

THE LAND GIRL



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ON ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

IT is good to do one's best at one's job but it is not good enough if one could do a harder job equally well.

Some members of the Land Army are reluctant to accept posts as Forewomen or to make any effort to get more responsible jobs than they have at present. Many may feel that in refusing promotion they show a becoming modesty, but modesty, like some other virtues, can be a convenient cloak for less desirable qualities such as laziness, lack of enterprise and the fear of failure or of unpopularity.

Except for ambitious and dominating personalities, it is often easier and more comfortable not to step out of the rut—to jog along in a familiar job on equal terms with one's fellow workers, and not to have to plan the work, direct others in carrying it out and accept responsibility for success or failure. But if the Churchills and Roosevelts of the world chose, on such grounds as these, to be bricklayer and fisherman, who would deal with the Hitlers? for they certainly would not decide to remain house painters.

There is another, somewhat similar matter. The W.L.A. has got to train milkers from among the ranks of its gang workers. A ration of two pints of milk a week isn't very much but it will be less still if there are fewer cows, and there will be fewer cows if there aren't enough milkers. To become a milker may mean the sacrifice of personal comforts and wishes and plans, but it is an honour to be asked to join the "cream of the Land Army" and it is a job which yields to none in its value to the nation.

It is important that we should accept the responsibility of our qualities, and if we are offered a better or more difficult job than we have at present, we ought to appreciate the compliment and welcome the opportunity to do just that bit more to help to win the war.

M. A. P.

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Miss BAXTER & I, No. 9.

In September the gardens at the Castle were opened in aid of the Red Cross, and the head gardener asked our farmer if he could borrow my friend Miss Baxter and me to show people round because his own Land Girls had knelt through their breeches. And our farmer said he could and to keep us as long as he liked, which we thought was generous of him.

So we put on our uniforms and went up to the Castle. The head gardener said would he show us where things were and I said we knew where the plums and apples were already. The head gardener said How? and Miss Baxter said Just intuition and he said Like Hitler! and if people asked the names of flowers we were to make up some Latin and if they asked the names of apples we were to say Codlings, though they most likely wouldn't be.

And Miss Baxter said not to worry because she had taken her Nature Lovers' badge when she was in the Caterpillar Patrol of the Girl Guides and I had an uncle by marriage who made insecticide in Patagonia. And the gardener said that made everything lovely and he was going down to the horse-chestnuts in the shrubbery to look for a bay mare. Miss Baxter said did he not mean a Mare's Nest but he said no, they were in April in marshy places and went away.

Just then the visitors began to arrive. Two majors and a captain asked Miss Baxter to show them the drumheads and

Miss Baxter said kettle, bass or court-martial? and led them away.

Well, I thought, it would be best if I just stood behind a hedge and smiled, because my breeches stop two inches above my stockings at one end and two inches below my shirt at the other, and I had just seen a nice hedge when an old gentleman came along and said were the Montbretias out yet and I said I hadn't seen them but the buses were so crowded to-day they might not have got on. And the old gentleman said he had hoped to see Lady Hamilton, she was such a lovely yellow flushed with pink, especially beside Lord Nelson and were we registered? I said, no, nor certified either, though Aunt Milly had been under observation since '06. And he said would she not have been better under glass and was she a crimson dwarf blotched with claret and wasn't that an Irish Peach over there? I said no, that was my friend Miss Baxter looking for drumsticks with the Army, but he said he meant the fruit tree and I said it was an apple not a peach and was called a Grilse and there was broken glass on the top of the wall just there but it was all right further along and the pink flowers by the terrace were roses.

The old gentleman asked did I find Mrs. Jane MacGrady a gross feeder and I said I hadn't been to the tea-hut yet, but what would you expect when you could eat as much as you liked for a shilling and that was the gate to the kitchen garden. He said he thought he would go there because he was rather worried about his celeriac and as I was rather worried about my breeches with so much pointing and anyhow didn't know what to do if he really did have an attack of celeriac, I said good-bye and started looking for a hedge again.

Well, I had got as far as the tomato houses when two old ladies stopped and asked if that was Bishop Weed by the gate and I said no, it was Canon Andrews and did they want to be shown round? They said yes, so I showed them the catmint and the love-lies-bleeding. One of them said Nepeta and the other said Amaranthus Candatus so I suppose they were refugees from somewhere and these were their names. The Helianthemum they were talking about at the rockery must have been another refugee who had got lost on the way because they said she was of trailing habit.

Well, I wanted them to feel at home, so I pointed out a bed of Oratorium Verbatim, a fine hedge of Floreat Etonia and

a cluster of Verginetus Puerisque round Miss Baxter. But I must have chosen the wrong country because they looked rather cross and asked if the Sweet William in the drive was single, and I said that was Robert, the head gardener and he was married; and that I thought it was time I was going and began looking round for some excuse like a drowning camel looking for a straw, and standing behind the Dorothy Perkins I saw our farmer!

So I said good-bye to Miss Nepeta and Miss Amaranthus Candatus and went and asked our farmer what he was doing here. He said he had seen a Local Executive coming up the front drive and had suddenly realised it was his duty to go and aid the Red Cross. And I said would he mind being a straw to a drowning camel instead? Just then Miss Baxter came round the corner by herself. The Army had gone back to barracks and she had seen a Home Guard so she had offered to show him round and after she had led him up the garden path for about an hour and used up all the first and 2nd. declensions which was as far as she had got in Latin at school, she had asked where he lived and he had said Here, and when she asked what he did he had said he was the garden foreman and was her name Middleton? And why the honi soit qui mal y pense had our farmer let us come? And our farmer said Pro bono publico and for the same reason we had all better go home now and what the Agrosan Sarosan were we waiting for.

Scotland.

Isobel Mount.

Illustration also by I. Mount.

The following is an analysis of the different occupations of members of the W.L.A. in England and Wales on September 30th, 1943.

In Private Employment:

a. Milkers or in milking and general farm work ...	20,159
b. In other farm employment (not including milking) ...	12,521
c. In horticultural employment ...	10,817
d. In other jobs ...	1,674

Total ... 45,171

Employed by War Agricultural

Executive Committees ...	26,374
Women's Timber Corps ...	4,339

TOTAL ... 75,884

AT THE UNIVERSITY

I am one of five members of the W.L.A. employed by the Cambridge University Plant Breeding Institute for the past eighteen months and I can honestly say it has been one of the happiest periods of my life.

The chief experimental items grown are wheat, oats, barley, sugar beet and potatoes and lucerne, sainfoin, field peas and beans to a lesser degree.

One of the first things we are taught is the method of wheat breeding. Two types of wheat are chosen as parents, each of which has certain desirable characters, such as stiffness of straw, disease resistance, yield, quality of grain, well shaped ear. These are cross pollinated and the hybrids grown for perhaps ten or twelve years. Sometimes the result is a new wheat for the farmer—and sometimes not, as naturally, experiments are not always successful.

In Spring, the grain is sown in drills or rows, the number for each variety varying from one to fifty. The drills are made with a hoe, the rows dibbed with holes about two inches apart and deep, and the grain dropped singly into each hole, also by hand. This may sound very tedious, but it isn't so: it is one of my favourite jobs.

After hoeing busily for the next few weeks, we begin to harvest in July. Everything is cut with a reaping hook and great care has to be taken to keep each variety separate, otherwise years of work may be wasted.

In late September we lift the sugar beet, again taking great care to keep each variety separate. It is weighed, first with the tops and then without and put into clamps for a few weeks awaiting experiments in the laboratory.

The autumn sowing is like the spring sowing, except that winter varieties are sown.

The next two and a half months are spent at the School of Agriculture, threshing oats with a small electric machine and afterwards husking them. The oats are counted out in five hundreds, put into an oven and steamed. This makes the husk easy to remove with the aid of a small piece of wood. Husks and kernels are then weighed and compared, and the ones with a low husk percentage are potential winners.

In February, spring sowing starts again, and this year I had the added interest of being in charge of two greenhouses. These were gradually filled with potatoes,

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grown either from tubers or seedlings. We spent a very busy time pricking out, potting, watering, fumigating and keeping the greenhouses generally healthy.

