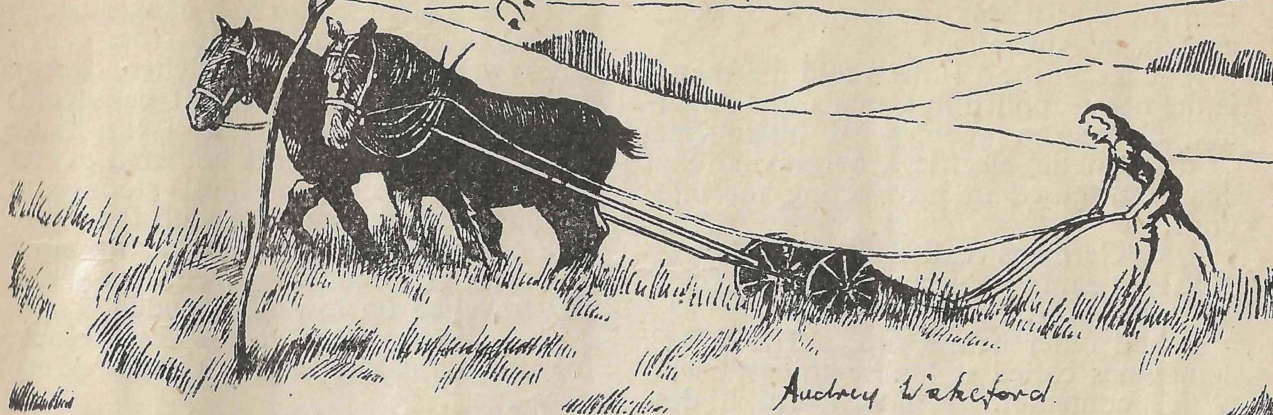


THE LAND GIRL



No. 8, Volume 5

NOVEMBER, 1944

Price 3d.

AFTER-THOUGHTS

IT is only when a man knows that he will safely reach the end of a long, difficult and dangerous journey that he can, or dare, think of what will happen to him after he arrives. In the present stage of the war, it is inevitable that each of us should be taking thought for the future, and quite right too, as long as none of us forgets that her first job is as Mr. Churchill told us recently, to exert the fullest effort so that this dour and hard stage of the war may not be protracted "to a period almost unendurable to those who have the race in their hands after struggling so far."

Members of the Women's Land Army know that they will be needed on the land for at least some time after the war in Europe has ceased; for the rest, they can be assured that their claims and their needs are constantly under consideration and that at the earliest possible moment information about opportunities and openings will be made known to all volunteers.

Hasty decisions mean unfair decisions and individual benefit must wait upon the common good. But while we wait, instead of fretting with impatience, we can use this time to mark, learn and inwardly digest some of the lessons of the years of war.

It is a striking fact that under the shock of fear and common danger, nations can unite in a friendship that works miracles—a friendship that no ordinary reason nor even common interest has yet produced. Perhaps the explanation is that during war, we are (comparatively) blind to the moles in our Allies' eyes because of the beam in our enemy's eye. If we can achieve an equal tolerance after the war, we shall carry forward into days of peace the united Force which is winning victory now. Only thus can we conquer the jealousy and fear, the poverty and suffering which remain the enemies of a peaceful world.

M. A. P.

THE DOODLE-BUG

This fine tribute to volunteers in Southern England was written for the LAND GIRL by V. Sackville West.

BEING inquisitive about words, I wondered what doodle-bug meant. Was it just a happy nickname invented by the R.A.F.? Then somebody told me that it was what they call cock-chafers in Australia.

A letter in the "Times" told me that it is the name applied in Canada and America to "certain geophysical instruments of a magnetic, electrical, or gravitational character" used in prospecting for minerals.

The Germans called it Vergeltungswaffe, meaning "weapon of reprisal," V.I. for short.

It had other names too. The B.B.C. sometimes called it "those things," with a fine contempt. I have heard it described as "noisy little rascals." Whatever it was called we in Southern England soon came to know it only too well. We saw and heard it all round the clock, whether it was a black streak travelling with unnatural steadiness on its horrid errand across the sky, or a little dragon with a flaming tail travelling across the night.

It was very exciting, there is no denying that. One forgot all personal alarm, watching the nasty busy little wretch being chased by our fighters. Would they catch it? One wanted to shout and cheer them on.....And at night it was beautiful to see the red tracer bullets, sometimes flowing up like a necklace of scarlet beads in a lovely curve, sometimes falling slowly down the night-sky in a fountain of big sparks.

We know that many did, alas, succeed in reaching London, but the impression we got in Southern England was that most were intercepted on their way. How our houses shook and rocked! and how often our windows shivered into bits, or fell entirely out into the garden! "We did have a time and no mistake," said one old country-woman to me. We did indeed. As one correspondent in the "Times" remarked rather bitterly, "There is a great difference between a house in the open country and an open house in the country."

The figures have now been published. Kent and Sussex between them took a high proportion of the 8,000 doodles intended for London. They took five-eighths, or more than half. Kent took 2,400; Sussex not quite so many. Surrey and Essex suffered too, though the brunt fell on Kent, "Bomb Alley."

The Land-army of course got its full share of the trouble, both in billets at night and in the fields by day. In fact, the workers in the fields were more exposed than anyone else to a danger which arrived at such a speed and from which there was no available shelter except perhaps a ditch which might be several acres away. But, so far as I can make out, not many Land-girls bothered to run for the ditches. They just stood and watched, and then got on with their job. One of them is reported as having burst into tears as a doodle escaped the fighters and travelled on towards London.

They were rewarded for their pluck, for the casualties in the Land Army were few.

A special word should, I think, be given to those girls who were working along the Kentish coast. They had not only the bombs to face, but also the really appalling noise of the Ack-ack barrage to endure. There was no sleep for them, during all those weeks, unless it was the sleep of utter exhaustion. We had the barrage inland for about a fortnight, and learnt how sleepless nights could tell on one's resistance, but then the guns were removed to the coast and remained there until the nuisance ceased. There was no respite for those girls, and they deserve all honour for carrying on as they did, when they must at times have felt absolutely dead to the world.

One girl, who was standing outside her caravan watching a chase, got shot in the arm by the bullets intended for the doodle. She was very badly injured, so badly that it was thought she might have to lose her arm. I went to see her companions in the caravan. They seemed a bit shaken by this incident, but when I asked them what they were going to do, they replied, "Oh, just carry on." And they did.

LONDON CLUB TO RE-OPEN

The W.L.A. Club at 2, Chesham Street, S.W.1. will re-open this month. Volunteers wishing to book accommodation should make application beforehand to the Club Warden. Land Army members only may stay at the Club, but members may bring their friends to the Canteen and Club sitting-rooms. (Members visiting the Club are asked to wear Land Army uniform and/or the Land Army Badge).

HELPING THE HERDSMAN

Our dairy herd consists of twenty young Guernsey heifers in milk, and about forty more on the marsh meadows, some in calf, and a few as yet too young to be served. Next year we hope to have a complete herd of forty cows.

When I first arrived there were only five in milk. They sleep out in all weathers and hollow themselves out a cosy bed under a straw stack, so that in the mornings they are a job to get up sometimes, and we stumble about over mole heaps and so on in the darkness, until we see a few white looking shapes loom from the blackness.

When they are finally tied up the herdsman washes their legs and flanks with the hosepipe while they busy themselves with the corn ration and dried pulp in their mangers. Finally he washes their bags in two lots of water containing disinfectant. Their tails and bags are closely trimmed with electric clippers, which keeps them much cleaner. The Recorder asked one day didn't we manicure them as well? We always examine the foremilk and wash our hands between milking each cow and have had no cases of mastitis.

The milk passes through a pipe into the dairy after being tipped into the hod, and over a water and brine cooler, which freezes the milk to a very low temperature before it passes into the churn. It is then kept in the cold store until collected by a local dairy.

After milking, the cows are "hayed" up and left, while I rinse all utensils in cold water. The brine pumps back from the cooler, which is washed and sterilised, and there are all the usual jobs to do. When the cows finish their hay they are turned out on to the meadow, to their ration of beet. All their food is fed in pounds according to their daily yield of milk. The water tanks on the meadows are kept full by little windmills pumping clean water from the dykes, thus the dykes do not become fouled by the cows, a possible cause of Johnes disease.

After being with Red Polls and Friesians, I find Guernseys very quiet and friendly. One usually expects a "kicker" among heifers, but I haven't been kicked yet. Is this a record among Land-girls, do you think? They are the most delicate breed of cow and are served earlier than any other breed; ours here being served at 18 months. Calves here are fed on milk until ten weeks old, as they need a good start.

