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LAND GIRL

DECEMBER, 1944

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A CHRISTMAS card on White Paper might not seem in general a very exhilarating affair but the Government's story of the nation's war service must gladden every British heart this Christmas.

It is a proud record and the Land Army receives its own special tribute. With hearty appreciation of the statement in the White Paper that "an extremely important part has been played by the Women's Land Army," the LAND GIRL sends its warmest wishes for a happy Christmas to all volunteers, County Committee members, office staffs and voluntary workers who have earned for the Land Army so honourable a place in this magnificent chapter of British history.

M. A. P.

## THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF BRITISH CATTLE

*The LAND GIRL is delighted to be able to print the following article by Sir Merrik Burrell, Bart., C.B., Chairman of West Sussex W.A.E.C., ex-President of the Royal Agricultural Society and leading authority on British cattle.*

The writer was asked at a recent Brains Trust in West Sussex what was the reason why we have so many breeds of cattle in the British Isles. Your Editor has ordered him to write down the answer in case others than those present at Horsham would like to know it. So what follows does not purport to be a careful leading article, but just an answer to that question.

All zoologists, archeologists, geologists, and historians would not agree with all that follows but they would agree that of the two primeval breeds of cattle, *Bos Longifrons* and *Bos Primogenius*, our seventeen different breeds are all descended from the former, and that animal was about the size of our Kerry cattle. *Bos Primogenius* came into Western Europe just before the glacial period, lived through it and for long afterwards. He was a big beast. Man appeared in the Eolithic age, lived on through the Paleolithic, and by the time *Bos Longifrons* turned up in the Neolithic age man had flocks, herds, a well defined agriculture, and fixed homes. From that time the history of humans and cattle in Great Britain runs parallel. Boat building was understood, as well as weaving, pottery, and mining, so there was contact with Western Europe.

### Roman Influence

The first big change in the cattle population came when the Romans colonised Britain. They were here from A.D. 43 till A.D. 410—just about as long as from Queen Elizabeth to now. Britain had a population of about six million people when the Romans came, had quite a good agriculture, and exported tin and iron. Their native cattle were black descendants of the Neolithic *Bos Longifrons*. As the native population retired before the colonising penetration of the Romans into the mountains and hills of the West and North, they took their black cattle with them. Until the end of the 17th Century the cattle of Wales, Ireland, Cornwall, Scotland and Northern England were nearly all black, and that influence still markedly exists.

These little native cattle were not suited to army draught purposes and so the Romans imported a breed of large white cattle with upward curving horns, still to be seen in Southern Europe. Although the Romans influenced British agriculture, they did little farming themselves and so their cattle were concentrated chiefly round their towns and camps and had only a local influence.

### Going Native

When the Romans evacuated these islands they went very hurriedly leaving everything behind that was not of military value. Their cattle either fell into the hands of the natives or went wild in the forests. Some eventually were enclosed in the large parks formed later and a few such still exist, as at Chillingham Castle.

The Saxon invasion followed quickly after the Romans left, enticed here by colonies of Saxons brought here by the Romans from A.D. 250 onwards. They set up little pagan courts from the Forth to Southampton, but they never penetrated west of a line from Bournemouth to Berwick, and so we find little influence of their long horned red cattle except along that portion of the east coast nearest Europe, where we have the Devon and Sussex almost unchanged, the Norfolk and Suffolk Red Poll and the Lincoln Red Shorthorn.

But in the middle of the island gradually by mid 18th century the Long Horn had evolved. By his size, his long horns, and his brindled colour, he showed clearly a mixture of the native black, the Roman white, and the Saxon red.

### No Horns and Shorthorns.

We must now account for the polled or hornless cattle. Soon after the Saxon invasion, the Norsemen came from Scandinavia bringing with them small parti-coloured hornless cattle, originating probably from East Europe and even tracing back possibly to Egyptian cattle of which we have records as far back as 2,000 B.C. Hornlessness is dominant to

horns, and so when crossed with the black cattle in Scotland, black polls evolved, and when mated with the red Saxon cattle further south, Red Polls evolved.

Eight hundred years later the Dutch came to England trading and engaged in draining the fens. They brought short horned cattle with them rather like a red and white modern Friesian. These, when mated with all the other horned breeds mentioned above produced Lincoln Red Shorthorns, and the roan, red and white and white dairy and beef Shorthorns. The Hereford is derived from the Saxon red and the Roman white. The Ayrshires from their colour and shape of horn show the Roman influence. The Channel Island cattle are modern importations. There is much more detail needed to give the whole picture and the above answer is only just a sketch.

## Analysis.

Original British have evolved into Kerrys, Dexters, Welsh.

Roman x Saxon into Herefords.

British x Scandinavian polled, into Angus and Galloways.

Saxon x Scandinavian polled into Red Polls.

Saxon pure into Sussex and Devons.

General mongrel into Longhorns.

Dutch shorthorns x Saxon into Lincoln Reds.

Dutch Shorthorns x others into beef and dairy shorthorns.

Roman, strong influence on Ayrshires.

The origin of the Highland cattle is very obscure. It is probably a mongrel like the Longhorn which has had its type influenced by climatic conditions and stabilised by close line breeding within a comparatively small closed population.

## IMPRESSIONS OF POTATO LIFTING

On the Gould's Grove front the great autumn offensive against the potatoes has begun. The area to be liberated is extensive, and owing to lack of manpower, and what is available being largely woman and child power, the operations, although proceeding according to plan, can hardly be described as a blitzkrieg. Our forces are however only five yards short of the fourth telegraph post across the field, so fairly deep penetration has already been effected. The morale of the troops is excellent, only a few of the newer recruits complaining of stiff-

ness. Discipline is well maintained and the child power is generally under control. Some looting of nearby apple trees has unfortunately taken place, but not on a large scale. Our machinery moves forward so rapidly that the infantry has not much time in which to divert its efforts.

Casualties have been lighter than might have been expected and none have been serious. At one moment some anxiety was felt when trouble threatened to break out between the child power and the Italian-prisoner power, with regard to the exact position of the boundary mark between their respective zones of influence. The child power accused the Italian-prisoner power of cheating. The Italian-prisoner power emphatically denied this in English, Italian and Arabic. The child power then discharged a small volley of pig potatoes, but the situation was diplomatically handled by the officer in command of operations and complete order was restored.

Damage to property has been on a small scale. A few macintoshes have been harrowed up by Frank, the carter, who is engaged in mopping up operations behind the lines, and who mops up everything in his path with commendable zeal. A staff car in which the C.O. was inspecting the front narrowly escaped damage at one time, when it became firmly embedded in the soil and a considerable number of troops had to be deployed to disengage it.

The question of supplies might have given rise to anxiety, owing to the length of our communications, (the area under attack being at some distance from the base), but, owing to efficient organisation, at no time has our effort been held up by lack of materials, and the number of potatoes taken has never exceeded the supply of bags to put them in; a slight hitch when some of the potatoes were put into manure bags by mistake was soon remedied.

It is considered at Headquarters that the whole area will be liberated in three weeks, provided there are no serious reverses, although mopping-up operations "picking up the harrowings" may have to be carried on for a short time longer.

E. Bousfield, (D.R.)

## Overheard at Wiltshire Rally

"Tough? That girl's so tough she could use barbed wire for a chin strap."

## THE LAND GIRL



*Lancashire Lass lifts a load*

**The Women's Land Army** by V. Sackville-West. ... 5/- net. ... Published by Michael Joseph Ltd., 26, Bloomsbury Street, W.C.1.

