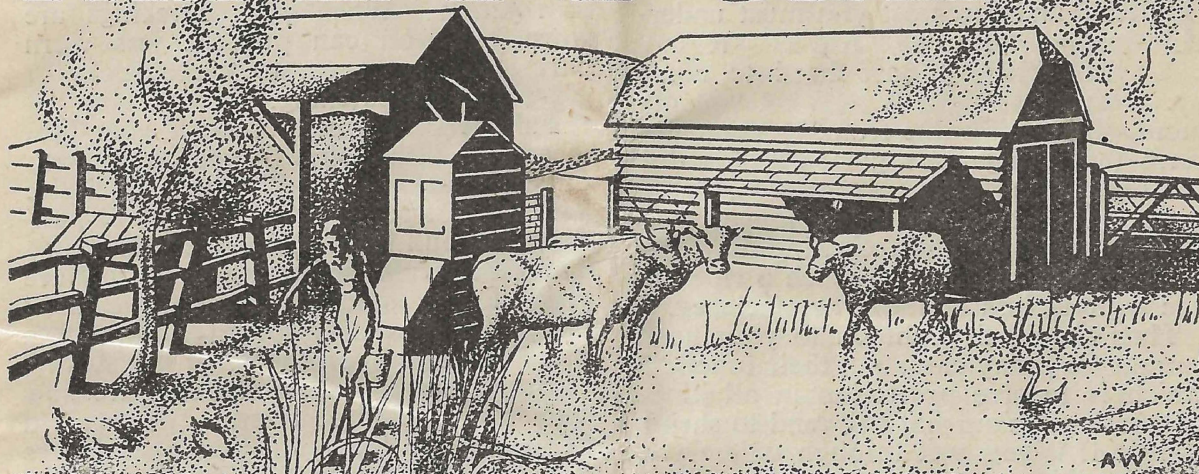


THE LAND GIRL



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JUNE, 1943

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FOUR YEARS' RECORD

IN June, 1939, the Women's Land Army was officially formed, and when war broke out it already had over 17,000 enrolled members. Only a small proportion of these was needed at first, but by its first birthday there were 7,000 volunteers in employment; in June, 1941, there were 14,000, in June 1942, 40,000, and now, on its fourth birthday, there are 65,000.

Speaking in a Northern county last month, the Executive Officer of the War Agricultural Executive Committee alluded to the "miracle of the Land Army." This isn't the sort of miracle once described as "something which you know isn't true." The present strength of the W.L.A. proves better than any words of praise that this miracle *is* true.

Our Minister wrote recently that "For several years to come we shall still need to go on producing the maximum amount of food from our own soil. At the same time, the man-power situation, at any rate during the next year or so is likely to be more, rather than less difficult. This means that there will be a still greater need for the Land Army."

There are two things which can easily prevent anyone from doing her best work; one is a doubt whether she is doing the most urgently needed job or whether she ought to be doing something else—the other is any sense of unfairness. The spirit behind "she doesn't—why should I?" is probably more dangerous than any fifth column. Avoidable unfairness is absolutely unjustified and should not be endured but no burden can possibly be distributed absolutely evenly. It is easy enough for any member of the Land Army to find someone with a softer job than hers but it's not very difficult to think of people with harder ones—in the desert, or on the sea; or more boring ones—in the factory or barracks.

The Minister has made it clear that the Land Army is urgently needed at least until the end of the war. Indeed, it is obvious that if we are to win this war, instead of merely losing it, every man and every gun and every ship will be needed to hunt a stubborn and powerful foe out of the stolen lands he now calls his fortress. It is our job to see that in the final fight not one ounce of strength is lost to our side through any failure of sustained effort by those at home

M.A.P.

SPIT AND POLISH

FIRST and foremost you must understand that ALL RAW MATERIALS are hard to come by. Nowadays there is NEVER "plenty more where this came from." Your uniform (excepting your great-coat) is due for replacement every 12 months, but it is your duty to make it last longer than this if you can. The following hints are to help your uniform to reach a ripe old age without loss of looks or efficiency.

Hats should fit right on to your head so that they may carry out their function, which is to give protection in all kinds of weather. Your hat will tend to shrink a little if it gets wet through unless you stuff it with paper, or put a bag of sawdust in it, to keep its shape.

Shirts must be easy fitting, so that they will last. There are now two varieties of Land Army shirt made in cotton poplin with long sleeves, and cellular material with short sleeves. In hot weather your shirt needs more frequent washing as perspiration tends to rot the material. Distribution of the two varieties must depend on supplies, and volunteers are asked NOT to express a preference unless there is some very special reason such as a super-sensitive skin needing unusual protection from sunburn. Poplin and cellular materials are both easy to wash, but poplin requires ironing. Cellular fabric does NOT shrink, but because it is loosely woven it *must* be pulled into shape and can then be worn without being ironed. Cellular shirts which have lost their shape can easily be put right by being damped and pulled.

Breeches can be cleaned or washed, and will last well if properly looked after. Do not leave mud and dirt on them, it ruins the fabric. You must make any necessary minor adjustments yourself. You will find that the waist buttons are fixed so that they fit the middle figure of the waist measures printed on the size ticket, i.e., if the waist is given as 25-27, the buttons will fit a waist measure of 26.

Stockings must be an *easy* fit, so be sure you ask for a big enough size. The wool of which they are made has been specially treated to prevent shrinkage. This does not mean, however, that they will stand boiling; all woollen garments should be gently squeezed in warm, *not* boiling soapy water and pulled into shape before drying. It is easier to keep stockings in good repair if they are washed regularly. It will pay you to darn the toes and heels before wear. Stockings will last longer if all pairs are worn

in rotation. When your stockings are worn out, you can put the less worn parts to many uses; to make socks or gloves or for patching.

Pullovers must fit loosely; if your bust measure is 32, you will get better wear out of your jersey if you ask for a size 34. Do not be afraid to wash your pull-over, but pull it into shape before drying. The best results are obtained if they are washed like stockings, but instead of hanging up to dry, spread it out on a piece of newspaper and let it dry slowly.

Dungarees and Overall Coats are now only made in three sizes. They should fit loosely, so that you do not strain the fabric when working. You must effect any necessary alterations yourself: look after the fastenings as buttons and buckles are very difficult to obtain. Khaki drill will stand scrubbing, and should hardly shrink at all. Repair tears and patch worn garments immediately; use your old garments for the dirtiest jobs.

The **Great-coat** is given to you for use, and not just for walking out; see that it fits you easily; keep the buttons firmly sewn on, and have it cleaned when it gets dirty. Overcoats are NOT replaced, like your other garments, therefore take care of yours. Shoulder titles should be neatly stitched down on the shoulder straps.

Oilskins and Mackintoshes.—Oilskins are the main issue to the Land Army, but whether you have an oilskin or a mackintosh you must treat it properly. Heat is exceedingly bad for both and they should be hung up by the loops provided in a cool place when not in use. They will most certainly deteriorate if you fold them up. The great difficulty with all waterproof garments is that of "condensation." No one has yet invented a material that will prevent the rain coming in and yet provide enough ventilation so that body heat does not form moisture on the inside of the garment. Many complaints of leaking garments are due solely to this. A woollen vest helps to counteract any discomfort arising from condensation. When the rain stops and you wish to discard your mackintosh garment, hang it up in a safe place, and do not forget to collect it when you have finished your work. Linseed oil will not do any good if the protective spray has worn off. This does not necessarily mean the garment will leak, but if it flakes off badly return the garment to your county office. There is no reason at all why your oilskin or mackintosh

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should not last two years, but it cannot be too strongly emphasised that you *must* look after it or it will not look after you. The wearing of belts with oilskins is bad for them, and causes damage to the proofing.

Footwear.—It is of primary importance that your boots and shoes should fit as well as possible; you will probably find it necessary to have a half-size larger in boots. Both shoes and boots will need breaking in, you must not mind if the boots in particular feel hard at first, the hardness will soon wear off. As far as possible keep your shoes for walking out and wear your boots for work. They must be greased regularly—the soles and heels as well as the uppers. You can buy dubbin in either liquid or solid form, both are good, but the liquid form is perhaps easier to apply. Now come two big DONT'S which apply to all forms of leather footwear. 1.—*Don't* dry wet boots or shoes near a fire or on hot-water pipes. Leather is easily destroyed by heat, and the trouble is you may not realise the damage you have done till you wear your boots and shoes on a damp day. Then the soles and heels will literally fall to pieces. After a day's work in wet weather, stuff your boots with newspaper, hay, or straw and put them to dry at least nine feet away from the fire or hot-water pipes. 2.—*Don't* use dubbin on wet leather—you are just sealing up the damp if you do. Wait till the leather is dry before you apply any form of grease.