In June we began to spend one day a week helping, in a small way, with some experiments to discover a potato which will be "blight" resistant.

Altogether a very varied life and a very happy one.

Cambs.

C. Gawthrop, 67085.

A VEW WORDS VROM DEVON

The Editor ave axed me to tell a bit about what us doos, and says, and calls things down yere to Devon.

Us ave just yeard zummat 'bout Cornwall and Dorset, and 'twas very interestin. Us "teals" tetties and mousetraps yere, too, but I reckon 'tis spelt "till."

When I first come on a varm I was like a parson I yeard tell of — "Larned Giddout. A don' knaw a whate-arrish from a barley arrish." An arrish be a stubble-field. I didn' know a pik or prang from an evel. They was both "forks" to me—a hay-fork and a dung-fork. I didn' knaw rakin from strollin in the hay field, and in case you don't neither, "strollin" be rakin up the swathes into strolls, and "rakin" be rakin' up what the sweep 'ave left behind.

I used to think that the share of a plough was the big blade what turns the earth over. Well the books calls thikky thing the "breast," or "mould-board," but us calls un the plate, or grujiz or grid-diz, or grittice. I axed Maister how to spell thik word, but he couldn' tell me, and the blacksmith couldn,' neither.

Well then I didn' know a visky when I had to fetch un. I knawed un well 'nough though after I'd a dug for hours with un down—'long the hedge-traws when Maister was hedgin. Tis a kind of a mattock with another blade to un for to cut mores—that's roots—with.

I used to enjoy they days hedgin last Fall. After I'd a—browssed them all down, I had to cut out the old dead rummage, and the bushes what Maister didn' want for steeping and then help bend down some of the big steepers and hold em while Maister fastened em down with crooks. Then us bound up vaggits—some with wire, and some with rad-beens. A been be what you ties up a bundle with, and when 'tis made of withy 'tis a "rad-been."

The draisher be comin' around the week after nex. They draishes our ricks and Varmer Soper's, to the next farm, in the same week, and when they'm down there us goes and helps he, and when they'm up yere Mr. Soper doos the zame vor we.

Las' year, down to Farmer Soper's, I was "dous'-boy," but up yere I was "drawin" (throwing) back straw to the old chap, Lias Turner, who was makin the ricks. 'Tis a silly dirty old job, rakin' back the doust, and if the wind be blow-in' your way you gets all the steer and smok in your eyes and down your drawt. I liked it a lot better up 'p'n tap of the rick with Lias.

He be a funny ol' chap—old-fashioned-like. A don't 'old with maidens doing men's work, and a kept on zayin' to me the first day "not vall out-ovver, mind." Properly anxious 'e was.

Howsomever, he got used to it b'm-by, and by the time hay harvest come around 'e was telling me to stand further out—" 'Tis solid,—you won't 'urt." Then "tread un down," e'd zay—"fill up the belly of un. E'll quat, you'll zee. 'E'll quat a goodish bit by tommorrer." When he made the rick out wider as he went up, so's the zides of un, 'stead of being stickle, sloped outwards, like, he'd call it "swimmin' " of un.

Us lost a bullock last week. A heifer-bullock. Proper wild little toad 'e was too—a buss-cav. That's to zay a cav what ave run with ees mother, and never bin fed be hand. Lias found un down under, "long o' Varmer Wat-'e-call's yar-lins in the maish."

Before I come 'ere they los' another one—a steer-bullock that was, and found un hanged up be 'is hine-legs in a bush, dade.

Well now us be diggin they everlastin' tetties, and by the time you rades this us'll be drayin' mangol' I spek.

There! I've a-yapped plenty long enough, I zim, but 'twould be interestin to hear from some of you maids, girls, wenches, or lasses up-country what sort of names you gives things where you works to.

Devon.

O. Bent, W.L.A. 5206.

Many congratulations to K. Mason, 103820 (Yorks, W.R.), who started a Savings Group two years ago and has collected over £1,673. Among the 74 members of the group are 10 Land Girls who have saved £50 in 7 months. Miss Mason has also collected 3,000 pennies for a Red Cross 1d. a Week Fund which she started.

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The first Tractor Driving Proficiency Test to be held in England and Wales took place on the top of a mountain in Montgomeryshire at the end of October. Mr. Brandon, of Messrs. Tilsley, Ltd., the Fordson agent, proved a painstaking and indefatigable judge, and his verdict was that all the girls showed considerable skill, both as mechanics and with their tractors on the reclamation work on rough and mountainous country, but most needed a little extra training in ploughing; the test included setting out the land, keeping a trough furrow, setting ploughs in relation to type of soil and crop and also turning the furrows over in an expert style that would ensure a good seed bed.

It was especially good that Mary Price, 63829, passed the test, as she has, only recently (and not yet completely) recovered from a broken arm caused by a fall from a tractor.

One of our Wardens, Mrs. Foster, accomplished a feat secondary only to the

Tractor Driving. She provided a wonderful hot luncheon on top of a twelve hundred foot mountain, for thirty people, seven miles from her cooking range.

CHRISTMAS TRAVEL

Owing to the necessity for restricting rail travel as much as possible over the Christmas holiday, the Government has decided that travel vouchers for transferred war workers, including the Women's Land Army, may not be used between December 23rd and December 28th inclusive. A member of the Land Army who has to make a journey within the restricted period for the purpose of **returning** from leave to employment, will be able to use the return half of the railway ticket issued in exchange for her warrant. No refund of travelling expenses can be claimed from the Land Army in the case of a volunteer who travels at her own expense between December 23rd and December 28th.

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DAILY FIGURES

Arrival at mill leads to usual discussion with foreman on jobs for three lorries, and vagaries of Cornish weather. Detail girls to check loads where needed and settle down to work out previous day's sawing figures. Interrupted by request for tea ration for twenty in wood, and fill tin, ignoring sarcastic remarks about counting each leaf. Loan out two pairs rubber boots and give sawyer new file. Go back to figures, but 'phone rings and am asked have we any logs. Request caller to wait a moment and go out to see; accosted en route by enquiry regarding delayed compensation allowance. Give negative but optimistic reply and decide there are enough logs for load. Return to office in wake of push-bench sawyer who also needs new file. Usual threats followed by usual grin and usual thanks. Forget receiver is off 'phone and continue with figures. Lorry driver comes in for petrol coupon, but before I reach cash box, pulls me up by saying "Hullo, trying to stop Baby crying," and pointing to 'phone. Slam receiver back, realising as I do this that have not yet given Mr. J. his answer. Search frantically for his number and say sweetly when through "Oh, there you are at last. Were you cut off?"

Discover with horror that keys of cash box are back at billet. Take cash box and ride up on lorry to find landlady out and door locked. Am forced to break in bedroom window via garden ladder and have just retrieved keys and descended (Pardon my Sarong) when landlady returns. Explain awkward situation with famous fact acquired since employed by M. of S. but am bowled over by information now imparted that key was under mat, anyway. Revive shaken self with much needed tea and cycle back to mill on borrowed bike, lorry continuing to station with load. Am told you are too late for cocoa, but reply have had some, thanks, only it was tea.

Put on specs and try to resume Daily Figures. 'Phone rings and make frantic dash to switch off deafening extension bell. Have we any railway sleepers in stock? Consult stock book, but find this is not up-to-date and it's quicker to count actual stock in yard. Conversation switches to uncomplimentary remarks re weather and latest H.O. circular and ring off pleased that someone agrees with me. 'Phone station re yesterday's consignments and find they've been trying to

'phone me all morning. Large knock on door reveals small boy with request in still smaller voice for new saw teeth as "Harold has struck a nail." Hand over box with instructions to return it to office.

Dinner time and am still only half way through Daily Figures. Measurers troop in, Mabel looking in need of bath. Says she used to be told off for playing in mud, now she gets paid for it. Open lunch tin and discover huge pasty. Foreman enters and says if I've nothing much to do will I measure some larch trees this afternoon. Reply No, have nothing else to do, and Yes, would be delighted. Decide pasty and Daily Figures too heavy a combination and give full attention to pasty. Admit to foreman collapse of resolution to cut down smoking and accept cigarette, remarking ungratefully that his gifts of fags are merely excuses to borrow my lighter.

