

Smith L

THE LAND GIRL

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QUIET GALLANTRY

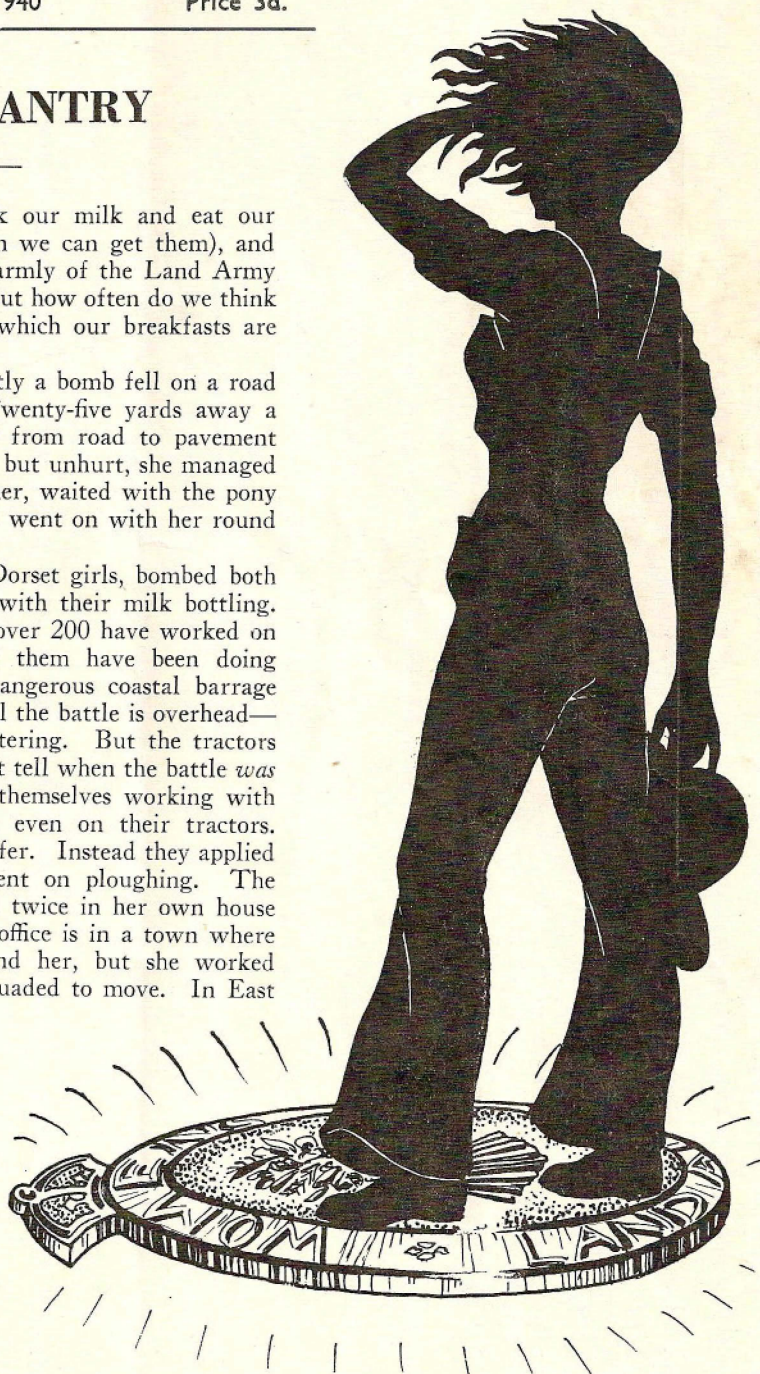
AT our breakfast tables we drink our milk and eat our bread and eggs or bacon (when we can get them), and perhaps we sometimes think warmly of the Land Army which has helped to bring them to us, but how often do we think of the courage in the battle line, of which our breakfasts are the result?

At half-past five one morning recently a bomb fell on a road in the outskirts of a large town. Twenty-five yards away a Land Girl, on her round, was flung from road to pavement and her pony gravely injured. Dazed but unhurt, she managed to get a message to her employer farmer, waited with the pony until he and the vet. arrived, and then went on with her round on foot.

Read in the County News of the Dorset girls, bombed both at home and at work, who went on with their milk bottling. Read also of Kent volunteers. Here over 200 have worked on steadily in constant danger. Six of them have been doing tractor ploughing in a particularly dangerous coastal barrage area. It is not "done" to shelter until the battle is overhead—otherwise one would be for ever sheltering. But the tractors were so noisy that the drivers could not tell when the battle *was* overhead. So frequently they found themselves working with shrapnel falling all round them and even on their tractors. Not one of these girls asked for a transfer. Instead they applied for tin hats—and got them—and went on ploughing. The East Kent Secretary has been bombed twice in her own house and once where she was staying; her office is in a town where houses fell like packs of cards around her, but she worked there every day and could not be persuaded to move. In East Sussex a Land Girl was the first to arrive to rescue two small children from a cottage near which a burning aeroplane had crashed.

It is courage like this, repeated again and again in every county and every town, which cannot be beaten, for it is incapable of acknowledging defeat. The Land Army is proud that its members are justifying so magnificently our confidence in victory.

M. A. P.



A MEDAL FOR MILKING

OCTOBER 2nd—"A fine day and all's well"! Streams of sturdy girls in Land Army uniform, some carrying milking stools and pails, all walking, cycling or motoring in one direction—towards Brindley Farm, Nantwich. Had anyone been so ignorant of local events as to ask "where are you going to my pretty maid?" the answer would certainly have been, "I'm going to milk in the Land Army Milking Contest."

not a bad milker present, and Mr. Barnett could not find any serious fall in the day's yield."

In the final competition for the medal, two competitors were so even that two further cows had to be found and another test arranged. Miss Burrows was finally awarded the medal, and we do congratulate her on the splendid performance. Mrs. Figarado was second.

Our host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. J. Barnett, were indefatigable in their efforts to make



By courtesy of the "Farmer and Stockbreeder."

Some of the competitors at the Cheshire Land Army Milking Contest. The winner, Miss B. Burrows, is at the end of the front row on the left facing the camera.

The event will be long remembered in Cheshire. Of the thirty girls competing, the *Farmer and Stockbreeder* said:

"Quite easily, the girls—some straight from school and others from shop and factory, competing with one or two farmers' daughters—achieved an average time of approximately 7½ minutes per cow. The highest yield was 24½ lb., and their skill was put to the acid test of cleanliness, for each lot of milk had to undergo a sediment test as it was weighed."

"As is usual in Cheshire, the cows were strapped before milking, and in less than half a minute practically all the girls had got foam on the milk with long, steady squirts. There was

the event an enjoyable one, and while the judges were making their final decision everyone did full justice to the sumptuous tea provided.

The Principal of the Cheshire School of Agriculture, presiding over the prize distribution, said that the Women's Land Army members have certainly made their presence felt in Cheshire, and that the uniform has become a familiar and welcome sight in country roads all over the county.

Prizewinners, and volunteers who were eligible for half-diamonds, were proud to receive their awards from Mrs. E. Johnson, M.B.E., J.P., the popular and energetic chairman of the Cheshire County Committee.

IN PRAISE OF HOEING

BEFORE the war, before any thoughts of the Land Army ever entered my head, I had seen people working in the fields—men hoeing, women potato-picking—and had never ceased to wonder how they could spend day after day bent over Mother Earth, when the very sight of the weeds in our back garden made me want to run a mile! Then came the war, and with the advent of 1940's record summer I rushed helter skelter into the Land Army.

It was quite by chance that it happened. I was in a theatre in Portsmouth, and during the interval a slide was flashed on to the safety curtain and the words "Hampshire Women's Land Army" caught my eye. I turned to the friend I was with and said, "The Land Army! I'd forgotten all about the Land Army!" And before I knew where I was I was enrolling, and I put my name down for training in the very subject that had opened my eyes with wonder so many times—market gardening—and I found myself one of those people who harvest and tend crops of vegetables for the tables of the masses.

First, I gathered crops of beans and peas, bunched early carrots, radishes and parsley, gathered raspberries, joined the "cabbage gang" and picked potatoes, and I still found that I was as bright and alive and interested in my work and existence as I was when both entailed the use of much more brain. More so, in fact, because I was twice as healthy. I am afraid I had looked at field workers and wondered if they were awfully dull-witted people, immune from feelings of boredom at the immensity and tedium of their jobs.