Most Guernseys calve fairly easily, but we had quite a struggle to bring one into the world and I was shown how to give the calf artificial respiration, and he was soon standing up and looking for milk. Another job was "throwing" young heifers and removing any extra teats they had with a sharp pair of scissors, while I sat on the heifers and tried to keep them still.

I once had the job of bringing in the sterilised instruments to the "operating room"—a freshly strawed-out box. The vet. had decided a cow had something she shouldn't in her stomach, so after giving a local anaesthetic, he made a cut in her side, and sewing back each "skin" as he went, was able to put his hand in (or at least his whole arm) and reach the stomach. The cow was looking rather pale. I felt all right until I looked at the cow's face (she was placidly chewing the cud, and did so the whole time), and began to feel sorry for her. I then beat a hurried retreat outside and put my head between my knees, and after a while went back in time to see the surgeon sewing her up. He had removed a piece of tin about two inches long.

E. Suffolk.

R. Jillings, 40828.

CORN-STACKING

11 p.m. the carts creek in and out, dimly discerned far below by the rhythmic flash of shirt sleeves as the unloader sends the sheaves flying up to a man standing in the niche we have left for him half way up the bay.

We are right up under the curving roof; everything is shut out save the hole through which the sheaves pour in an endless flood, gleaming as the light slips along the straw. Two storm lanterns swinging from the struts cast fantastic, distorted shadows and figures are highlighted by an unearthly glow; beneath the lamps we kneel in pools of molten gold; the down-sweeping roof meets impenetrable shadow.

In my corner, packing sheaves under the roof, I lose all sense of reality: I am up by the flaring lanterns, detachedly watching myself, crouched in the shadows, catching the sheaves as they are thrown to me. Weariness will come later but now I feel that I could go on until all the corn in England had come through the little hole and had been packed under the arching roof.

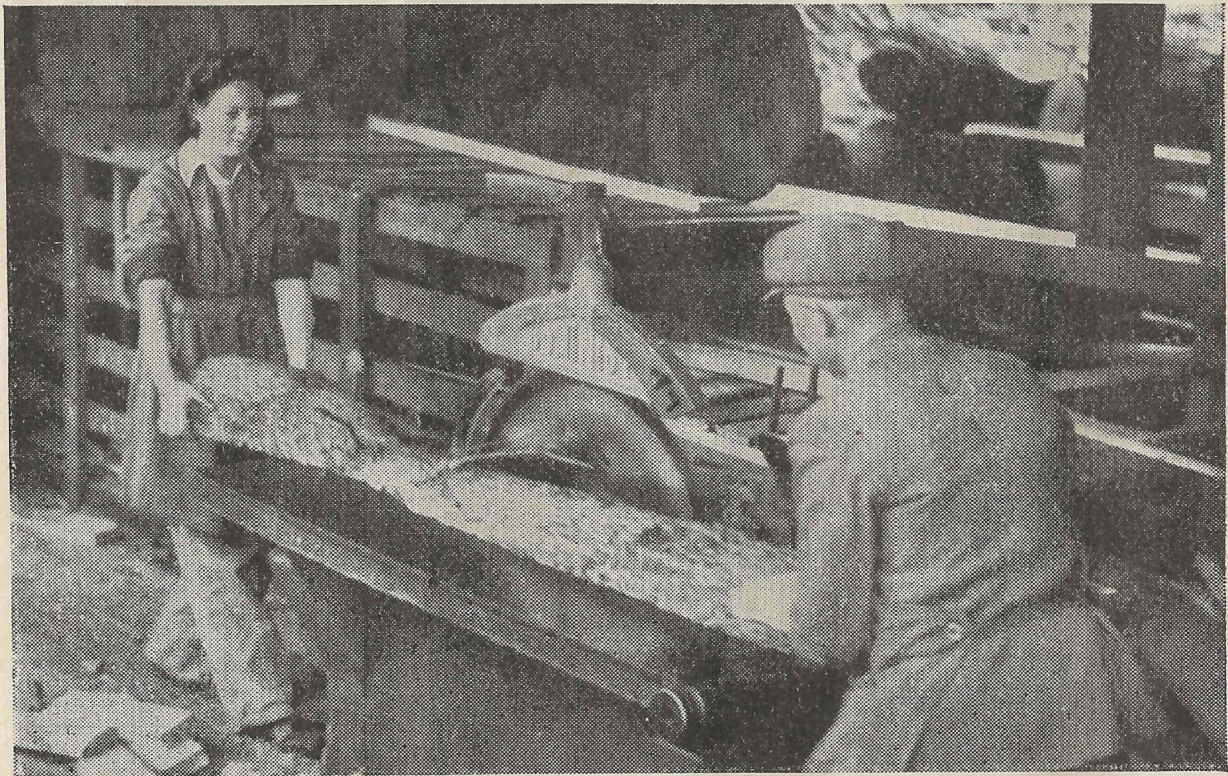
Cheshire.

S. MacSymon, 74810.

THE TIMBER CORPS AT WORK



Rolling logs into position



Pulling off from a circular saw

MILK RECORDING

Most of us are old campaigners. We at least have three years service a piece in the County of Northumberland; satisfactory experience of Dairy Cattle and Farming in general helps considerably.

I have chosen an outlying area this week which means cycle rides. This is a pleasure these days with little or no traffic. I am often off the beaten track, and the byeways with their leafy lanes and burbling brooks are a delight.

I arrive—"Good afternoon, it is the Recorder." "Oh, I have friends staying, but you may sleep with the lady across the way," "Thank you very much." "May I have the weighing sheets and register to begin the calculations since my last call"? "Dear me! what a mess they are in. Have the cows walked over them? Of course they are kept in the byre, I understand. Quite all right, if I can decipher them!"

A cup of tea before milking, then out to the byre and get my bottles labelled for the samples. These must be very carefully marked as they have to journey by rail to the Agricultural College where they are tested.

First machine off, Lady Pearl, tip it in the weighing pail, 22 lbs, stir it up, now for the sample, mark it carefully, O. K. take it away—next—so on till every cow's milk is weighed and sampled.

It is getting dark, I can hardly see the scale; getting quite cold, too. Never mind, I will soon be inside, supper, cosy fire, a few more entries and good night. They are very early milkers at this farm, 5 a.m. on the dot. Oh! it is dark and cold at this time of the morning. Same again, first machine off, Lady Pearl, and the rest.

At last the dawn. What a glorious sky, I can see it through the byre door. I can feel the day getting warmer already now the sun is up. Finished, all milked. "Please keep the cows in as I shall be out after breakfast to check on earmarking. Yes, you have a new heifer to be marked. Certainly!"

What a mess that marking paste makes. Never mind, it washes off. Now to finish those entries in the register.

My goodness! I must be moving. Mr. Brown milks at 2 o'clock. Most inconvenient cows, they cannot wait.

"Cheerio! See you in six weeks."

Northumberland. G. Wright, 8647.

WANTED.—Set of tools for leather work or leather punch. Hill, 25, Fairfield Drive, Dorking, Surrey.

SONG OF A SCARECROW

I've t'wold master's jacket
And t'young master's hat
And another fellow's breeches
With a hole where he have sat
And I stands among the barley heads
So quiet as a cat
A'frightening little birds
Cos I'm the Scarecrow.

I seen old seagull hover
On his beaded silver wing,
I hear the peewit calling
And the mounting skylark sing,
But they dussn't come anigh me
Cos they know that I'm a Thing
Not a man nor a beast
But the Scarecrow.

I seen the corn a sowing
And I seen the corn away,
The sky that was so high and blue
Is low now and grey,
And they've throwed me in a hedge-
back
And cosily I lay,
The kelter and the clutter
And the Scarecrow.

And a mouse sleeps in my pocket
And a spider weaves my hood,
And the hawthorn up above me
Drops her berries bright as blood.
And nobody nor nuthin'
Don't remember where I stood,
Excepting just me
The old Scarecrow.

But though the wind be shrill and high
And sun be low and red,
Before I've dreamed a dream or two
The winter will be sped
And I'll be back a'workin'
With a new hat on me head
A'frightenin' little birds
Says the Scarecrow.

Yorks, N.R.

M. Capes, 12548.

Janice Carey, the heroine of **Timber Girl** by Phyllis Mathewman (author of **Jill on the Land**) is a lovely and efficient member of the W.T.C. An unlucky tendency to get in the way of falling trees, besides bogs, fires and bombs provide her with more excitement than might come the way of all members of the Timber Corps: but the interesting account of her work and surroundings, and the pleasant love story should make this a very popular book.—6s. Published by the Lutterworth Press.

