

B. J. Hewitt



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## HOSTELS OR BILLETS?

MAN'S craving for personal justice in an unjust world is a fine and healthy symptom, for the passive acceptance of injustice is an acknowledgement of defeat. But in war time, although no effort to distribute the burden evenly is too great, it is obvious that there cannot be anything like equality of sacrifice or service. The Land Army has this problem in the difference between hostels and billets. Both have advantages—the hostels offer greater opportunities for community life and amusement, billets give greater peace and quiet, freedom from regulations and a much better opportunity for those who live in them to become part of the neighbouring community. On the whole, especially with new volunteers, hostels appear to be more popular—but only a comparatively small proportion of the Land Army can ever be accommodated in hostels and the rest have got to accept this fact as part of the fortunes of war. Soldiers cannot choose whether they will be housed in the ancient homes of England or in tin huts, nor where or how or when they will be sent to fight.

Members of the W.L.A. have proved their willingness to help their country in its urgent need and they have shown wonderful adaptability to new work and new conditions of life. Those who would like to live in hostels but cannot do so, can add one more laurel to those already won by the Land Army by cheerfully accepting the inevitable.

Those who live in hostels should try to make their hostel a centre for all members of the Land Army in the area, and they should also remember that their particular privileges have duties attached. To make a happy hostel, grievances must be minimised (*someone* always has a grievance), emergencies must be cheerfully met and everyone must be ready to help instead of hinder those who are carrying on the very difficult job of running a hostel in war time.

M.A.P. 3

## Tasmanian Women's Land Army

*Miss Hodgson, Organising Secretary of the W.L.A. in Tasmania, has written the following account of the work of that Force and of conditions in Tasmania for "THE LAND GIRL."*



**T**HE Women's Land Army in Tasmania (pop. 250,000) numbers 250—we have not yet your advantages because our volunteers have to provide their working clothes and uniform and are only given pocket money during the latter part of the training period. We hope to improve matters in time.

In Tasmania, farming is practised more intensely than on the mainland of Australia. The properties are smaller, the average size of mixed farms being about 1,000 acres, of dairy farms about 100 acres. The climate is mild; in some areas snow falls, but it does not lie on the ground except on the hills. We have severe frosts and suffer when icy winds blow. In summer, the heat can be intense, but is tempered in the coastal areas by cool sea breezes and never reaches the extreme temperatures of the other States. For the past couple of years the island has been drought

stricken, which, though bad for production, has meant that the farmer has been able to do his work with reduced labour until now.

If you look at the map of Tasmania, on the North West Coast, from Devonport to Circular Head, mixed farming, dairying, grazing, fat lamb production and potato growing are gone in for extensively. Between Devonport and Launceston and from there to the North East, agriculture, grazing and dairying are engaged in. The Midlands, through which the main Hobart-Launceston Highway passes, raises sheep and fodder crops. Orchards and hop fields flourish in the Derwent Valley as far as Gretna, beyond which to Bothwell, there is good grazing for sheep and cattle. On the South side of the Derwent are small fruit farms. In the Tamar Valley and down the Huon are the big apple and pear orchards, small fruits and some dairy-

On the sheep stations, except in the case of the stud sheep, animals are not folded at night in winter as in England. Near lambing, the ewes are brought nearer the homestead and close to better pastures. Many properties have mountain runs; seeing the jumbuks in this rough country would make you wonder what sheep could find to live on there, but they do well, merinos in particular do best on this type of country and sheep in general are often freer from diseases than those on richer pastures. For many years now, Tasmanian Merino wool has brought top prices at the wool sales.

Just before shearing, the sheep are brought back from the mountain runs, and travellers by road are liable to meet mobs, thousands strong, blocking the way. Shearing is an exciting time for the novice, who sees the shed cleaned in readiness, machines in order, the arrival of the shearing gang and their cook. The requisite number of sheep are mustered under cover, so that the shearers do not have to wait for dew-wet sheep to dry or if rain falls in the night. All day long mobs are brought up to the shed, the shorn sheep have to be tallied, culled, branded and taken out. In Australia sheep have to be crutched regularly to guard against blow-fly strike. These flies, sometimes called Australian canaries, are a worse menace to sheep and Australia than the Japs. At present, experiments are in progress to see whether lambs with four inch tails fare better against fly-strike than those with two inch tails.