Go with Freda to wood to find larch trees and am confronted by sea of brambles. Stumble across (literally) end of log and crash way through brambles until descent into unknown reveals other end. Let end of tape slip from grasp and struggle ten yards to retrieve it. Sit down sharply on bramble and shock Freda. Foreman arrives breathless for elusive cash-box keys and take opportunity to burden him with mags, as sun is now shining. Measure two more trees, then dash for cover from sharp shower. Endeavour to carry on, but decide to abandon operations and return to mill in time for tea. Am asked what was the score yesterday, and realise Daily Figures are still unfinished. Work feverishly all tea-time, refusing to join in laughter and snapping at attempts to include me in conversation. Talk grows louder and abandon task to take part in heated argument.

Have just settled down again when boy walks in dripping blood all over office floor. Has placed thumb too near circular saw and is not the boy he was by quite a large bite. Give him wad of cotton wool to staunch bleeding and rush to canteen for warm water. Bathe and dress wound, fighting down fluttering stomach, and lead him to canteen with orders to keep Thumb Up. Arrange for lorry to leave early so that he can see doctor. Feel need of cigarette and light up, then try to concentrate on figures. Lorry driver arrives back with wagon numbers and receipt for petrol. Enter in appropriate books and ask why he was so long, forgetting had instructed

him to call at garage for repairs. Attend to Mrs. L. who is leaving and wants her money. Tell her, No, her cards will be sent to the Labour Exchange, and Yes, have put in claim re mac burned in recent canteen fire. Find there is not enough time to finish Figures and resign myself to usual "homework." Discover on reaching home that vital book is missing and that they must be left till tomorrow. Am still trying to face fact that I Did No Work that day!

Vera Lloyd, 37769, W.T.C.

SOMETHING NEW IN CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

An attractive prospectus of correspondence courses in a number of subjects ranging from English Literature to Citizenship, has reached us from Hillcroft College. Whilst none of the courses are in any way vocational, their aim is to provide interest and to stimulate clear thinking and observation.

Designed to cater as far as possible for all tastes, the courses vary in length and difficulty, but amongst the subjects covered a few will, we think, have a special appeal as, for example, **English Composition** (12 lessons) offering opportunity for practice in narrative and descriptive writing; **Art in Everyday Life** (12 lessons) bearing titles such as "The Furnishing of a Room," "Pottery," "Looking About You in Town"; **Citizenship for Women** (6 lessons) containing suggestions for practical studies; **The English House and Home**—an experimental course on the development of the English House.

Application for a prospectus should be made to Miss M. K. Ashby, Shenington, nr. Banbury, Oxfordshire. The fee normally charged is 30s. for a course of 12 lessons; 15s. for one of 6 lessons. Women members of Trade Unions and members of the Workers' Education Association may submit an application for a reduced fee, as may also any other intending student, provided she indicates in her letter that she is not in a position to pay the full fee. In this connection, members of the Women's Land Army will receive sympathetic consideration.

WANTED. Brown leather riding boots, good condition. Size 6. Sidaway, 123, Melbourne Road, Earlsdon, Coventry.

WANTED.—Black or brown Riding Boots, size 6, good condition. K. Storr, 65, Park Avenue North, Northampton.

WANTED.—Roller skates, size 6, Hunt, Lodge Farm, Halterworth, Romsey, Hants.

BUSH-CLEARING

We fire the living tree
And sacrifice the garland of our year;
We tear the ancient roots,
As for our daily bread a path we clear.

No more the blossom's froth
Shall sweeten the surrounding air in
May
With sun-brewed hawthorn scent.
The decades' work is undone in a day.

Next spring in vain the birds
Will seek the brittle nests that we have
burned;
No more the goats will feast,
And brambles thus to good account be
turned.

Black ash will soon depart
The ground where heavy-booted feet
now tread,
And gold of corn appear.
The crown of thorns becomes a loaf of
bread.
Surrey. Joyce Oehring, 114358

MY GUMBOOTS

Alas, they are no longer **your** gumboots in many cases. The shortage of rubber has made it quite impossible for every employed volunteer to be given a pair of her own.

There just IS NOT ENOUGH RUBBER TO GO ROUND. We should count ourselves extremely lucky that we are on the very short list of Services to whom a certain quantity of gumboots is allowed.

Therefore we must make the best use of available supplies, and cheerfully share gumboots with our fellow volunteers when this is necessary.

Do not imagine because you see gumboots displayed for sale in shops that there are plenty about. This is not so at all—those in the shops are for use of civilian workers employed on wet jobs and cannot be bought without a permit.

Only wear your gumboots when engaged on a wet job. It is really criminal to wear them going to and from your work. Many volunteers could make far more use of their leather boots than they do at present.

K. Doman.

Congratulations to K. Bagenal, former member of the Hertfordshire W.L.A., who was released to take an agricultural scholarship course at Studley College in 1940 and who has now been appointed Assistant Milk Officer to the Suffolk County Council.

ROGUE POTATO

One of the most useful spheres of activity in which the Women's Land Army has been engaged since its formation has been in helping to plant and to harvest the potato crop, and there can be little doubt that, but for the excellent service it has given, the increased acreage of potatoes might not have been so readily obtained in many districts. This year the W.L.A. in North Wales, however, has tackled a more responsible and perhaps more difficult task in connection with potato growing, because it is providing the technical assistance required to ensure that the high standards of health and purity of the crops grown under the North Wales seed potato scheme will be successfully maintained.

This is a job which calls for special skill and ability to identify potato varieties and the virus and other foliage diseases which affect the crop. Previously it has been undertaken by students of the School of Agriculture, University College of North Wales, but this year 14 Land Girls were trained at the College Farm at Aber where a series of trial and experimental plots of potatoes are grown each year in connection with the research into virus diseases carried on at Bangor.

It was a common sight during the few weeks of training to see this party dispersed over the plots in the potato field at Aber, pouring over plants, studying intently the foliage features which characterise each variety and carefully examining the leaves for symptoms of infection with the virus diseases, leaf roll and mosaic. The Land Girls were keen and determined to learn and gradually their patience and perseverance were rewarded and at the end of ten days or so most of them came to be able to recognise almost at a glance many of the common varieties as well as to distinguish leaf roll and the various forms of mosaic. Some volunteers showed remarkable aptitude for this type of work, and during the short time of training learned to identify and name correctly as many as 25 to 30 different varieties, while all were capable of forming a reliable estimate regarding both the health and purity of a crop. In the end-of-course test, 13 out of 14 had over 60 per cent. and 6 over 80 per cent.

On completion of the course the Land Girls returned to their respective counties and, working together in pairs, rogued the potato crops grown at centres registered under the scheme in the districts

to which they had been allocated. A final and critical inspection of all crops was later made by the Supervisor of the scheme who found that in Anglesey and Flint the work had been carried out in a very efficient and highly satisfactory manner. In Denbighshire the work was also satisfactorily done, but in this county the Land Girls had to work at a disadvantage, because, owing to the backward state of the crops, considerable delay took place between the end of the training and the time when potato crops were ready to be rogued. In Caernarvonshire the work was perhaps not quite up to the standard of the other counties, probably because all the volunteers concerned were new recruits without any previous agricultural experience. J. F. Currie. School of Agriculture, Bangor.

AUTUMN DAY

It is an autumn day, grey, with dark grey clouds sweeping the sky and only a lighter touch here and there to show that the sun is still beyond the lowering masses. In the fields the ploughshares turn over the dark, rich, gleaming earth. The gulls wheel and cry in the wake of the busy ploughs. Over in the beet fields men and girls are bending at their work, pulling and topping, others go steadily to and fro, carting—adding to the growing pile by the gate or roadside.

In the distance a spiral of thick smoke tells of bonfires of hedge cuttings and rubbish and the sweet smell of burning wood comes over on the breeze. The rhythmic beat of the threshing engine sounds from the stack yard, with the calls of the men to one another and to their horses as they come for yet another load to be carted to the great barn, where the fowls are gathered round to pick up any corn that falls as the huge sacks are taken in.