This article is written in particular in praise of hoeing because I have just spent a whole month hoeing a five-acre field of carrots, often quite alone, with an 18-inch hoe—and derived an enormous amount of interest and pleasure out of it! When I started, at the beginning of August, I was joined by two school mistresses who were giving their services for the holidays, and as hoeing was new to us all a man was sent along from one of the farms to show us how it was done. The field had had a horse hoe over it, so that the rows of carrots stood clear—but the weeds in the rows! We had to search for the carrots, which appeared like tiny green hairs amongst them. The highest weeds then, however, were probably only six inches high. Now, at the end of a month, in the remaining unhoed part of the field, some have reached at least two feet. We were taught to hoe out every weed and separate the carrots and leave them standing singly, two to four inches apart. They were main crop carrots, already ordered by the Navy, and in order to have a first-class crop they had

to be separated one from the other, or they would grow crooked or deformed and small, and could only be classed as seconds. We worked the rows backwards and forwards from a line of barbed wire trimmed barrels, anti-invasion, which we took as the middle of the field. Each row seemed very long even then, and we were glad we had not started by going the whole length of the field—the job would have seemed stupendous. As it was it took a week's labour at least before we could really see any progress in the shape of a dozen or so neat green rows of carrots; then we began to feel a real pride and affection for our field. During our first week we were conscious of little but backache, and had to take occasional rests. We tried it all ways—stooping, crouching on our haunches, kneeling, any position for a change—but stooping, to my mind, was by far the quickest method once one's back got used to it. Some men hoeing in the cabbage field beside us told us that a windy day was bad for backache, and we found that it was so. However, we laughed at ourselves and got on with the job.

We had the usual common weeds to contend with, chickweed being the most annoying because it quite choked the poor carrots, and often when we removed the chickweed the carrots that had survived came out too. Dungweed, that grows so fast and tall, shepherd's purse, that is so hard to pull out, thistles, nettles and two kinds of weed which looked almost exactly like the carrots themselves, not to mention grass, were the main offenders. We found a dozen points of interest as the days went by. Some of the carrots had grown a lot, others were scarcely out of the ground; some rows were bristling with carrots, others could scarcely be called a row. I found one furrow running the length of the field, and carrots on one side of this were quite the largest I had yet seen, but near the bottom of the furrow where the next row had been sown was the worst row possible. In parts of the field the earth was beautifully soft, in others the crust caused by heavy rains followed by hot sun was scarcely broken, and our light little hoes were hardly adequate for the task of breaking it up.

I spent quite a number of days hoeing this huge field alone, and my main difficulty was telling the time, but on a sunny day I made a rough clock with a stick in the ground, and marked out spaces for the hours.

I marvel at myself, but I really like hoeing. I should like to do some work with a long hoe now. Having spent a month at it, I feel as though I could clear my father's back garden of every weed in something like half an hour!

DAAPHNE HUDSON.
W.L.A. No. 33803 (Hants).

MISS BAXTER AND I.—No. 1

SANDY, the cattleman, went to his brother's wedding last Tuesday, and it was market day, so the farmer told my friend, Miss Baxter, and me to fetch Gladys from the East Park at six o'clock and milk her.

Gladys is black and white, and we used to call her a Plymouth Rock, but the farmer said no, that was only hens and she was a Friesian.

We didn't know which was the East Park, but Miss Baxter said that would be easy because she had been a Girl Guide and knew how to find the north by rubbing two sticks together, but she must have been thinking of something else, because after a time we heard Gladys mooing from a field in quite another direction.

When we got to the field, Miss Baxter lifted the gate and I pulled, and when we had got it back on its hinges and finished rubbing our shins Gladys had disappeared, so we tracked her rather cleverly up the road to where she was gazing moistly at a rhododendron bush.

She didn't seem to want to go any farther. Miss Baxter tried reassuring noises, because she is good with children, but Gladys must have been too old. Sticks were no good either. Nor were stones and small rocks. I thought she might have seen parachutists in the bushes, but Miss Baxter said no, most likely Gladys was psychic and she was seeing her grandmother's ghost being chased by a Plymouth Brother or a butcher wearing one of those frightfully nice frieze coats we saw in that shop in Princes Street. While we were discussing it Gladys disappeared again, and we found her in the byre.

We got the chain round her neck quite easily, but though there was a nice eye on one end there was only a little bar instead of a hook on the other, and as jumping on it was no good we tied it up with the little belt affair off the back of Miss Baxter's dungarees.

I was to milk the first half-hour and Miss Baxter the second, but by the time we had found the pail and I had sat down and got up again because Gladys walked backwards, and sat down again and got up because of cramp in the left foot, my half-hour was up.

But Miss Baxter said she didn't mind at all, because now Gladys would be nicely warmed up. But by the time Miss Baxter had got the pail wedged on her ankle bone and taken the hairs from Gladys's tail out of her right eye and we had discussed the best cures for the nervous twitching which developed, and tied up the tail to her leg (Gladys's, not Miss Baxter's) with my armlet, her half-hour was up too, and the pail was still quite empty.

Just then we heard Sandy's boots on the road, so we led him to the cake house and told him all about it, and Miss Baxter showed him the twitch in her right eye as evidence.

Sandy grinned (rather unsympathetically, we thought) and said "the coo didna ken oor tongue." We said we didn't know there was a special tongue for "coos," but he said "Aye was there" and just to stay where we were and he'd sort her.

So we stayed where we were, and Miss Baxter said she knew the language of flowers and did I suppose it would be at all the same? Presently there was a loud roaring noise from the byre and then a sharp pinging that we thought was unidentified aircraft, but when we came out from behind the cake bags it turned out to be milk going into a pail.

Then there was the sound of a chain rattling, the clip-clop of Gladys's hooves as she trotted briskly across the steading, followed by the loud roaring noise.

As they passed the door the roaring noise resolved itself into words for a moment.

They had nothing to do with the language of flowers, and I noticed that Miss Baxter's twitch had spread to her left eye as well.

ISOBEL MOUNT. (Scotland).

ASK US ANOTHER

How can I make my shoes waterproof?

Cut up some beeswax and put in a jar. Cover with castor oil or neat's-foot oil, stand in warm place until wax is melted. Stir thoroughly; allow to cool. If too thick, add a little more oil. To use, warm a little, apply with stiff brush while quite soft. Let that coat harden, warm boots carefully, and apply another coat. Neat's-foot oil alone is quite good.

What is a good remedy for roughened hands in cold weather?

Put one ounce of olive oil with two ounces of chopped beeswax into a jar in the oven until melted. Cool, and when easy to handle, roll into a ball. Rub lightly into the hands after washing. A little oatflour will remove greasiness.

Is it true that the W.L.A. are allowed a cheaper rail fare when travelling home?

There are no special *cheap* fares for volunteers, but after six months' service, at a distance over 50 miles from home, a volunteer can get her *whole* fare paid home if her County Secretary approves.

HARVEST PARTY



By courtesy of the "Chronicle and Echo."

Lady Denman, Hon. Director of the W.L.A., with Lady Spencer and Mrs. Simpson, Chairman and Secretary of the Northants. W.L.A., and volunteers.

"From North and South, and East and West" we came into Northampton on Sunday, October 6th, 62 of us who had earned our year or six months badge, some in a bus which started in the north and picked us up all the way down our long, narrow county, and many in cars by the kindness of our County Committee and local representatives, who themselves acted as pickers up *en route*.

We all assembled at the Angel Hotel at 10.30, where Mrs. Simpson awaited us, and from there walked two and two to All Saints' Church, the Land Army members leading, and the Committee following, slightly breathless, and some almost at a hand gallop, not being in the same high state of training which a year of constant exercise had produced in us. On the steps of the church Lady Spencer, our Chairman, waited, and with her Lady Denman, our Honorary Director, and we all filed in together.

The Harvest Festival held a new meaning for us when we thought that in many cases it was our own selves who had "ploughed the fields and scattered the good seed on the land," and had watched through the year the mysterious and lovely growth of the crops, and had helped, at last, to gather them in. It was a beautiful and inspiring sermon which we shall all remember with its reference to us, the "unknown warriors," who, however obscurely, were so surely helping the nation in one of its most vital lines of

defence, and to that other harvest, the golden harvest of the service and sacrifice of our young manhood and womanhood.