LIFE IN SHETLAND

The island where I live is to the west of the mainland of Shetland and is roughly 6 miles long and 3 miles wide. There are about 600 inhabitants (with a lot of the young population away at the war), mainly at the northern end who are mostly fishermen. I live in the centre of what is called Midisle where the people are mainly crofters who live a very quiet and secluded life and are contented with very little. They are very kind hearted, and hard working, and never in a hurry. Some of them claim to be descendants of the Norwegians and look like it too with flaxen hair and blue eyes. They have an accent of their own, hard to follow at first, which sounds like a mixture of Scottish and Norwegian.

Each house has a piece of land, some have one or two cows and all have poultry and sheep. The main crops grown are potatoes, cabbages and turnips with a small quantity of rye, grass and oats. Everything is of course slower in growing here as the climate is so exposed. The women do most of the land work while the men are away fishing.

There is no machinery, so everything has to be done in a primitive way. For digging, they use a spade with a small long sharp head, and a piece of wood jutting out of the stake on which your foot is placed to push the spade into the earth. The cutting of the hay and corn is done by the men with a scythe with the divided Scots handle.

The cows here are a mixture of breeds and all look very healthy altho' they are shut in all winter in very small and badly ventilated cow-houses. In summer they are tethered outside. Sheep are kept for their wool. Some are tethered, others run loose round the house and some are on the hills.

In winter the women knit most of the time and they make some lovely garments. They have a belt round the waist which has a piece in front with holes to make it firm. I know one person here who knits 117 stitches in two colours in one minute. It is nothing to see a woman walking along the road going to the hills for peats with a Kishie on her back and knitting all the time. A Kishie is a round rush basket which fastens across the shoulders and chest with a rope. Most of the older women wear black and when working have a black or brown Shetland Shawl over their heads and shoulders, but the younger women and girls wear light colours and are as modern as any other girl in a city.

Flowers and birds are lovely and some I have never seen before. The other night I was out rowing with friends, we landed on a little island or skerry out from this island and we found several herons nests and discovered two baby herons. The scenery here on a clear sunny day is something worth seeing. The other evening I was out walking, everywhere was so clear, each island was standing out so boldly, the sky was a lovely blue, the hills greeny-purple; away across the sea to the west, standing alone was the island of Foula and right out in the far distance looking south I could just see the Fair Isle. The islands can be very bleak and bare but I shall always be glad that I once lived in Shetland and knew some of the people and a little of the life.

Scotland.

O. Horn, 44359.

APPLE PICKING

"What's the weather like?"

"Not raining now but 'gum booty'."

And so for a day's apple picking attired in sou'westers and macs.—a day spent wading through the mud that the tractor churns into huge puddles as it carts boxes of wet apples, tying pieces of string round your wrists to stop those icy trickles of rain up your arms, carrying boxes that seem twice as heavy because they are so damp—and an evening drying muddy clothes.

How different when the answer is "Glorious"!

There are huge jokes about practically nothing at all as we ride up to the orchard behind the tractor, a pleasant break for elevenses, cheerful discussions as picking buckets are filled—a day flies by as we strip the trees. The apples are exquisitely coloured: James Grieses, juicy, easily bruised, with a pale green to deep orange tint; rich red Worcesters; Monarchs, green and delicately tinted with pink; Cox's Orange Pippins, sunrise and sunset coloured and lastly, Bramleys, which rely on taste and not appearance.

Then, long before I have written all the letters and darned all the socks I should, it is time for bed.

Essex.

B. D. FitzGerald, 109128.

DO YOU KNOW

- (1) The average amount of wheat produced per acre in this country?
- (2) How many people this feeds?
- (3) How many pounds of wheat a rat will eat a year?
- (4) How much of **your** ration **each** rat eats?

Answers on page 13.

THE LAND GIRL

FITTING IN TO VILLAGE LIFE—II

Last month we had a look at the general idea if you want to take a real part in the life of your village. Now let's see what there is doing.

Well, let's take first something which each of us can enjoy in our own time, to our own taste: Books. Most people like reading, even if tastes differ wildly. The village branch of the free library may not give you the absolutely latest novel, but it will give you a surprisingly wide choice and if it doesn't provide what you want at first, you have only got to ask. Village librarians have little printed slips on which readers can put in for books they specially want, these slips are forwarded to the county library and the books will be forthcoming in a surprisingly short time. If your village librarian hasn't got any slips, drop a postcard to the county librarian and ask him to send the book to your village and do pop in to the county library next time you are in town, make yourself known to the librarian, have a look round. You will find the library all out to help its readers and usually the rural resident (including you) may take books from the county library in addition to having books out in the village. If you do go to the county library direct, tell your village librarian who will be only too pleased that someone is taking a real interest.

And if there is no branch of the village library service in your village, how about taking it on yourself? That's what I did. I made careful enquiries first, to see that no toes would be trodden on by a "foreigner" taking on such an activity, then I wrote to the county hall, and was welcomed with open arms. They sent me boxes of books of all sorts, and some nice posters which I filled in with the time and place of the library (we hold it in the school. The school mistress was only too pleased, and I have a good cupboard, with shelves, to hold the books which is so much easier than having them in the boxes all the time). I have now been running our library for five years and it has not closed once. While working late on harvest, I get someone else to take my place. It only takes one hour a week—I open from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. on Wednesdays—and every week I issue 50 or 60 books. I have made many friends through the library, and people regard it as a sort of club. Those who for any reason can't get down themselves, send neighbours or children. You can do that too, if you send a list.

Cambs.

E. M. Barraud, 9600.

Extracts from a letter to Youth in Britain from Youth in Moscow.

20th August 1944.

Dear Friends,

Soviet newspapers have published descriptions and photographic documents of the huge German death camp in Maidenek, near Lublin, Poland. For the past three days my comrades and myself have been unable to think or talk of anything else but the horrors of the Lublin factory of death. It is very difficult to talk about this ghastly thing, but it is still more difficult to keep silent about it. We, a group of young workers of Moscow Engineering Works, decided to share our thoughts and feelings with the youth in Britain. The human mind is unable to grasp the actual proportions of the atrocities disclosed in the Lublin camp. Hundreds, thousands, perhaps millions of men, women and children were murdered and tortured to death. All imaginable and unimaginable methods of murder—shooting, suffocation, poisoning, deliberate infection with disease, burning at the stake; all means of torture and killing conceivable only by the deranged mind of a sadist; gigantic human shambles; crematoriums working day and night.

Dear friends, the day of settlement with the Germans for all their crimes will come soon, very soon. Let us prepare exact accounts of revenge so that not one single crime may be overlooked, not one drop of blood, not one single tear, go unpunished. You and we are waging war against a common enemy and for a common cause, and the punishment we mete out to the enemy must also be in common. All of us will take revenge, everyone as best he can with the weapons at his disposal. I am a worker and I too will have my revenge. In reply to the fresh atrocities of the Hitlerites our Brigade resolved to intensify our work. Our output above plan will be our way of taking revenge for Lublin, our small contribution to the common cause, the struggle of freedom-loving peoples.

We should very much like to hear about your attitude to the Lublin tragedy, and how the young people of Britain feel about the horrible crimes of the Germans.