The busy day goes on. At last the hum of the engine ceases, the men straighten their backs, and with the tired horses, wend their way slowly back to the farm as the mists rise from the marsh lands beyond.

Norfolk. L. K. Burton, 43062.

National Milk Cocoa, the new food drink which the Ministry of Food are making available to young people under the age of 18 engaged in industry, will also be available to young people in the same age group engaged in farming. Buying permits, which must be obtained by the employer, will be issued through the Local Food Office.

Women's Land Army Headquarters

The Headquarters staff of the W.L.A. has been at Balcombe Place, Sussex, the home of the Honorary Director, Lady Denman, D.B.E., since a few days before the outbreak of war. Here are some of the clerical staff at work in the hall.



Seated on left is Mrs. Pyke (Editor of the LAND GIRL), standing beside her is Mrs. Jenkins, C.B.E. (Assistant Director). Lady Denman is sitting in the middle with Miss Brew (Senior Administrative Officer) on her left and standing behind them are Heads of Departments: L. to r.—Miss Keith, Mrs. Grace, Misses Bowser, Doman, Moncrieff, Scott.



The photograph above was taken in the library, now Mrs. Jenkins's office.

This one shows some of the typing staff at work in the drawing room.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I have travelled about—going to various clubs, dances, staying in a London Y.W.C.A. and generally talking to other Land Girls. I find there is a small percentage of girls, like myself, who are extremely interested in their jobs and have at the back of their minds the desire to farm on their own in peacetime. I want to go in seriously for dairy farming after the war. I shall rent a small farm with a herd of, say, 15 cattle to start. A considerable amount of capital is needed and here is my plan. I should like to find three other Land Girls with shall we say, £150 to £200 capital. We four girls would live in the farmhouse and run the farm between us, each taking an equal share of profits and running of the farm. In addition to the 15 milking cows we should probably be able to buy calves, rear them till yearlings or heifers to seil. Naturally we should keep a few chickens and perhaps pigs for bacon.

I myself have at the moment three shorthorn calves I am rearing, buying hay, mangolds, calf ration, etc., and having paid £13 10s. for these three—hope to sell at approximately £17 each when they are yearlings in May—making a clear profit of £25 or more.

I should like to hear if any other girl or girls are interested in this idea and have further suggestions. I might add that the farm would, if possible, be south or west England.

Wilts.

Doris Clapton, 64058.

Dear Editor,

In last month's magazine you asked if anyone can beat the record of six Land Girls picking 8 tons of potatoes a day. Our gang of about seventeen women picks an average of 30 to 35 cwt. per woman per day. I am Scotch and my father is a farm manager and he reckoned to get as far as 2 tons per woman per day in Scotland. Can anyone beat this?

Hants.

M. Harkness, 105331

Dear Editor,

Re your girls who picked 160 1-cwt. bags of potatoes. I picked as many as 42 1-cwt. sacks in one day, and did 1½ acres of sugar beet in 8 days. I am only in the W.L.A. three months. Don't you think this pretty good going?

Essex.

An Irish Colleen, 133792.

Dear Editor,

I often wonder if beside me there are any Land Girls of Czechoslovak nationality in the Land Army. I joined in the early spring of 1941. Ever since I have

been working on the same farm. I adore my work and can hardly imagine a happy life without hilly grounds, muddy farmyards and ever-hungry cows. I cannot help feeling sorry for my friends living in towns who have not had my luck to get to know the loveliness and grandeur of the English farm life.

Wilts.

V.S., 42450.

Miss Atkinson, Deputy Superintendent of the Australian W.L.A., wrote to her namesake Z. Atkinson, 73171 (Worcs.), to express her interest in the W.L.A. over here, and says that the Australian W.L.A., just over a year old now, has done wonders. Land Girls are working from Cape Tribulation in the north to the uttermost ends of Australia. There are camps and also many volunteers billeted on farms. Miss Atkinson sends our every good wish to Land Army.

A short while ago, some words from a member of the R.A.F. in praise of the W.L.A. were printed in these columns. Since then Betty Reeve, of Swineshead Hostel (Lincs—Holland), J. Dearden of the W.T.C. and M. Blackwell of Northants have all sent poems by Service men in praise of the Land Army. Space does not permit the publication of these, but volunteers will like to know that they, and their work, are appreciated by their brothers in the fighting Services.

Iris Self, 70973 (Norfolk), who wrote an article for the "Land Girl" recently on calf rearing reached her calf target of 100 within the year on November 1st. She was then 102—not out—as she was still going strong and determined to "keep on keeping on."

A. J. Irwin, 32137, writes of the splendid effort of the Shipley and Coolham Club which, though it has only 16 members, raised nearly £30 by a dance, with raffles, in October. £20 went to the Benevolent Fund and £10 to Club funds.

J. D. Hampshire, 102850, (Cheshire) won a prize in the National Essay Competition run by the Anglo-Soviet Friendship Alliance.

There have been complaints recently that some volunteers, new to the W.L.A. and inexperienced in farm work, do not understand how easily a rick is set on fire and have, in fact, caused fires by careless smoking.

All members of the Land Army are reminded that they must NEVER in any circumstances, smoke near stacks or ricks or, in fact, near anything which is liable to catch fire.

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MY HAT!

Great grandma wore a bonnet of most becoming shape,
Tied with a pretty coloured bow.
Grandma wore a monster hat secured with rows of pins
Rather like the local flower show.
Mother's hat when she was young, was jammed down to her eyes;
So it darn well couldn't wriggle out of place
But the fashion of to-day
In the W.L.A.
Is to tie on your hat with a BOOT LACE!

J. Moncrieff.

It is generally agreed that candidates for Proficiency Badges in milking must be tested on an unfamiliar herd, but some doubts have been expressed as to whether farmers will be willing to allow their herds to be used in such competitions in case the cows or the milk yield should suffer. It is therefore interesting to record that in tests held both in Surrey and in W. Sussex, the milk yield was **higher** than usual—evidently the skill of the of being strange.

COMPETITION

It is impossible to live in the country for long without taking an interest in nature, and doubtless there are many Land Girls who are becoming quite good naturalists.

To encourage this an Area Representative is offering three book prizes for the best essays on "The Birds of my District."

Dry lists or rehashes from books are not wanted; the prizes will go to those essays showing the most personal observation.

Rules

1. Essays are restricted to 750 words.
2. Closing date, March 1st, 1944.
3. Entries, with name and address, and age (if under 21), should be sent to, "Bird Competition," Balcombe Place, Hayward's Heath, Sussex.

COMING NEXT MONTH

"What British Agriculture has Achieved in Wartime," by L. Easterbrook, the well-known agricultural journalist.

"Pauline is Unlucky," by Barbara Whitton, author of "Green Hands."

SCOTTISH NOTES

ABERDEEN & ELLON.—Congratulations to J. Lawrence who has contributed 30s. for the W. and B. Fund, made by working on Saturday afternoon in friends' gardens.

ALFORD & DEESIDE.—A dance organised by I. Stewart and E. Elsrick has brought in £5 for the W. and B. Fund.

ANGUS.—The L.G.s at Messrs. Cowie & Frasers, tomato growers, got up a whist drive and dance raising £16 6s. for the W. and B. Fund.

ARGYLL (South).—Commander Fleming presented G. S. badges at a most successful dance got up at Kilmun by P. Deveney and B. Ure, which made £28 17s. for the W. and B. Fund. He thanked the L.G.s for the help their work gave to the R.N. and R.M.N. in feeding the country.

AYRSHIRE (South).—Colonel Houldsworth presented G. S. badges and gave an inspiring address at a large rally in Ayr Town Hall at which Colonel Kennedy, Chairman of the A.E.C., presided. An appeal for the W. and B. Fund had an instantaneous response; a cheque for £34 10s. was handed over by Kathleen McGinney from the girls at the Ochiltree Hostel, and the subsequent collection brought in £11 10s. An excellent entertainment was presented by the girls in the area who showed wonderful talent. The tea was excellent and altogether the party was a huge success. Miss Frood, Miss Cowan and all the members of the Sub-Committee are to be congratulated on the results of their efforts. The girls of Barbieston Hostel have sent £2 for the W. and B. Fund and £3 10s. has come from Mrs. Littlejohn, Knockshinnoch.