Dipping, drenching, treating footrot are other chores of shepherding.

Except where fodder crops are grown to any extent, pastoralists so far are able to do with less hands than the dairy or mixed farmer, because the greater part of the work is done at regular intervals, so that as yet there has been no great demand for the assistance of Land Girls, which is bad luck as most think they would prefer to work on sheep stations.

There are only a few piggeries, built on the indoor system, grazing pigs being provided with movable shelters, with some permanent farrowing and fattening pens. To me, Denis seems a much sadder animal if kept indoors and unable to indulge his insatiable curiosity, not to mention rooting or wallowing in a mud bath of his own making. I always remember a visit to a farm where thousands of pigs were kept. I stood on a fence beside the swineherd while he

called the porkers in. Far off in the paddock of rape one could see movement like a rippling wave coming steadily nearer until in groups of twenty or thirty, the piglets emerged, very seriously trotting home for the evening grain. Owing to British needs, bacon stock is now on the up grade again. Prior to the war, there was not a great market for Australian pig meat, but at the outbreak, producers were told that Great Britain wanted bacon. Farmers began breeding baconers, then came the order for porkers instead, then owing to shortage of shipping, not even porkers were wanted from this distance. Now the demand is again for baconers; but with American soldiers to feed, I expect it will be altered soon to porkers, plus beans.

The greatest demand for girls comes from dairy farmers, some are employed on mixed grazing and agricultural properties where they milk, feed stock, harrow, weed and hoe, dig out rabbit burrows, in fact do much the same jobs that Land Girls do in England.

One girl, an ex-typist, after a year's experience is now a skilled tractor driver and has harrowed, disced, drilled hundreds of acres, soon she will be an experienced plough woman as well. During the year she has mustered many sheep, being often away outback all day by herself, mustering the run. It was good to see her, riding off to bring in a mob, her dog up on the saddle behind. Other girls, after a season assisting with lambing will have full responsibility this year. This year also more work will be done by members with seed production. Much of our seed for vegetables and other crops was imported, but we are called upon to provide our own and some for Britain.

Last harvest, the W.L.A. had a camp which I personally supervised in a small fruits district. The country was hilly and the weather the wildest for years; for days a fierce wind whistled ominously up the valley, damaging trees and roof-tops and disturbing our dreams. Other nocturnal disturbances were caused to tent dwellers by a couple of frolicsome draught horses. Inside the huts occasionally restless sleepers were too great a strain for the hessian covered bunks, which gave way and precipitated the squealing occupants on the floor.

For some, picking began at dawn, others going to distant grounds had breakfast first (including fresh straw-

berries or raspberries) and took lunch with them.

None had picked before so that the first few days were physically trying. Most of the beds are on the slope of a hill, some so steep that keeping one's balance while picking is a fine art. At one ground the girls listened to a mother saying to her children, "pick, pick, pick, pick, can't yer!" Unconsciously our members picked to the same rhythm, the refrain remaining in their sub-conscious minds long after. Most of the growers had beds on different hills and when one was picked out the workers trekked like pilgrims, in Indian file, up the slopes to the new ground, carrying tins and billies. Competition was keen for the highest tally for the day. At first it was easy to get over 100 lbs., but at the third and fourth picking, only the expert could get a decent score. Over 22 tons of fruit, strawberries, raspberries and currants were picked, most of it for jam, and the growers all want the girls again next year. Besides the main camp, other members were billeted in huts on growers' properties. From these girls I would receive messages to go and deal with some problem which meant I had to walk up and down several hills, quite as exhausting as picking, but members working in various fields cheered me on the way.