Order from your own bookseller, or write to the publishers direct.

### WARNING

Don't rely on getting a bed in London at Weekends at the Land Army Club at the last minute. Book beforehand and avoid being turned away.

## FARROWING

It was the cowman's half day and the other man had come in to help. So while he was out fetching the cows I decided to feed Kate and do one or two odd jobs to help get done early.

I mixed her porridge and was about to open the sty door when I heard a squeak. So she'd started had she! Silently I opened the door and crept inside. This was my show and I'd prove how well girls can deliver piglets. Did I say deliver? Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 had already arrived and made a rush for refreshments. It was obviously a case of every man for himself and I was not needed at all. However, I stayed and every now and then re-directed some uninformed lady or gentleman who turned right instead of left for the buffet. No. 14 arrived backwards, kicking and spluttering in high dudgeon. He picked himself up and made for the bar to help restore his self respect. But No. 15 was a deadun, and this no doubt accounted for No. 14's ill humour. He'd probably been wasting no end of time saying "After you Claud"—and Claud apparently wasn't very quick in the uptake!

Anyway, Kate seemed very proud of her family when it was all over but decided that it was rather large for a wartime single-handed mother, so she laid on one a night until she had reduced them to nine, fat, naughty little piglets and left it at that. I was glad it was the cowman's half day.

Oxon.

N. Redhead, 38304.

Mount Ballan Hostel, Monmouthshire, sends an interesting account of its doings. The House Committee has a meeting every Monday, and on Tuesdays any volunteer can invite friends to a weekly social, dance, show, concert or similar entertainment arranged by the Social Secretary. Of a subscription of 6d. a week per head, 2d. goes for comforts for a ward of wounded soldiers in a local hospital, 1d. goes to the Benevolent Fund and 3d. pays the expenses of entertainments, e.g. hire of pianist, or refreshments which volunteers take it in turns to prepare. Two-thirds of the volunteers have volunteered as blood-donors and the hostel collected over £100 for National Savings in Salute the Soldier week. Congratulations on this fine record.

## THE ROBIN

In the wintry forest  
Alone wandering  
On a bare bough  
I heard a bird sing  
Oh sweet, sweet delight!  
Never on blossomy trees  
Shall Spring's thousand birds sing  
Notes sweet as these.  
Scottish W.T.C.

Anon.

## FLAX FACTORY

Members of the North Riding W.L.A. spent a very happy and interesting afternoon at the Ministry of Supply Flax Factory at Easingwold.

On arrival, they were welcomed by Miss K. Calloway, the manager, and were then divided into groups according to the areas in which they were employed; each group being put under the charge of the Fieldsman for that area who knew of any special problems connected with Flax growing on the farms on which the girls were working.

The first process seen was the forking of the flax from the lorries on to a conveyor belt which took it to the "scutching" machine—a girl being employed to see that the flax was evenly fed on the belt and that all the seed heads were on the same side of the belt. In the scutching machine the seed heads are cut off and the remaining straw beaten by hammers so that the woody pith is broken away from the fibre. The fibre which remains is graded and bundled—the best grades being used for the manufacture of aeroplane wing cloth, parachute harness, fire hose, etc.

All parts of the flax are used; the woody pith beaten from the fibre is drawn by a cyclone to the boilers and used for heating the factory and for heating the seed dryers; the chaff has a high feeding value for stock and all the seed is carefully dried in large dryers, in which there are fine sieves so that the dirt is removed, and the seed is ready to be used for the next year's crop.

A visit was paid to the repair shops where the flax pulling machines are maintained, and the Fieldsmen spoke about the cost and benefits of growing flax and its return as compared with other crops.

**FOR SALE.**—Ladies' brown riding boots, calf 13ins. size 5. Campbell, c/o, Midfield, Belstead, Ipswich.

## PROFICIENCY TEST

"War Agricultural!" snorted Hayseed. "Prancing lot of pimpers! I won't have them here."

And he didn't. He ran Check-Suit off the premises with a pitch-fork and he hadn't words enough for Percy Plus-Fours, to say nothing of the Pest Officer. The Land Girls heard him as he stamped about the barn.

"Poison them! I'll poison **him**. Land Girls driving about the countryside in vans. What do they know about rats? Shriek at mice! Call the rabbits 'dear little cuddly things'! Pests! That's what they are, all the lot of them! You working, in there?"

They had to work. He made them. But his bark was worse than his bite. They knew him, and they knew when to hold their tongues. As a matter of fact, they rather agreed about the Pest Girls. Give them something solid to do, drilling a forty-acre field, milking thirteen cows, bedding out the pigsties.

The District Representative came to see them. The local vicar's wife. Hayseed wasn't religious. He had things to say about the caller. Mrs. Hayseed smoothed the friction. Did the Land Girls want to take a Proficiency Test? They were shy; they were afraid they would fail; they thought they ought to wait.

"Proficiency Test! Nonsense! You get on with your work. Whose arranging it?"

"The Office."

"Bah"! The Office was his bugbear. Sheets of printed rules; regulation wages; overtime; Income Tax. Would he pay the billeting money? Did he recommend his girls for Half Diamonds? He wanted Gum Boots for them; why the devil didn't they send them? He'd ring up the Office. He'd have them know..... The Gum Boots arrived. Hayseed was more amenable. The Office, for all that, was no friend of his. It was too official. It bullied. It cavilled. It didn't seem to realise he had work to do.

"Test"! he snorted. They let him rave. They sent for the syllabus and left it on his desk.

He had three forms to complete. He took his time about them. He watched one milking the cows; he watched another yoking the horses; he watched the third driving the tractor. He grunted and asked why he bothered to pay them

wages. They were nervous and made mistakes and expected every minute to receive their notice.

Nothing more was said. No War Agricultural "pimpers" came to see him; no Land Army Secretary. The Land Girls might have been dead, and often wished they were.

Then, one morning, they received a letter. It instructed them to report to Stoneacre Farm at 10 a.m. and to take snack lunches. They looked at Hayseed.

"Where's Stoneacre"?

"Over Barley way."

Their eyes were twinkling. "Who farms it? War Agricultural?"

"Pimpers"!

"Can we go"?

"Waste of time! Cows unmilked, sheds not cleaned, ploughing stopped." He stumped upstairs.

"We won't go....."

"I'll tell them"! He got into his car. Proficiency Test! Women all over! Dressing up, beauties in breeches..... If you fail, I'll sack you."

Came the day. They went in fear and trembling. They thought of Hayseed, milking the cows, yoking the horses, driving the tractor. They dared not look at the people. They couldn't smile at the Organiser. They kept their eyes on the ground.

They dared not look at the judges. They saw plus-fours, and check suits, and the Secretary's brogue shoes, and the Chairman's goloshes.

They riddled potatoes, they loaded straw, they recognised implements. They entered the shed for the Oral ordeal.

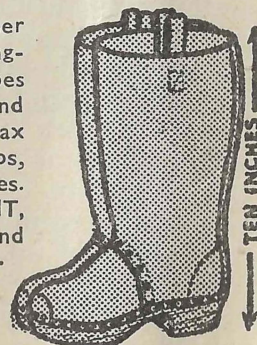
"Now, tell me ....." said Hayseed.

He gave them a wink.

Frances Turk.

### INVEST ONE COUPON AND KEEP DRY

in a pair of Industrial Leather or Rubber Topped Wellingtons, or wartime model Shoes or Gloves. For farmers and food producers. Pliable wax dressed uppers, pull-on loops, foot-shaped Beechwood soles. Welts leather bound. LIGHT, WARM, comfortable. Send stamped addressed envelope for list.