Repairs.—It is very important to take your boots and shoes to be mended as soon as they show signs of needing it. If your local repairer is short of repair leather, tell your County Office or your local representative, and they will be able to help you.

Canvas Leggings.—These are made of very strong webbing and should give you adequate protection in wet weather. Give them a clean up now and then with khaki cleaner. This will also help in keeping out the wet.

Some farmers spent about ten months of the year explaining that "they did not hold with the Land Army" and then suddenly they rang up and asked for a Land Girl—and expected her to arrive with the milk, as fresh as a daisy, as pretty as a picture, as strong as an ox and as clever as cart-load of monkeys. *Major Proby, Chairman of Hunts W.A.E.C., at the Huntingdon Rally.*

Gum-boots.—There is a national shortage of rubber in this country—don't forget that. The Land Army are fortunate in that they are allowed a certain number of gum-boots for issue to volunteers, but there are NOT ENOUGH to enable every volunteer to have a pair. Your County Office decides how gum-boots shall be allocated to individual volunteers. You MUST ONLY wear your gum-boots when working on a wet job, do NOT wear them going to and from your work. You must not count on having your gum-boots replaced. In order to make them last, wash them thoroughly every time you have finished your wet job. Milk, oil, and mud are all bad for rubber—particularly milk and oil. If your gum-boots get damp inside, stuff them with paper and they will soon dry out, NEVER put them anywhere near a fire. Gum-boots can be repaired; slits in the upper part can be patched and new soles and heels can be put on, but they must be taken to be mended in good time. If you are unable to find a local repairer, ask your County Office to help you. If the right size in gum-boots is not available you can work quite comfortably in gum-boots that are really too big for you if you wear an extra pair of socks.

Badge.—Take care of this. Metal is very scarce in the country. If you lose your badge it is extremely unlikely that you will be able to buy another.

Armlets.—These are not easy to obtain or replace either and must be carefully treated. Do not cut up your armlet or disfigure it in any way.

Ties, Belts and Gloves.—These are all extra items which can be purchased through your County Office, when supplies are forthcoming. It is not possible to guarantee that these items will always be in stock as it entirely depends on the availability or otherwise of the raw materials. It is not necessary to surrender coupons when buying belts or gloves. One coupon is necessary before a tie can be purchased.

K. Doman.

The new Shorter Sock with the Longer Last.—Cut the foot of the stocking above the heel and stitch cut parts together. The result can be worn as a spiral sock as there is no definite heel, and can be turned round the foot as it shows signs of wear. The stocking top can be turned down round the ankle for wear with shoes, and up the leg inside gum-boots.

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IN THE ORCHARDS

I work on a large farm of nearly a thousand acres which, in peace-time, grew little else but fruit; plums, pears, apples, raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, black and red currants. Now a certain acreage is devoted to corn and potatoes, and there are no longer strawberries, just a few gooseberries and a reduction of currants has taken place.

I started work in the early summer of last year and spent a busy two and a half months fruit picking. I found raspberries the nicest fruit to pick, the baskets when full, were not too heavy to carry for weighing up, not a great deal of back-bending was needed and, when picking, one had something very good to eat always close at hand!

During fruit picking time the farm was a hive of activity. Many different types of people came daily to help gather in the large crops — men, women and children from the Black Country arrived by bus—a gang of Jewish boys from a local hostel came on bicycles, crowds of boys and girls from school camps residing on the farm for a fortnight at a time descended on the fruit each morning like a flock of happy sparrows. In the evenings Civil Servants from a nearby town came to do their bit. Fruit picking is hard work but quite fascinating when, each day, one tries to beat one's previous day's total of baskets picked.

There was, of course, a space between the picking of soft and hard fruits. The latter being pears and apples were picked into canvas bags slung over one's shoulders, each holding about thirty pounds of fruit.

In November and December, these pears and apples were all graded, boxed, weighed and loaded on large lorries and despatched to some of Britain's largest towns. Sometimes when I had been in the grading shed for several days surrounded with pears and knew that for many weeks to come there would be pears and more pears, I wished I need never see this fruit again, but that thought did not last long when I remembered what joy the fruit would bring to people in the towns.

Next came the pruning. Rather a strain at first, because on each cut depends the shape of the tree, next year's fruit crop and the growth of the branches. This, of course, made the work very interesting, as nearly every tree needed different treatment.

Spraying was my next work, first with

Tar Oil Winter Wash to destroy all eggs that were dormant in the bark, then in the spring with Lime Sulphur for pear and apple scab and next with Arsenic of Lead to make war on the caterpillars. Spraying, though tiring and hard on the skin, is a job well worth doing, as it is vital to the success of the crops, for insects, fungi and caterpillars to be destroyed. They are mostly small and insignificant but the damage they do is vast.

Since working in the orchards, I have learnt to appreciate the loveliness of the trees and bushes as never before and I have often reflected upon those words, "Oh! to be in England now that April's here," and been very grateful that I am *always* here.

N. W. Myatt, 113595 (Worcs.)

NURSERY STORIES à la Mode

"Tell me a story, Grandpapa,"

All right—what shall it be?

"The one about Red Riding Hood
When she went out to tea."

Some butter and a dozen eggs,
She took as grannie's gift.

"But tell me quickly, grandpapa,
Whose ration did she lift?"

Suppose we talk of Crusoe,
Upon his island far.

His ship was just a total wreck.
"Torpedoed, Grandpapa?"

Well, Cinderella she was sweet.
"That dame gives me the pip.
She rushed to hear the midnight news,
And gave her chap the slip."

Dick Whittington, who heard the bells,
Obeyed their loud command.
"Oh, tell me Grandpa, did he see
The parachutists land?"

The Sleeping Beauty's fairy prince,
He found the way was barred.
"I daresay he forgot to bring
His registration card."

Young Jack, he found a lot of gold,
And left the giants stunned.
"And did he give it to the Mayor,
Towards the Spitfire Fund?"

P. Tonkin, 60892 (Essex).

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"And wherever Mary went" but where is Mary going?

By courtesy of Glasgow Bulletin.

ALL SORTS

I will endeavour to tell you a little of my life in the Land Army, although I am a poor one at writing tales. I manage to scramble out of the cosy sheets at 7.5 a.m. hoping to be over the road at the farm by 7.30 (sometimes managed). Our orders for the day are given, firstly "maggot hunting" then out with the sheep to graze. While this is in action a bit of ditching or hedging is done, also, blackberry eating, it always seems such a pity to cut down that big black juicy one. Chop, chop, chop, then a look at your watch and it is lunch-time—good! Call the dog and back for a hearty mid-day meal.

Feeling much better after, I wend my way probably straw sweeping or corn hauling with a 3-ton Scammel Lorry (weather permitting). How often am I told the old story about the gears, "sort them out, they're all in the box" but I suppose one does succeed one day.

The good old W.V.S. canteen arrives for tea, a jolly welcome sight, the grey van looming up in the distance. Pies, buns and good hot tea (sugar if you like!!) then on again. Later the pig-man needs help in getting the pigs home after a day in the stubble—off I go once again. We start, scream, wave our arms

and yell—well you know what pigs are? Through the gate they go, a hundred of them. Oh, what a sight of relief—then one little black one with a very curly tail sights a way out through the hedge taking the remaining 99 with her. I assume you know that one little Essex piglet is called anything but her correct name. By the time we have all those "sweet" little pigs in their yard, it is growing quite dusk and getting the usual dampness of the night. I then round up the sheep, they do at least stick together, which is a great help. Back we go racing through the meadows, under the electric fence—burr! into the orchard for the night. The dog goes happily into his box after a good meal of scraps, then I go back to jolly good billets for an evening by the fire and wireless. This day includes a few of my varied jobs.

We often say "Who would be a Land Girl," but then who wouldn't? I have not regretted one second of it, it's just a grand life, both summer and winter.

D. Norton, 82518 (Glos.)

At the North Wales Rally, the raffle of a salmon raised over £17 for the Benevolent Fund—is this a record in expensive fish?