At the close of the service, we all returned to the Angel Hotel, where Lady Spencer gave a small reception for Lady Denman and the County Committee, followed by a luncheon party for us all. Lady Spencer welcomed her guests and congratulated them upon their work, stressing once more its grave importance. Lady Denman then made a most interesting speech, and we filed past to receive our badges from Lady Denman herself, who spoke most interestedly to us all in turn, which we all greatly appreciated. Two of our oldest members in point of Land Army Service, K. Jobling and G. Bland, then presented bouquets to Lady Denman and Lady Spencer, and a book to Lady Spencer to show a little of our appreciation of all they had done for us. We were surprised and delighted with the speeches made by our fellow members, who showed a quite unsuspected talent for public life.

Finally, after singing "For they were jolly good fellows," lustily, and giving Lady Spencer and Lady Denman three rousing cheers, the party broke up and we all went happily home, full of gratitude to Lady Spencer for a most lovely party, and to her and Lady Denman and the County Committee and local representatives for their kind and constant work for us.

To all six-monthly and yearly subscribers.—A renewal of subscription notice is enclosed in the last copy to which you are entitled on your subscription. It is the greatest help if these are filled in and re-

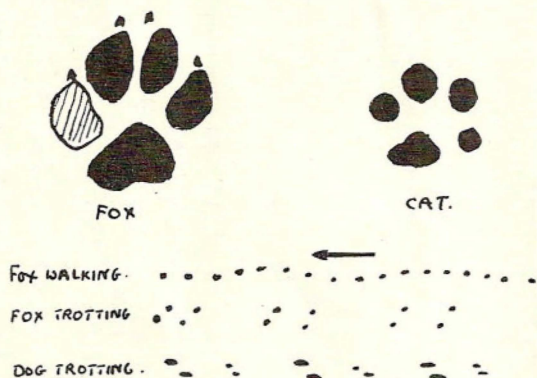
turned promptly, thus saving you the disappointment of failing to get the next copy, and us the trouble and postage (so expensive now) of sending a second reminder.

EYES AND NO EYES

I WONDER how many of you have heard of Eyes and No Eyes? It is a story, written long ago, of two small boys who went for the same walk. When the first one came back he was asked how he enjoyed it. He said: "Oh, it was just a walk; nothing interesting about it." But the other one came in full of excitement and happiness over the things he had seen, and I expect they are just the same sort of things we can see on our way to work. There is no such thing as "just a field," or "just the same old bit of forest," and the country is never dull even in winter.

We can begin by looking on the ground, at the edges of the tracks we cycle along, and on the flat strips between fields and hedges. There are stories written in the mud for us to read. A fox has been that way, slinking and crafty, a hare too, innumerable rabbits, and after them all, a hedgehog.

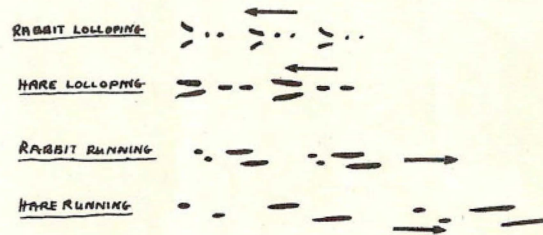
It is difficult to tell the difference between a fox, a dog, and a cat, and without a good deal of practice, almost impossible, but here are a few hints and some drawings to help you. A fox nearly always walks, and he leaves his footprints in a straight line, but a dog leaves his "off set." Also, a fox usually leaves the bold impression of three toes, and a faint one of the fourth, but a dog leaves four clear toe marks. A cat never leaves claw marks unless he is pouncing, but a fox always does. A grown-up fox strides about 12 inches, but a cat only 6 or 7. Here are the drawings to show you what I mean:—



There are other ways to help you decide whose track it is. A fox will take advantage of every bit of cover. He will creep round an obstacle that a dog would jump over and a cat would crawl under. A fox will keep under the sky line, and close to water if there is any, in case he can surprise a duck or rat, and now and

then when he turns a corner you may see the trace of his brush on the ground.

Then about hares and rabbits. The first difficult thing is to decide which way they are going, but if you have ever seen Walt Disney's Hare you will never have to worry about that! The front feet come down first, and then the long back pads come forward and over them, as if they were playing leap frog. Hare tracks are much larger than rabbits', the back pad of a hare may be six inches long, and a rabbit's is only three or four inches. Another difference is that rabbits rush about all over the place fairly near cover, but a hare relies on his great speed for protection, and goes straight across fields and open spaces, and through gates, if there are any about, rather than through holes in hedges, as rabbits do. Hares sleep in little hollows, called forms, in the middle of fields, not in burrows, and each hare usually has a path of his own, quite well worn, which you can see if you look carefully, which no other hare ever uses. Here are the drawings of hares' and rabbits' tracks:



Then comes the hedgehog, who is a very familiar sight. He isn't very particular about cover because he doesn't mind much who sees him. If you wonder why this is, try to pick one up.

A hedgehog's track is sometimes rather difficult to follow, because his quills occasionally drag over the spoor, but if you put an old baking tin, with the bottom covered in fat, into the garden overnight, you will find plenty of his footprints there in the morning. Look for him within the next few weeks, because he goes to bed for the winter. If you are interested in these tracks, and would like to have permanent records of ones you find, write to me, and I will tell you how to take plaster casts of them.

J. DOTESIO.

A tip from Oxford to relieve a sore or swollen throat: Put a dessert spoonful of vinegar into a cup of fairly hot water, but not hotter than the throat can bear. Hold a mouthful at the back of the throat; gargle, if you like, but it is not necessary. Repeat two or three times.

THE GARDEN IN NOVEMBER

Mr. Herbert Muller has taught many members of the Women's Land Army at the Plumpton School of Agriculture. Here is the first instalment of a Gardening Diary which he is very kindly writing for the LAND GIRL.

AIR, water and frost are the aids which nature provides this month; and the gardener should make full use of them.

All ground that is cleared should be dug by the end of the month to enable the winter rains to thoroughly soak the soil, and the frost to act upon it and form a fine tilth for the spring.

Where the soil is of a heavy nature, digging should be completed, because it is bad to work soil in a puddled condition.

If the soil is ridged a greater surface is exposed to the elements, and it will be much easier to work in the spring.

Ditches round the garden should be cleared and tidied, and all rubbish is best burnt at this time of the year, because the pests lurking within it will be destroyed at the same time.

In the vegetable garden the hoe may be used whenever the weather permits.

The soil between rows of cabbages may be loosened with a pronged drag hoe.

The heads of cauliflowers will require protection, and by breaking off an outside leaf and placing it over the exposed head the tender curd is often saved from frost damage.

A special watch should be kept for slugs, which seem to be particularly abundant this month owing to the amount of decaying vegetable matter about the ground.

In light soil a sowing of broad beans of the Early Mazagon type may be made in a warm sheltered border.

The beans should be sown in a drill about nine inches wide and three inches deep.

Place the beans in two rows alternately in the trench, about four inches apart.

Mark the row accurately with a label after the seed has been covered.

Where a warm greenhouse is available, the space under the bench may be darkened and used for forcing rhubarb and seakale. Seakale roots should be dug up, and after the side roots or thongs have been removed, the main forcing crowns should be planted close together in sand and kept perfectly dark at a temperature of 60 deg. F.

Rhubarb clumps after being dug up should be exposed to the frost before being brought into the greenhouse. Frost action causes growth to commence quickly once the roots have been brought into the warmth.

The flower garden must not be neglected, especially at these times, when a garden can bring peace to the troubled mind.

This is a good month for planting roses.

Half hardy plants will need protection, and a mulch of strawy stable manure will keep the frost off the roots.

The long evenings afford a good opportunity for study.

HERBERT MULLER.

[*Bulletin No. 90, which deals with allotment gardening, published by the Ministry of Agriculture (price 1s.), is a very useful book to study.*]

Correspondence

Etal Rhodes, Cornhill-on-Tweed,
Northumberland.

DEAR EDITOR,

I enclose 10s. for your LAND GIRL Spitfire Fund. Won't it be grand to know that we have a fighter all of our own?

Please excuse this note of mine, but I'm rather a busy person, being a Land Girl, a member of the local Young Farmers' Club, and also the Air Raid Warden for this farm, all the men, including the farmer, being members of the Home Guard.

I have reared two pigs and a calf this year for our Young Farmers' Club, with great success. I think it would be a grand thing if other Land Girls could join a Young Farmers' Club. I'm sure they would be very welcome, and would find the meetings very interesting and educational.

Well, here's wishing you every success with the Spitfire Fund.

Yours sincerely,

MARY DRYDEN, W.L.A. No. 19,250.

[Further correspondence held over owing to lack of space.]