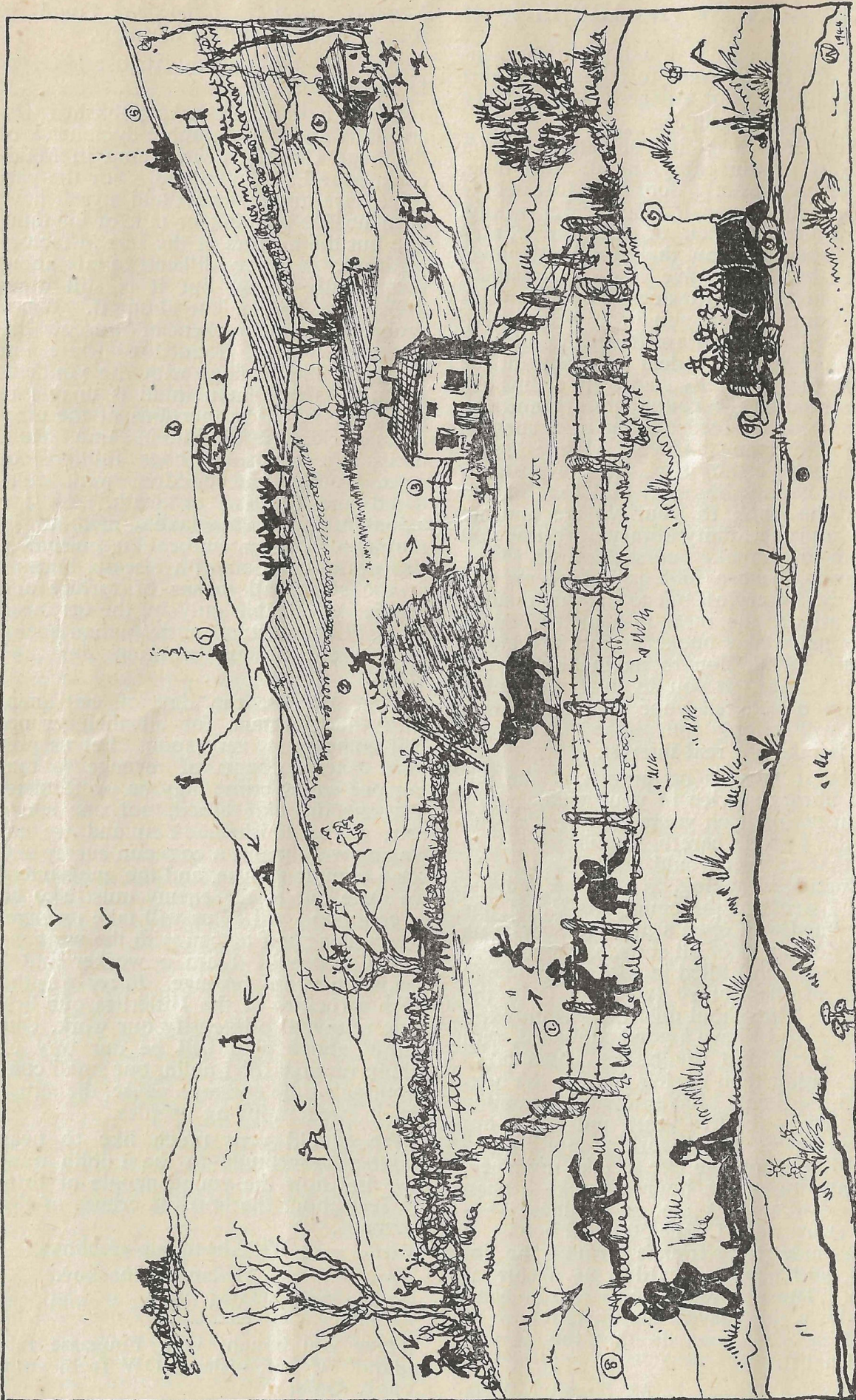
With heartfelt greetings,

Alexander Shaskov.

Soviet Youth Anti-Fascist Committee.

Have you bought your Fougasse calendars? If not, order NOW from your County Office.

THE LAND GIRL



Drawn by the Hon. Mrs. Nicholson (Hampshire)

SHORT ASSAULT COURSE FOR W.L.A. REPRESENTATIVES

(see opposite page)

- (1) Climb barbed wire fence, pass fierce bull
- (2) Climb hayrick to volunteer (monthly visit)
- (3) Call on Farmer Jones known for bad temper and worse dog
- (4) Persuade Mrs. Brown, who billets 5 evacuees and does war work, to billet L.G.
- (5) Climb to volunteer ploughing on hill (monthly visit)
- (6) Interview prospective employer at distant farm
- (7) Inspect billet—Return to start and
- (8) Write report for office legibly and in full
- (9) Demonstrate safe driving course to be chosen later, car to contain not less than 5 volunteers.

Warmest congratulations this month to Mrs. B. Zitzow 97200 and Miss M. Hicks, 94638, for their great courage and presence of mind in dealing with a bull which had already knocked out Miss B. Van Moppes (Dairy Instructress, ex W.L.A.) and injured her and her assistant.

AND to E. Kerr, 9243, Flintshire and her fellow L G's at the R. A. F. station at Sealand, who came first in an R. A. F. horticultural contest in England and Wales. The girls wrote saying that their success could never have been achieved without the very helpful assistance of the R. A. F. personnel, particularly the corporal in charge of the Unit Gardens.

British Woodland Trees by H. L. Edlin (B.Sc., Forestry) deals with every British tree, giving valuable hints on cultivation and indeed covering ground which makes it indispensable for everyone interested in British woods and forests. There is a large number of photographs, drawings and diagrams and there are also a useful glossary and a complete index. Altogether a beautiful and extremely interesting production.—12/6 Published by Batsford.

Peggy Scott's book **They made Invasion possible** (15/-. Published by Hutchinson), contains an interesting chapter with photographs on the Women's Land Army. The book is a comprehensive one, covering all varieties of women's war work. The chapter on the L.A. manages to get into a fairly small space a most interesting and varied account of all the different types of work which volunteers are doing.

WANTED.—Riding jacket and/or jodhpurs. Height 5ft. 6ins, Bust 34-36ins, waist 27ins., inner leg 28ins.—Mearing, Red House Cottage, Tydehams, Newbury, Berks.

MORE AMERICAN GIFTS

A letter from America announces the arrival of some more Wedding Dresses for distribution to the Servicees and the Land Army. This is a most welcome gift.

The ten dresses already received from the United States are in constant use and the number of applications far exceeds the supply. The new additions unfortunately are not likely to go far to overcome this difficulty as the proportion of members who have to be refused is about 9 out of every 10 applicants, but it will help and we are very grateful to our kind friends across the Atlantic.

DO YOU LIKE READING?

Since January I have dotted down all the books I have read. A few pleasant but ordinary ones, a few of the much advertised "terribly clever my dear" sort (labelled in my diary "skipped") and finally, half a dozen marked with a star. These are the special books, the kind which once begun I could hardly bear to put down, into which I dipped with one eye on the clock at dinner and even at breakfast time.

Here they are for the benefit of land girls who if they haven't read them may care to do so and if they have, may enjoy agreeing or disagreeing with my choice.

(1.) **Good Neighbours**, by Walter Rose written in beautiful and vivid English about a village fifty years ago.

(2.) **I Bought a Mountain**, by Thomas Firbank. This is about a sheep farm in Wales. Any hazy vision I have conjured up of a few Southdowns in a hedged-in field was speedily dispelled. The book reflects the authors dynamic personality. I would put him down as a cross between Negly Farson and Emily Bronte. Also he depicts the mountains and wild weather of Wales as vividly as Walpole did Cumberland's.

(3.) **Apple Orchard**, by Adrian Bell of "Corduoy" fame.

(4.) **A Room With a View**, by E. M. Foster. I can't pin down Mr. Foster's magic. He makes significant trivial details of everyday life and gets under the skin of ordinary people.

(5.) **Country Hoard**, by Alison Uttley. Farm life seen through the eyes of a charming and sensitive little girl.

(6.) **The Brontes went to Woolworths**, by Rachel Ferguson. She has a scintillating sense of humour and a style all her own. You will like this book immensely or not at all.

Bucks.

J. Field, 4387.

A FAMOUS MAN

My ancestor, Benjamin Jesty, was born at Yetminster, Dorset, in 1737. The original farmhouse, Upbury, still stands.

He shared an opinion prevalent amongst farmers in the 18th Century that anyone who had caught from cows the comparatively harmless cow-pox, was immune from the deadly disease small-pox. In 1774, twenty years before Jenner completed his experiments in vaccination, there was a terrific outbreak of small-pox and Benjamin showed the courage of his convictions; he inoculated his wife and two sons with cow-pox, in spite of a storm of local criticism.

This was so successful that the Jesty family were immune from infection, although frequently exposed to it, and in 1805 the full import of this was realised Benjamin was invited to attend the Medical Establishment of the Original Vaccine Pock Institution in London. He provided the assembly with valuable information and, together with his eldest son submitted publicly to inoculations for small-pox, without either becoming infected. Until then, opinion had been strongly divided on the subject and controversy had raged in medical circles, so this decisive evidence was opportune.

The Institution gave Benjamin a signed testimonial of their personal regard for him "for purposely instituting the Vaccine Pock Inoculation in his own family, **without any precedent**, but merely from reasoning upon the nature of the affection among cows, and from knowing its effects in the casual way among men, his exemption from the prevailing popular prejudice, and his disregard of the clamorous reproaches of his neighbours."

His portrait was painted and preserved at the Institution at the Committee's request.

He died at 79 years of age, and his tombstone can still be seen in Worth Matraver's churchyard.

Cornwall.

N. E. Jesty, 71662.

CAUTIONARY RHYMES FOR TRACTOR DRIVERS

When Sam and Ernie changed their oil,
Ernie drained it on the soil,

Sam from depot got a tin,

Filled it up and brought it in.

"Sump oil can be cleaned," said he,

"Used again in industry.

Red Cross gets the cash; what's more
Salvage helps to win the war."

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I was so glad to read "Inquirer's" letter this month. As one land girl who hopes to "stick" I say Yes, let us have a federation of some sort, let's get ourselves organised so that we may help one another. But how? Obviously we cannot expect the indefinite continuance of our present service; we must do the thing for ourselves. We must run our own committees in our spare time as the British Legion does—are there enough of us interested to keep such a union going? Our aim—to assist in all matters; wages are bound to be centrally controlled, but *what* a help to have some means of getting good working clothes at a reasonable price, to have our own employment agency, someone to help us with problems of billets and training, and to have grand social clubs like our present ones!