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MRS. JENKINS, C.B.E.



By courtesy of The Farmer & Stockbreeder.

The award of a C.B.E. to Mrs. Jenkins, Assistant Director of the W.L.A., will be a cause of public pride and personal pleasure to all members of the Land Army.

Inez Jenkins (formerly Ferguson) comes from a family which has produced many famous sons and daughters. She spent her early life in the Highlands, in one of those uncompromising households which have sent out so many good Scots to direct the lives of the English. She was naturally Head Girl at school and a scholar at Oxford. At an unnaturally youthful age she became General Secretary of the National Federation of Women's Institutes and that was when she first met Lady Denman. Before Mrs. Jenkins resigned that post, the Federation had grown from between four and five hundred Institutes, to between four and five thousand, and become what it is to-day, a great organisation powerfully affecting the public affairs and private lives of hundreds of thousand of countrywomen.

After an interlude, during which her son Martyn was born, Mrs. Jenkins became Secretary of the English Folk Dance Society and was released from that post at the special request of Lady Denman in the summer of 1939 when the W.L.A. was officially formed. Since then, her job has been one demanding first class ability and a rare combination of qualities and experience which fortunately Mrs. Jenkins possesses.

Every one who has worked or sat on Committees with her has had reason to appreciate two of her most outstanding qualities; her ability to grasp any proposal, however complicated, in all its aspects, to form a sound and rapid judgment upon it and to defend that judgment rationally and persuasively—and her power to explain lucidly and simply at the shortest possible notice any proposition, however intricate. It is a real pleasure to hear Mrs. Jenkins at a conference explain some complicated new scheme and watch the worried faces of her audience grow calm with understanding.

Despite all this, she is not in the least detached or impersonal and her interests are as varied as her abilities. She is a knowing gardener, an ardent housekeeper and a dashing bridge player. She is keenly interested in matters of dress, loves parties and poetry, hates mathematics and outdoor games and her reading is either definitely high brow or extremely frivolous. Her warm interest in people and lively sense of humour make her a grand story-teller and certainly her many adventures and encounters lose nothing whatever in the telling. Within the Land Army her greatest pleasure is a visit to a County Office or a Rally to see the Land Army itself—outside it, her idea of bliss is a week-end at her Oxfordshire cottage; darning, digging and dusting, while her husband cooks and her son carpenters.

There can be few people in the Honours List with as wide a circle of friends and admirers to be made happy by a decoration so justly awarded, as "Our Mrs. Jenkins."

Why plough up grassland? Because one acre of pasture produces enough meat for one person but one acre of plough produces wheat for twenty-one or potatoes for forty-two.

Vicky, the "V" calf, accompanied by Miss Watson, will leave Shropshire for Cheshire, on June 14th, and will later proceed to Yorkshire. Look out for her in those counties.

Miss Sumner, 482, Halifax Road, Hightown, Liversedge, Yorks, will colour photographs for the benefit of the Benevolent Fund. Full particulars and prices on application.

A DAY WITH CAPTAIN

"A new job for you to-day," says the farmer, "take Captain and go harrowing behind the sugar-beet drill." I feel thrilled. A real farm job with a horse will be far more interesting than dock-digging by myself. Captain is ready in the stable. He looks very big and I feel a tiny bit nervous of him. I back him out of his stall and lead him into the yard, through the gate and up to the field. The men are already drilling the beet with Dolly, and here is the harrow on the top headland. I put on the back-band and hitch the traces to the hames hooks and we move down the field—slowly and not at all surely. The work behind us looks pretty funny. It looks like a permanent wave. We carry on without improvement. Captain's walk becomes slower and slower. I stop, hitch up the reins and go up to lead him. His front feet punch the ground with determination, his warm breath is on my hand and I gain confidence. I keep on walking straight till I touch the hedge. Captain looks quite confident. He pulls a piece of hawthorn out of the hedge in turning, and round he goes—his great feet crossing over each other; and here he is facing up the field with a perfect turn behind him. I am filled with admiration, and he looks rather pleased himself. What a horse! With his help I could tackle any job on the land.

After a while he blows into my ear, "What about a song to help us along?" "Oh! I've no voice to speak of, but I've got a headful of poetry if you like that?" "Fire away," says he, and I do. The morning passes all too quickly with the aid of Keats, Shakespeare and Wordsworth. I take Captain back to the stable at dinner-time. The afternoon finds us back on the field and the work progresses happily. Larks are bubbling away in a hazy blue sky, and there is the purr of a tractor in the distance. I reach the end of my store of poetry at last and am just thinking of giving Captain all the Kings of England with their dates when I hear a clock strike. "Captain," I whisper rather hoarsely because of all the poetry, "it is tea-time, and my legs feel as if I've walked from John o'Groats to Land's End." "Then let us homeward plod our weary way," suggests Captain. (My last rendering had been from Thomas Gray). Back we go to the farm, and in the yard that noble horse buries his face in the water-trough and sucks up water till I fear for

him. At last he emerges, dripping, and we go into the stable and unharness. Presently the horseman will bring his oats. I rub Captain's nose and thank him for a pleasant day.

G.M., 15555 (W. Sussex).

BOOKS OF THE DAY

"The English People," by D. W. Brogan (Hamilton, 12s. 6d.).

"Reprisal," by Ethel Vance (Collins, 8s. 6d.).

"The English People" was written by an Irish-Scot, with the avowed intention of explaining the English to Americans, and he considered this to be necessary because of strong hostile criticisms against the English in the United States; but I should almost be ready to predict a larger circulation for it in this country than in the one to which it is addressed. It is a discriminating review of English life, with chapters on English Education, English Religion, England as a Democracy, The Empire, The English at War, and so on; and most English people will find in it much about themselves that they did not know, or, knowing, had never thought about. On the other hand, I doubt if Americans who do not already know a good deal about England will be prepared to swallow so much unfamiliar information at one meal.

Of course, one doubts some of his conclusions. For instance, he dismisses English love of the country as purely sentimental and unrealistic. On this point, some of us at least have now the opportunity to discover whether he is right or not.

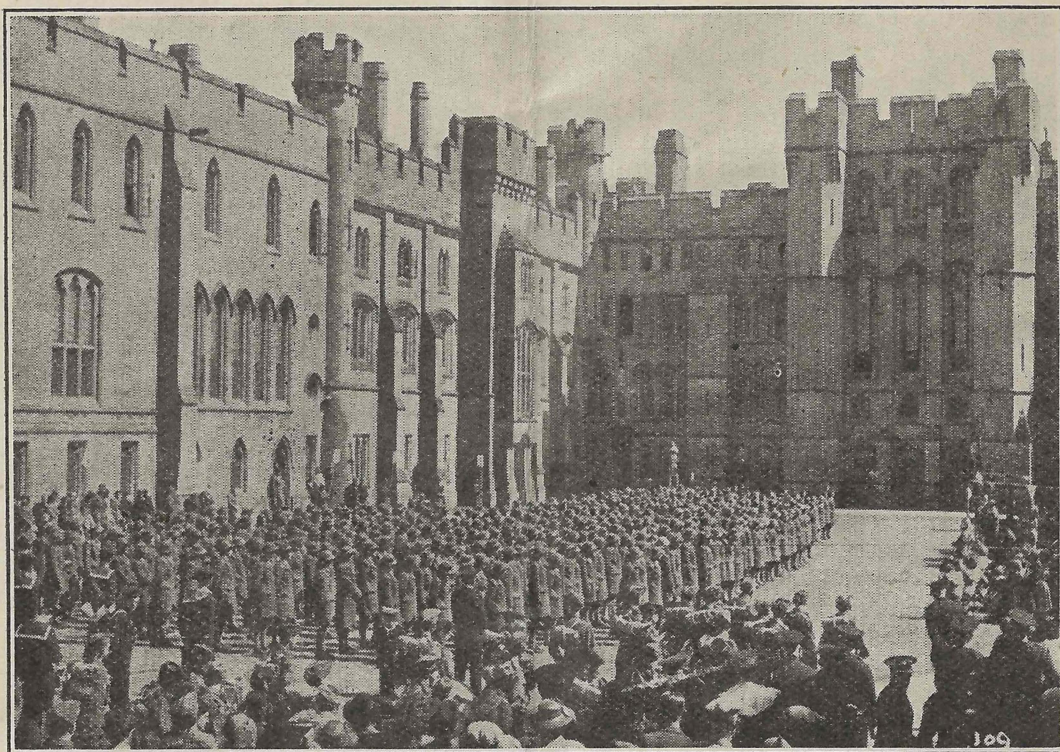
Everyone knows something about the conditions in which the French are living now, but only the powerful imagination of a fine novelist can realise them as vividly as Ethel Vance in "Reprisal"—from the desperate struggle of Francoise to save a little cake of chocolate for sharing with her family to the agonised anxiety which she shares with the whole countryside while their hostages wait to be shot if the man who killed a German soldier cannot be found. But Francoise is young, and her real pre-occupation through all these miseries is an interrupted love affair. In such circumstances, even dictators shout in vain for attention. The story is a passage through the Valley of the Shadow, but light can be seen at the end.