A Land Army Xmas Card

In response to several requests a special Christmas card will be on sale this year to members of the Land Army. This will consist of the W.L.A. badge in black and white on page 1, and a greeting on page 3.

This card is now obtainable from The Sidney Press Ltd., Sidney Road, Bedford, at a cost of 2d. each, including envelope, or 1½d. each for six or more, with postage extra. On orders for one card 1d. should be included for postage, for six cards 3d., for 12 cards 4d., or for 24 cards 6d. Fifty cards and over carriage paid. Cash with order in all cases.

We shall be grateful if counties having a surplus of copies for any back month will offer us the opportunity to buy these back. The demand for back numbers is fairly steady at headquarters, and we are running out of some months. April copies will be particularly welcome.

THE "LAND GIRL" "SPITFIRE" FUND

WITH the money received last month and the totals given below, the Spitfire Fund has now reached £361, a good beginning, but so far only a beginning. We are rather handicapped by the fact that nearly everyone has already subscribed to a Spitfire Fund, but that only means that we must work a little harder to make our own one a big success.

Hunts, Cambs and the Isle of Ely are so far ahead in the county effort that no one else is in sight! With 130 employed volunteers they have already contributed just over £40. The County Organiser's home village (a very small one and in another county) heard what was happening and promptly collected £7 17s. 6d. Of other counties, West Sussex has sent almost £20; Warwickshire is getting along that way, and Surrey is not far behind, while Cheshire has contributed nearly £10, with Denbigh, Hampshire, Hereford and East Suffolk nearing that mark.

Hostel dances, losses at bridge and other games, sale of blackberries, hop-picking and the exhibition of a frog at a halfpenny a view have been the means of raising funds, while several volunteers have sent a week's (one even a month's) rise money. One Gloucestershire volunteer sent not only her rise money, but £1 she had saved towards the replacement of outfit, and another from Oxfordshire contributed £1, which would have been spent on going home for the week-end "if Hitler's bombs had left her a home to which to go."

One volunteer collected £1 in pennies, another 10s. from her farm, while relations, however young, have joined eagerly in the good work. An East Sussex volunteer's two sons, aged 9 and 11, amassed £3 13s. from friends and relatives, and Mrs. Jenkins's 10-year-old son must have seriously mortgaged his future prospects by presenting 5s. from his personal savings.

Many delightful letters and promises of further help have been received, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the many writers who have said such nice things about the magazine in their letters.

The list below includes *all donations received up to and including November 1st*. Please remember that posts are slow and if your donation does not appear perhaps it has arrived too late and will be included next month. Separate acknowledgments are *not* sent, as this would seriously deplete the funds.

HEADQUARTERS: £1 14s. 6d.—per Lawe; £1 3s. 8d.—bridge winnings; 16s. 5½d.—Balcombe office staff; 5s.—Martyn Jenkins. Total—£3 19s. 7½d.

BEDS: 5s.—Keable.

BERKS: £1 1s.—Eden; £1—May; 10s.—Hamblin, Hopkinson, Laird; 7s. 7d.—Cox; 5s.—Allum, Chant, Goodenough, Moore, Nicholson; under 5s.—Bayne-Jardine, Cockcroft, Gilbert, Mason, Ridings. Total—£5 13s. 6d.

BUCKS: 10s.—Hann; 5s.—Smith; 2s. 6d.—Kingscote. Total—17s. 6d.

CHESHIRE: £1 9s. 4d.—Office Box; 13s. 6d.—Ashton Hayes Hostel; 10s.—Barnes, Roberts, Roskilly, Staples; 7s. 6d.—Lloyd; 5s.—H. Blood, S. Blood, Britten, M. Foster, A. Holford, Johnson, Pavey, Sanderson, Sweatman, Thomas, Whalley, Woodall; under 5s.—Bailey, Beveridge, Bourns, E. Dawson, Dawson, Doody, Freeman, French, N. Foster, Furber, E. Holford, Jones, Kramrisch, McClelland, McQueen, Miller, Norbury, L. Perman, W. Perman, Preston, Stockton, Waters, Wear. Total—£9 16s. 4d.

CORNWALL: 10s.—Hearle Land Girl; 5s.—Wilson; 3s. 6d.—Cooper, Hills. Total—£1 12s.

CUMB. AND WESTD.: £1 1s.—Anon; £1—Crewdon; 10s.—Greenwood; 5s.—Swainson; 4s.—Crossland. Total—£3.

DENBIGH: £2 2s.—Jagger; £1—Fearn and Gibbins, O'Brien; 10s.—Audley, Beakbane, Harrison; 6s.—Wilcock and Stretch; 5s.—K. Jones, Laycock, Satchwell; under 5s.—Bliss, Carson, Durham, Evans, Folley and Thomas, Gossage, D. Jones, Madeley, Owen, Prile, Tapp, Tillotson. Total—£8s. 0s. 6d.

DERBY: 10s.—Clowes, Sheppard; 2s. 6d.—Fearn, Shaw. Total—£1 5s.

DEVON: £1 1s.—Darell; £1—Gatliff; 11s.—McMorrland; 10s.—King, Savory, Vernon, Wilkinson; 5s.—Pearce, Wilson; under 5s.—13467, Halford. Total—£5 6s. 6d.

DORSET: £2—Rose; £1—England; 10s.—Beal, Waters, Wright; 8s.—Barry; 7s. 6d.—Risqué; 5s.—Annesley; 1s.—Dombrain. Total—£5 11s. 6d.

ESSEX: 12s. 6d.—Gill; 10s.—K. Fisher; 5s.—Craven, P. Fisher, Hammond, Haylock, Lambert. Total—£2 7s. 6d.

FLINT: £3—Bibby; under 5s.—Beer and Beer, Leech, Thomas, M. Thomas, Yates. Total—£3 11s.

GLOS: £1 5s.—Wilkin; £1—N. and S. Coppin, Lacey; 17s.—"Girls from Huntly"; 5s.—Birbeck, Callen; 2s. 6d.—Clayton Barker, Walker, Woolcombe. Total—£4 19s. 6d.

HANTS: £1 10s.—Burlison; £1—Anon; 11s.—6501; 10s.—Hallett, Kearney, Mansley, Rotherham, Rothlisberger; 7s. 6d.—Raymond; 6s.—Cheesman; 5s.—Baldock, Chadwick, Melsom, Pearce, Renateau, Ward; under 5s.—21130, Pardoe, Rooe. Total—£8 4s.

HEREFORD: £3—Fetherstonhaugh; £1—Anon, Bate-man, Jakeman; 11s.—Legg; 10s.—Davies, Ledsham; 5s.—Price; 2s. 6d.—Cushen, Edwards. Total—£8 1s.

HERTS: £3—Paterson; 10s.—Beeson, Calderara, Norris; 5s.—Browne, Walter; under 5s.—Coventry, Farrow, Watson, Office Box. Total—£5 9s. 6d.

HUNTS, CAMBS, I/ELY: £7 19s. 6d.—Clanfield Village, Hants, per Mrs. Ewens; £1 1s.—Burton; 13s.—Bosley; 6s.—Hammond; 5s.—Archer, Gibbons, Haynes; under 5s.—Brittan, Connor, Cranbrook, Culliford, Daniel, Dring, Eden, Elliott, English, Hall, Howarth, Jackson, Kenealy, Kramer, Lawton, Lipman, Meyrick, Mortelman, Petch, Piper, Richardson, Rouse, Smith, Sneesby, Statham, Taylor, Turk, Upperton, Varlow, Wolff. Total—£13 1s.

I.O.W.: 5s.—Moody; under 5s.—Houston, Roach, Savage. Total—11s. 6d.

KENT: £1—Merrick, Wheen, W. Kent Office; 14s.—“Polly, Fanny, Nellie, Connie, Susie,”; 10s.—Shaw, E. Kent Office; 5s.—Amos, Blackman, “Girls at Stonestile,” Stratford; under 5s.—Playfoot, Sowton, Thomson, Woods. Total—£6 4s.

KESTEVEN AND HOLLAND: 10s.—Anon.

LANCS: £1 6s.—County Committee and Office Staff; 5s.—Knappett; 3s.—Foxwell. Total—£1 14s.

LEICS. AND RUTLAND: 15s.—Huggett; under 5s.—Peaker, Pocock, Robertson. Total—£1 2s.

MIDDX.: 10s.—Melville; 7s. 6d.—Bingley and D. and P. Mortimer; 5s.—Lane. Total—£1 2s. 6d.

MONMOUTH: 5s.—Jarvis.