Regarding question 2—Naturally the number of jobs available will depend largely on the Government's farming policy. Here we can only hope for the best—and of course agitate whenever the occasion arises, because if our agriculture is prosperous it automatically follows that our country is prosperous.

Now 3. "Inquirer's" questions are most apt and searching. Isn't it funny that there is a difference between mucking out and scrubbing floors! But everyone is going to get a shake-up in the "new-order," so why not us? The answer is, if we want to work on the farms we shall have to take what we can get! There is a snag; this way of helping the farmer and his wife may be a blind-alley job. The few skilled jobs available will be snapped up. County and instructional posts will fall to those who have the wider experience; for the rest there is little chance of advancement but this is of course a matter of personal choice.

Warwicks.

T. Floyd, 8322.

Dear Editor,

I am a Scottish land girl and in answer to the letter in the October LAND GIRL I would say (1) yes there should be a Land Army after the war. (2) I think there will be plenty of jobs after the war on the farms. (3) I think I can answer fairly well as I have experienced both hostel life and on a farm. While I was in the hostel for eighteen months, I would have thought it terrible if the farmer's wife had asked me to do anything inside the house. I have now been ten months on a farm and like nothing better than doing my share of the housework and really think it is quite a good idea to be in the house maybe for an

THE LAND GIRL



Keen Appetites in Yorkshire

hour and a half in the forenoon. Then on the wet days I stay in all day and help the farmer's wife to cook dinner and do a spot of baking. So you see I am inside in the cold winter mornings and don't get wet on the very wet days. So I suggest that a land girl should do part indoor work as it does you a lot of good to know the work inside as well. Scotland. E. Cowan, 9821.

A letter from C. Faulkner, 104691, N. R. Yorks, arrived too late for publication in full. She thinks (a) some kind of Land Army will be wanted after the war; (b) there should probably be enough jobs for women who want to stay on the land if the Government continues to help farmers; (c) combined house and farm work is a good idea.

Dear Sir,

I was interested in the article on Threshing in the September Land Girl as I have just started my third season as regular Feeder. It is a very dirty job but I am very interested in my work. I have to be out early in the morning to get my machine ready for 8 o'clock, that is the time we start in Yorkshire till 5 o'clock. First I get the cover off and put different boards in position, then start and grease my machine. Then I get my breakfast. Your writer made one big mistake by saying the bond cutter cuts the band and throws the sheaf down beside the feeder. This makes it very hard work for the feeder and

waste of time. The band should be cut and the sheaf placed on the arm of the feeder so that he can pass it straight in the drum.

Yorks. W.R.

H. Garrett 5475.

Dear Editor,

I don't know what other Land Girls find the best rig out for threshing, I find that dungarees with the overall coat on top, buttoned round the neck, if the top button is missing a silk handkerchief or scarf tied round the neck, an old beret on my head or scarf and anti-gas goggles over my eyes and I can keep passably free from dirt over my other clothes; boots are the best footwear, and in cold weather the gaiters on top of these which prevent barley piles penetrating too far.

I wouldn't have any job other than Land Army and find the more I do the more interested I become though I am not a specialist in anything. Does anyone bind copies of the LAND GIRL now?

Salop.

J. B. Hoare, 390.

Dear Editor,

I have lately been reading A. G. Street's novel "Farmer's Glory." He describes an open-air method of dairy farming said to be practised in the South. I wonder how many L.A. girls work in such dairies? Of course we have nothing of the sort in the north, the weather is not suitable for the cows to be out all winter.

Yorks. N.R.

E. M. Flint, 6035.

Scottish Notes

Investiture at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

In the setting of the old Palace of Holyroodhouse, on September 21st, history was made. Men and women, from every walk of life, had come to be honoured for their splendid achievements in our Empire's time of danger.

The Land Army was well represented: amongst those to be honoured were Miss Evelyn Baxter, M.B.E., Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee for East Fife, and of the Committee of Management of the Rest-Break House and Chairman of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund, and Mrs. John Kennedy, M.B.E., Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee for North Ayrshire and Vice-Chairman of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund. As each person was decorated he moved out into the Palace Square to await his friends. There the crowd had the pleasure of seeing the Queen and Princess Elizabeth arrive to join the King.

NORTH ARGYLL.—The farmers were not allowed to forget the L.A. when they attended the Oban West Highland Mart on 11th October because of the presence of the Misses K. Kirkpatrick, E. MacAskill, Rachel Elliot and R. MacKenzie, complete with collecting boxes for the Welfare and Benevolent Fund. When the boxes were opened it was found that £10 had been collected.

Miss M. MacBeath who has resigned from the L.A. to be married said her farewell in a very practical way by organising a dance and collection in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund.

AUCHINCUIVE.—Thirty-eight W.L.A. members from Kirkcudbright, North and South Lanark visited Auchincruive on 26th September and went through competitions arranged by the West of Scotland Agricultural College for W.L.A. members with not less than three years' service. The competitions were comprehensive in nature and covered all branches of farm work, including dairying, machine and hand milking, care and treatment of utensils, horse and tractor work, field work and stock management. All members successfully passed the test, 15 with distinction.

Certificates were handed over by Principal Paterson who congratulated the girls on the very high standard they had reached. Principal Paterson was thanked on the call of Mrs. Grierson, Kirkcudbright. The following members passed with distinction (90 per cent or over)—M. Brooks, Mrs. Barbour, M. Dick, M. Fraser, Mrs. Hall, A. Kane, M. Kerr, I. Kirkpatrick, M. McDonald, I. Moffat, B. Semple, A. Watson, I. Walker, M. Wilson and S. McCubbin.

NORTH AYRSHIRE.—The Kilmarnock Club has started the "Winter Season" with an interesting syllabus and many new members have joined. The Club celebrated its third birthday on October 26th with a party. The Clubs at Beith, Dunlop, Waterside, Darvel and Carnel are re-opening and it is hoped to start a new one at Crosshands.

The Craigie Dramatic Club opened their Season with a Concert at Fenwick for the Women's Rural Institute. Audrey Moncreiff sang, Rene Allison danced and 'The Four Stooges' (Violet Birnie, Isa Glen, Dorothy Nairn and Grace Sullivan) gave their version of "If you want to go to Heaven when you die." Violet Birnie's recitations completed the programme. Isa Glen led the Community singing in the interval. This is the first Club of its kind to be formed in the Scottish W.L.A. Four Concerts were given in the Winter of 1942-43 and a total of about sixteen the following year. The audiences have been chiefly members of W.R.I.'s the Forces and hospital patients and staff. Some public performances have also been given in aid of local W.L.A. Welfare Funds and Clubs, the Scottish W.L.A. Welfare and Benevolent Fund and the Red Cross. Miss Winifred Turner of Craigie has acted as producer and has also organised all the work connected with Concerts etc.

SOUTH AYR.—On Sunday, 1st October, 78 land girls paraded to a Harvest Thanksgiving Service in

the Old Church, Ayr. The Rev. Robert Robertson gave a very appropriate sermon on "Good Team Work." Two land girls took part in the Service. Miss Muriel White sang a solo "The King of Love my Shepherd is" and Miss Joyce MacDonald read the lessons. Afterwards the L.G.'s paraded from the Church to the Club, where they enjoyed pies and tea.

KINCARDINESHIRE.—The Misses Jean McKenzie, Winnie Cooper and Chrissie Adams composed a poem advertisement for a dance held in Fordoun Hall on 29th September. There was a large turnout and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The Welfare and Benevolent Fund benefited by this venture to the extent of twelve guineas. Further donations amounting to £4 15s. 1d. were sent to the Fund, the result of a dance at Maryculter, Collection at Bent and donations from friends.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—The girls at 7 Terregles Street under their warden Mrs. Anderson organised a whist party in the Girls' Club, Dumfries, on Wednesday, 18th October in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund, which benefited by £16. There were about 80 present, mostly farmers employing the girls and friends. Mrs. Grierson extended a welcome to all and congratulated Mrs. Anderson and the girls on their enterprise.

ROXBURGHSHIRE.—Lempitlaw Hostel raised over £31 at a dance in the end of July for the Y.M.C.A. Huts Fund. Janet Patterson had the honour of presenting the money to Princess Elizabeth on 22nd September in Edinburgh, when Her Royal Highness received purses on behalf of the Y.W.C.A.

STIRLING AND CLACKMANNAN.—A very successful dance was held in the Caldwell Hall, Torrance on 13th October, in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund. The sum of £26 11s. was handed over from the dance. Thanks are due to Helen Gordon, W.L.A. 4817 for organising this very enjoyable and profitable event.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On October 31st the fund totalled £98,397 7s. 10d. The monthly total was £5,141 4s. 3d. KENT still has the highest total of £6,633 5s. 2d. and WEST SUSSEX the highest monthly total of £1,203 3s. 0d.