M. Jaeger.

Have you remembered to renew your subscription?

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A SUNDAY IN WEST SUSSEX



The Courtyard of Arundel Castle has seen many famous sights and welcomed many famous people, but it was never a more fitting background than for the 700 volunteers from all over West Sussex, who gathered there on May 9th.

Fortunately, the tremendous storms of that week-end paused for a breath on Sunday afternoon, and bright sunlight shone on the marching Land Girls as, headed by the band of the Worthing Sea Cadets, they emerged from the dark archway, swung round the courtyard and on to the grass in front of the platform. No less than three bands played them in and a contingent of the W.T.C. in their smart green berets came at the end.

Mrs. Burrell (Chairman of W. Sussex W.L.A.) introduced the Duke of Norfolk (Joint Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture), Lady Denman (Honorary Director of the W.L.A.) and Sir Merrik Burrell (Chairman of the W. Sussex W.A.E.C.) whose speeches must have rewarded their audience for past

work and encouraged them to still further efforts. Lady Denman presented Badges for 3½ years service and Miss B. Riddell, W.L.A., 16968, thanked the speakers in an excellent and much appreciated speech. Presents made by Land Girls were given to Lady Denman, Mrs. Burrell, Miss Forbes-Adam (Organising Secretary, W. Sussex, W.L.A.) and the three little daughters of the Duke of Norfolk, one of whom made a popular debut at the microphone. An immense tea, a lively entertainment by the Fol-de-Rols in the great Hall of the Castle, and a stroll in the grounds concluded a very happy afternoon.

Despite the complications inevitably introduced by the presence of a large crowd and an army of photographers, recording vans, news reel operators and pressmen, the organisation of the Rally never faltered. It all went with a fine swing and without a hitch, a great tribute to Mrs. Burrell, Miss Forbes Adam and her staff, and many voluntary helpers.

WANTED.—Jodphurs, size 6; Boots size 5. Write, Williams, Sunnyside, Bourton Road, Bucks.

FOR SALE.—Black Leather Riding Boots, size 6, very good condition. Write H., Mason, Cedar Cottages, Greywell, Hants.

WANTED.—Second-hand pair of hair clippers for dog trimming. Read, Wickham Court Farm, West Wickham, Kent.

WANTED.—Brown or Black riding boots, 3½ or 4. W.L.A., 95732, c/o Editor, Balcombe Place, Sussex.

COMPANY IN A TOWN GARDEN

BY no means the least interesting work for a gardener is to make a new garden or to try to put a neglected garden ship shape. Trees have to be lopped, shrubs cut back, fruit trees pruned, and the ground dug. It is the kind of work I am doing at present, but I am afraid I am disturbing various creatures which had considered the garden their property—cats, the neighbours' fowls, and wild birds.

Most houses in the vicinity possess only small front gardens, and the cats had chosen the larger garden—a pleasure park after their own hearts.

There is an old, ramshackle summer-house at the end. I was exploring it, when a very big, long-haired cat dashed out of a corner and made away as quick as lightening. Whenever I approach the summer-house the cat rushes out, but it does not appear in any other part of the garden. Whether it lives there or only goes there to admire the view (a very fine one), I can't tell. It is rather a frightening creature—I don't like it much. A much more pleasant visitor is a young silver tabby (all the cats are toms, I suppose it is bad manners for female cats to intrude in strange gardens). He likes the trees for gymnastic exercises. He runs up and down, and up and down, jumps from one branch to another, dangles down like a monkey, and disappears after he has done his daily dozen. In this enterprise he is often disturbed by a rude, ginger tom, which comes in the garden with the intention to pick a quarrel. First he runs up a tree to show how much better he does it, then he sneers at young Silver, then he begins to swear. The fight, which results is watched by grand-dad, Black-and-White, an old tom, which appears only in fine weather to rest in an apple tree. He is a slow-moving cat of dignified demeanour, due, perhaps, either to the fact that he is the vicar's cat or to old age. He never interferes between Silver and Ginger. Poor brave, gymnastic-minded Silver; he always gets the worst of it because Ginger is heavier and the more experienced fighter. Once I watched Ginger going up to the summer-house. After a short while, to my satisfaction, he came howling down, the enormous beast which has taken possession of this place was teaching him not to trespass.

A neighbour's fowls are still less welcome. He had been asked to keep the fowls in his own garden, and he made a very inefficient attempt to repair a hedge

which his children had destroyed, and naturally the birds still come through. They are a nuisance. I had started on a nice tidy compost heap; they scratched the whole thing to pieces and pulled cabbage leaves and other refuse all over the garden. If I throw stones at them it makes them disappear for a short while, all except one, which seems to be an imbecile. If I stop to pick up a stone, it runs to me expecting to get food. It follows me round and seems quite happy if I pick it up. I don't know what to do with it.

When I first started gardening I hated to kill insects and slugs, but I soon overcame that. After leather jackets had eaten in one night dozens of my newly planted cabbages I felt only delight in squashing them, and I still remember the satisfaction with which I dipped a slug which had caused great havoc in the greenhouse, in a jar containing a poisonous solution. (That is the way I kill slugs and wood lice.) Here in this garden I saw the biggest slug I ever came across. It was grey, with black spots, and was of the size of a small snake. I was reluctant to kill this phenomenon. I was relieved from this task by my own kitten, which suddenly developed a French taste.

A robin which appears whenever I do digging, likes earth-worms better than slugs. He is an old, ragged bird, but with vivid eyes and an incredible capacity for devouring his favourite food. I don't like him, he is so greedy, and earth-worms are, after all, useful creatures. I wouldn't mind if he only ate the small ones—well, he has to eat something—but he prefers to attack the biggest ones, which he can't swallow whole, so he hacks at them and minces them up in a disgusting way and then chooses only a few bits and leaves the rest. If he would chop away the tail piece only, the poor worm could still live on. Sometimes a young and pretty robin wants to get a share of my digging, but the nasty old one drives it away, as if he has hired me to dig only for him. He is a bully of a robin; if I pause, he settles on the spade and looks at me in such a way as if he was saying: Am I paying you for being idle?

I am sure many birds will be sorry for the disappearance of their nesting places. It can't be helped. Shrubs and spinneys have to make room for vegetable plots. I hope the time will soon come when birds will have sanctuaries again, and the human beings peace.

Francesca Enns.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

In reply to the enquiry of G. Gould, 29, of Devon, I too, am one of those who joined the W.L.A. when the National Service Book was first issued. My number is 20. It is interesting to note that not only Nos. 20, 27 and 29 belong to the West Country, but that the original No. 1 was also a Somerset girl!

I would like to convey to all L.G.'s. everywhere, my sincerest good wishes; if they love their work as I do, we must be a very happy band of workers.

Somerset. J. Attwell, 20.

Dear Editor,

In reply to the letter in THE LAND GIRL from G. Gould, No. 29, Devon, I too, filled in the form for the W.L.A. in the National Service Book, and was given the No. 18. I went to my first job on the 5th September, 1939. After several changes at first, I have just completed 3 years with my present boss, without having to have one hour off through illness. I wonder if this is a record! Neither have I missed a single morning being up by, or before, 5 am. for the last 18 months. Need I add my work is with cows. My heart and soul are in my work, which I love and can hardly tear myself away for a half day!

Hants. J. Spurgin, 18.

Dear Editor,

Could you tell me what is the best way or place to put a trap to catch moles, as we have them in our market garden and so far have been unsuccessful in catching any?