BANFFSHIRE.—A Whist Drive and Dance held in Buckie realised the splendid sum of £64 7s. for the W. and B. Fund and G. Cranna is specially to be thanked for her work in connection with the event.

BERWICKSHIRE.—L.G.s in Berwickshire have contributed £9 1s. 6d. towards the W. and B. Fund, £6 from hostels, £3 1s. 6d. from private farms.

DUMFRIESHIRE.—At the county's first big rally Sir John H. Milne Home, Chairman of the A.E.C., presided, the Duchess of Buccleuch presented G.S. badges, and Lord Woolton gave the girls a most interesting address, praising the work of the L.A. and exhorting its members to further and greater achievement. A collection of £21 11s. was taken for the W. and B. Fund. Mrs. Ralston, Miss Savage and their helpers are to be congratulated on a most successful afternoon.

DUMBARTON & RENFREW.—Paisley L. G. Club had an interesting talk on "Growing Tomatoes," from Mr. McPhail, Brookfield. N. Smith has sent a donation of £1 to the W. and B. Fund.

E. FIFE.—Pitcorthie Hostel girls, with a couple of very successful dances, have raised £110 for the W. and B. Fund, and the hostel at Eden Place, Cupar, has added another £26. We understand the E. Fife hostels, of which there are 10, have each been set a target of £100. All success to their efforts! The St Andrews Hostel has started weekly discussion groups.

E. LOTHIAN.—The County Comforts Fund has sent a donation of £15 to the W. and B. Fund.

INVERNESS-SHIRE.—Collections and a competition run by girls in this county have resulted in £42 12s. 6d. for the W. and B. Fund.

KINCARDINESHIRE.—A committee of L.G.s, with B. Wildgoose and M. Clark at their head have raised £32 11s. for the W. and B. Fund with a whist drive and dance. Mr H. L. Christie spoke of the grand job the L.G.s were doing to help the farmers in the national effort.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—The sub-committee for this district has sustained a heavy loss in the death of two active and popular members, Mrs. Young and

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Mrs. Jaffe. Mrs. Grierson is unfortunately ill but it is hoped that she will soon be out and about.

LANARK (South).—L.G.s in the county have been invited to attend the "Clean Milk" film shows in various parts of the area. M. Dougal has sent £4 to the W. and B. Fund.

PERTH (East).—Mrs. Paulin, D.O.A.S., presided at a rally in Perth where G.S. badges were presented by Mr. McNair Snadden, M.P. In the course of a stimulating speech he asked L.G.s to give "that little bit more" needed to step up the war effort, in spite of war weariness, and congratulated them on work well done. The girls spent an enjoyable afternoon, with tea, games and dancing.

STIRLING & CLACKMANNAN.—Carbeth Hostel was officially opened on Nov. 6th by Mr. Kerr, Chairman of the A.E.C. Miss MacLeod, D.O.A.S., presented G.S. badges, and an enjoyable afternoon was spent at the hostel. A discussion group has been started at Fairhill Hostel, and it is hoped the other two hostels will follow suit. A Barn Dance, organised by A. Bean and E. Fotheringham raised £20 5s. 6d. for the W. and B. Fund, and a dance held by the W. Plean and Auchinbowie Women's Club brought in £23 13s. Cambus Hostel had a most successful Hallowe'en party and the "spread" had to be seen to be believed! Another party was held in Stirling; G.S. badges were presented by Miss Tod.

W. FIFE.—A pig-keeping enterprise at Linburn Hostel has proved most successful and its flourishing financial state has encouraged the Committee to envisage similar schemes elsewhere. £3 has been sent for the W. and B. Fund. A discussion group has been started at Linburn.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.—A cheque from L.G.s in the county was presented to Miss Wallace, poultry instructress, on the occasion of her retirement from the secretaryship of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On November 30th the Fund totalled £47,262 6s. 1d. The monthly total was £7,356 11s. 3d. Kent has the highest total £5,493 14s. 10d. and the highest monthly total £5,000.

All other contributions this month fade into obscurity beside the magnificent cheque for £5,000 received from Kent as a result of "Benevolent Fund Week" in which the whole county co-operated in raising money for the Fund.

The L.A. County Committee appointed an Appeals Sub-Committee to plan the programme. Area meetings were held with Local Representatives each one of whom undertook to organise some special event. On the Sunday, to open the week, volunteers attended churches and chapels in uniform and many collections were devoted to the Fund. Hostels were asked to raise £1 per head including staff and did it most successfully. Employers, firms and private individuals were approached for donations and every volunteer contributed her share. Flag Days, Bring and Buy Sales, Pets Shows, Dances, Whist Drives and Sales of Stock and Produce represent only a few of the means devised for the painless extraction of money from all pockets.

Much preliminary advertising was done through the local Press. Editors entered wholeheartedly into the idea and many advertisements were accompanied by telling "write ups" and a large number of special events were well reported.

The target of £5,000 was passed by over £1,000 and the money is still coming in so that the County Welfare Fund will benefit as well as the National Benevolent Fund. In addition the N.F.U. is arranging a "Day" in December which is expected to bring in further funds. The really staggering success of this concentrated effort is due to skilful planning, effective organisation and warm hearted and enthusiastic response from the man in the street who spared his penny to the generous employer who gave fifty guineas. Our heartfelt thanks go to them all. Incidentally—

the whole county now knows the Land Army and the Land Army knows the county.

The effect of all this is to put Kent securely at the top of the county list. What about those pre-war cricket championships? Step on it Yorkshire, stick to it Kent!

County News

BEDS.—During the past two months we have welcomed 40 more girls from the North and 40 girls from Essex and have opened a new temporary hostel in Luton. Threshing is in full swing and Kensworth House girls have again made a name for themselves in this line with Houghton Conquest running a good second. Bolnhurst and Kensworth House Hostels both had their first birthday parties recently. We are proud to have 12 girls qualifying for the new 4-year armlet. Toddington Park Hostel, which has qualified for the W.A.E.C. hostel garden cup will receive this award at the same time at a Christmas Party, one is to be held in each part of the county. Mrs. Martin, of Box End House, Kempston, held her first club meeting last month, and hopes that all girls in the Kempston and Stagsden District will make full use of this informal club. Applications for membership should be sent either to Mrs. Martin or this office. Correspondence courses are in full swing now and we hope to hold our first Proficiency Tests early in the New Year. Literature and information can be obtained at the County Office.

BERKS.—There are now 22 clubs started and going well in the county. The volunteers have chosen their own programmes and these include toy-making, dancing, make-do-and-mend classes, play-reading, leather craft, cookery, lectures on agriculture, etc. The clubs are being very well attended and great enthusiasm is being shown. At two of the hostels the volunteers are making toys for a Christmas party to be given to the village children. Hewens Wood Hostel sent over £16 to the Benevolent Fund as the result of an emergency party held when E.N.S.A. had failed to turn up at the last moment. The American Army and local farmers helped to organise a very happy and profitable evening. This story comes from a Brown Owl. A pack of Brownies were collecting firewood for a W.L.A. hostel. One was resentful because she could not take the wood home, so the Brown Owl explained that if the Land Girls were not looked after they would not be able to gather the harvest to make bread, or milk the cows so that Brownies might be sure of their milk. The smallest Brownie, aged six, listened attentively and then said, "O Pauline, didn't you know—that's why Land Girls were born—that we might live!" . . . The Brown Owl goes on to say that a large truck of wood was collected to the complete satisfaction of all.