NORFOLK: £1—Neale; 10s.—Cutter; 1s. 6d.—Kirkby. Total—£1 11s. 6d.

NORTHANTS: £1—Brudenell; 7s. 6d.—Pickard. Total—£1 7s. 6d.

NORTH'D.: 10s.—Dryden.

OXON: £1 1s.—Henman; £1 0s. 3d.—Raffle; £1—Carey; 10s.—Ambrose, Banks, Chapman, B. Farrant, M. Farrant, Jefferies, MacRury, Morrell, Nance; 6s.—Mallinson; 5s.—Deem, Finch, Ridley; under 5s.—Beaufoy, Fonge, Hitchcock, Kirkby, Lovegrove, M.M., Seale. Total—£9 7s. 3d.

SALOP: £3—Shifnal Hostel Dance; 10s.—E.M.H., Howes, MacLumphra, Tunnington; 6s.—Owen; 5s.—Birch, Donaldson-Hudson, Williams. Total—£6 1s.

SOMERSET: £2—Attwell; 15s.—Wilkinson; 11s.—McCulloch; 10s.—Bird, Frith, Orton; 5s.—Evans, Gregson, Hurle, Woodburn; 2s. 6d.—Anon, Jesty. Total—£6 1s.

STAFFS: 10s.—McColl.

E. SUFFOLK: £1 9s.—Office; £1 1s.—Squire; £1—Charlton; 14s.—Foster; 12s.—“Butty”; 11s. 6d.—Rowland; 11s.—Sansom; 10s.—Addison, M.H.B., Rudland; under 5s.—Evans, Lewis, Raynham, Taylor. Total—£7 15s. 6d.

W. SUFFOLK: 10s.—Cray, Page; 5s.—Lindsay Scott; 2s. 6d.—Collier, Haydon. Total—£1 10s.

SURREY: 11s.—Hindley; 10s.—Hollands; 5s.—Adkins and Loring, C. and E. Chapman, Hughes; 2s. 6d.—Dering. Total—£1 18s. 6d.

E. SUSSEX: £3 13s.—per Mrs. Salter; £2—Rees; 12s.—Burnell; 10s.—Butler, De Lattre; 7s. 6d.—Darby; under 5s.—Evans, Lucking. Total—£7 19s.

W. SUSSEX: £10—Burrell; £1 1s.—“Three Land Girls”; £1—Forbes Adam, Narizzano; 11s.—Botting, Cross, Kennerley, Morgan, Richardson, Strange; 10s.—Brown, Calcutt, Style, Trenaman; 5s.—Partridge, Ripley, Varley, Wood; under 5s.—Bird, Westron. Total—£19 12s. 6d.

WARWICKS: £5—Field; £2 5s.—Joseph; £1—Raikes; 12s.—Sowery; 11s. 6d.—Shephard; 10s.—Adams, Adkins, Fielden, Morris, Roberts; 7s. 6d.—Ealand; 5s.—Coats, Hamilton, Hoffgaard, Hibberd, Loake, Melly, Perrin, Robertson, Smith, Speakman, Wildman, Williams; under 5s.—Baylis, Breedon, Caulkin, D. Cooper, W. Cooper, Davis, Fletcher, Foulkes, Gould, Greatbach, Kelly, Tyers, Anon. Total—£16 15s.

WILTS: 15s.—Hunter; 5s.—Boxall, Duggan, Hodges; 2s. 6d.—Halliday. Total—£1 12s. 6d.

WORCS: £1 10s.—Anon; £1—Swigg; 11s. 10d.—Office Box; 7s. 6d.—Truby; 5s.—Aarons, Mills; under 5s.—Furness, Haines, Harrison, Knight, Millbright, Oakes, Schwarz, Scurlock. Total—£4 7s. 4d.

YORKS (E.R.): £5—per Mag. Rep.; 2s.—Pocklington. Total—£5 2s.

YORKS (N.R.): 10s.—Wadling. (W.R.): £1—Forest.

WALES (N.): 5s.—Williamson. (S.): 1rs.—Lewis.

SCOTLAND: £1—Anon, Smith; 10s.—West Lothian

L.A. Total—£2 10s.

Scottish Happenings

Kilmarnock's douce inhabitants must have wondered what on earth was happening the other Saturday afternoon when they beheld, with much pleasure, of course, a bevy of bonnie rosy-cheeked maidens in corduroy breeches and green jumpers converging on the Clark Hall. Had they peeped in any time between 2.30 and 6.30, though, they would have seen a cheering sight—a room gay with masses of glorious chrysanthemums, ferns and palms, and a real Scottish Hallowe'en party in full swing. The party was given for the Land Army in North Ayrshire by Mrs. Kennedy Underwood, who was most ably helped by Mrs. Knox, Miss W. Turner, the Misses Adams, Miss Armstrong, and Mrs. Campbell. Miss Frood brought a contingent from South Ayrshire, and in no time everybody knew everybody else, for there was none without her label showing her name and where employed.

First there were games under the direction of Miss Adams. Then came a turnip lantern competition, judged with the little candles all aglow, in an otherwise completely darkened room. There were many excellent entries, but for the first prize the judges simply couldn't get past that of J. H. Brodie—an outside neep with all sorts of agricultural implements and, clever touch, an excellent reproduction of the Women's Land Army badge skillfully carved on its shiny surface. Second prize went to Mrs. Johnston for a very artistic production—all autumn tints and cleverly decorated with red berries and golden leaves.

During the tea interval (and, despite rationing, what a tea!) your scribe presented Good Service badges to eight volunteers.

After tea came country dancing. We stripped the willow, as I'm sure it had never been stripped before, and we danced reels to the accompaniment of many hoochs. By way of a rest we had community singing interspersed with dookin' for apples. Excellent music was provided by Miss Mackie at the piano and Private Hoyle (brave lad, the only male present) with the violin. Altogether, the party was a tremendous success, and hearty were the cheers given to Mrs. Kennedy for having thought of it.

It is quite likely that a concert will be held in the district before long for the Spitfire Fund—Jessie Goodman had the bright idea and is going to run the show.

RENFREWSHIRE.—Good Service badges were presented by Lord Inverclyde at a Farmers' Free Gift Sale to two volunteers who had completed a year's work on the land, and to two who got the first half of their diamonds.

It has been suggested that a note should be given regularly in Scotland's page of the number employed in the country—to date the members in regular employment number just over 500—a few weeks ago, when lots of regulars had to be put on to seasonal work, we had nearly 800 in action.

M. M. MACLEOD.

Several volunteers were hoeing a mangel field near the road, earnestly watched by two small London boys. One asked, “What are they?” “Them's mangelwurzels,” answered the other. “Oh,” said the first, “I thought they was Land Girls.”

Oxfordshire Rally



By courtesy of Sport and General Press Agency.

Volunteers at a Rally in Oxford, at which Good Service Badges were presented by Lady Denman.

OXFORDSHIRE'S first red letter day, October 5th, 1940—the Land Army rally—was most successful.

At least four "highlights" marked the occasion:—

The exceeding beauty and dignity of the historic hall at Merton College, where the rally took place; the spirit of friendliness that characterised it; the kindly understanding and appreciation shown by the speakers—Lady Denman, Miss Ashhurst (our chairman, who presided), and Mr. Whitlock, Chairman of the Oxfordshire National Farmers' Union; and last, but not least, the very excellent tea, to which we all did ample justice afterwards.

Others present included Mr. Withington, Chairman of the Oxfordshire War Agricultural Committee; Mr. J. Florey, the County Land Army Committee (alas! our Hon. Treasurer, Miss Thomson, had met with an accident that prevented her attendance) representatives; the County Secretary, Miss Hole, and the office staff, to whose untiring efforts the excellent arrangements throughout were largely due.

A guard of honour was formed on the steps to the hall by Land Girls who had not yet completed their six months' service. Two stalwart young women held aloft the Land Army banner. Two more, inside the hall, were ready with "posies," tied with the Land Army colours, which they presented to Lady Denman and Miss Ashhurst before the awards were given. Altogether, about 100 girls took part. 85 Land Girls in regular employment merited awards for good work and conduct, 38 of these, including some members of the original Land Army 1916-19, had completed 12 months' good service. Lady Denman presented the awards.

Chairman and speakers were in great form. Lady Denman pleased us very much by her cheering words: "I know of no job on the farm which has not been satisfactorily carried out by members of the Land Army," and by her appeal to farmers to make use of the good working material provided by the Land Girls.