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#### FITTING IN TO VILLAGE LIFE. (4)

Now things are so much happier, there is naturally a slackening off in the fury of activity which seized the villages just after the fall of France. This is understandable in the case of the Home Guard and the N.F.S., but it seems a terrible pity if the Red Cross Detachments are to fall off, because First Aid and Home Nursing are useful to us in times of war or peace, in town or country. If you want to know what to do with yourself in the evenings, look up your nearest Red Cross Detachment and see what they are doing.

Our very small village took up First Aid in sheer self-defence, in those dark days when we feared at any moment to find German parachutists descending upon us and ourselves cut off from the rest of the country, self-dependent for everything. We trained hard, we passed exams, we even put our names to forms; eventually we managed to get enough of us through the exams to qualify as a Detachment.

But that need not be the end. Probably the only thing causing stagnation is lack of fresh blood. Go and have a talk with your local commandant and see if she doesn't say she cannot find any new recruits. Well, offer yourself as one, and see if you can't persuade some other people in the Land Army to come along with you. If, like myself, you are the only Land Girl in the village, see if you can't rope in a few of the younger girls of the community, the girls who have just left school. Often they are keen but are shy of taking the initiative in joining anything; they've known members of the Detachment so well from babyhood that they are diffident of being dismissed as "kids," but if **you** can get them interested, take them along with you, and gently keep them up to the mark when they look like backing out, you will be doing good all round.

You'll enjoy the Red Cross meetings. The bandaging is fun, particularly when other people and **you** yourself make a hopeless mess of the simplest job. You'll learn a lot about your body and the way it works, and what goes wrong when something doesn't work. Such knowledge will stand you in good stead all your life, and you'll be surprised how useful it is on the farm too, particularly if you are dealing with stock. When I started First Aid, my mates pulled my leg. Then one day I heard Fred say

to Johnnie, who had cut his hand, "Ask the girl to do it. When **she** ties a bandage, it stays tied!" I felt I'd really won my Proficiency Badge then!  
Cambs. E. M. Barraud, 9600.

#### HEADQUARTERS NOTES

##### W.L.A. Correspondence Courses

No further entries can now be accepted for these Courses except for the Course on Farm Book-keeping. Further applications from Land Army members for this course should be sent to Headquarters as soon as possible, with the entry fee, 15/-

##### "The Farming Year"

"The Farming Year" by J. A. Scott Watson is available from Headquarters price 4/6d. post free, to any Land Army member who wants to possess a copy of this standard work on farming or to give it as a Christmas present to a friend.  
Inez Jenkins.

**Warmest congratulations** to A. P. Turtle 94064 Berks, who has been commended by the King for gallantry. She went to the aid of the crew when a U.S. bomber crashed, dragged injured men out despite bursting ammunition, and subsequently did first-aid.

**And** to K. Blain 118256 Montgomeryshire, whose presence of mind saved a fellow worker from a bad accident with his tractor.

**And** to the volunteers at Woolley Rectory Hostel (Hunts) who lifted a load of sugar beet which the Peterborough factory to which it was sent said was the best cleaned and topped it had ever had.

**And** to J. Curtis 59830 Dorset, who has been appointed head cowman at her farm.

**And** to J. Leivers 73355 Lindsey, Lincs., who won two prizes at a ploughing match in which she was the only female competitor.

**And** to D. Cuthbert 107172, I. Rawlings 115012 and I. Brooke 142503, East Suffolk, whose employer sends a record of their work which he thinks would beat that of any other three Land Girls.

**And** to S. Shafto 51320, Hants who took 1st prize with another girl for the cowman with the cleanest and best cows, cowpens and milking utensils at a Growmore Club Competition.

Miss B. Van Moppes, 576 (Norfolk), described last month as "ex-W.L.A." is still a member and hopes to be one as long as the Land Army exists.

## RAGGLE-TAGGLE GYPSIES, O!

A string of gypsy caravans, a rare sight to a north countryman, is part of the Berkshire scene, where, as season follows season, gypsies can always find employment. In winter months they make cloths pegs or cut logs into firewood blocks, and on a fine day they set out for the nearest town, the men with cartloads of firewood and the women with baskets of cloths pegs over their arms. At the first sign of spring, the gypsy children are to be seen thrusting bunches of primroses or pussy-willow at the passer-by in the hope of collecting a few pence. Summer harvests of strawberries and cherries, peas, plums and apples bring an insatiable demand for labour, so that gypsy encampments are to be found dotted about wherever accommodation for living vans and grazing for horses can be found.

These self-contained units of society are infinitely fascinating and full of colour. The sombre appearance of the men, invariably dressed in black or dark brown, heightens the gay colours of the womens' clothes and of the vans, which receive a new coat of paint every spring—a job very often entrusted to the women folk who master patiently the intricate patterns and variety of colours.

The felling of woodland to meet war-time requirements provided the gypsy with new employment and I found myself working side by side with a family of didikois. They were housed in six vans in a field next the copse, but when a sufficient number of trees had been felled, they moved into the shelter of the clearing and on a crisp, frosty morning the blue smoke from their fires curled up against the dark background of the pine trees, while their clothes lines, strung from tree to tree were bright with the family washing.

Smith was the name used by the family; in times past it had been varied at intervals to meet awkward circumstances, but National Registration had prevented any further changes of identity and Smith they remained. There were three generations: Granny Smith, white haired and weather-beaten, was undisputed queen of the encampment and would willingly have extended her jurisdiction to include the timber felling operation. Her waggon was neat and tidy and through the open door could be seen rows of kettles of copper and brass. On

fine days she set the meals out of doors on a large table spread with a clean, white cloth and gleaming cups and saucers, and as we toiled through a long, hot afternoon it was more than we could bear to watch Gran superintending the pouring out of tea. The men were employed on piece work as timber fellers and loaders, whilst the girls of working age cleared the brushwood or stripped the bark from the trees which were to be used as telegraph poles. Approximately one out of every three of the male members of the family was called James, so that our time sheets were headed "James 1," "James 11" and "James 111." The didikois, both young and old, were unable to read or write and the majority were unable to count further than ten. It was part of our job as timber measurers to record the trees felled by each man and in order to check our count the professionals numbered their trees with crayon on the butt end. The day came when James 1 (who was extremely conscientious and tried hard to improve his work by studying the professionals' technique) decided to do likewise, but it took us some time to get used to his hieroglyphics. We were seldom able to follow his numbers beyond 1, 2, 3 (always in reverse), 4, 5, and very soon we would come upon a tree marked with the incredible number 100703. After some time we realised that this was James's method of writing 173.

His son, James 11 or Jimmy, was not nearly so diligent; he prided himself on his singing voice and in addition to the ring of the axe, the wood echoed all day with the strains of "There'll be blue birds over the white cliffs of Dover."

Uncles Solomon and Leonard were inseparable and their conversation, chanted in chorus, was always in the affirmative. Caroline and Anna, the only girls old enough to work, wore green or blue dungarees over silk blouses of some vividly contrasting colour such as scarlet or magenta, the whole outfit being completed with ear-rings and innumerable bracelets and a straw boater perched on the back of the head. They went regularly to the village dances and every Sunday they cycled ten miles to the nearest cinema.

As spring gave place to summer and timber began to lose its novelty, the encampment showed signs of restlessness. Each morning we expected to find that

the vans had disappeared in the night but the Smiths were to make their preparations for departure in broad daylight and their farewells with formality. The lure of the hop-gardens and of the festival of hop-picking where a still larger family of didikois hold their annual re-union had proved irresistible. As we watched their waggons trundling away from the wood, it seemed as if we were waving Goodbye to old friends,—Gran, the Jameses, Solly and Lenny and the endless trail of children.