BUCKS.—Audrey Oyston and Kathleen Johnson were the two W.L.A. volunteers chosen to represent this county at the National Conference of Women, held in the Albert Hall on September 28th. A silver cup has been presented as a trophy to be awarded each month to the hostel showing the highest sum collected per head for National Savings. This idea has been very well received, and it is hoped that the funds will be substantially benefited by keen competition among the 25 hostels in the county. The winter welfare programme is developing rapidly, and in addition to E.N.S.A. concerts, films, and other entertainments, seven courses of lectures are now in progress in the hostels, to which girls in private employment are invited. These lectures, the subjects of which are chosen by the girls themselves, include talks on the United States, Russia, China, Psychology, and Current Affairs, and are followed by a lively discussion by the girls and their friends. Another form of recreation has been found by four girls in a small village, who make it their duty to ring the bells of the old and picturesque church every Sunday morning—and do it very well, too.

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CARDS & CARMS.—The Y.W.C.A. L.A. hostel at Ffostrasol raised almost £52 for the Y.W.C.A., and P. Evans, 77402, went to London to present a purse to the Queen last month. There she met 11 other L.G.s and they had a very thrilling time at the Mansion House where they were charmed by the Queen and delighted to see Mrs. Churchill and other celebrities.

CHESHIRE.—Volunteers in the Congleton area have sent £28 to the Benevolent Fund as a result of their very enjoyable whist drive and dance; they have also started a Savings Group in their area. As usual, the Rangemoor and Tabley Harvest Festival was a great success. Stanhill Hostel has a full programme of winter activities; in addition to the usual E.N.S.A., and dancing, volunteers are studying Russian, French and German, as well as dressmaking. It has its own Post Office—a very valuable asset—one volunteer acting Postmistress and being ready at a set time each evening to produce stamps, cash Postal Orders, etc. The Bowdon Club has been enjoying glove-making demonstrations at the Coppice. Wilmslow and Alderley Club, with guests from Chelford and Bramhall Clubs have been fortunate in having tales and sketches of bird and animal life from "Romany." Neston Club have had talks on "Agriculture in Poland," by Polish Officers stationed nearby, and they hope next month to have an opportunity of listening to two Americans discussing agriculture in their country. On 7th Nov., Stoke Hostel entertained the American farmers now touring this country. The visitors were brought to the hostel by Mr. Mercer (Executive Officer) and others present included Miss Manley, the County Secretary, Mrs. Marshall Brooks, and Mr. Bourne. It would be difficult to say whether guests or volunteers were more interested in listening to each other's experiences. Volunteers in Malpas have just held a successful dance for the Benevolent Fund. The first of a series of Brains Trusts arranged by Mr. Barratt of Reaseheath, was held at Tabley Hostel, and attended by neighbouring farmers and volunteers. Hostel activities at Fardon include monthly whist drives, first aid classes, and handicraft classes. We hear that some very fine gloves have been made.

CORNWALL.—Proficiency Tests have been in full swing for the past few weeks, being held simultaneously with certain Y.F.C. demonstrations which had been arranged in various parts of the county. The branch taken in each case was Milk- ing and Dairy work. All 25 entrants have been successful in gaining sufficient marks for the award of a Badge and Certificate, and 11 gained Distinction. Our congratulations go to all these



Derbyshire Party
By courtesy, Burton Observer

volunteers on the high standard of efficiency they have achieved in their job. It is hoped that many more will follow suit. The rat-catchers have been doing good work this summer. A report from the W.A.E.C. gives the total "kill" for the five months, June-October, as 33,000, and for most of this the W. L. A. is responsible. Volunteers in Redruth, with the kind help of Mrs. Ward, our energetic Committee member, made the splendid sum of £32 at their W.L.A. stall at the Agricultural Red Cross Sale held there in October. We are very pleased to welcome as Organisers, Miss Cooke and Miss MacFarlane, who (as Wardens) are already known to many volunteers in West Cornwall.

DENBIGH.—On the 2nd Nov. the Denbigh Hostel held a most successful and enjoyable dance to celebrate its first anniversary. Over £50 was raised which is being given to the Benevolent Fund and other charities. Since October we have opened three hostels at Coed Poeth, Ruthin and Bersham. All the girls for these hostels have come from Yorkshire and Lancashire and we hope that they will be very happy in this county. The Llangollen Club had an excellent social last week. Dramatic classes in the hostels and clubs are proving very popular and we are hoping plays will be produced for the Benevolent Fund. We have had a very large sale of Christmas cards and should like to remind our volunteers that it all helps the Fund.

DERBYS.—On Nov. 24th Derbyshire was greatly honoured by a visit from Lady Denman who, in the morning, attended a meeting of the District Representatives and in the afternoon a meeting of the County Committee. Lady Denman gave an extremely interesting address, mainly on the subject of welfare, and the County Chairman and members of the Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking her. Derbyshire's November total for the Benevolent Fund has already reached the sum of £99 7s. 6d., £60 10s. of which were the proceeds of a dance given at Mickleover, Nr. Derby, on Oct. 29th, sponsored by the Derbyshire branch of the N.F.U. E. Prentice, 55082, acted as organising secretary, helped by other girls in the neighbourhood. Miss M. Wardley, a member of the County Committee, the District Representatives and L.G.s of Chapel-en-le-Frith, Chinley, Whaley Bridge, New Mills and Hayfield, together organised a jumble sale which realised £37 10s. F. Smith, 126637, of Eaves Hall Hostel, Chapel-en-le-Frith, who was a hairdresser, is now doing hairdressing in the hostel for the benefit of the Fund.

DORSET.—We had a very successful and unique Harvest Home, arranged by Mrs. R. S. Comben, J.P., at Weymouth, and also a Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church, Dorchester, where W.L.A. members augmented the choir and the collection taken was sent to our Benevolent Fund. Tea, in the Shire Hall, provided an excellent opportunity for L.G.s to get together. Some of our girls from the Dorchester Hostel represented the W.L.A. in the Battle of Britain parade at Weymouth, and were congratulated on their smart appearance. The Piddletrenthide Hostel was closed on the 30th Sept. We were very glad to be able to transfer the entire staff to Rothesay House, which hostel is running most happily. During the visit of the American farmers to Dorset we felt glad that they were able to witness an open ploughing competition, which was won by Miss D. E. Willis, 80967. Miss Swaisland, of the Central Council for Health Education, has given very helpful illustrated lectures at our hostels recently, and these have been much appreciated. Entries for Proficiency Tests indicate a keenness over their work by a great number of our girls.

We regret to record the recent death of Mr. W. W. Sampson, our W.A.E.C. Chairman, who was always a very good friend to the W.L.A.

DURHAM.—Mrs. Wilthew has been appointed

County Organiser. On Oct. 19th Mrs. Cooke-Hearle's L.G. club opened; it will do so every other Tuesday at the United Services Club, Barnard Castle. Several hostels report very successful film shows by the courtesy of the M. of L.; volunteers from billets were also invited. Four-year armlets have been issued to the following, M. Jackson, 27279; P. Hutchinson, 22932; D. Rudduck, 7281; and L. Harland, 1025. Two volunteers attended the Women's Conference held at the Albert Hall in London. D. Bellerby writes "If I live to be a hundred years old I shall never forget my wonderful experience in the Albert Hall, London. Imagine the surprise I got when I read Mr. Churchill's name among many other important peoples' names on the agenda. One talks of thrills of a life-time, I received mine right there and then." I. Walker, "It was a sight I shall never forget. The Conference was held to thank the women of Britain for their great help in winning the war. As Mr. Bevin said, 'Women tipped the scales of war between victory and defeat.' The greatest moment of the day was when Mr. and Mrs. Churchill entered the hall, the applause and cheers were deafening."

ESSEX.—We have opened 7 new hostels and closed 2 since our last news—making a total of 33. Three more are to open in December or January. Our Welfare Organisers have planned tremendous activities in these hostels and the 14 clubs throughout the county. First Aid and Fire-fighting classes are starting and we hope to hold an inter-hostel First Aid Competition for the silver cup. Leaders and Pest Destruction training courses arranged by the W.A.E.C. are in full swing and there are 72 leaders in charge of small gangs in every district. November 13th was the "high-light" of our autumn activities when Sir Francis Whitmore, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex presented 4-year armlets to 18 "Old Comtemp-tibles" of the W.L.A. "Harvest Suppers," organised by Miss Western (our Northern Area Welfare Organiser) for the volunteers in those hostels which have been established sufficiently long to have played their part in the saving of the harvest, have been a new feature in our social activities. Hostel Committees decided on the type of Harvest Home they would have—and there was a wide variety—but they all had the same happy atmosphere and were enormously enjoyed by numbers of the County Office and W.A.E.C. District Staffs, who were invited. Our County Welfare Committee gave a grant towards expenses.