Mr. Whitlock poured oil into the wounds caused by "the slings and arrows of outrageous" criticism of the Land Army in the early days of the war;

congratulated the Oxfordshire branch, and promised us the sympathy of the executive of the County Branch of the N.F.U. and the War Agricultural Committee.

A tea-party at Carfax Assembly Rooms followed, and the Spitfire Fund was started on the spot. Mrs. Fry did some brisk business with a collecting bag and notebook, while Miss Lily Deem (W.L.A.) ran a "draw" for the fund, the prizes being a large box of chocolates and a cake. A Knitting League for the Services was also arranged, and new subscribers were promised for THE LAND GIRL.

Magazine Distribution

Here is a further contribution from Bedfordshire.

Congratulations to E. Suffolk on their sale of magazines, which is indeed excellent.

We are only a small county and do not wish to boast about our success, but we too have reason to be proud of the way in which our volunteers show their appreciation of the magazine.

We have 74 enrolled volunteers, 66 working, and 65 subscribers, which I think is even a higher percentage than that of E. Suffolk.

I think one of the reasons for our success is due to the kindness of our County Secretary, Miss Farrar, who presented a first copy of THE LAND GIRL to every volunteer at that time in training or employment in this county.

There is no doubt as to the appreciation which our volunteers have for the magazine, and I hear from many of them that it becomes more interesting each month.

Talking of magazines: I wonder if any of the county secretaries have, as we are fortunate in having, some copies of *The Landswoman*, which we might almost call the "mother" of THE LAND GIRL. Our Chairman, Mrs. Whitchurch, has all the numbers for the years 1918 and 1919, and, as an ex-Land Girl I find it most interesting to compare the activities of the Land Army of the Great War to those of this.

J. DALLAS (Mag. Rep.).

Black Leather Boots

The notice in last month's issue of THE LAND GIRL has produced so many requests for these that stocks are now depleted. Unfortunately the increased cost of manufacture, together with the application of the purchase tax, make new supplies too expensive for sale to volunteers. It has therefore been decided that boots will no longer be available for purchase by members of the Women's Land Army.

It will still be possible for volunteers to have boots instead of either shoes or gumboots as part of their first free issue of uniform or when replacements fall due.

THE GUINEA LAND BOOT

Warm lined, proofed uppers, wood soles rubber covered, light and waterproof.

SHOES. Ditto. 15/- a pair (stock size). All post free.

LEATHER GLOVES. Strong, pliable for Land work. 2/6 post free.

**COLLARD, "KERISVENE," TOLLGATE AVENUE
EARLSWOOD, SURREY**

COUNTY NEWS

CHESHIRE.—Cheshire Land Girls will be glad to know that Miss Black is now to become our Magazine Secretary. There are not many parts of Cheshire where Miss Black is not well known and welcomed.

DERBS.—Land Girls who take the magazine in Derbyshire must be feeling that county news has been lacking lately. The reason for this has been two-fold. To begin with, there have been changes in the county office, where Mrs. Crompton-Inglefield has relinquished her post as Honorary Organising Secretary to Miss Ethel Fryer, who has been appointed County Organising Secretary. We should like to express here our appreciation of the work that Mrs. Crompton-Inglefield has done for the Women's Land Army during the past 15 months. With no precedent to guide her, and relying only on her natural organising ability, and a tenacity of purpose that took her 15 miles to and from her office daily—sometimes last winter through three feet of snow—she has succeeded in guiding the Derbyshire Women's Land Army through every sort of trial and difficulty. We now welcome in her place Miss E. Fryer, and wish her every success in her new appointment.

Perhaps you will think that changes on the staff at the County Office should not affect the news you expect and hope to see in the magazine, but unfortunately your magazine representative has to rely on the already overworked office to give her news, as Derbyshire Land Girls and County Members do not appear to take up their pens with any great ease. How otherwise can the magazine representative find material for the magazine, since she cannot get round collecting news in these days of petrol shortage? Please then remember to forward your news to her.

On September 18th Good Service Badges were presented to Land Girls by the Duchess of Devonshire on the occasion of the Red Cross Sale of the South Derbyshire and Derby branches of the National Farmers' Union. Ten had been earned. Besides the volunteers eligible for badges others were also present in uniform. One farmer was so impressed by the smart appearance of the Land Girls that he was heard to remark: "They are fine bonnie lassies, doing a grand job of work."

There is a quantity of second-hand uniform in the office at Matlock which can be sold to Land Girls wishing to supplement their regulation issue. Any girls wishing to take advantage of this should communicate direct with the Secretary, Women's Land Army Offices, Imperial Chambers, Dale Road, Matlock.

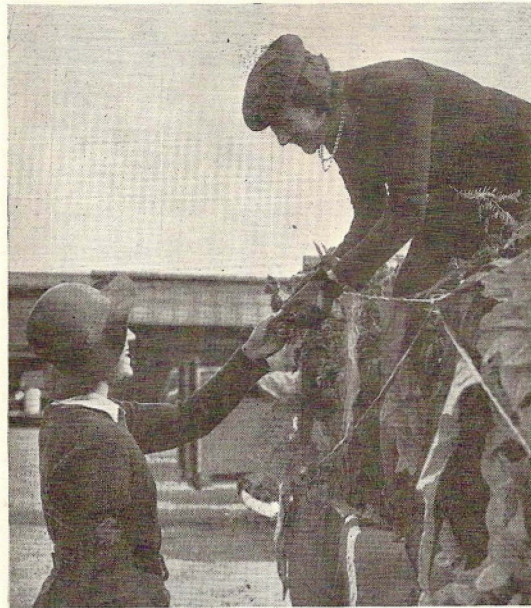
DEVON.—24 girls have received one year's Good Service Badges, and 57 have received their six months' Good Service Badges since June.

Two of our regular and valuable workers are leaving to be married, Miss Cuning and Miss Knight. We wish them every happiness, and also to Mrs. Woolacott, née Miss Long, who is settling down happily in her new home next door to the farm where she worked.

We are holding efficiency tests on October 30th at Seale Hayne College, Newton Abbot, by kind permission of the Governors, and hope for a good number of entries.

We have now 180 girls in employment.

DORSET.—All our Dorset subscribers to THE LAND GIRL are delighted at last to see their county and their activities figure in the news. We hope in future to be able to keep this going, as there really is plenty of news from Dorset, although some of it must be of the "hush hush" variety.



The Duchess of Devonshire, Chairman of Derbyshire, presenting a Good Service Badge.

Fifteen Good Service Badges, marking twelve months in the W.L.A., were issued by the Chairman at the October meeting of the County Committee, and another seven were given for completion of six months service. There were some most creditable reports given of work and behaviour of Dorset W.L.A. workers during these last difficult months. Many of the farmers are now showing keen appreciation of their war-time helpers. The forestry gang of 25 are well away with their arduous duties, as well as making themselves popular all round. Much kindness has been shown them from the local inhabitants of their district. Miss Sturdy, their County Committee member, has worked with great vigour to do all she could for their comfort and wellbeing, and is ever ready to do more. By the way, Miss Sturdy has eyes as sharp as a thrush and misses nothing, so can measure up any forestry worker without the need of tape.

Great credit was given to the behaviour of two young W.L.A. workers in a noted West Country town that suffered under a particularly heavy bombing one afternoon. The house where these two young members were billeted was shattered about them while they took what cover they could under the little staircase. They came through unhurt and crawled out and went off up the town to the milk bottling dairy where they work, to find that also had suffered quite severely. However, they got down to it, and started bottling the milk by hand for the evening round, and have carried on ever since in grand spirit. Their employer speaks most highly of them.

The Chairman and County Committee of Dorset expressed their admiration and appreciation of all those who have stuck so well to their posts and carried on in spite of many an incident that has never been in the schedule of Women's Land Army service, as laid down.

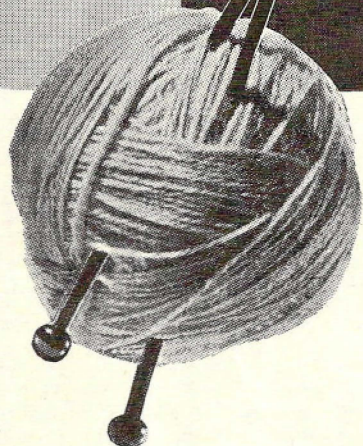
FLINT.—Over 30 volunteers have been employed in a large nursery garden in Flintshire, helping to gather the corn and potato harvest from the large acreage allotted to food production.