W. T. C.

56222.

**"So Many Loves,"** by Leo Walmsley. (Collins. 12s. 6d.)

The title, "So Many Loves," is calculated to deceive. Mr. Walmsley is not talking about "loves" in the ordinary sense, but about enthusiasms. These range from fishing to filming, and from African travel to biological research. He has had a varied and amusing life, but about affairs of the heart he says only enough to show that he might have said more.

As a youth, our autobiographer was worried because he had never taken a degree, partly owing to his own improvidence—he was a truant schoolboy—and thought he had thereby debarred himself from any interesting career. But his later history shows that to have a speciality—something about which one knows a great deal—may be more important for success in life than academic qualifications. He grew up in a Yorkshire fishing village and fishing was his earliest "love". This led to his employment as laboratory assistant at a marine biology station, hence to useful friendships and to a beginning as writer of popular scientific articles. War experience in Africa extended this to a modest vogue as author of animal stories.

Mr. Walmsley wrote unashamed pot-boilers at times, but seems, surprisingly, to have done his talent no harm by it. Afterwards he produced really good novels. And all the time he was meeting unusual and interesting people. The book ends with an enthralling account of an author's sufferings over the filming of his work. Altogether, an excursion through some fascinating by-paths. The author looks out, not in; and by luck and good management, he has found many entertaining things to look at.

M. Jaeger.

A.B.C. in his Farming Notes in "Country Life" last month paid a warm tribute to the Women's Land Army when reviewing Miss Sackville West's book. He also mentions some contributors to the LAND GIRL and praises particularly the poem "Harvest Home" by E.M.B. in the October number. A.B.C. points out that although it may be difficult to obtain copies of Miss Sackville West's book "The Women's Land Army," orders can always be placed for it. Whether or not a second edition can be obtained will depend entirely on the demand for this book. Every volunteer ought to possess a copy. Not only is it excellent reading now but in old age all members of the Women's Land Army in this war will be proud to have this record of their past achievement written in such a delightful way. The Women's Land Army has a fine story to tell and it could not possibly have been told better than in Miss Sackville West's gay and gallant book.

If you haven't already got a copy, place your order now.

1. **Don't** think that O.H.M.S. written on an envelope is as good as a stamp. It isn't—and whoever gets the letter has to pay 5d. on it
2. **Do print** your name and address when ordering anything from anyone—or when returning uniform.
3. **Don't** forget to renew your magazine subscription *when you receive the reminder notice.*
4. **Do** notify a change of address to your County Office and your Magazine Representative and anyone else who may be interested.
5. **Don't** think that parcels of uniform have a homing instinct—like cats—they will *not* reach the County Office unless they are properly tied up and clearly labelled.
6. **Do** wash the mud off your old gum boots before sending them back for replacement—to start the office day by unpacking twenty parcels of muddy gum-boots is enough to make any Uniform Department take a sour view of life.

**FOR SALE.**—One pair Ladies Riding Boots, Brown, size 6, good condition—38/-. Suthren, "Darnley," Haddon Lane, Ness, Wirral, Cheshire.

This month's special cover drawing is by Isobel Mount, (Scotland).

## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I thought maybe you would be interested to know that I sent one of the last year's Xmas Cards out to my uncle in Australia. He was so taken by the verse on bread that he took it to the Bishop of the nearby Cathedral who gave a sermon about it bringing in the excellent work of the Land Army. If you think this would interest other members by all means tell them.

Glam. J. Hill, 74508.

Dear Editor,

In reply to "Inquirer's" questions in the October issue of the LAND GIRL:-

(1) Yes, we definitely do want some kind of union after the war to back us up and see that we get decent wages and conditions. (2) This depends on how many girls remain on the land after the war. (3) Speaking purely personally, No, I wouldn't like to do half outdoor and half domestic work! I joined the Land Army to work on the land and I dislike housework. Also, unless you agreed to do a certain number of hours of each kind of work, you would probably find yourself being asked to be much more of a housemaid than a Land Girl, probably just helping with the milking.

But I realise that the farmer's wife needs help badly, and that the farmer often cannot afford to keep a housemaid and a Land Girl, and that the girl might be faced with the alternative of doing half and half or else losing her job altogether. It would therefore seem that the girls who are really keen on land work itself, should try to specialise in one particular branch so that they will always be able to find a job suited to them.

Cornwall. E. Saunders, 115256.

Dear Editor,

I was interested in T. Floyd's letter about forming some organisation to keep L.G.'s together but why start a new organisation when there is an old established (if little known) one already which would do? This is the Women's Farm & Garden Association of which I am a member. It is for all women professionally engaged in farm or garden work. Groups hold their own conferences and very interesting they are too. There are Garden Apprentice Schemes etc., Employment Bureaux, lectures, etc.

T. Floyd and any other L.G.'s interested should write to The Secretary, Women's Farm & Garden Association Ltd., Courtauld House, Byng Place, W.C.1. Also, I should like to see all L.G.'s in the National Union of Agricultural Workers.

Northants. L. M. Croft, 2365.

Dear Editor,

V. Heslop 39456 (Surrey) wants the W.L.A. organisation kept on after the war, will be much surprised if there are not jobs for all its members who want to stay on the land and wants to know how much a farmer will pay for help for his wife.

Dear Editor,

I'm making a hobby of collecting specimens of straw plait and other objects made in straw or rush—things we call "necks" of wheat (or barley), children's rattles, little baskets, butterfly or grasshopper cages and so on. I wonder if any other Land Girls have come across them? If so, I should be most grateful for descriptions, drawings, or—best of all—samples. I will give a small prize for the best one made by a fellow-volunteer, and would pay the cost of postage, etc., for specimens made by country people. Any help from anyone will be most welcome. I believe Wales is particularly good at this sort of thing.

Cambs. E. M. Barraud, 9600.

Dear Editor,

Land Girls are supposed to grow food to help save shipping space and feed Britain's families; right, all I want you to do is make an appeal to Every volunteer not to throw the crust away around the sandwiches but save it and put it in the pig pail provided at the hostels and on the street. I know posters are put up but this does not seem to have any effect, so please spare a small space in the LAND GIRL magazine and make a fresh appeal.

Notts. A Bucks Volunteer.

Dear Editor,

I would like to suggest the use of Chinese Lanterns for Christmas decorations. Strip the lantern from the stalk of the plant and thread cotton through the stalks of the lanterns. They look very nice hung around pictures or make a bright splash of colour strung across a room, as paper chains used to be strung.