FLINTS now has eight hostels, and we welcome all members from Yorkshire and Lancashire. They have joined us at a very dreary time of the year but we do hope they will all settle and be happy with us. The draw organised by Mrs. Smith, of Rhyl, for the Merchant Navy and the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, was drawn for at Rhuddlan Hostel on Nov. 4th by Admiral Rowley-Conwy, Lord Lieutenant, Flint. The final amount made with the draw is not yet known, but it is hoped that our Benevolent Fund will benefit by about £50. Great credit is due to Mrs. Smith, also to all members who worked so hard to sell tickets. We would also like to thank the Warden and staff of the hostel for providing refreshments and giving us all such a pleasant evening. We are sadly in need of more county news from representatives and members. Unless something very wonderful happens before the end of December we shall not reach our year's target of £365. Let us all make it our New Year's resolution to do more and so beat our target during the New Year.

GLOS.—Two special Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held for the W.L.A. on Oct. 10th in Gloucester Cathedral and on the 17th in Bristol Cathedral. On the former occasion Queen Mary honoured the L.A. by reviewing the parade. It was a beautiful day, and from early in the morning volunteers were to be seen coming into Gloucester from all directions. The parade assembled in Kings Square, formed up over 300 strong and marched to the Cathedral headed by

the Royal Canadian Air Force Band. It really was an inspiration to see what a smart turn-out could be produced by girls who had had no practice in drilling. A crowd had gathered at the Cathedral to watch the Land Army do "Eyes Right" as they filed past Queen Mary, and many of them joined us for the Service, which was also attended by the Mayor and Mayoress and members of the Gloucestershire W.A.E.C. The Dean preached, and after welcoming the W.L.A. he said that he believed it to be true that in this little island there was not a man, woman or child who was not adequately fed. Part of the collection was sent to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. After the Service the Queen was entertained at tea by the W.A.E.C., while volunteers, Area Representatives and members of the Office Staff enjoyed cups of tea served by the W.V.S. in the Chapter House and Cloisters. Before leaving, Queen Mary returned to the Cloisters, where a guard of honour was formed for her and, as she walked down the line accompanied by Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Bathurst, she talked to the girls about their work. On the following Sunday some 200 volunteers paraded in Queen Square, Bristol, where they were addressed by the Duke of Beaufort who congratulated them on their work and assured them that future agricultural policy would enable those who had become interested in land work to continue with it after the war. The march to the Cathedral was led by a W.A.A.F. band and the Service was conducted by the Very Rev. Harry Blackburne.

E. R. Willis, 49440, continues to send 5s. every month to the Benevolent Fund as she did formerly to the Spitfire Fund. Her total contributions now amount to £5—this is a splendid, steady effort which other volunteers might perhaps imitate? Miss Willis sends an interesting account of her club at Miserden, Stroud, which is busy with First Aid classes, to be followed by ones on Make and Mend—a Christmas party and socials are also planned.

HEREFORDS.—Saturday, November 6th, will undoubtedly rank as a red-letter day in the calendar of all the hard-working members of the W.L.A. and W.T.C. who attended the grand Rally in Hereford, were addressed by the High Commissioner of Canada, the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, and by him presented with awards for 4, 3½, and 3 years' Good Service. The Rally commenced with a parade through the town to the Shire Hall, and inspection by the High Commissioner, Mrs. Massey, Lady Lettice Cotterell (our Chairman), and W.L.A. and W.A.E.C. officials. In the Shire Hall the proceedings opened with the singing of the National Anthem and presentation of bouquets to Mrs. Massey and Lady Lettice Cotterell by P. Jake-man, W.L.A., and F. Greenhaugh, W.T.C., respectively. In his interesting and rousing speech, Mr. Vincent Massey paid "a very humble and sincere tribute to the Women's Land Army who were playing such an important part in increasing the food output on which our very life depended." Mr. Massey went on to give interesting comparisons between British and Canadian methods of farming and food production and to show how the two great nations were growing to know each other better than before through their mutual national effort. After short votes of thanks, the audience separated for tea, followed by an E.N.S.A. concert, much enjoyed by the girls.

Two leadership courses, each lasting a fortnight, have been held this month at the Bircher Hall Hostel, for selected volunteers from among the H.W.A.E.C. employees. These courses have provided opportunities for practical instruction in specialised types of farm work, as well as lectures on subjects dealing not only with farming activities, but also hostel organisation, methods of leadership, and general social problems arising from community life. We offer a cordial welcome to our new Organising Secretary, Miss M. G. Cuff, and trust that she will find Herefordshire as happy a county as her previous location in Wor-

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cestershire. W.L.A. Benevolent Funds have been augmented by another £10 10s., profits of dance and auction at Kilpeck, and Mrs. Whistance also sent dance profits of £5 10s. to the Merchant Navy Fund, and £9 towards comforts for Eighth Army wounded in a local hospital.

HERTS.—The winter season of dances and socials is now in full swing. We would like to congratulate Ben Hay, Shenley Lodge and Pendley Manor on their very successful birthday parties. Ben Hay Hostel celebrated its second birthday on October 1st and still has some of the original members. The other two hostels were celebrating their first birthday only. E.N.S.A., "The Merry-makers" and Mr. Carter's Concert Parties are all adding to the gaiety of hostel life. Mrs. Crutwell is leading discussion groups and the M.O.I. supplies lectures. Our six clubs are very active with their winter programme and a great number of our L.R.s arrange informal evenings for the girls in their own houses or in some central meeting place. Entries for Proficiency Tests are coming in by each post and after Christmas we shall hold the first tests: we are all anxious to see the new Proficiency Badges in the county. Training is going on apace in the county. Sixteen girls had a fortnight's training in Pest Destruction, at Verulam Golf Club House, which for this one fortnight gave up its task of training forewomen and gangers. General farm workers and milkers are passing through Oaklands, and Lower Woodside is still concentrating on producing satisfactory milkers. We welcome Mrs. Sumner as a part-time County Organiser.

HOLLAND.—The more enterprising girls in Holland are attending classes during the winter evening; six travel six miles each way once a week to attend classes in shorthand and typewriting and 14 members are attending cookery classes. On the 14th November members of the W.L.A. from North Kyme (Kesteven) came to Spalding for a conducted tour round the sugar beet factory. Girls from Holland House were also interested and saw how sugar was made as the result of their labours in the sugar beet fields. Mr. A. E. Monks, J.P., very kindly made all arrangements for the tour and for the tea party which was held afterwards.

HUNTS, CAMBS and ELY.—Arrangements for the first Proficiency Tests are being made in Cambridgeshire where they will be held in December. In Huntingdonshire and the Isle of Ely the Tests will be held in the New Year. Thirty-eight girls in the area have taken the Correspondence Courses. Miss Maguire and Miss Livermore found the Forewomen's Course in Herts very helpful and instructive, and we would like to thank Herts for allowing them to take part. Hunts girls employed by the W.A.E.C. have the chance to win a prize for the best design for a forewoman's

badge. On December 5th, Trinity College Chapel was the scene of a Carol Concert in which L.A. girls took part. Park House, Thorney, have formed a syndicate to buy pigs, poultry, rabbits, etc., and volunteers are taking charge of the onion and asparagus beds. At Sawtry, Mrs. D. Howard, assisted by Mr. Boyce, the handyman, grew a giant marrow, weighing 26lbs., on virgin soil which had no manure of any kind. Miss D. Harris (Wendy Hostel) undertakes the repairs of all the bicycles, and the money she earns is handed to the Sports Fund. This hostel is also starting Play Reading during the winter evenings. P.T. classes at Woolley on Monday evenings are thoroughly enjoyed, while several of the Gt. Gransden girls help to swell the church choir, and at St. Ives a weekly Happy-drome helps to dispel blues and boredom.

