	282	0	9	1407
Northumberland ..	1687	4	3	1354
North Riding ..	443	12	2	1269
Gloucester ..	1716	0	0	1264
Nottingham ..	416	17	0	1243
Hunts 314 } Cambs 520 } Ely 327 }	931	4	3	1161
Berkshire ..	1291	2	9	1131
East Suffolk ..	1460	0	11	1125
Oxford ..	3400	0	0	1077
Durham ..	321	1	8	1028
Beds ..	716	12	11	1006
East Riding ..	171	8	0	1005
Shropshire ..	1116	13	10	909
Cumbs & West'd ..	457	2	8	932
Lincs—Kesteven ..	668	1	5	905
Dorset ..	855	11	1	847
Stafford ..	667	10	3	794
Lincs—Lindsey ..	589	3	6	736
Glamorgan ..	678	12	11	659
Hereford ..	961	9	3	640
Lincs—Holland ..	789	8	8	637
Monmouth ..	593	7	7	624
Derby ..	842	1	7	613
West Suffolk ..	1312	11	11	609
Denbigh ..	484	7	11	590
London & Middx. ..	741	10	8	582
Flintshire ..	426	1	10	571
North Wales ..	1135	0	9	535
Pembroke ..	655	13	8	400
Cards & Carms ..	533	10	11	357
Isle of Wight ..	110	9	5	339
Brecon & Radnor ..	274	0	6	281
Montgomery ..	289	12	4	229
Timber Corps ..	2151	14	7	3408

On the 29th July 69,268 volunteers were in employment.

### "THE LAND GIRL"

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