The £100,000 mark is fast approaching and there have been some exciting contributions this month which have narrowed the gap considerably. First and foremost, many congratulations to W. SUSSEX for raising the amazing sum of £1,200 at their Fete and Rally. A full account of this appeared in last month's LAND GIRL but the final result was even better than the highest hopes. The TIMBER CORPS has sent another £1,000, bringing their total to over £4,000. Coming so quickly after the last £1,000, it was most unexpected and a grand effort. WILTS also is in the news and presented Lady Denman with a surprise cheque for £750 when she visited the county and PEMBROKE raised £300 by their Flag Day. There are under 400 volunteers employed in Pembroke and their total is now nearly £1,000, so it looks as if they're out to beat Oxford's £3 a head record!

Good totals come from NORFOLK £89, E. SUFFOLK £80, SALOP £60 (including £31 from Mrs. Frazer's whist drive), LEICS. £56 (including £34 from a harvest dance at Walton), NOTTS £53 raised by two dances at Radcliffe and Thorney Hostels, BERKS £50 and DENBIGH £50, the latter raised entirely by the Gresford Hostel dance. Cinema collections at Bangor, N. WALES and DERBY, brought in £22 and £21 respectively, and the N.F.U. branches in BRECON and RADNOR contributed over £21.

There were several late September contributions which arrived after the LAND GIRL had gone to press, notably £200 from the most successful Horse Show and Gymkhana run in conjunction with a Prize Scheme in HEREFORD, £50 from another gymkhana organised by Mrs. Lumsden, E. SUSSEX, and £30 from Redenham Hostel, HANTS.

WILTSHIRE RALLY

Brightly waving banners, shining hair, happy faces, a sea of green jerseys moving like a kaleidoscope in the Market Square. Land girls, I was told, gathering in their hundreds for a Harvest Thanksgiving Service in the Cathedral. What an advertisement for hard work, the simple life, late nights and early mornings! The high average of good looks brought it home to a town observer that it is dabbling in the dew makes the milkmaid fair. If only those girls could have seen themselves, each uniform a picture in itself, marching proudly through the town to the strains of the smartest military band seen since pre-war days. Drawn irresistibly after the band, I watched the parade swing past the Admiral at the saluting base and line up in a deep square in front of the West Gate of the Cathedral. In spite of drizzling rain the platform was gay with uniform and colour. After short speeches which emphasised the link between the Navy and the Land Army, the girls marched off to the West door where the Bishop, regal in purple robe with shepherds crook in hand, welcomed them. Singing "we plough the fields and scatter," the procession moved slowly up the aisle. The sheaves of wheat, corn and barley were stacked at the altar rails, the girls filing back to their places in the nave. The service was moving and a lump rose in my throat as the young voices soared up in that perfect setting. The harvest had been safely gathered in and now God's blessing for the workers who had toiled unceasingly that others might be fed. Constructive work—building up in a world of destructive forces—work we are apt to forget. Thank you, Land girls, for the timely reminder.

An Onlooker.

OVERHEARD AT THE RALLY

Mournful stranger, to organiser, standing on her head chalking stations for various areas on the Market Square, "Are me and 'arry in the right bus queue for Melksham, Miss?"

"What are those girls taking into the Cathedral?"
 "Sheaves of Wheat"
 "Who told them to?"
 "The Bishop"
 "I didn't know he kept hens."

FOR SALE.—Two small "Cocernee" milking overalls; as new, no coupons required, 7/6d. each. Apply—Scruton, c/o Manor Farm, Micheldever, Hants.

W.L.A. CHRISTMAS CARDS GOLD CREST,

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No further supplies W.L.A. Stationery until January, 1945.

Answers—see page 6.

(1) 2072 lbs. (2) 9 (3) 23 (4) One-tenth.

County News

LONDON & MIDD.—A Young Farmer's Club in Laleham has run successfully for over a year; now a senior club has been formed and the W.L.A. has contributed much towards a flourishing start. There are already thirty-four members and an attractive programme of lectures, film shows and open nights; a local farm has been adopted for study and a successful social has been held. It has been decided not to start keeping stock, or cultivating ground till the club has been established some months. P. Cordwell, W.L.A., has been chosen as Club Leader and is putting enthusiasm into the work of showing the younger members what a club can be, and B. Capelin, W.L.A., is secretary. Four W.L.A. employers and one representative are on the advisory committee. Any member of the L.A. would be welcome as a member; she would find plenty to interest her and at the same time could feel she was doing much towards interesting an urban population in farming. A Y.F.C. is still a novelty in Middlesex.

MON.—We welcome our new Regional Organiser, Mrs. Coombs, whom we were pleased to meet at the County Office recently, and we wish continued success to Miss Hodgson, her predecessor, who has been our good friend over a long period. Mrs. Peggy Davies is our new County Organiser. She has been on the staff since its early days and is well fitted for her new post; she should prove an able successor to Mrs. Nethercot who was forced to resign because of ill-health. We wish her a speedy recovery. Hostels and clubs have started on extensive winter entertainment programmes; C.E.M.A. concerts will be held and films will be shown at various hostels. Play reading is a general favourite and the Monmouth W.L.A. club have entered for the Trellech Drama Festival; we wish them every success. Our enterprising hostel at Mount Ballan has produced its own magazine by the way of a diary. A ploughing match organised by Monmouth and District Y.F.C. was of special interest to our L.G.'s, as a special class for L.A. members ploughing with tractor was included. Result was 1st: J. A. Phillips who won £5. 2nd: N. Ingham. 3rd: P. Morris and 4th: J. Stead. Benevolent Fund items include a Prize Drawing by Mrs. O. Lewis which resulted in the sum of £16 17s. 6d., dances at Llandevaud hostel and Usk Institute brought in £5 and £4 and the auction of three eggs by Muriel Barnes the magnificent sum of £4 8s. 6d.

NORFOLK.—Several of the hostels have celebrated their first birthday by having special parties and dances. Girls living at Banningham Hall have raised £53 for the Benevolent Fund by holding another of their well organised dances in Aylsham. Volunteers from Thurning Hall formed the Church choir at the evening service at Thurning Church on Sept. 3rd, the National Day of Prayer. Under the auspices of the Council for Health Education, talks by Mrs. Tamplin are now being given at all the Hostels in this County. They are proving a great success, and much interest is being shown and many questions asked. A new series of Proficiency Tests is being arranged and will take place within the next few weeks. A good number of entries have already been received.

We are very proud of M. Hicks and B. Zitzow mentioned elsewhere.

NORTH'L'D.—Proficiency Tests were held at Cockle Park on Oct. 7th and at Wheelbirks Farm, Stocksfield, on Oct. 9th. Four candidates passed in G.F. work, three in Milking and Dairy Work and six in Field Work. P. Middleton gained distinction in the last. By November the winter programme at most of the Hostels will have begun. It ranges in interest from Cookery to Drama, from Agricultural Bees to Concerts. The Drama Groups are led by Mr. Gordon Lea of C.A.M.D.I.N. who will visit given Hostels and it is hoped that all groups will send a team to the Drama Festival in 1945.

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Marguerita Cowen, who is employed by Mrs. Potts, near Morpeth, has won fame by a letter in the "Farmer's Weekly". The subject is a solution for the domestic help problem in farm-houses after the War, and the writer of the letter not only won a prize of about £3 (half of which she generously sent to the Benevolent Fund) but has also received a large fan-mail. The harvest is being got in, in spite of every kind of bad weather. L.G.'s have and deserve our warmest admiration for what they are doing. Combine-harvesters and drying plants are also at work in some parts of the County.

NOTTS.—A dance splendidly organised by Misses Vickerstaff, Epston, Robson and Smart bought in £33 10s. and another held by Charnwood Club realised £34, both for the Benevolent Fund. Hawksworth Hostel had a very happy Harvest Dinner, after a special Harvest Festival service, on Oct. 1st. Thorney Hostel raised £22 by a dance which they spent on the wounded whom they visited in hospital with their gifts.

OXON.—On Oct 1st, one hundred and fifty volunteers attended a Harvest Thanksgiving service by invitation from the City Church. Five girls presented offerings of Fruit, Vegetables and Sheaves of Corn; the Second Lesson was read by a Hostel supervisor. The Mayor of Oxford inspected the contingent after the service, and spoke in praise of the work of the W.L.A., and also the appearance of the Parade. A record return was made when the 'annual appeal' for the surrender of coupons was sent out at the end of July. Ninety-five per cent were received in the County Office at the beginning of August! During the first three weeks in October. Mrs. Godfrey Phillips, of the Central Council of Health Education, toured the County speaking on "Health and Beauty" from every aspect. Her presentation was very much appreciated.