E. KENT.—Though the actual tests will not take place till after Christmas, nearly 100 girls are taking advantage of the visits to Wye College this month to fill gaps in their theoretical knowledge. Our forewomen have now received their badges and another group have been confirmed in their appointments. We wish them the best of luck. Special congratulations go to Miss L. Gammon, who by her courageous action saved the life of a fellow-worker attacked by a bull; and to Mrs. Kennedy on her appointment as farm bailiff. Congratulations also to the following volunteers who have received their four-year red arm-bands: Mrs. D. Dyer and the Misses P. Quirke, M. Rumbold, E. Thomas, M. Wanstall, M. Broadley, C. Macfarlane, M. Mills and P. Walker. Our monthly Group meetings are in full swing again and have been well attended. A new centre for the Dover area is being opened this month.

W. KENT.—The W.L.A. War Savings Group of Lyncroft Hostel, Edenbridge, has challenged other hostels in Kent to a contest in the matter of savings. With a membership of 14 they have saved £75 in less than 5 months, representing an average weekly saving of 5s. 4½d. per member. We hope there will be many competitors. Joan Gray, a West Kent girl, met with an accident on a threshing machine about two years ago on her first day's work in the Land Army. She has behaved with the utmost pluck and courage all through and is now back in employment and in spite of an artificial leg doing a good day's work on a farm. She has just received her first half-diamond. A very successful four weeks' "Fruit Training" course for L.G.s has been run at one of the W.L.A. Hostels, Friningham Lodge, Detling. The syllabus was arranged by Mr. Kent, Head of the County Horticultural Department. Mr. Hart, of Borden Farm Institute and experts from the East Malling Research Station have given lectures. The course also included very interesting demonstrations as well as practical work. Twelve girls took part, all drawn from private employment to which they are returning at the end of the course. We are grateful to the Kent W.A.C. for arranging this course for us, which has been very much appreciated.

KESTEVEN.—The recent inaugural meetings of the Y.F.C. have been enthusiastically supported by the W.L.A. The Billingborough Hostel raised £10 for the Benevolent Fund by their Halloween Dance; the Recreation Room was illuminated with candles in mangold mask lanterns made by the volunteers. All our hostels have agreed to take a W.L.A. Benevolent Fund Collecting Tin. The North Kyme Hostel gave up a Saturday half-day holiday to entertain to tea and social evening a party of wounded from the R.A.F. Hospital, Rauceby; the County Secretary was also invited to be present. A delightful concert was given to the volunteers at Leasingham Hostel by the R.A.F. Concert Party from Cranwell. The Braceborough Hostel Whist Drives are growing in popularity.

LANCS.—The volunteers at the new hostel on the searchlight site, Pilling, are to be congratulated on raising over £25 for the local Nursing Association at a concert held within two months



A damp, but cheerful, spraying gang in Devonshire

THE LAND GIRL

of their arrival. At the Sporting Picture Exhibition, Preston, on October 4th, Miss H. Gibbon, 44409, presented a leather-bound copy of the illustrated catalogue to the opener, Commander Bower, R.N., M.P. The Garstang and District L.G.'s Club was opened on Oct. 16th by Mrs. Robertson, M.B.E., County Organiser. G.S. Badges were presented and a vote of thanks to Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Aubertin (L.R.) was expressed by S. Vernon. The premises are loaned by Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson and the furniture has been provided by generous donors. Mrs. Stevenson (L.R.) sends two good ideas from Wrea Green Club—meetings, held monthly, are arranged to coincide with a full moon—and each member brings a book or magazine for all to read before returning to its owner. This club raised £12 15s. in five hours by carol singing last year. M. Smith, writes that volunteers in the Nelson area, several of whom had not met before, greatly enjoyed the Beetle Drive, Potato Pie Supper and discussion on their jobs, arranged by their D.R., Mrs. Wilkinson. Donations to the Benevolent Fund include £24 6s. 7d. from a dance organised by L. Cullen, 82176, and Mrs. Foxwell, 5680, at Catforth; £7 17s. 6d. from a dance organised by Mrs. Walker. £7 15s. 6d. from volunteers in Broughton-in-Furness district; £7 from Wrea Green Club's Whist Drive and Party; £5 each from Parbold and District Club, Rusland volunteers, from Ormskirk and District Club, and £2 from Bolton and District Club. We take this opportunity of wishing our volunteers in whatever county they may be working, a Merry Christmas and prosperity in the New Year.

LEICS and R.—About 100 girls attended the Harvest Thanksgiving on Oct. 3rd, and we had a most enjoyable service with popular hymns and an inspiring sermon by the Provost. Several members of the congregation commented on the smart appearance of the girls. At our Rally we raised £50 for the Benevolent Fund by means of a Bring-and-Buy Sale. Two new hostels have been opened at Wymondham and Thorpe Satchville.

Nine Lindsey volunteers have earned their new scarlet armband for four years' service. Eight of them have been in the same employment since their enrolment. Miss N. M. Hill and Miss T. Mellors had the privilege of going to the Albert Hall when the Prime Minister and Minister of Labour spoke to the representative women workers. Four new hostels have been opened Addlethorpe, Cumberworth, Ingleby Grange and New Leake. We extend a very warm welcome to the volunteers and to the members of the staffs of these hostels. During the Winter it is hoped to have talks and / or classes on various subjects, such as Health and Beauty and Craft work in the hostels. Brigg, which had cookery last year, has asked for "more cookery." There are rumours of W.L.A. Clubs—one at Walesby has already been started and has received its permit for refreshments. It is hoped that these Clubs will serve as centres for social and educational activities for the volunteers in private homes. The Benevolent Fund, volunteers at Silkeby raised £23 5s. 0d. by a dance and Wood Easington £11s. 0d. at a dance to celebrate its second day. The volunteers in Mr. Rothery's hostel at Kirkby-on-Bain, with military help, raised £10 for the bombed out people of Woodhall Spa.

WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS

Div. 5A. W.T.C. subscribers to the "Land Girl" are now to receive their monthly copies from the Divisional Office, of their area. There are surprisingly few subscribers in this Division, only 19 in all. Although our monthly news-sheet gives items of special interest to Divisional members, there are many articles in the LAND GIRL which should interest all W.T.C. girls, and contributions are always welcome. It would be an excellent idea if all present subscribers should persuade two or three other girls to take the magazine, beginning next January. Half yearly or yearly subscriptions should be sent to the Divisional Office.

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Yorks	529	6	6	4292
Kent	5493	14	10	4143
Essex	601	10	7	3879
Surrey	1278	3	0	2397
Hants	921	2	9	2280
Herts	562	7	9	2208
Leics 1875	523	7	4	2154
Rut. 279				
E. Sussex ..	549	12	6	2124
Northants ..	1405	12	2	1874
Bucks	913	17	0	1870
Somerset ..	577	13	1	1826
Warwicks. ..	1667	5	2	1796
Devon	604	14	10	1719
Norfolk ..	1215	15	6	1643
W. Sussex ..	1152	2	10	1586
Wilts	377	3	3	1556
Lancs	417	10	8	1476
Cornwall ..	170	3	10	1460
Cheshire ..	917	17	2	1459
North'ld ..	221	12	2	1426
Glos.	1044	8	0	1364
Notts	265	14	8	1318
Hunts 318	502	1	2	1230
Cambs 551				
Ely 361				
Berks	874	18	3	1227
E. Suffolk ..	902	14	9	1190
Yorks, E.R ..	89	11	9	1119
Oxon	446	7	1	1110
Salop	397	4	0	1041
Durham ..	160	2	7	1020
Beds	476	15	5	1006
Cuml.	280	0	10	992
Kest.	99	1	10	903
Dors.	49	8	7	901
Staff.	0	8	3	801
Lincs	18	1		76
Glam.	7	2		71
Mon.				68
Herts				
Lon.				
W.				
Flt.				
H.				
De.				
N.				

B.
Mon.
Timber
Worcs ..

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