Wherever our active members are sent, farmers and women are becoming more Land Army-minded, and many country girls, who are still reluctant to join, nevertheless have taken on land work and are becoming land-conscious.

On behalf of the Land Girls in this State, I send greetings to members of the W.L.A. in Great Britain. We know that it means hard and unspectacular work, but we know also that there are many compensations, apart from the satisfaction of doing a vital service. Some of us would like to write to members of the W.L.A. in Britain.

Good luck to you all from the Tasmanian "Jennyroos" (feminine of Jackaroo, apprentice farmer) down under.

A. M. HODGSON.

"Women have now become an established feature of full time agricultural labour and they are doing good work. I am pleased to say we now have a big membership among the ranks of the W.L.A."—Alderman Gooch, President of the National Union of Agricultural Workers, at the Biennial Conference.

## Broadcasting the News

Lady Denman, on behalf of the W.L.A., was amongst the women leaders who sent a message of good cheer to the women of other countries on the anniversary of the outbreak of war. The message was broadcast all over the world in many different languages.

Mention of the splendid part played by the Land Army in bringing home the harvest was made by the B.B.C. last month in their overseas service to North America, Africa and Europe. The newspapers, too, have been full of Land Army harvest photographs and of praise for the good work members have put in.

Munition workers will be seeing shortly a Land Army threshing gang in East Sussex which "stars" in a new version of the Ministry of Information Film Magazine "Women on the War Front." This film is circulated privately to factories and is also sent to Russia. Another group of volunteers, this time working on a farm near Winchester, was filmed by the Paramount News Reel Company which was also in search of harvest scenes.

A film in general circulation during September and the first part of October of special interest to the Land Army is the Y.W.C.A. film which has a commentary by Mrs. Churchill. The many ways in which the Y.W.C.A. is helping women war workers are depicted, including their part in the management of some of the Land Army hostels.

Some volunteers may have met already Miss Watson and the "V" calf, Lady Victory. These two are touring the country together collecting for the Red Cross Agricultural Fund. The places already visited include the chief London markets (at some of which pennies rolled in at the rate of 50 a minute), Reading, Dorking and towns in Essex and Hertfordshire. The calf's worst misdeed at the moment is the attempted theft of a child's apple in the middle of an auction!

**This month "The Land Army" Broadcast after "Farm Record" in the Home Service Programme will be on the evening of Thursday, 29th October, when it is hoped to give suggestions for spare time activities in the winter evenings. Any ideas sent in advance to Miss Brew, at Land Army Headquarters, Balcombe, will be welcome.**

## Adaptability

It was my lucky day when Kathleen came to the farm five weeks after I myself arrived. We soon found that we had a lot in common, an important asset when working twelve hours with someone and living in the same digs for the other twelve. When the spring made its first appearance, Kathleen and I got our farmer's permission to move from our digs into an unused chicken house on the farm. "The Roost" as we call our new home, is twelve by thirty foot and has eight big windows along the sunny side, overlooking a lovely view. We divided the inside into two rooms by means of a curtain which was no longer used at home. Various friends and relations supplied scraps of material and we have very gay patchwork cushions and curtains. Kathleen's brother-in-law made us two very comfortable chairs, taken from the front seats of an old car with casters on the bottom. Between us we managed to borrow a carpet, some lino, a table, kitchen utensils, cutlery and crockery, none of which matches, but it is all gay and bright. We put up some shelves and cupboards for food and "The Roost" soon looked very cosy, a tin of distemper giving the finishing touches to the inside walls.

After three weeks came our first lovely surprise. The farmer, seeing that we seemed to be settling down and getting on alright, bought us a small kitchen range. This is a really treasured boon now and we light it up on chilly evenings and make hot toast by the fire and read by the light of an oil lamp and the burning logs smell so warm and sweet, making a peaceful evening after a hard day's work.