W. Sussex.

P. L.

# THE LAND GIRL

## THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S LAND ARMY WELFARE AND BENEVOLENT FUND

(Registered under the War Charities  
Act, 1940)

### Donations List as at 31st October, 1944

Area	Total			Average per girl employed		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1 East Fife ..	709	3	1	2	11	1½
2 Nairnshire ..	132	0	8	2	11	1
3 Kincardineshire	174	0	0	1	12	2¾
4 Alford & Deeside	388	17	0	1	11	7½
5 Stirling & Clack- mannan ..	380	9	6	1	11	3¾
6 Banffshire ..	135	12	1	1	10	5½
7 East Perthshire	254	14	4	1	10	3¾
8 Wigtownshire ..	269	1	7	1	9	9¾
9 Morayshire ..	145	13	10	1	9	0½
10 Deer & Turriff ..	128	2	10	1	8	5¾
11 North Ayrshire	672	16	0	1	5	5¾
12 Kirkcudbright ..	277	12	9	1	4	9½
13 Caithness ..	29	8	6	1	0	3½
14 Inverness-shire	119	3	6	1	0	1
15 North Argyll ..	67	5	0	19	9	¼
16 Aberdeen & Ellon	127	5	0	18	8	¼
17 Peeblesshire ..	90	1	0	18	6	¾
18 West Lothian ..	95	4	4	17	2	
19 W. Fife & Kinross	226	15	0	16	6	¾
20 East Lothian ..	279	10	0	15	10	½
21 Skye ..	5	6	0	15	2	
22 Sutherland ..	14	16	6	14	10	
23 Angus ..	156	18	6	12	11	¾
24 South Argyll ..	59	10	0	12	4	¾
25 N. Lanarkshire	141	8	2	11	10	½
26 Midlothian ..	300	13	2	11	9	¾
27 South Ayrshire	326	2	6	11	8	
28 Ross & Cromarty	81	12	9	10	11	½
29 Huntly & Garioch	60	6	6	10	5	¾
30 Berwickshire ..	132	19	7	8	10	¾
31 Selkirkshire ..	15	0	0	7	0	
32 West Perthshire	51	14	0	6	9	
33 Dumfriesshire ..	92	11	8	6	1	
34 Roxburghshire	88	11	0	6	0	
35 Dunbarton & Renfrew	72	13	1	3	9	
36 S. Lanarkshire ..	39	9	0	2	6	¼
37 S.W.R.I. (Central Council) ..	45	0	0	—		
38 Scottish Women's Bowling Asso- ciation (Eastern Section) ..	14	1	2	—		
39 Broadcast Appeal (proportion) ..	136	11	0	—		
40 Special Collec- tions (Miss MacDougall)	34	6	10	—		
41 Special Donations	120	0	0	—		
42 Standing Com- mittee ..	15	0		—		
43 Headquarters ..	250	17	2	—		
44 Scottish Football Association ..	105	12	9	—		

45 N.F.U. & Cham- ber of Agricul- ture (Mid & West Lothian, Dumfries and Selkirk Bran- ches) ..	13	3	0	—
46 Women's Timber Corps (Scot- land) ..	11	18	0	—
47 Treasury Grant	1,000	0	0	—
GRAND TOTAL £8,074 13 4				

The Standing Committee thank all who have so generously supported the Fund, which however has not yet reached the sum necessary to enable the Committee to meet the many demands upon it, both during the war and for post-war development. 123 claims have been considered and sympathetically dealt with but every week fresh cases of hardship are brought to our notice. Continued support is necessary to enable the work to be carried on. Our object must not fail, but without **YOUR** help—it may!

P. Weighill, 1385, sends an interesting account of the Proficiency Test for volunteers with at least three years' service which was held at Auchencruive on September 26th. Tests included machine or hand milking, the care of dairy utensils, field work, horse or tractor work and stock management. The field work consisted of stooking, tying and forking sheaves, spreading dung and shawing turnips; there were questions as well as practical work and stock management was an oral test. All entrants received a certificate for one or more subjects—several with distinction. "Principal Patterson gave a short address in which he told us that the standard of work was higher than at the previous test. This was a very happy ending to a day which had not proved as fearful as expected."

**FOR SALE.**—Dark pink angora wool dress, bust 34ins. good condition, 20/- also new silkish pullover 15/-. 58547, c/o Editor, Balcombe Place, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

**WANTED.**—Riding jacket, Bust 36ins. also pair jodhpur boots, size 5. Whitehouse, Cottage Farm, Nether Whitacre, Coleshill, Nr. Birmingham. Tel. Coleshill 2246.

Congratulations to Pencoed Hostel which raised over £53 for the Red Cross.

## THE LAND GIRL

### BENEVOLENT FUND

On November 30th the Fund totalled £105,990. The monthly total was £7,593. KENT still has the highest total of £6,712, and HUNTS., CAMBS., and ELY the highest monthly total of £2,512 14s.

All other news in the Bulletin enclosed with the magazine.

### County News

**BEDS.**—Hostel Birthday Parties at Bolnhurst and Kensworth House have been held recently. At the former, Mrs. Graham our Chairman, presented 2 year armlets to Volunteers who had been at the Hostel since its opening day. Evening Classes are in full swing in most and are proving very popular. A new series will be starting in January for the rest. Two excellent C.E.M.A. Concerts have been arranged at Cople and Elstow. We were very glad to welcome Mrs. Godfrey Phillips once more to this County. Congratulations to the Volunteers at Toddington Park who received a special commendation for the excellent work they put in at the Potato harvest. A Group of 18 volunteers from Elstow set up a new record when they lifted 25 tons of potatoes; Cople and Potton were also commended on the amount they lifted on the same day. Special congratulations to Hulcote Moors volunteers who set up a new record in Benevolent Fund Contributions by passing the £100 mark this month.

**BERKS.**—A committee has been formed to administer the County Welfare Fund, with Mrs. Hackett, as Chairman, and Lady Mount as Hon. Secretary. Its object is to help volunteers in Berkshire in cases of special difficulty not covered by the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and the Committee meets each month to discuss these matters. Proficiency Tests have been held in milking and dairy work, horticulture, tractor driving and poultry work during the last month. 48 girls entered for these tests, 35 were successful, D. Allberry gained distinction in horticulture. A Warden's Conference was held on Oct. 17th. Mrs. Howard Pal-

mer presided and Mrs. K. M. Grace, head of Hostel Department at Headquarters, gave a most interesting and helpful talk covering all aspects of hostel life. Afterwards a number of Wardens opened discussions on different subjects of interest to the hostels. Woodrows Hostel, Aldworth, celebrated its first birthday party last week when volunteers gave a very enjoyable party to their friends in the R.A.F. Fourteen volunteers from Lovelocks hostel are joining a cookery class at Hungerford, which has been arranged by Mrs. Peters, W.L.A. Representative. Miss Phyllis Caulfeild, 62, Minster Street, Reading, is presenting volunteers in Berkshire with a beautiful wedding dress which is available for any of our girls who wish to use it. We are very grateful to Miss Caulfeild for this delightful gift.

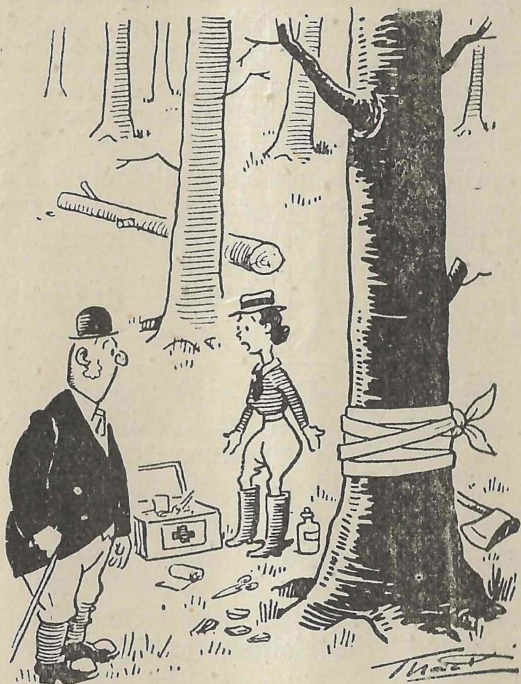
**BUCKS.**—A memorable event in the history of the W.L.A. in Bucks. took place in the Senior Schools Bletchley, on Nov. 4th, when Lady Denman presented 4-year armlets to 22 volunteers. Unfortunately 8 other members who had earned this award were not able to be present. Mrs. Fellows, Chairman Bucks. County Committee, and Miss F. M. Ramage, County Secretary, with Committee Members, Organisers and District Representatives, were at the meeting, together with a large number of W.L.A. members and other guests. In a most inspiring address Lady Denman referred to a tribute lately made by the Minister of Agriculture, who had said that without the efforts of the farmers and land workers, including the W.L.A., the many ships needed for "D. Day" would not have been available. During the ceremony Lady Denman was given a bouquet of red carnations by Miss N. Blow, a forewoman, and later cut a birthday cake which was carried to the platform by Miss Finn-Kelcey, another W.L.A. member. The proceedings ended with a film show, and much gratitude was felt and expressed for Lady Denman's kindness in coming so far to make the presentation.