Simple
TO KNIT

Smart
TO WEAR

In these days of strict economy it is wise to use Femina Wools. Women are fortunate to have at their disposal a range of knitting wools which combine the latest trends of fashion with excellent wearing qualities, and at a very reasonable price. The varied and wide choice of smart colours is, of course, supported by Khaki, Navy, and Air Force Blue.



CVS-F31

Femina
KNITTING WOOLS

The Sports Jumper above is from Leaflet No. 331

IN CASE OF DIFFICULTY WRITE TO BAIRNS-
WEAR LIMITED, DEPT. C.162, PERRY ROAD
NOTTINGHAM

The hostel is closing down at the end of October, however, but over half the volunteers, having made friends in the neighbourhood, have been able to find billets, and are to stay on in permanent employment.

HERTS.—Quite a number of Hertfordshire girls went to Kent for the hop-picking. We are continually getting letters from these girls telling us how happy they were. They all seem to have enjoyed the life thoroughly, and to have looked on it almost as a country holiday! They cannot say enough for the kindness shown them by their employers and their wives.

At one harvest festival we managed to turn out 14 strong. The vicar of the parish where the festival was held greeted us as we went into church, and said that we added colour to the scheme of decoration.

Saturday afternoon dances are being held at a place where a number of soldiers are billeted, in order to get over black-out difficulties. Girls living in their own homes in the district are asked to get their parents' permission to ask some of these boys to join the family now and again. A welcome in a cheerful home makes all the difference to the somewhat dreary routine life of a billeted Tommy.

At one village it is hoped to make all members of the Land Army temporary members of the local club. They will be able to play badminton and other games and to join in all other social activities on Saturday afternoons and evenings.

HUNTS, CAMBS, AND THE ISLE OF ELY.—Welcome to all new volunteers who have taken up posts in our area. We hope they will be happy in our midst. Do not forget to write to us in the office and let us know how you are getting on. All titbits and experiences are welcome for the magazine.

On Monday, October 14th, the Land Army was represented at a Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Market Stall at Cambridge Cattle Market, and aroused a considerable amount of interest. Farmers came up to our County Secretary, Mrs. Warde, and told her how pleased they were with their Land Army girls. One farmer especially said he thought he had the two best Land Army girls in the country, everything was done so extraordinarily well, and although his pig girl had not yet Mansion polished the styes he really thought she would like to do it if she were given half a chance. There's praise for you, girls! Carry on with the good work!

With the finish of the potatoes and beet several of our girls are being stood off for the winter months. We are doing all we can to induce farmers to keep on their Land Army labour. Dairy workers are much in demand. The cows need milking though the crops are gathered; but the harvest would not have been garnered without the general farm workers.

EAST KENT.—A great deal of praise for THE LAND GIRL is resounding in East Kent. One subscriber writes: "The magazine is one of my chief joys, and I only wish it were a weekly instead of a monthly." It certainly does help to keep people who are tucked away on isolated farms in touch with all Land Army doings, and is all the more welcome here now that gatherings are difficult to arrange. Miss Mills had generously invited the 15 girls who have earned their second half-diamond after a year's work to a party in Canterbury, and the Archbishop of Canterbury had very kindly said that, if other engagements permitted, he would present these awards. But alas! a bomb swept away Miss Mills' kitchen, most of her windows, and with them the party, much to our regret on her behalf and disappointment on our own.

Twenty-five more half-diamonds have been earned in East Kent this month on the completion of the first six months' service. We do feel that all these stalwarts deserve congratulations. May we say that we

felt very proud at a meeting of farmers this month, when the excellent behaviour of women on farms during air-raids was commented on. Indeed, several East Kent girls are working in places where the farmers could no longer obtain men, because of the tangibly warlike atmosphere! They are indeed replacing men in the fullest sense of the word.

WEST KENT.—If Land Girls have their troubles with air raids and bombs, so have their employers. In a recent letter to this office, a West Kent farmer writes as follows: "Every sort of explosive and filthy 'container' has fallen here, even down to one of those indescribably messy oil bombs. We also had to rescue a German parachutist from one of our trees."

A very happy party for about a dozen Land Girls was given by Mrs. Heron Maxwell at Great Comp during October. Princess Elizabeth's broadcast talk and tea filled up the first part of the afternoon, followed by an "agricultural" game, in which it was surprising to find Lady Denman figuring as a "second year sheep," and a "teg" as a basket measurement. The first prize was a year's subscription to THE LAND GIRL.

That the magazine is greatly appreciated is shown in a letter from a new subscriber, who, having asked for all the back numbers, writes: "I have read the magazines from cover to cover and have thoroughly enjoyed them. If only I had known what I was missing I should have sent in my order long ago."

This same recruit sent us a delightful account of her farm work. Left in an emergency in charge of 27 cows she managed, single-handed, to milk 22 of them, clean out the stalls, and see to the dairy, remarking cheerfully at the end: "I felt as though I'd done a good afternoon's work!"

LEICS.—At the agricultural sale held at Market Bosworth on September 28th, the Land Army girls from the district sold flags and made £4 6s. 9d. They also took charge of some of the competitions.

As a prelude to Leicester War Weapons Week a military procession was organised, representing all the war uniformed services. It was composed of 14 different units, and lasted for 1½ hours. The Land Army Unit was behind the A.T.S., and consisted of twelve members, who walked behind a New Fordson tractor and manure spreader. They looked happy and fresh in their green pullovers and brown rib-cord breeches, walking freely and naturally, in contrast to the military discipline of the other units. The procession ended by giving the salute outside the Municipal Buildings.

LINCS (KESTEVEN AND HOLLAND).—Volunteers working for the Forestry Commission have a very jolly club meeting at the Rectory Room three times a week. They have a club committee and secretary, and pay 3d. each week for upkeep.

Last week they gave a party to the local searchlight troops, at which the Rector of the parish and the sergeant-in-charge acted as M.C.s. Refreshments were provided by the rector's wife and the girls. The Land Army challenged the Regular Army to darts and table tennis competitions, ending the evening with dancing.

Kesteven County Council is arranging some classes in thatching for our girls on two farms. Four girls have attended a silage demonstration. Instruction in hedging has also been promised.

LINCS (LINDSEY).—The chief occupation of W.L.A. workers at the moment is potato picking. Regulars and Auxiliaries are hard at it, and giving splendid service. The newcomers suffered the aches and pains of the first week without a grumble, and now take pride in working at the same pace as the old hands!

We offer our congratulations to Miss M. Wright, a London volunteer, who, working on the Coates

Hall Estate, has married a Coates man, and is now Mrs. Davy. Our first London volunteer to marry a countryman and settle in Lindsey.

Six volunteers sold programmes at the Lincoln Red Cross Sale, and a number of volunteers are taking part in the Women's Services Day of Lincoln's War Weapons week.

At a county rally Mrs. Wintringham, our chairman, presided, and Good Service Badges were presented by Sir John St. Vigor Fox, Chairman of the Lindsey War Agricultural Committee; and Mr. Spilman and Mr. Evens, pioneer employers of the Land Army in Lindsey, spoke warmly of the work the volunteers had done.

NORTHANTS.—The club, our club, is one of our events this month. Lady Spencer has acquired a most comfortably furnished room in the centre of Northampton, which she has had fitted out with writing materials, games, magazines, and current newspapers, for which she subscribes on our behalf. There we can meet every Saturday, from 2.30—4.30. There is tea for all who want it at a small charge, and best of all, Lady Spencer herself is almost always there dispensing tea, looking after us, and talking to us, or I think I should have said listening to us, for the tea and the cosiness and friendliness of our welcome make us eager to talk, and our chairman, with her sympathetic interest, must know much of our work and our homes and our lives. For this club we are very grateful, and more and more of us will use it.

The County Committee and local representatives are also carrying on with THE LAND GIRL Spitfire Fund.

SALOP.—On Oct. 4th a dance was held in Newport in aid of the local Wool Fund. A number of tickets were purchased by Land Girls, who had a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks to Mrs. Oakley for transporting several to and from Newport.

Prior to the official announcement of a "Land Girl Spitfire Fund," the girls at Shifnal hostel had expressed the desire for such a fund to be opened. No sooner did they have their last month's magazine than they set to work to do their bit. They organised a dance, which took place on Oct. 7th. Especial credit is due to C. Walsh, who worked hard to make the evening the success it undoubtedly was. The hostel matrons, as well as Mrs. Oakley and the Organising Secretary, can all vouch for the happy atmosphere, and the last-mentioned thanks the promoters for asking her to distribute the prizes given for novelty dances.