We have no local cinema, but in such a lovely corner of England it seems unnecessary, though before the war I was a keen film fan; instead of dashing off to see the latest film, Kathleen and I go for a walk or off to visit friends in the village. We have found a lot of new friends and at one house the people have earned our undying thanks for providing a bath whenever we like to call, a most generous offer which any Land Girl appreciates.

Before the war (and when funds permitted) horse riding was my favourite hobby, but I was no expert. My farmer breeds pedigree shires, but he has one light chestnut of the type to make a good hunter. He was a two



year old when I first saw him and had not been broken in nor had he even had a halter on his head. I was asked to break him in during my spare time and though I felt my chances of success were small I said I'd do what I could. After six months, he is three years old now, he has become a simply lovely horse to ride and is just beginning to jump. He is a beautiful creature and as no one else on the farm rides I am allowed to take him out whenever I like, which is nearly every evening. Kathleen wants to learn to ride, so I am teaching her on a little black pony belonging to a man in the village, and we have a lot of fun.

Kathleen was a hairdresser before the war and so I have a hair set whenever I like. Short hair seems the most convenient, but if not short it should be a simple style, glamour is hardly suitable in a cowshed at 5 a.m., when you feel more asleep than awake! But there are those rare occasions when we get leave and we want to look more like our old selves again and then perhaps it is worth spending a few minutes with the curlers or curling rags the night before going home. It is also a good plan to sacrifice the use of make-up until after working hours and rub some of that hoarded cold cream into the face before going to bed the night prior to leave.

It certainly is a job to decide to spend or save our clothes coupons. The one thing we do need which is not provided with uniform is gloves. Most of us have an old jersey at home that we no longer wear. Well, why not unpick it and make several pairs of warm gloves or mittens for work? Or make a pair with some odd pieces of wool. The cows or sheep won't mind if the colours do clash. Gumboots have to be treated with great respect now, and some of us may not be fortunate enough to have a pair as they are

getting very scarce, but if they are kept in a cool place while not in use and always washed clean directly they are taken off their life can be considerably prolonged.

The seams of my dungarees gave out at the knees a little while ago so I undid the hem at the bottom and cut a piece off to make patches, the result is that they now have extra strength at the knees and will last a good deal longer.

Darning socks seems an everlasting task but the darn lasts a lot longer if you can lay the threads along in the ordinary way but instead of weaving through them back the other way make a chain stitch across the first threads. Kathleen and I find that if we treat our uniform carefully and use our permits for our Land Army necessities, our remaining civilian coupons can be saved for more feminine apparel.

Cooking in "The Roost" is quite revolutionary, we use a Beatrice stove when the kitchen range is not alight and an old biscuit tin makes a very good oven. We sometimes have a small joint for our ration or a favourite dish consists of a stew pot into which we put meat, carrots, beans, peas or any other vegetables and when served we call this "Milk Maid's Mash," but it tastes very good and is easily cooked as we can leave it on a low flame when we come in for lunch.

Young spring nettles are a very tasty vegetable cooked like spinach and served with a poached egg. We were singling mangles last week and saved the tops which also made a good green food. It is difficult to get macaroni now but boiled rice is good substitute in a macaroni cheese. Our cheese ration is certainly sufficient to flavour a good many dishes.

We have had such a lot of fun since we moved into our new home that we are determined to stay there in the winter and once again the farmer has backed us up, by running a tap inside for us and offering to line the hut with some thin panelling material so we are looking forward to some cosy winter evenings by our fire and relaxing in our easy chairs with a book or some darning.

S. Stiven, W.L.A. 53921 (Kent).

**FOR SALE**—Morris 8 h.p. Saloon car. 1935 model. Licensed and in good condition, including tyres. One owner. Apply Brew, Balcombe Place, Balcombe, Sussex.

## With which we Work

I had been been bitten on the hand by a mangy Red Squirrel and thought it was swollen. I said so to a friend. "Your hands are so big you can't really tell," she answered. Since that day, I have thought of a good many replies to her remark, but being slow at repartee I said nothing at the time.