E. Sussex. Isobel Young.

Dear Editor,

The Wharfedale W.L.A. Club, Yorks, which has been recently formed, held a most successful dance at Pool, on Friday, May 7th. As a result we were able to hand to the "Wings for Victory" Week Committee, £25.

I think THE LAND GIRL is an excellent little magazine and eagerly look forward to its arrival each month. After reading it I pass it on to other members of the Club.

I would like to say that I was very pleased to read the front page of this month's LAND GIRL and to find recognition of the people behind the scenes. It is very up-hill work, being behind the scenes all the time and I am sure that

in spite of any little grumbles we L.G.'s. may have, we realise this and truly appreciate the work of the office staffs and District Representatives.

Yorks. Margery Taylor, 58225.
(Secretary).

Dear Editor,

I should like to know if there are any girls in the Land Army that come from Ireland. I myself come from Co. Longford, Eire, and would be so pleased to get in touch with any Irish girls.

E. Bennett, 40714.

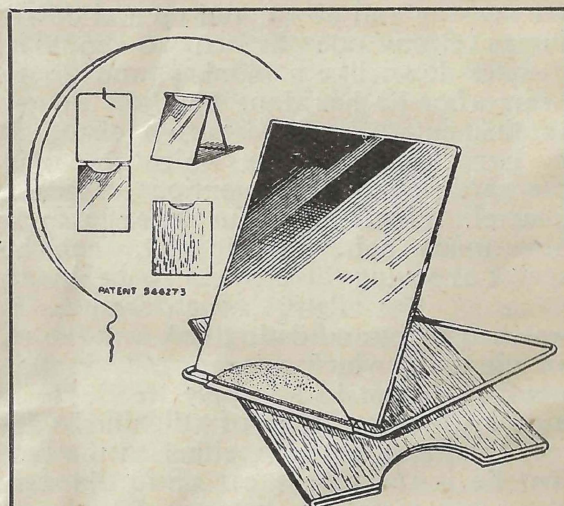
Ashfield Farm, Turville,
Henley-on-Thames, Bucks.

Dear Editor,

I am sure I am only one of the many Britishers that feel some sort of tribute should be paid to the girls who are, as much as any one else, keeping the wheels of industry turning and giving the Forces a stomach to march on. So I would be most pleased if you could make use of the enclosed tribute.

R. Buckfield (R.N.)

(Unfortunately, lack of space prevents the publication of the verses by Mr. Buckfield, in praise of the Land Army.)



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LADY DENMAN IN NORTH WALES

ONLY dire necessity taught the farmers of North Wales the value of the Women's Land Army. But by May 1st, 1934, the day when Lady Denman paid her first visit to her Army in North Wales we had come into our own, and many were there to give us praise and recognition. Anxious to ensure an event worthy of the occasion, Denbighshire, Flintshire and the North Wales Area combined for a Grand Rally at the Pier Pavilion, Rhyl. Mrs. Wynne Finch (Denbighshire) presided and she was supported by officials and members both of the Land Army and War Agricultural Executive County Committees.

Long Service Volunteers formed the Guard of Honour and passing through their ranks, Lady Denman spoke individually to each member. Introduced and welcomed by Rear Admiral Rowley Conwy, the Lord Lieutenant of Flintshire, Lady Denman spoke to an eager and enthusiastic audience and gave an inspiring account of the achievements of the Land Army, emphasised the importance of its work and gave details of the scheme that ensured the welfare of its members. Support for the praise given by Lady Denman to the Land Girls for the vital work they were doing so successfully, came from many with intimate local knowledge and experience. Professor White, speaking not only of Caernarvonshire but from his close contact with every aspect of farming in this part of Wales, hoped that the new blood which the war had brought into agriculture would be of permanent benefit to the industry. Mr. Evan Roberts (Denbighshire) gave an impressive and detailed account of the Land Army in his County and Sir Wynne Cemlyn Jones (Anglesey) in a very lively speech referred to a visit to the collective farms of Russia, but assured us that neither the women of Russia nor those of any other land excelled the women working to-day on the farms of Britain. Recognition of our debt to Lady Denman was made by Col. Sir R. Williams Wynn (Denbighshire) and Mr. Birch (Flintshire) when they thanked her for coming to North Wales. Those who had organised the Rally were very adequately thanked by Sir Charles Phipps (Merionethshire) and by the cheers of the Land Girls.

Wales has throughout actively supported the Benevolent Fund and the occasion was taken to present Lady Denman with purses from each con-

tingent present. The total figures were very impressive and each unit concerned must have felt justly proud at the material increase their efforts had contributed to the resources of the Fund.

Menai Bridge W.L.A. Dramatic Society provided the entertainment, and showed that the Land Army at play was as thorough as the Land Army at work. Possessing real histrionic ability, perfectly cast, they gave a grand performance to an impressive audience, most generous in their applause.

Followed tea, when old friendships were renewed and new experiences compared and the saga of the Land Army continued to be written. So ended a memorable day and leaving the noises of the town, the Land Army returned to its job on the land. We had heard words we shall always remember and now knew the pride of belonging to the Land Army. Praise for the arrangements for the day is due to many, but may we all remain un-named, satisfied that our efforts great or small in some measure contributed to the splendid pattern of this day.

YORKSHIRE RALLY

On Saturday, May 22nd, 200 Yorkshire volunteers attended a rally at Northallerton. The girls assembled in the main street and then, much to the interest of members of the public, headed by drummers from the Home Guard Cadet Force, marched to the Allertonshire School. After tea, Mr. R. S. Hudson, the Minister of Agriculture, was introduced to the girls by Katherine Lady Graham, Chairman of the Yorkshire W.L.A. Mr. Hudson presented G.S. Badges to girls who had done two years or more work in the W.L.A. and congratulated these girls—he said he only wished there were more Yorkshire girls available for export to other counties where they had made such a good reputation for being excellent workers. Members of the Yorkshire W.L.A. Committee and the North Riding W.A.E.C. were also present.

Lady Graham afterwards presented G.S. Badges; this was followed by an entertainment by the girls from the Stokesley Hostel.

Rallies in Buckinghamshire and Staffordshire on May 29th, were too late to be reported in this issue, but will appear in the July LAND GIRL.

Scottish Notes

WELFARE AND BEN. FUND

News has been received of a £1,000 grant from the Treasury. Thanks to that and the splendid efforts of some districts our assets now stand at £2,000. This means another £8,000 to be raised, as our target is £10,000, so to those who have so far done nothing about it, we say "up girls and at it!"

Aberdeen & Ellon.—Under the direction of Mrs. Manson, concerts galore are being held; a very successful one took place at Old Meldrum and another, equally good, at Bucksburn. At the former the W.L.A. Film was shown and a programme of sketches and other items was enjoyed. Sir Robert Smith, M.P., presented G.S. Badges. At Bucksburn, the girls of Craibstone and the Rowett Institute presented an excellent programme and Mr. R. M. Lemmon presented G.S. Badges.

Alford & Deeside.—A splendid Whist Drive organised by Wilhelmina Dickson, was held at Torphins, in aid of the W. & B. Fund. Mrs. Cook presented prizes and also G.S. Badges. Kildrummy girls held a most successful dance which realised a good sum for the W. & B. Fund. The organisers, Helen Mitchell and Helen Petrie, are to be congratulated on this fine effort. Congratulations to Mrs. Murdoch (née Cruickshank) whose wedding took place at the private chapel on the Glentanar Estate.

Huntley & Garioch.—This district has been doing its bit for the W. & B. Fund with a concert held in Kintore after the opening of the Torryburn Hostel and another in the hostel itself.

Angus.—The recently formed Club at Inverkeilor had a social evening when there was a fine programme as well as dancing. The sum of £14 10s. was raised for the local comforts fund. Craichie Club continues its activities and a recent whist drive raised £25 for the Aid to Russia Fund.

N. Argyllshire.—The handsome sum of £51 5s. has been contributed from the N.E. part of Argyll. This is composed of the proceeds of a legalised raffle and a donation from the Island of Lismore. Mrs. Lees-Milne, Miss K. MacInnes and Miss Hewitt are to be congratulated on this splendid effort on behalf of the W. & B. Fund.