At a sugar beet demonstration and competition on the 10th there was a special class for members of the Women's Land Army. Congratulations to the winners, who put up a very good show. Lady Boyne was invited to distribute the prizes.

On Oct. 10th and 11th the Organising Secretary was in attendance at the Ministry of Agriculture's publicity stall at Ludlow cattle fair, and two Land Girls added local colour.

During the months of September and October 54 girls became due for Good Service badges, 36 for twelve months service, and 18 for six months. We think this is quite a good record, especially as 20 of the former have been on the same farm throughout the past year. The awarding of these badges was made the occasion of a rally on Oct. 19th at Shrewsbury. The girls assembled at the County Office, and headed by our chairman and vice-chairman marched through the town to the Castle, where news reel photographers had a busy time. The setting was, of course, ideal, but the weather not quite as kind as it might have been. The employing farmers and their wives were invited as guests, and all listened with real interest to an excellent address from Mr. Watson Jones, Chairman of the Cultivation Committee of the

Salop War Agricultural Executive Committee. Lady Boyne then distributed the badges, after which everyone had a splendid tea amidst much chatter. Members of the committee were especially pleased by some of the remarks expressed by employers regarding their Land Girls.

SOMERSET.—Unfortunately, Land Army recruits do not come together as often as members of other national services, but when they do they know how to make up for lost time. Thirty tongues let loose over a cup of tea certainly produced a hubbub at the Abbot's Cafe, on Oct. 22nd, when the first of a series of local rallies was held at Glastonbury. Business came before tea, when the Hon. Lady Langman presented 10 full diamonds and four half-diamonds, and Mr. E. A. Austin spoke of the satisfaction expressed with the Land Army by his farmer friends in the Baltonsborough area. Miss Taylor (of the Somerset Farm Institute) urged the recruits to be ambassadors for clean milk production, and roused considerable enthusiasm for a Land Army milking contest to be held in Somerset in the future. A vote of thanks to Lady Langman and Mrs. Colin Luttrell for the tea was passed with loud applause.

Another gathering of quite a different nature took place in Bath at the end of September, when the Hon. Mrs. Wason arranged for 14 members of the Land Army to be present at the harvest festival service in the Abbey. As these girls from the Bath area had certainly helped to bring in the harvest, it was appropriate that they should attend, and they were invited to take the collection.

STAFFS.—Tea-parties for the Land Girls working in the county have recently been arranged by the County Secretary and members of the committee at five different centres, and the girls have thoroughly enjoyed meeting each other and having a good gossip.

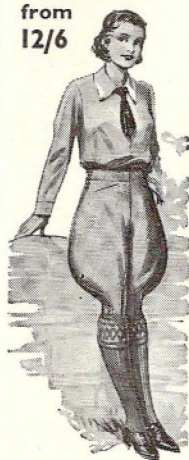
SUITABLE ATTIRE for the LAND ARMY
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Some who work on isolated farms had never seen another Land Girl before. When possible, the parties have been made the occasion for distributing good service half-diamonds. Twenty-five girls have now qualified for their second half-diamond, and 31 for their first.

WEST SUFFOLK.—Lady Briscoe, our chairman, presented Good Service badges to those completing their first year in the Land Army at Bury St. Edmunds, on Saturday, Sept. 28th. On receiving her badge each girl informed the company what particular work she was engaged on, and then Mr. Seward, principal of the Chadacre Agricultural Institute, who had given many of the girls their month's training, spoke for a few minutes. He said that as the Government had exempted the majority of agricultural labourers from military service, Land Girls must make themselves indispensable to the farmers, in order to retain employment. He thought that those present had more than proved their salt by being satisfactorily employed for twelve months. Miss King thanked Lady Briscoe, on behalf of the Land Girls, for the very excellent tea, and the committee for all the help they had given to volunteers.

WEST SUSSEX.—Fifty-nine Land Girls in the county are now wearing the completed diamond, which denotes a year's good service. The Land Girls in the Midhurst area are joining the Midhurst Young Farmers' Club in a body. This organisation, which was considering closing down for this winter, will now have a new lease of life.

A delightful party was held for the Land Girls in the neighbourhood of Henfield on Saturday, Oct. 5th, when a most ingenious indoor treasure hunt was enjoyed. These members are also holding folk dance classes every Saturday evening. The Land Army local representatives in Bognor Regis hold an evening "At Home" every Wednesday, when the Land Girls in the neighbourhood can drop in and have a cup of coffee and a talk with fellow-workers and, if they like, a bath. The idea is being a great success, and we commend it to other local representatives in the county.

This month's "success story" is of a Land Girl in the county who was employed by a farmer who could not plough. The Land Girl had never learnt, and so the employing farmer arranged for her to have lessons with a neighbour. She did so well that she was able to undertake all the ploughing on the farm, and has carried it through most successfully.

WORCS.—October has seen the closing of Charlton Manor. It has accommodated eighty auxiliary recruits most of the summer. This last month the girls have been employed in picking sprouts, pulling carrots and parsnips, singling cabbage, and hand-weeding acres of spring onions. The need for casual labour has greatly decreased, for the winter work in this busy market gardening district can be done by the local regular agricultural workers. We would like to thank the several hundred girls who helped with the harvesting and various vegetable and fruit crops during the summer, and hope they will volunteer another year.

YORKS, W.R.—As the West Riding of Yorkshire has seldom figured in these columns, it might be thought that we are rather an uninteresting county! This is far from being the case, but we happen to be a very widespread area, and therefore have very little chance of staging those matey "get-together" ceremonies which our colleagues in other areas carry out so well. For this reason it was reluctantly decided to abandon the idea of a rally at which Good Service badges would have been handed to their triumphant winners and we have instead had to leave their distribution to the committee member for each



By courtesy of the "Northern Echo."

Lady Graham, Chairman, and volunteers from the North Riding of Yorkshire at a tea-party at Nunnington Hall.

section of the county. We are glad to say that 58 girls working in the West Riding have already earned their first Good Service badge, and of these 16 have qualified for their second triangle, and so have their complete diamond for a year's hard work on the land.

We certainly have at least one bone to pick with our West Riding members! They hardly ever write us letters—really newsy ones, we mean—describing their work and surroundings. So many of them are unknown to us personally, and have never even seen the inside of our office, that we think this may be why they don't realise what nice, human people we are, and how much we would like to hear of their doings and to see them if they can visit us.

THE LAND GIRL magazine is gradually becoming known in this county, though not so rapidly as we would like. We hope to improve our sales before long.

B.B.C. Programmes

Mondays: 1.50 p.m. *Feeding the Land.*

Nov. 18. Organic and Artificial Manures: B. A. Keen.

„ 25. Feeding Plants: B. A. Keen.

Dec. 2. Feeding Stock: Dr. Keen and Mr. Halnam on "Back Garden" animals, poultry, rabbits.

„ 9. Feeding Humans: Professor Drummond and Dr. Keen.

Tuesdays: 1.50 p.m. *Our Changing Countryside.*

Nov. 19. The Changing Shape of the Village.

„ 26. Rural Buildings, Old and New.

Dec. 3. The Modern Rural House.

„ 10. Shopping for Christmas—Now and Then.

Saturdays: 1.15 p.m.

Back to the Land, by John Morgan, followed by talks on poultry, bees, goats, etc.

County Employment Returns

COUNTY.	Number of volunteers now working, placed in employment since the outbreak of war.
Kent	490
Hampshire	410
Wiltshire	318
Gloucestershire	314
Surrey	289
Cheshire	264
Somerset	248
East Sussex	236
West Sussex	235
Worcestershire	231
Berkshire	215
Warwickshire	210
West Suffolk	208
Lancashire	206
Lincs (Kesteven and Holland)	196
Oxfordshire	192
Devonshire	176
Norfolk	175
Shropshire	168
South Wales	167
Essex	162
Northamptonshire	160
Leicestershire and Rutland	159
Dorset	145
Lincs (Lindsey)	141
Staffordshire	139
Hertfordshire	137
Hunts, Cambs and Isle of Ely	130
Cumberland and Westmorland	128
Yorkshire, West Riding	118
Buckinghamshire	115
Northumberland	113
Monmouthshire	105
Nottinghamshire	105
Cornwall	103
Yorkshire, North Riding	99
Herefordshire	96
Derbyshire	80
East Suffolk	79
Isle of Wight	68
Denbighshire	63
Bedfordshire	61
Yorkshire, East Riding	60
Flintshire	57

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