I am a Land Girl. My hands are not extra large but they are useful hands, with strong fingers. Definitely a worker's hands. They certainly have developed since I have been in the Land Army, but that is only natural. If it were not for hands like mine, no fields would be ploughed, no corn sown, no dung spread, no hay made, no harvest carried and no milking done; in fact the masses would be starving.

If it were not for hands like mine, there would be no work done at all. Pen-pushing will not keep a nation in food; will not transport that food or pen-pushers themselves to and from their offices; will not build great docks, great dams or dwelling houses; will not make roads or railways. In fact, we should not get anywhere without hands like mine.

"How hard and rough your hands are," people say to me. Of course our hands will get rough and hard, no matter what lotions and creams we use. In winter time cracks are unavoidable—what with rinsing them, during milking, after each cow and thawing pipes in frosty weather. I think we ought to make our hands our badge and be proud of their hardness and roughness, for it is a sign of toughness.

F. M. PUTLAND, W.L.A. 30453.  
(Bucks.)

## Competition

Two prizes of one guinea each are offered for the two best WINTER DIARIES kept by members of the W.L.A. They should cover the months of November, December, January and February and may be illustrated with drawings or photographs. They need not be day-to-day records but should cover each month. Special credit will be given for careful observation of things connected with the author's work, local customs and seasonal changes. Original verses and stories may be included together with the author's comments on events or books which may come her way.

## The Women's Land Army Benevolent Fund

AS already announced in "THE LAND GIRL," the Women's Land Army now has its own Benevolent Fund, which is in process of being registered as a War Charity. The administration of the Fund is in the hands of a small committee of management which has been approved by the Minister of Agriculture and which consists of the following:—Lady Denman (Chairman), Honorary Director of the W.L.A.; Lady Spencer, Chairman of the Northants W.L.A. County Committee, one of the first people to start a club for Land Girls; Lady Briscoe, Chairman of West Suffolk W.L.A. County Committee, whose experience in medical matters will be of inestimable value; Mrs. Burrell, Chairman of West Sussex County Committee; Mrs. Lea, Chairman of Worcestershire County Committee; Mrs. F. C. Jenkins, Assistant Director of the W.L.A.; and, last but by no means least, Mr. Donald McCullough, well known to many of us on the air as the brilliant question-master of the Brains Trust and also as Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Every Land Army Volunteer has the right to apply for help from the Fund and all applications must be made through the County Secretary of the County in which the volunteer is working or, in the case of members of the Timber Corps, through Mrs. Stevenson at Bristol. The Committee is anxious to help deserving cases as generously as funds will allow but grants or loans will not be made when help can be obtained from other sources such as the National Health Insurance scheme, an Approved Society or the Workmen's Compensation Act.

In addition to its work in connection with the administration of moneys

received, the Committee will do all in its power to make the existence of the Benevolent Fund generally known so that it becomes recognised as a Fund serving the Land Army in ways comparable with those by which the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens' Families Association and the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund serve the Armed Forces.

Before we can expect others to help us we must show that we can help ourselves and we therefore ask that a special effort should be made during the coming months. The season for dances and whist drives and entertainments is beginning—will every hostel, every group of Land Girls and every District Representative set a target for the winter? The Spitfire Fund showed what both groups and individuals can do when they set their minds to it—the need now is for every Land Girl to set her mind to our own Benevolent Fund. We want to raise enough money not only to help cases of real hardship now but also to build up a reserve fund to help members of the W.L.A. to train for, or establish themselves in, post-war occupations, including, I need hardly say, work on the land.

Contributions may be sent direct to me at Land Army Headquarters or they may be made through the Editor of THE LAND GIRL. Receipts will be sent for donations sent to me, those sent through the Editor will be acknowledged in the Magazine. Particulars of donations received in September are listed this month. I hope that every month throughout the winter we shall be able to print a bigger and better list than the one for the month before.

NELA BOWER,  
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer,  
W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

### Competition for Land Girls

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## Proved in Practice

There were a great many useful tips, found successful in practice in the "Adaptability" competition; a few of these will be published each month in the hope that our readers will find them helpful.