Wounded soldiers from a local hospital were entertained at very happy parties by W.L.A. members at Stoke Mandeville and Grove Farm, Terrick, hostels.

**CHESHIRE.**—At the Annual Conference in October, our Chairman, Mrs. Ernest Johnson, M.B.E., on behalf of the Cheshire Committee, District Representatives and office staff, presented Miss E. Manley, M.B.E., with a neat gold watch. Mrs. Johnson thanked Miss Manley for her splendid work in the County during her four years as Secretary and wished her happiness and success in her new appointment in Worcester. Miss Ellen Smith has now taken over her duties as County Secretary, and Mrs. Johnson, on behalf of us all, welcomed her to the County.

We have been busy with Proficiency Tests this month, and we congratulate our two distinctions—O. Payne (milking) and J. Hunter (gardening)—and all who have passed. G.F. Tests are now going on and won't be finished for some time. Congratulations also to Margot Charlton upon her most excellent broadcast. Smallwood Hostel held their own Harvest Festival in the Hostel. The Rev. C. A. Davis conducted the service and the girls chose the hymns. An auction was held after the service and £14 14s. was raised for the Red Cross. £18 has been sent to the Benevolent Fund, the result of a very successful Dance at Neston Village Hall, for which Mrs. Davenport, the District Representative worked very hard.

**CUM. & WES.**—We are all glad to welcome our County Secretary back after some weeks' sick leave. We are very sorry to say goodbye to our Mid-Cumberland County Organiser, Mrs. Oxenham, who is resigning on account of ill health, and hopes to return to her home in



"I suddenly found I'd started cutting down the wrong tree."

(By courtesy of Yorkshire Evening Post)



*Strawberry pickers in the Isle of Ely*

Rhodesia before long. A new Club has been formed at Wigton which meets on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month in the Congregational Hall. So far the membership only totals about twelve, but we hope that it will increase; and our other four clubs are at Dacre, Keswick, Dalston and Kendal. The W.L.A. Canteen in Penrith, run by the Townswomens' Guild is still much appreciated by all in the area. Geltsdale Hostel, Wetheral, gave a successful concert last month to the Garlands Military Convalescent Home, and they have been asked to provide a Christmas entertainment there. Hostels are busy with Winter classes and at one, a Chiropodist pays a monthly visit and gives practical as well as theoretical advice on the care of the feet.

**DENBIGH.**—On 31st September a most enjoyable tea party was held in Rhyl for all volunteers who had passed their Proficiency Test. Examiners, Lecturers and Committee Members were also invited and Proficiency Test Certificates were presented by our Chairman, Mrs. Wynne Finch. The Examiners were unanimous in their praise of the high standard of work. Some very good whist drives and dances have been held in aid of the Benevolent Fund and other charities. Gresford Hostel made £50 and Abergele Staff Whist Drive £27 for the Benevolent Fund. Bod Nod Hostel raised £40 by a dance in aid of the Red Cross. Llangollen Club Whist Drive £6 for the local Comforts Fund. Denbigh Hostel have collected weekly £20 for the Merchant Navy and Llangollen Club raised £11 0s. 6d. by the first Flag Day to be held for the Benevolent Fund in this County. The Bryn Tirion Hostel has produced a novel idea, they keep a swear box and we are sorry to say have collected quite a lot of money! We are also very grateful to the Machinery girls who have two collecting boxes in the Machinery Yard. We were very honoured to have Miss Griffith chosen by vote as Red Cross Queen for the Denbigh Parade. Winter Club programmes are in full

swing and we have had some excellent E.N.S.A. entertainments.

**DERBYS.**—We have received wonderfully generous contributions to our County Welfare Fund and W.L.A. Benevolent Fund during the past two months. A dance organised by J. Kirk, 100882 raised £22 and a whist drive got up by K. Laban, 56717, £20; our big Dance in Derby on October 11th organised by the Labour Officer of the W.A. E.C. realised the magnificent sum of One Hundred Guineas. Two Cinema appeals, during the showing of "A Canterbury Tale" totalled £84 6s. 10d. Many thanks to all Land girls who helped at the collecting tables, which were very attractively decorated. Hostel volunteers are very busy making soft toys and slippers from a very attractive supply of Coloured felts we have secured, coupon free. Toy-making classes are taking place in this area each Monday.

**DEVON.**—During the last two months we have had parties in Kingsbridge, Okehampton, Honiton, Barnstaple, Tiverton, Newton Abbot, South Molton and Plymouth, to take the place of the annual rally. The object has been to get together all girls in private employment, and also W.A.C. girls living in billets, to meet Lady St. Aubyn and leading members of the office staff, and make new friends amongst each other. Each party has had a cosmetic stall (very popular judging by the sales), and an informal talk on such questions as post-war employment, new ways of raising money for the Benevolent Fund, new ideas for improving the News Letter, the reasons why more people do not enter for Proficiency Tests, etc., etc. A number of Proficiency Test Certificates were presented to various members by Lady St. Aubyn. After an extremely good tea E.N.S.A. kindly provided an equally good entertainment. Several more parties are being arranged, and by the end of the winter it is hoped that every girl will have received an invitation to one centre or another. A new series of Proficiency Tests in

## THE LAND GIRL

Milking, G.F. Work, Field Work and Horticulture are now being arranged. 47 ratters took their test during November at Barnstable, Totnes and Crediton, 41 passed. We were also glad to welcome 3 members from Somerset, all of whom passed.

**DORSET.**—There was a Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Dorchester on October 28th. About eighty volunteers marched to the Church, where the Bishop of Sherborne preached, and the Rector of Holy Trinity conducted the service. Three volunteers with five years service—the Misses Billinge, Legg and Puzey—carried eggs, bread, and token sheaves of corn, which were placed on the altar. The eggs had been contributed by volunteers and their friends. Miss Findlay and Miss Tod had arranged a marvellous tea at the Old Shire Hall. Mrs. Aston, (County Chairman), presented Armlets and G.S. Badges, and the Chairman of the W.A.E.C. spoke to the volunteers, and thanked them for the good work which they had done. A collection of £8 11s. was taken for the Benevolent Fund. Several of the Clubs have started up again very actively for the winter. Most of them are having film shows by E.N.S.A. Weymouth is having talks on Drama. The hostels have been having E.N.S.A. films regularly, and it is hoped to have some C.E.M.A. concerts later on. Mrs. Woodlands, 144418, is doing a good piece of community work by running a Children's Play Centre in the evenings.