A new venture was made on Sunday afternoon 1st October, in the form of a Group Meeting for Privately employed volunteers. The lecture, the opportunity to chat with other volunteers, and, of course, the tea, were very much appreciated. These meetings will be continued in various parts of the county through the winter months. Autumn Proficiency Tests are now being held; practically all the W.A.E.C. supervisors and forewomen have entered for the Field Work Test.

PEMBS.—We were extremely sorry to say goodbye to our County Secretary, Mrs. Strickland, but we are glad that her great ability is not lost to the W.L.A., and we wish her every success as County Secretary for Essex. We welcome Miss Roberts in her place.

On October 21st Lady Denman paid her first visit to West Wales, and we, as the premier county of Wales, were proud to have the honour of welcoming her. We consider that we were very lucky that, despite the floods, Lady Denman spent the whole day with us. In the morning she met the Committee Members and District Representatives. In the afternoon, thanks to the kindness and energy of the W.A.E.C. Transport Officer, a large proportion of our 400 volunteers managed to gather from all corners of the county in the Drill Hall, Haverfordwest, to hear an address by Lady Denman. In proposing votes of thanks, both the Chairman of the P.W.A.E.C. and the Chairman of the N.F.U. praised the work of the L.A. and hoped that at least some of the volunteers would remain in the county after the war. Tea followed speeches, and volunteers had a chance of meeting Lady Denman. Pauline Roberts presented a cheque for £300 for the Benevolent Fund, the first instalment of the money collected by a Flag Day.

Clubs have been started, and a very successful meeting was held at Haverfordwest in the summer, and we hope to have more this winter. Several of our volunteers have joined the Y.F.'s Clubs. We welcome two new District Representatives, Mrs. Lloyd Philipps of Dale, and Mrs. George of Cilgerran.

STAFFS.—We held our Annual Rally at Stafford on Saturday October 14th, 1944. Fortun-

ately the weather was kind to us during the Parade through the town, when His Worship the Mayor took the Salute in the Market Square. We then assembled in the Borough Hall where Miss R. M. Harrison, O.B.E., our Chairman presented Special Armlets and gave an inspiring address. I am sure I am expressing the feelings of our members when I thank Miss Harrison for her untiring work on our behalf and the great interest she takes in all our activities. Captain Foster, O.B.E., Liaison Officer to the Ministry, also spoke of post war agricultural employment and the expected improvements in County Life. Next we had a marvellous tea kindly provided by Mrs. Haszard and her helpers, not forgetting our good friends the District Representatives, who so nobly spared us part of their rations to make this possible. After tea and a good gossip with our friends an excellent entertainment was given by "The Ternsiders" Concert Party.

Our Chairman, Miss R. M. Harrison, held a most successful Garden Fete at Maer Hall on Sept 16th, the chief attraction being a parade of the North Staffs. Hounds and the Pony Gymkhana. The Fete was opened by Lady Harrowby and the grand sum of £110 was raised for the Benevolent Fund. Two parties of L.G.'s have recently paid a visit to aerodromes to attend lectures on the "Rescue of Air Personnel from Crashed Planes" these have proved most instructive and interesting and we feel we have gained much useful knowledge should the occasion arise when our help is needed. After the lecture we were taken over some of our largest aircraft and were thrilled to sit in the rear-gunner's seat and operate the revolving turret. We came away full of admiration for the boys in the R.A.F.

E. SUFFOLK.—On October 11th and 18th, two very successful Proficiency Tests in Field Work were held, one at Columbyne Hall and the other at Sutton Hoo Hostel. Out of the 51 entrants, 49 passed, E. Somers (Blomville Hall Hostel) gaining distinction. On Oct. 13th, we held at Grundisburgh the second of a series of W.L.A. Concerts in aid of the Benevolent Fund. The Woodbridge Club L.G.'s again provided the chorus, and have also generously contributed £5 to the present combined total of £50 4s. 10d. We are most grateful, too to E. Sparrow, whose lovely Land-girl Doll was raffled at Grundisburgh and realised £7 18s. 9d. We are hoping to arrange our third Concert in Eye early in December. A War Savings Competition was started in July between our hostels. This will run in three-monthly periods, and at the end of each the name of the leading hostel will be entered on a delightful illuminated certificate, specially designed by Mrs. J. Gibson and presented by Lady Cranworth. We have been very much interested at the number of girls who have expressed a wish to continue with dairy and general farm work as a permanent career after the war.

W. SUFFOLK.—A Distinction Party given by Lady Briscoe, honoured by the presence of Miss Brew and Miss Williams, has been our most outstanding event. It was a particularly happy chance that Mrs. Lindsay-Scott our former County Secretary happened to be in the neighbourhood, and was able to be present. We are arranging a Handcraft competition which is open to all L.G.'s in the county and we hope to have an exhibition in Bury St. Edmunds early in December, in time for the work to be dispatched as Christmas presents. Members of the county and hostel staffs are eligible to enter. Two new Clubs have recently been formed, at Elveden and Bury St. Edmunds. Norfolk has extended another invitation for Mrs. Tampilins talk at Thetford entitled "Good Health—Good Looks." We are well on the way with our second round of Proficiency Tests, both the milking and the general farm series having been completed. Our rat catchers have recently attended a refresher course at Shimpling, so we hope our vermin will now be completely exterminated.

We are very sorry to lose Mrs. Hutchinson, from the Uniform Department.

THE LAND GIRL

SURREY.—The Benevolent Fund campaign progresses well. Lady Bartholomew's postponed Fete was a tremendous success and sincere congratulations are due to all concerned. The total raised at the Fete and by the Oxted, Croydon and Reigate Districts under Lady Campbell and Lady Bartholomew now amounts to £764 14s. 4d. Congratulations to W.A.E.C. volunteers at South Lodge and the following districts on achieving their Targets: Banstead, Bookham and Leatherhead, Cobham, Cranleigh, Fetcham, Horsell and Woking, Mitcham, Mizens girls at Ottershaw, Newdigate, Ockley, Send, Woodmansterne, and to the following on raising more than their Targets:—Artington and Compton, Byfleet, Capel, Chiddingfold, Chobham, Devoke Lodge, Egham, Ellens Green, Englefield Green, Esher, Hambledon, New Haw, Richmond, Shalford, Shere and Gomshall, Thorpe, Walton, Wentworth. Additional sums have been raised by Farnham and Bagshot Lea (who have now more than doubled their Target) Peaslake, Shamley Green, Wanborough and West Horsley; W.A.E.C. volunteers at Ockham and Puttenham Depots have raised 50 per cent more than their Target by a Dance and a very successful Caledonian Market. Congratulations to J. Roos and K. Ackland who came in 1st and 2nd in the Ploughing Contest at Nutfield and to B. Claridge who won the Ploughing Contest in Guildford.

E. SUSSEX.—On Sept. 9th, Mrs Lumsden, D.R. for Forest Row, organised a Handy Hunter Trials in aid of the Benevolent Fund and raised £50 by this means; everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously. Kathleen Hobden working for the Misses Andrews and Spence and Edna Broughton working for O. T. Norris Esq. are to be warmly congratulated on completing their five years good service with one employer. A big Dance for Benevolent Fund, in Eastbourne on Oct. 4th, was a great success. Many of our girls had narrow escapes from Doodle-Bugs during the time they were coming over in such numbers and many had homes or billets wrecked and property destroyed. We heard no complaint at all and everyone's morale remained high. P. Dallimore and E. Braysher won 1st prize in a decorated Horse and Cart parade at Cuckfield's "Salute the Soldier" week. The lovely silver cigarette box given to the L.A. in E. Sussex by H. M. The Queen, was won by J. Climpson of Hastings. Sale of tickets for this splendid prize raised £96 13s. which has been sent to the Benevolent Fund. We intend to have a Christmas Sale of toys and gifts at 166 High Street, Lewes, on Dec. 2nd. We hope all our Members will support this by buying their Christmas Presents from us and also by sending us something to sell.



N. Jones, 77527, and M. Hodgson, 76416,
mowing thisles in Lancashire

W. SUSSEX.—The profit from the Fete and Rally in aid of the Benevolent Fund now amounts to over £1,200. The Clubs and Hostels are busy arranging their winter programmes: Horsham had a very jolly opening with Community Singing led by Lady Davidson, and Cowfold had games organised by the County Secretary. Henfield combined planning its programme with a perfectly delicious Harvest Home supper: no doubt a more than usually inspired programme was planned in consequence. Four hostels are enjoying a course of talks on "How you can influence the World after the War" and were enthralled to have a fascinating talk on "What You Are" to open the course, by Mrs. Pyke, Editor of the Land Girl.