N. Ayrshire.—Mrs. Agnew, Broadmeadows, Symington, has made the very handsome donation of 50 guineas to the W. & B. Fund. Galston had a concert and dance, and a grand affair it was. Mrs. Smith of Galston presented G.S. Badges and said nice things about the W.L.A. Dunlop club had a social evening with a wonderful tea and badge presentation; badge presentations also took place at Underhill and Garnoch House Hostels, and Lady MacAndrew gave a delightful party at Newfield. Part proceeds of a dance are gratefully acknowledged. Mrs. Kennedy had a party at Kilmarnock for the girls of the district and badges were presented, 1 for 3½ years, 3 for 3 years, 3 for 2½, and 4 2-year armlets. After tea there was a visit to the cinema.

Berwickshire.—Twenty girls from the Blackburnrigg and Coveyheugh Hostels were Guard of Honour at the wedding of Miss Sanderson, late secretary of the Midlothian Sub-Committee. They formed an arch with Dutch hoes and afterward were entertained to tea and a dance held at the two hostels. Several parties have been held at different hostels and friends and employers were entertained and G.S. Badges presented.

Caithness.—A party was held at the Thurso Hostel for girls from the district and friends. This was most enjoyable except for the fact that goodbye had to be said to Miss Ward, Congregational Church Minister, who is taking up another charge. She will be much missed by local L.G.'s, in whose welfare she has taken such a kindly and practical interest. The G.T.C. in this county will have no cause to say they have not been told about the

W.L.A., for Miss Cowieson has given them several talks, supported sometimes by Miss Wilkie, the Hostel warden.

Dumbarton & Renfrew.—The Paisley and District Club, which meets regularly twice a month, was given a most interesting talk on Norway's struggle by Mr. Haughland who recently escaped from a Nazi concentration camp. This was followed by songs and music. W. Renfrewshire has been well represented in "Wings for Victory" Parades. There was a big rally at Dumbarton, when G.S. Badges were presented by Provost McPhie, and nearly 120 girls were addressed by Mr. Lumsden, chairman of the A.E.C., whose remarks were both encouraging and complimentary.

E. Fife.—G.S. Badges were presented by Mr. Allan Chapman at a party at Pitcorthie Hostel and an excellent concert was provided by its residents. There was a good turnout of employers and friends. Cupar "Wings for Victory" parade was supported by a W.L.A. contingent well drilled beforehand by Capt. Houston Fraser. Anstruther Hostel girls, under the direction of Miss McDaid, ran a most successful dance for the W. & B. Fund.

Kircudbright.—Several dances were held throughout the county for the W. & B. Fund, the responsible folk being Marjorie Hood, Yvonne Barrett, Evelyn Macaulay, and Betty Campbell.

E. Lothian.—A dance was arranged by the girls in Roselea Hostel, for the County Comforts Fund, and another at Gifford, by Janet Fairgrieve. The Aberlady club meets every fortnight and has 20 members. Marygold Hostel has acquired a piano and now has its own concert party. Jean Maxwell and Rina Hill presented two sketches to Saltoun W.R.I.

Roxburgh.—A kind donation to the W. & B. Fund from Mrs. Palmer Douglas, of Cavers, is gratefully acknowledged.

Ross-shire.—The W.L.A. Sub Committee have sent a welcome donation to the W. & B. Fund.

Stirlingshire.—A most successful concert and dance, inspired by Catherine Stewart and helped by Miss Bolton, was held at Balfron, for the W. & B. Fund.

W. Perth.—Elsie Crawford arranged a dance at Comrie, in aid of the W. & B. Fund.

Benevolent Fund

A special Bulletin is being sent with "The Land Girl" this month. In future, it will depend on the number of donations received and the amount of space required to acknowledge them, whether a list is printed in the magazine or in a special Bulletin printed every two or three months.

Women's Timber Corps

In future, news received from W.T.C. Divisions will be published every other month.

Division 6 (New Forest)

We were lucky this month to have a visit from Mrs. Stevenson and Miss Carpenter, of the Uniform Department. An informal gathering was held in the garden of my house, of girls in the vicinity. Mrs. Stevenson gave us a very heartening talk and explained the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. We are now eager to find ways and means for raising money for this cause. Miss Carpenter battled with uniform queries.

The place to see an excellent "all girl operation" with girl forewoman is in the I.O.W. One of our many Show Jobs!

Copies of the Land Army song "Back to the Land," 2d. for one, 1/- for 12 (post free) can be obtained from the Editor, Balcombe Place, Sussex.

County News

Beds.—We know that everybody will be very sorry to hear that in spite of all our hopes, Mrs. Heydeman has been compelled, through ill-health, to leave us. We are lucky in having Mrs. Eugster to take her place, and Miss Martin as assistant. We are very glad to tell you that J. Smart (No. 95537) who had a serious accident will not, as was feared, lose the sight in one eye. As the result of a dance, Mr. Graham, of Lodge Farm, Toddington, has sent us £85. We have also had £5 from the Clergy Appeal and hope for more. Our Wrest Park Hostel was opened last week and we welcome Mrs. Stone, who has come from the Potton Hostel to be the Warden, and Miss Sanderson, who is to be her assistant. Elstow and Hulcote Moors Hostels will open soon. Mrs. Graham, our Chairman, gave tea to the Local Representatives and Office Staff recently, and Miss Williams, our Regional Officer, spoke very fully on the help the Representatives can give to L.G.'s. in their various troubles. Our Local Representative at Luton—Miss Read, arranged for 10 girls to take part in a parade when the Duchess of Kent visited the town to inspect uniformed war workers. Through the kindness of Padre Knies of the U.S.A., another party was given last week in the North of the County; many L.G.'s. went, including the Chairman and the office staff. Besides dancing, there was a floor show.

Berks.—There have been a large number of social gatherings in aid of the Benevolent Fund. A delightful performance at Buckhold of an Elizabethan one-act play presented by Mrs. Robertson Glasgow's W.L.A. Drama Group (which was trained and directed by Mrs. Colinwood Selby, of the British Drama League) was repeated at Yattendon, and £23 4s. 10d. was sent to the Benevolent Fund. We have had M.O.I. film shows at some of the hostels, and at Wokingham, where Mrs. Palmer entertained the local volunteers to supper. The programmes were excellent and included a very good instructional film on ploughing with a tractor, made in Berkshire by Berkshire W.L.A. volunteers. We have also had a round of Ensa concerts at the hostels to which other local volunteers were invited. Warfield Hostel girls and I.C.I. girls together organised a very successful dance for the Benevolent Fund, and must be congratulated on the result—£52 10s., and the Wokingham district W.L.A. gave a splendid concert at St. Sebastin's, on May 11th, which raised £23. "Wings for Victory" weeks are in full swing, and L.A. volunteers are taking part in the parades all over the county.

We are anxious to have an attractive and appropriate design for wrappers to cover collecting tins for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, and offer a prize for the best design. Drawings should be approximately 12 inches by 5 inches, and should be sent to the County Office, 165 King's Road, Reading, by the end of June.

Cheshire.—Several successful efforts have been held in various parts of the county in aid of the Benevolent Fund. An excellent entertainment was arranged by Mrs. Naylor and Mrs. Toosey and given entirely by members of the W.L.A. was held at Tarvin, on May 18th. Volunteers have taken part in "Wings for Victory" Parades in several places. The Tabley Hostel set themselves a target of £150 and have so far reached £100, by social efforts. New clubs have been opened for volunteers in the Wilmslow and Aldersley Edge districts and in this area Young Farmers' Clubs are very kindly encouraging members of the W.L.A. to attend lectures. On May 11th, Lady Crossley presented G.S. Badges and Armlets, at Stokehall, Nantwich. A small silver tray, with engraved inscription, was presented to Miss B. Robbins, W.L.A. 60912, as a token of appreciation of the work done by the W.L.A. She holds the best record of work done during twelve months' employment by the C.W.A.E.C. Other presentations of G.S. Badges

were made on various dates in the area, and delightful gatherings were organised by District Representatives.

Derbyshire's third and latest hostel was opened on Tuesday, April 27th, at Trusley Manor, 25 L.G.'s. from Sheffield, arrived in the afternoon at Derby Station and were met and transported to Trusley Manor by lorry, where tea was waiting for them. The girls are all working on farms within a radius of five miles and bicycles are provided for them to get to and from their work. Mrs. Ellis and two friends lately organised a most successful dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund in the Chesterfield district, from the sale of tickets and various raffles; a total of £26 was realised and a very good party was enjoyed by all. Mrs. Wright, one of our Area Representatives, has instituted Sunday tea parties during the summer months for the girls in her area, these Sunday afternoons are well attended and most popular. A dance was held at Brailsford, on May 1st, in aid of the Benevolent Fund and Miss Barbara Pashley, who organised the evening, realised £16 10s.