**DURHAM.**—The special Drive for the Benevolent County Welfare Fund reached the splendid total of £1,341 16s. 3d. and efforts are now being made to continue the good work. It is very gratifying that several employers have written to the County Office expressing their great appreciation of the splendid help they have received from the W.L.A. under most difficult conditions owing to the bad harvest weather. The Hostels are very busy with winter plans, which include Make do and Mend classes, Keep Fit, National dancing and singing and Lectures by visitors from overseas. An Inter-Hostel Choral competition has also been arranged and Craig Lea are producing a pantomime. Several Hostels held most successful Halloween parties, and Local Representatives are very kindly interesting themselves in festivities for Christmas.

**ESSEX.**—Nearly all the Hostels have been holding Harvest Suppers lately, which have been a great success. The decorations have been done by the volunteers and a wonderful show of garden produce, leaves and berries has made the Hostels look very festive. The Welfare Committee has made a grant to enable us to have a series of C.E.M.A. concerts during the Winter and two very successful tours have already been made by Concert Parties. The concerts are usually held at Hostels but any other Landgirls in the neighbourhood are cordially welcomed. Clubs have opened again for the Winter and a new one has been started in Saffron Walden. A training course for Leaders in W.A.E.C. employment and a short course for Forewomen have been held at Writtle.

We congratulate Wynters Hostel on the National Savings Group. The sixteen girls who live there have collected £123 in 24 weeks, which is an average of 6/5d. per week for each girl.

**GLAM.**—Pencoed Hostel held a most successful dance in aid of Wounded Forces and a cheque for £53 odd has been sent to the Red Cross Fund. Bonvilston Hostel had 20 wounded soldiers at their party—the girls arranging and paying for transport, plenty of cigarettes through the evening and a 10s. note for each man when departing. There was a grand dinner, community singing and a short show by E.N.S.A. The small Grange Hostel entertained 12 wounded soldiers at a meal and social evening, which everyone enjoyed tremendously. The Cardiff Club although very young,

are not behind in entertaining. They had a number of wounded soldiers at their club the other night when everything went with a swing; on departure the men had a packet of cigarettes and fruit presented to them.

**GLOS.**—On Oct. 19th we were honoured by a visit from Lady Denman who attended a County Committee meeting in the Office in the morning, and an Area Representatives' Conference in Cheltenham in the afternoon.

In spite of such a wet month the sun shone on two Sundays in October when we held Harvest Thanksgiving Services in Gloucester and Bristol Cathedrals. Both were well attended and all who were present said how much they enjoyed them. Bristol Cathedral was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables for the first time in its history.

Shipton Oliffe hostel have started a course of glove-making lessons; Mickleton hostel girls will be attending cookery classes during the winter months, and Upton hostel hope to have "Make do and Mend" classes in the near future. Several volunteers in this County have recently received very generous assistance from the Benevolent Fund, and we are planning a big drive this winter to raise money for the Fund. Hostels and Area Representatives are organising dances and parties, and the County Office will welcome suggestions from volunteers for raising money.

**HANTS.**—has held its first Land Girls' Forum. It was a big disappointment that Lady Denman was ill and could not come, but Miss Bower very nobly took her place at the last minute and gave a most stimulating talk on future plans. The discussions which followed showed that the girls are taking a very lively interest in all that affects their future careers. Preparations for this Forum have been most interesting and varied. During the autumn in all the twenty-four areas, when the work of the Sub-Committee has been discussed at great length and suggestions made for future activities. Subjects for the Agenda of the Meeting with Lady Denman were suggested and delegates chosen. The meetings have taken every kind of form from garden parties at the Representatives' house to supper parties at the local tea shop. It has been a splendid opportunity for everyone to meet the girls who are really interested in agriculture and who are anxious to continue on the land after the war. Our second big event is to be a Spring drive for the Benevolent



*J. Hyslop, 85742 and W. Lang, 63766 (Yorks, W.R.) with Darley Dainty, who has had 7 calves and given 102364½ lbs. of milk.*

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Fund. All money from now until the second week in April when a final week of big events will be organised, will count towards the final sum. Suggestions for raising this sum will be sent out with the next News Letter. Our Target is £5,000.

**HEREFORDS.**—A second series of proficiency tests are being run; all the results are not yet to hand, but there is every indication of very satisfactory figures being gained by many of the girls. It has been a pleasing feature that the number of entries for the dairying test has been more than doubled. About 230 girls attended a grand Party held in Hereford on Nov. 25th. It started at 3.0. p.m. and ended at 9.30 p.m. There were games, competitions, skittles, table tennis, a conjuror and (most popular of all) a fortune teller, and a concert by the R.A.F. One room was set aside for a cosmetic stall, a book stall, a demonstration of toy-making, and other items of interest. Last but not least, there were refreshments, lots of them!!

The evening ended with community singing. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves; many new friendships were made and many old ones renewed. On Dec 16th, there is to be a Toy Sale—all articles made by L.G.'s or friends of the Land Army—proceeds are for the Benevolent and Welfare Funds, so it is hoped many people will turn up at the Percival Hall, St. Owen Street.

**HERTS.**—Our first meeting of the L.G.'s Council on Oct 21st at St. Albans when Representatives from groups of volunteers filled the British Legion Hall was very successful. Miss Brew very kindly represented Headquarters. Short speeches from Dr. Sanders, our Executive Officer, Miss Nicholas, Hon. Sec. Society for the Settlement of British Women Overseas, and Mr. Simms, Assistant Education Officer of the County, provided answers for many questions we had already been asked and questions afterwards showed very keen interest in post war problems, and also how much volunteers appreciate having their questions answered and their difficulties dealt with. Volunteers have distinguished themselves in the Ploughing Competitions in the County during the past few months. Our congratulations to prize winners; we hope to arrange their Proficiency Tests in the near future when the Ploughing Cup will be awarded to the volunteer gaining highest marks. Parties, handicraft and classes are keeping clubs and hostels busy. Shenley Lodge's second birthday party was an enormous success; our congratulations to all who worked so hard for that evening and, much more, our congratulations to all who were so helpful when this hostel was badly damaged by enemy action a few nights later.

**HUNTS CAMBS & ELY.**—Our Special Benevolent Fund Week raised £2,509 14s. putting us second in the whole country to Oxford on an average per head. Whittlesey is the winning hostel with a total of £127 14s. (£4 18s. 3d. per head) and Miss N. Winpenny wins the prize for the individual raising the most amount of money with £33 1s. Our thanks are due to all our many well-wishers for their splendid help and assistance. Linton volunteers are attending Keep Fit Classes and Cookery Classes at the Village Institute, Cambridge volunteers attend evening classes in Designing, Shorthand and Typing. Some of the Wendy volunteers have joined the Bassingbourn choir and this hostel also hopes to put on a Pantomime at Christmas. Miss Powney, the Cambs. County Domestic Science Instructress, will be giving demonstrations in the hostels in the New Year. The new St. Ives W.L.A. Club is thriving and has prepared a winter programme that shows much originality. Y.F.C.'s. are also going strong, 5 out of 7 volunteers passed Pro-

ficiency Tests in Field and G.F. in November, M. Coyne (Woolley) with distinction.

**I. O. W.**—Our numbers now look somewhat depressingly small on the list but this is due in main to the fact that the Labour Authorities have scheduled us as an Industrial county, therefore our local recruiting is sadly limited. This decision seems strange to us who know the Island, but of course we must abide by it. However the work is getting done, an "no complaints" to date, though we should like more help in some of the dairies. We had a successful dance for our Harvest Home celebration in September and cleared a profit for the Benevolent Fund. We also provided fruit and vegetables for the Merchant Navy and Free French navy now at Cowes. This produce was a gift from various farmers and presented by W.L.A. girls. The French navy spokesman flattered us by declaring that our uniform was the most beautiful in England. Our work goes on according to the season, but threshing and potato lifting seem eternal!