N. WALES.—For sixty volunteers employed in the North Wales area, Oct. 7th was a memorable day. They had earned by service record and special distinction the privilege to represent the W.L.A. in the City of Bangor Parade for inspection by H. R. H. The Duchess of Kent. There was all the special thrill of a royal occasion when to the strains of the English and Welsh national anthems, the Parade came to attention to salute Her Royal Highness. It was our own very proud moment when escorted by Miss Griffith, our Chairman, the Duchess moved to inspect the L.A. contingent, speaking words of gracious praise and interest to a number of volunteers. Afterwards a party to celebrate this auspicious occasion was held in Ebenezer Schoolroom which was gay, festive and very inviting. Soon there was a happy hum of satisfaction, evidence that everyone was thoroughly enjoying the quite exceptionally good tea. Then there was the breathtaking moment when Valley winners of the Hostels Garden Competition received the lovely challenge cup presented by Miss A. K. Ellis. There were cheers, more cheers, happy speeches and generous votes of thanks. So passed a very special day to be long remembered by many who work in and for the W.L.A. in the counties of Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire.

WARWICKS.—On Oct 21st. our Benevolent Fund Appeal was opened with a mechanised parade of W.L.A. members through Leamington Spa. This was organised mainly through the great help of the county W.A.E.C., and consisted of nearly 300 L.G.'s mounted on tractors, trailers and various kinds of farm machinery. After assembling at Leamington Hostel, the parade passed through the main streets to the Town Hall, where the salute was taken by the Mayor.

L. G.'s and visitors were then entertained to a marvellous tea by our Chairman, Mrs. Fielden and the Mayor spoke congratulating the W.L.A. on its Parade and wishing it success in its Appeal. Many volunteers stayed on in Leamington that evening for the Concert at the Town Hall given in aid of our Funds by the Lockheed Fragments Party. During the previous week the American Army Camp at Stoneleigh had given our Appeal a tremendous start with a series of concerts at Leamington, Kenilworth and Coventry. Their "G. I. Jamboree" was greatly appreciated and raised a handsome sum of money. On Oct. 18th. Mr. Hughes, Chairman of the W.A.E.C., invited W.L.A. Forewomen and officials of the W.L.A. and W.A.E.C. to a dinner party at Wolverton Court.

WILTS.—The event of the month was Lady Denman's visit here. She attended the monthly Committee Meeting in the morning and after lunching with the Committee Members spent a successful afternoon with the District Representatives at Conock Manor. There was a most interesting discussion on post-war problems of L.A. volunteers and all conundrums produced by D.R.'s were satisfactorily answered. The Warden and staff provided a marvellous tea. After such a helpful and instructive day our only regret is that Lady Denman cannot come more often.

County Rallies held in Salisbury and Malmesbury proved very successful. Collections were taken in Salisbury Cathedral and Malmesbury Abbey for the Benevolent Fund, and as a result of Wiltshire's effort since August we were able to give Lady Denman a cheque for £750. Lady Denman drew the ticket for the famous quilt which was won by M. Sheldrake, of Westbury Hostel.

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WORCS.—Flag Days are being held all over the County for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. So far, they have been most successful, and we are now in the throes of organising several more. The L.G.'s Council has just celebrated its first birthday. The meeting on Oct. 14th was very well attended and the delegates gave a warm welcome to our new County Secretary, Miss Manley. We were lucky in having as our speaker, Mr. Donald McCullough, Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the inventor of the Brains Trust. Mr. McCullough kept us in fits of laughter as he told us how the Brains Trust started in London, and we all listened eagerly to stories about Professors Joad and Huxley, and Commander Campbell. Everyone went home smiling. We are now settling down to our Winter programme. Classes in handicrafts, music, French, etc., have started at the hostels. The Clubs have re-opened, and are ready to welcome new members. The British Council has arranged a series of Anglo-American discussions to be held on Tuesday evenings at The Old Hall, Upton-on-Seven. This innovation is proving immensely popular.

YORKS. E. R.—The first presentation of Proficiency Badges took place at the County Hall, Beverly, on Oct. 18th. 39 girls were able to be present, together with a large number of parents and visitors, including members and officials of the W.A.E.C., Judges, N.F.U. and the W.L.A. County Committee. The presentations were made by Capt. the Hon. Claud Lambton, the Minister's Liaison Officer, who gave a most encouraging address. It was an afternoon much enjoyed by all, with a very welcome tea, which was appreciated by more than 80 people. On Sept. 27th, a Harvest Festival was held at Howden Hostel. 60 were present including visitors. The Rev. Frith, Congregational Minister presided, and all gifts, mostly from farmers and market gardeners in the district, were sent to the Hospital at Goole. At the request of the girls, a short meeting is to be held weekly at this hostel, kindly conducted by the Rev. Frith. Keyingham Hostel raised the sum of £4 3s. 6d. for the Benevolent Fund from the proceeds of a dance.

YORKS. N. R.—is determined not to remain amongst those at the bottom of the Benevolent Fund list. Our target figure for the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds is £1,000 between Oct. 1st and Jan. 31st. Plans for raising this are being made in every town and village. Stokesley Hostel Concert Party has already raised £40 at Great Smeaton, a dance at Thirlby organised by Miss M. Kershaw resulted in £20 and (quite the largest effort up to date) the "Harvest Home" Ball, organised by a Committee of W.L.A. Representatives and girls from the Brompton Hostel, was held in the Allertonshire School, Northallerton. L. G.'s, farmers and members of the Forces all came and though the exact figure raised is not yet known, it is expected that it will be about £130. In our next County News details will be given of other efforts. On Oct. 14th and 15th an interesting Conference was held by the Y.W.C.A. at Leeming Bar Hostel when three girls from each Y.W.C.A. Hostel in the N.R. were invited. Talks on the work of the Y.W.C.A. were given by Miss Squire and Miss Hessel, and Miss Sturgess Wells organised games which left everyone quite breathless! The Conference ended with an "Open Forum" when many problems were discussed and many queries settled.

FOR SALE.—New, handknitted grey pullover, square neck, Bust 34ins., no sleeves, 34/-; also black suede highheeled shoes, good condition, size 5, 30/-. 58547. c/o Editor, Balcombe Place, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

FOR SALE.—Bottle green coat with vent at back. Bust 34-36ins. Length 44ins. £1 5s No coupons.—Lidbetter, Raywood Cottage, Charing, Kent.

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em-
	£.	s.	d.	ployed
Kent ..	6633	5	2	4029
Essex ..	5177	16	7	3313
Surrey ..	1627	0	4	2199
Hampshire ..	2164	4	1	2030
West Riding ..	1209	0	10	2008
Leicester	1688	19	3	1991
Rutland				
Hertford				
Hertford ..	3923	14	7	1940
East Sussex ..	2439	15	2	1922
Northants ..	2205	9	2	1808
Worcester ..	1828	6	2	1764
Somerset ..	1393	7	7	1747
Devon ..	3030	19	7	1708
Bucks ..	—	—	—	1671
Warwick ..	2504	4	3	1636
West Sussex ..	3300	5	4	1594
Norfolk ..	3128	5	8	1582
Cheshire ..	1558	11	2	1488
Wiltshire ..	1828	6	2	1447
Cornwall ..	782	0	9	1420
Northumberland	1687	4	3	1358
Nottingham ..	480	2	0	1244
N. Riding ..	507	19	2	1242
Gloucester ..	1756	16	0	1205
Berkshire ..	1355	2	5	1135
Hunts 281	931	4	3	1130
Cambs 516				
Ely 333				
East Suffolk ..	1683	1	11	1063
Bedford ..	906	12	11	1053
Oxford ..	3514	8	8	1045
Salop ..	1313	19	11	994
E. Riding ..	257	11	1	968
Durham ..	1352	19	0	914
Cumbs. & West'd	491	11	6	870
Lincs—Kesteven	731	0	0	840
Dorset ..	949	11	1	806
Stafford ..	761	1	5	773
Lincs—Lindsey	591	10	10	714
Glamorgan ..	699	13	11	697
Hereford ..	1176	11	3	655
Monmouth ..	625	9	1	631
West Suffolk ..	1353	15	1	624
Lincs—Holland	808	13	6	609
Denbigh ..	545	8	5	595
Derby ..	984	18	9	565
Flintshire ..	474	1	10	565
London & Middx.	771	8	2	545
N. Wales ..	1377	5	2	537
Isle of Wight ..	126	9	5	326
Montgomery ..	293	0	11	270
Brecon & Radnor	307	11	0	249
Pembroke ..	956	1	8	Not rec'd.
Cards & Carm's ..	533	10	11	"
Timber Corps ..	4151	14	7	3119

On the 31st October 1944 the total numbers of volunteers in employment was approximately 66,875.

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