Devon.—Six new hostels have been opened and the county office has moved. The Victory Calf has visited Devon and over £1,880 was raised, the collectors being L.G.'s. Numerous "Wings for Victory" Marches have been held, all of which has given the W.L.A. good publicity. We have received many messages complimenting us. The Secretary was asked if she could arrange for the entire Exeter contingent of 100 girls to visit a South coast town for a similar function! The new Training Farm and Cleve House Hostel were at home on May 1st to the Mayor of Exeter, Mr. Cedric Drewe, M.P., and members of the W.A.C. Exeter Club held a highly successful dance, when £19 was raised for the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds. Sidmouth Club also held a dance and made £15 for the Wings for Victory Week. Okehampton Victory Diggers' Savings Group raised £538. The R.A.F. and W.A.A.F. invited the W.L.A. to a dance at their camp, and kindly provided transport. Torrington followed their march by tea kindly given at the hostel by Mrs. Leverton and Mrs. Gresty and afterwards joined in the old-fashioned floral dance round the streets. Woodbury Y.F.U. have held weekly thatching classes which have been thoroughly enjoyed by our members. The competition was won by K. Champion, R. Hooper being second, and B. Henton third.

Dorset.—Mrs. Comben (D.R.) arranged for the opening of the Weymouth W.L.A. Club on March 27th. This meets every Tuesday night at the Sidney Hall. Successful parties have been held at Cranborne and Shaftesbury, and at the latter we were glad to welcome some of the Wiltshire W.L.A., who contributed enormously to the merriment of the party. We are sorry to report that a W.L.A. team was beaten in the field of General Knowledge by a G.T.C. team, but perhaps in an arable field the W.L.A. would have ploughed a better furrow! C.E.M.A. has again provided delightful entertainment in the County. The Jacques String Orchestral concert in Dorchester on April 1st was an outstanding success. The Cocknowle Dairying Training Centre re-opened on April 5th. The 14th Course proved a record one in every way. On April 15th a much appreciated and helpful meeting of Dorset District Representatives was addressed, in the Old Shire Hall, Dorchester, by our Regional Officer, Miss Walton. The Dorset Women's Farm and Garden Association wish it to be known that all W.L.A. members are invited to join. Particulars may be obtained from Miss Bell, Shire Hall, Dorchester. We are all looking forward to a Rally at Sherborne, on 27th May. Heats for a Milking Competition on that occasion have already taken place in that area, and the Finals will be watched with keen interest. We have been very fortunate in having fortnightly E.N.S.A. Parties arranged at the existing Hostels.

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Miss Brown (Deputy Chairman) and V. Young, 111,450 at
a Durham Exhibition.

By courtesy of Northern Echo.

Durham warmly welcomed Mrs. Jenkins, Assistant Director of the W.L.A., on her recent visit to meet the County Committee, Area Representatives, Hostel Wardens, and members of the office and W.A.E.C. staffs. Many thanks are due to Lady Starmer, County Chairman, who combined business with pleasure and gave a most delightful tea-party. Mr. Cassels, Executive Officer of the W.A.E.C., paid tribute to the fact that a force of 1,074 volunteers had been raised in this small county in under two years.

Linda Lawson described on the wireless recently hers and Evelyn Taylor's experiences working on an excavator, deepening and widening the River Skerne. Several volunteers have suffered through enemy action. Sincere congratulations to E. Mackle, 110,497, who saved a baby's life during an air raid by protecting it with her own body. Her arm was fractured and ankle injured, but is longing to get back to work. She had been injured before and bombed out of her home four times.

Hants.—30,000 tomato plants, averaging 5 lbs of fruit per plant—150,000 lbs of tomatoes! This is the contribution to the war effort that is being made by volunteers at a market garden in the New Forest. There is a legend that on one ever leaves this garden except to get married; it is an excellent example of well-organised work and practical welfare. The girls have their own mess room with hot and cold water laid on, and the fire-watchers are provided with spring beds and feather pillows. We extend a very hearty welcome to Mrs. Stuart as our new County Secretary, also her two assistants, Mrs. Barrett and Miss Dutton.

Herefords was probably the first county to embark on a system of contract spraying of farm orchards. As far back as 1934, a County Council plant was travelling the farms. Since the war the scope of the work has been expanded by the Horticultural Committee of the W.A.C. who now have six pumps available to farmers. After a short training six W.L.A. Volunteers were engaged on this work, the numbers have gradually increased until at the time of writing Herefordshire has twenty-one W.L.A. volunteers fruit spraying.

We welcome newcomers from Lancashire, Stafford and Derbyshire to our newly opened hostels at Adzor House, Wellington, and the Burcott, Holmer, Hereford. The "Dig for Victory" Exhibition, held at the Shire Hall from April 21-25, was considerably brightened by the W.L.A. stall. Thanks to the kindness of our Charman, Lady Lettice Cotterell and two Committee Members, Mrs. Parker and Mrs. W. Smith, we were able to stage "the best exhibition ever" (as one person said), model farms complete with every kind of animal, farm building and tractor. We were sorry that more W.L.A. girls could not get into town to see this. The dance and draw at Bodenham brought in the splendid sum of £153 6s. 7d. for the Benevolent Fund and Mrs. Whistance's dance at Orcop added £15 16s. One employer sent £1 because "the W.L.A. girl whom I employ is such an excellent worker."

Herts held the finals of its first Milking Competition on the afternoon of May 11th, at Great Gobions, Stapleford, kindly lent by Mr. Hedley Morgan, who has always been a close friend and ally of the L.A. It was on his farm that the first efficiency tests for volunteers were held as long ago as 1916. He has a large herd of shorthorns, and it was, therefore, possible to pick six fairly even cows. Two entrants came from a Jersey farm, but allowances were made for the fact that they were not used to a heavy breed. The six girls called for this final test had won the highest marks in the preliminary trials carried out on the farms where they were employed; each entrant who gained 70 marks or over was awarded a 1st, 2nd or 3rd class certificate, according to her merit.

By 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 11th, the six girls with stools, hooded pails, white overalls and caps complete, were given the word to start. There was quite a goodly company of onlookers, including Major Barclay, Chairman of the W.A.E.C., the Principal of the Herts Institute of Agriculture, the County Medical Officer, and others interested in dairying and clean milk production. Miss Peacock, the County Dairy Instructress and Mr. Hedley Morgan acted as judges and the silver

THE LAND GIRL

Challenge Cup was awarded to Ruth Brasnett, a really first-class milker who shows great promise. After the presentation of the cup all the girls and several officers were entertained by their chairman, Mrs. Martin Smith, to a most sumptuous tea at the Woodhall Arms near by.

Lower Woodside hostel has started its career as a training school for milkers, and the course for forewomen and gangers is still training suitable girls for the W.A.E.C. gangs. Two new hostels have opened, one at Hawkwell, Tring, and one at Wyddial Hall, Buntingford, and clubs are thriving.

Hunts, Cambs & Ely.—"Wings for Victory" weeks are being held all over the area, and members of the L.A. have been parading in strength. At Cambridge, on May 9th, those girls living in the town itself joined with the other services and Civil Defence. Parades have also been held at St. Ives, Willingham and other places; on 21st February 60 L.G.'s took part in the grand parade in honour of the Soviet Army, and managed to get themselves on the news reels at the cinemas! The Contributory Hospital Scheme seems to have appealed to lots of people, and we hope all our members will join and so enable them to have hospital treatment in cases of accident and need. The Benevolent Fund appeal has brought in some excellent contributions, although it is now rather too hot for dances. Mrs. Burrill, the District Representative for Haslingfield, worked very hard, and as a result of her efforts sent a cheque for £8, while in February, the ever-energetic Thorney girls raised £16 for the Fund. This was a grand fancy dress affair, the first prize, very appropriately, being won by Miss Kathleen Haxby, W.L.A., 70079, as "Wings for Victory." We welcome our new Organiser for Hunts and the Isle of Ely—Mrs. Houdret.