**E. KENT.**—Members of the W.L.A. had the honour of forming part of the Guard of Honour, when their Majesties the King and Queen visited Dover and Folkestone on October 18th. Twenty volunteers were chosen, representatives of the gangs and individual workers who had been employed longest in the shelling area. Their Majesties paused to talk to many of the girls, asking them about their experiences, and also to Mrs. Harrowing the District Representative for the Folkestone area who was with them. Afterwards the whole party had tea. This royal visit has been followed by a message from Her Majesty the Queen, sent at her command by our Director, Lady Denman, to all members of the Land Army in Kent, expressing Her Majesty's admiration for the way in which the volunteers have played their part under direct fire from the enemy. This message will be much treasured and valued by our volunteers, so many of whom have carried on their work under difficult conditions.

Our Clubs are now in full swing again and have been well attended. Features of the programmes to date have been the enjoyable performances by Ben Payne's Concert Party and further admirable lectures by Dr. Roberts. Congratulations to M. E. Broadley, C. M. Marsh and M. Mills on completing five years' good service.

**W. KENT.**—The Queen as Patron of the W.L.A. has sent a special message of appreciation to all the Land Army members in Kent and every girl has had the privilege of receiving an individual copy. This is a great honour and will go far to make past dangers and present difficulties more than worth while. Of the 13 girls who entered for their Milking Proficiency Tests, all passed, which was very satisfactory. One of the judges, Mr. Thompson suggested as a test for good hand-milking, that the milker should be able to keep a coin balanced on her wrist while at work. I wonder how many milkers can do this?

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Miss Parry, our late Regional Officer who has given us so much help and encouragement. Her place has been taken by Miss Williams to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

**LANCS.**—The second series of Proficiency Tests has been held, and of 39 candidates 37 passed, 6 gaining distinction. Our Congratulations go to D. Watson, 85484, who attained 100 per cent. For permission to allow tests to be held and also for very generous hospitality, we are indebted to the Principal, County Institute of Agriculture; Col. Birtwistle, Withnell; Mr. Lowe, Over Hulton; Mr. Woods, Aughton; The Committee, Royal Albert Farm; and to the Superintendents of Parks of Blackburn, Manchester and Southport. These

# THE LAND GIRL

kind hosts and the judges of the tests are cordially thanked for making them such happy and interesting functions. Lady Worsley Taylor's appeal to all volunteers in Lancashire to raise at least £1 per head for the Benevolent and Welfare Funds, is meeting with an enthusiastic response. Collections for the Benevolent Fund were made at cinemas at Southport and Bolton, when "A Canterbury Tale" was shown. Volunteers at the Hostel in Birkdale entertained a party of Wounded Soldiers to supper and a visit to the theatre.

Miss Whinnerah, who has been a member of the County Committee since July, 1939, has resigned from the Committee to the regret of the other members, and of the many volunteers with whom she has been associated. We send her our best wishes, in the new work which she hopes to take up.

**LEICS & RUT.**—There have been some splendid contributions recently to the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds. V. Kirtland and I. Tunnicliffe, together with some Warwickshire L.G.'s, organised a dance at Austrey, Nuneaton, and the proceeds were divided between the two counties, our share being £15 12s. 6d. A Harvest Dance at Walton-le-Wolds arranged by Mrs. Spalding and the volunteers from Barrow, Walton and Seagrave, raised the magnificent sum of £34 3s. 0d. Mrs. Gutteridge sent in £9 12s. 1d. from Tilton-on-the-Hill, N. Steer raised £2 10s. by a raffle and H. Ward £3 by a Whist Drive. Market Bosworth Hostel has sent £12 8s. 6d. from a dance and raffles organised by the warden and volunteers. Congratulations to all those who have helped to make these efforts successful. Proficiency Tests are being held all over the county and so far there have been 4 distinctions, 3 in hand, and 1 in machine milking. We are proud to announce that the bronze medal of the Dumb Friends' League has been awarded to Christine Hook of Thorpe Satchville, for rescuing a lamb from a sewer.

**HOLLAND (Lincs.)**—We are sorry to lose Mrs. M. Leggott and Mrs. M. Mawby, for health and family reasons, from our County Committee. All L.G.'s in Holland will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Matthews, our Uniform Supervisor, is leaving the district at the end of November. They will, I know, wish her good luck and happiness in her new home. Mrs. Baxter will take her place in the Uniform Department and queries should be addressed to her in future.

The Holland W.A.E.C. have been running fortnightly dances for R.A.F. cadets working on the land in the Spalding area. L.G.'s invited to attend enjoyed themselves immensely, and wish to express appreciation to Mr. McClure, the Chief Labour Officer of the Holland W.A.E.C. Our thanks are extended to all who helped so nobly in the arrangements for the house-to-house collection and flag day held in Spalding and Holbeach in aid of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, and particularly to Mrs. Bettess and Mrs. Richardson, Local Representatives (Spalding) and to Miss Cooling, Warden, and L.G.'s at Dormer House, (Holbeach). £93 was made. We send our sympathy to F. Brier, 114483, and M. Wilson, 144127, who have both had serious accidents, and our best wishes for their speedy recovery.

**KESTEVEN—Lincs.**—By all kinds of ingenious means volunteers in the Area succeeded in raising over £500 for the Benevolent Fund during October, so that our total contribution to date is £1,200. Several excellent efforts by privately employed volunteers helped considerably. The grand sums sent in by volunteers in Hostels are too numerous to mention but they were mainly responsible for the final result. As there are still a few late efforts to be recorded, we cannot yet announce which volunteer and which Hostel have qualified for the prizes offered.

## County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total			Em- ployed
	£.	s.	d.	
Kent .. ..	6712	6	2	3935
Essex .. ..	5203	10	1	3163
Surrey .. ..	3857	4	5	2211
Hampshire ..	2179	7	7	1939
West Riding ..	1209	0	10	1930
Leicest'r 1662 } ..	1689	14	9	1910
Rutland 248 } ..				
Derby .. ..		5	3	1895
Nottingham ..		12	9	1
Northants ..		7	10	1
Gloucesters ..	405	19	7	1
Worcesters ..	092	15	4	
Bucks .. ..	15	13	4	
Worcesters ..	4	9	11	
Northfolk ..		6	5	
Warwick .. ..		4	3	
West S .. ..		5	8	
Cheshire .. ..			11	
Wiltshire .. ..			0	
Lancashire ..			2	
Cornwall .. ..				
Northumb .. ..				
Gloucesters ..				
Nottingham ..				
N. Riding .. ..				
Hunts 270 .. ..				
Cambs 511 .. ..			3	
Ely 33 .. ..				
Berkshire .. ..				
Bedford .. ..			1	
East Suffol ..				
Oxford .. ..				
E. Riding .. ..				
Salop .. ..				
Derham .. ..				
Cumbs. & West				
Lincs—Kesteven				
Dorset .. ..				
Stafford .. ..	1			
Lincs—Lincoln				
Glamorgan .. ..				
Hereford .. ..	1			
Monmouth .. ..				
West Suff .. ..	1			
Lincs—Humber				
Derby .. ..				
London & M .. ..				54
Flintshire .. ..				541
N. Wales .. ..				521
Pembroke .. ..				379
Cards & Carm .. ..				322
Isle of Wight ..				311
Brecon & Radnor				268
Montgomery .. ..	2		11	251
Timber Corps ..	4151	14	7	3015

On the Nov. 30th, 1944, the total numbers of volunteers in employment was approximately 64,821.

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