I.O.W. is steadily increasing in membership but we are still small compared to other counties. We are somewhat of a Cinderella in the W.L.A., but a very hearty one. Our work is mostly dairy or market-gardens, milk production taking high place in the south of England. We export a great deal to the main-land which means very early hours for our dairy-girls, some of them starting work at 4.30 a.m. We do not get much entertainment in our off-time, as farms are very scattered and transport difficult, but we keep smiling. Our monthly socials continue, but are very simple. Lately a group of girls got up a dance for the Welfare Fund. They managed it entirely on their own and cleared over £10. Sometimes our days or nights are enlivened by unpleasant visitors from hostile countries, but apart from a few cuts and chips volunteers have not suffered, and no hours have been lost in getting on with food production for the country we work for. Our hearts have been saddened here by a fatal accident while at work to one of our members, Audrey Allen, of Ryde, whom we shall always remember with pride.

W. Kent.—Following the example of some of the other Counties, the Kent W.A.E.C. has undertaken to run a Forewomen's Training Course for twelve L.G.'s. Judging by the Syllabus of lectures and practical work which has been drawn up, the month's instruction should prove a most valuable and interesting training to those selected to attend it. To be eligible for the month's course, girls must have done at least six months' good work in the L.A., preferably a year.

Two new W.L.A. Clubs have been opened recently, at Keston and Meopham. A member of the Keston Club, who was a Kennel maid before joining the L.A., has generously offered to clip dogs at 5s. 6d. a time and give the proceeds to the County Welfare Fund. We hope many people will take advantage of this sporting offer. We have now 11 Hostels and several more opening in the near future. Malling House had a most enjoyable opening night on May 12th, when Miss Sybil Eaton, the Musical Director of C.E.M.A. and Miss Dorothy Erhart gave us a musical evening. We

were glad to see so many of the W.L.A. from the neighbourhood amongst the audience. C.E.M.A.'s "Actors' Little Theatre," gave us shows in May at Swadlands and Malling Hostels. We much enjoyed the programme of plays, and both thrillers and comedies were excellently acted. At both Hostels, we were delighted to have so many outside guests. Ridley Hostel had a most successful social evening at the neighbouring village hall and made £20 for the Local "Wings for Victory" Week.

Lanes.—Dances held by volunteers at Holker Hall, by the W.L.A. Club at Grange-over-Sands, and by Miss L. Cullen at Catforth have helped the Benevolent Fund. We should like particularly to thank the members of the W.T.C. who helped to make the dance at Holker so successful. Mrs. Webb and Miss Molyneux and Miss Stubbs have organised raffles which have raised large contributions, and we should also like to thank the committee of the Women's International Day for the Warrington area, who sent us a generous gift. Two rallies have been held, one in Preston for the girls in the centre and south of the county, one in Ulverston for the girls in the Lonsdale area. Both were very well attended, and in each case a procession marched through the town. The Preston procession was led by a pony and a milk float newly painted, with a cargo of shining milk kits, and the change of round was handled very skilfully by the usual drivers! Captain E. Foster, O.B.E., Liaison Officer to the Minister of Agriculture addressed the rally in Preston, and Major Fitzherbert-Brockholes, M.C., J.P., the chairman of the Lancashire W.A.E.C., presented the G.S. badges and armlets to the L.G.'s who have now qualified for their seventh, sixth, fifth and fourth half-diamonds. At the Ulverston rally Mr. J. J. Green, the Executive Officer for the W.A.E.C., gave the address, and Lord Richard Cavendish presented the G.S. badges. We were very pleased to see members of the Women's Timber Corps.



We're all in it now
By courtesy of Lilliput.

THE LAND GIRL

We welcome to the office staff in Preston Miss Phillips, our new assistant secretary, and Mrs. Walker, who is assisting Mrs. Robertson with organising and welfare work. We are very sorry that Mrs. Reeve, who has been assistant secretary for nearly three years, has to leave us at the end of this month. We wish her the very best of luck in the future.

Leics. & R.—Congratulations to Doris Adams, of Sheepy, who has won the silver meal of the Dumb Friends' League for conspicuous bravery in rescuing two lambs from an infuriated bull. An Agricultural Brains Trust was held in Melton Mowbray on March 25th, at which some interesting discussions took place. Representatives of the W.L.A. have attended the various general meetings of the N.F.U. in the county. We have opened three new Hostels recently at Three Gates, Bilesdon, Loddington and Syston. This brings our total for the two counties up to 21. We are very grateful to the girls from Hungerton, Ullesthorpe, Husband's Bosworth, Wilson and Sewstern, and the Young Farmers' from Narborough, who have organised dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund and between them have raised the magnificent sum of £150. Some of these dances took place in "Wings for Victory" weeks, so the money raised served a dual purpose by being invested in War Savings which were given to our Fund. A conference for all Hostel Wardens was held in Leicester on March 31st at which representatives from W.L.A. and Y.W.C.A. Headquarters were present. This gave a splendid opportunity for the exchange of ideas and was very much appreciated by those who attended. On May 15th, 120 L.G.'s. from the Ashby district took part in a "Wings for Victory" parade.

Staffs.—We are very sorry indeed to lose Mrs. Frith, our Secretary for nearly four years, owing to duties at home, and we wish her every happiness in her retirement. She will be greatly missed, but we hope that she will still be working with us, if only in a small way. The L.A. in Staffordshire owe her a great debt of gratitude.

On Saturday, May 1st, the Wall Heath Hostel organised a social evening and Dance and had the pleasure of entertaining Lord Dudley, the Regional Commissioner and Lady Dudley, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham and our chairman, Miss Harrison. Lord Dudley and the Lord Mayor gave us inspiring talks and we felt very honoured that they had spared the time from their many duties to come and visit our Hostel. Mrs. Frith was presented with a tray by the girls of the Hostel, in appreciation of all she had done for them during her Secretaryship. Several dances, whist drives, etc., have been organised in aid of the Benevolent Fund, and splendid results have been achieved. A number of our girls took part in the "Wings for Victory" parade at Stafford, on Saturday, May 15th, it was very cheering to hear from a spectator that the L.G.'s. were the only ones that looked really happy! Similar parades are being held in other parts of the County.

Hostel Quiz.—Have you tried Paraphone? It keeps teacloths, kitchen tables and sinks "snowy white."

**Listen to the
LAND ARMY BIRTHDAY
BROADCAST**

**On Sunday, June 27th, at
1.15 p.m., in the Home Service.**

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Yorks	129	7	0	5371
Kent	235	17	11	3734
Essex	216	4	11	3384
Leics. 1789	333	2	0	2096
Rut. 277				
E. Sussex	29	13	3	2048
Herts	81	19	3	2037
Hants	491	12	4	1977
Surrey	595	11	4	1969
Northants	374	18	6	1676
Warwicks	742	14	6	1646
Worcs.	382	12	8	1635
Bucks	447	15	2	1572
Somerset	101	8	0	1556
W. Sussex	157	13	5	1476
Holl. & Kes.	213	19	2	1461
Cheshire	299	18	8	1449
Lancs.	169	9	7	1436
Wilts	150	13	6	1389
Glos.	300	6	4	1338
Norfolk	647	8	5	1321
Devon	229	9	10	1313
Berks	683	5	3	1221
Notts	95	19	6	1212
Cornwall	44	3	0	1179
North'l'd	103	8	5	1115
Hunts 256	220	1	8	1003
Cambs 489				
Ely 234				
Cumbs. & West	171	17	0	980
Salop	264	12	10	950
E. Suffolk	509	6	9	941
Oxon	181	17	6	881
Durham	79	14	11	879
Staffs	95	6	6	826
Dorset	96	17	6	779
Lindsey	288	2	7	743
Glam.	388	2	0	726
Beds	213	0	7	663
W. Suffolk	436	8	0	605
Mon.	36	13	1	580
N. Wales	476	3	9	504
Lon. & Middx	166	16	6	491
Derbys	95	3	0	480
Denbighs	194	5	0	448
Flints	179	12	0	412
Carm & Cards	305	16	4	382
Pembs	36	11	6	356
I.O.W.	21	3	0	330
Brec. & Rad.	80	11	11	319
Mont.	72	10	0	232
Timber Corps	78	6	7	3686
Herefords	228	11	8	Not rec'd.

On May 31st there were over 65,200 volunteers in employment.

"THE LAND GIRL"

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