### Clothes

If the back of your shirt is torn, cut it out and use as a pattern and put in any similarly coloured material (the writer used part of an old nightgown). Use the good parts of the discarded back to reinforce the collar. (K. Rawkins, W. Sussex.)

A few inches of elastic sewn into pieces of tape do as well for knickers as elastic all the way round.

A successful skirt was made out of an old coat worn out at the elbows. The whole front of an old skirt was also darned with success. (A. Daubeny, Somerset.)

Stitch a piece of material inside the toes and heels of new stockings and elbows of new jerseys. (E. Moss Holland, Oxon.)

### Food

For sandwiches, grate or finely chop carrot and cheese, add shredded lettuce, spring onion or garlic to taste, salt and pepper and bind with tomato ketchup or bottled sauce. (I. Reid Watson, Somerset.)

Cut up prunes small as a substitute for currants and raisins in cakes. (E. Kipps, Norfolk.)

Lettuce leaves cooked taste like spinach. Young dandelion leaves with cayenne pepper and oil and vinegar are very nice. (P. Fish, Somerset.)

Cocoa mixed with water, a little margarine and sugar makes a delicious chocolate spread for sandwiches. (A. Daubeny, Somerset.)

### Soap

Scraps of soap put into a jar and filled up with boiling water makes a good jelly for a shampoo. (M. Ward Hunt, Northants.)

### Hair

Hair curlers can be made out of lamp wick and strong wire. Push the wire through the centre of the wick and bend in half. (E. Taverner, Kent.)

### Miscellaneous

Kipps (Norfolk) says that all old stamps (untorn) will be gratefully received by the Queen's Hospital for Children, London, E.2.

This month's cover design is by Miss N. D. Bassett, W.L.A. 17151, of East Kent.

## I Wonder

I wonder if crows  
Get cramp in their toes  
As they suddenly land with a flop;  
And I wonder if worms  
Ever have any qualms  
As they hastily enter the crop  
Perhaps the birds learn  
That even worms turn.  
As they rapidly pass out of sight  
Poor crows, do they suffer  
From those who are tougher?  
They mightn't—who knows—but they might.

I wonder if bees  
Ever happen to sneeze  
When the pollen gets into their noses?  
I wonder if ants  
Can enjoy a romance,  
They put work before love, one supposes.  
I wonder if moles  
Get bored in their holes  
And want to go gay like the rest,  
Do they train centipedes  
To guide them on leads?  
I wonder—*does* Nature know best?

B. BARTON, W.L.A. 23967 Yorks.

## "Seedtime and Harvest"

"I carried the Pilgrim Fathers away on  
their lonely quest,  
With the seed of a mighty nation, to plant  
it in the West."

Anon.

So wrote a Naval poet of a tramp-ship,  
and how true his words! That little  
Mayflower with its handful of gallant,  
but ordinary people, counting liberty to  
worship God in the light given them, was  
indeed the "seed of a mighty nation."  
Who would have believed this statement  
when the Mayflower sailed away in 1620?  
Yet now in 1942 we are privileged to  
know its truth.

America rich and powerful, strong and  
free, is now stretching out generous hands  
to help, to all needing her. Workers in  
the cities all over that great land, are  
turning out at breathless speed, the  
needed goods, and the ships to carry them  
all over the world. Wonderful things are  
happening amid the terrors and sorrows  
of war. God maketh the wrath of men  
to praise Him, and He doeth His will in  
the armies of Heaven, and among the  
inhabitants of the earth.

ELLA A. WHITE.



## Scottish Notes

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended," and Scottish Women students to the number of about 750 will be resuming their studies, strengthened in body and refreshed in spirit, for, during their holidays they worked on the land and in so doing helped enormously to ensure next winter's loaf, Scotch broth and porridge. That they enjoyed the experience there is no doubt, and that their efforts have been appreciated is clear from the testimonials of many grateful employers. Some of the students were placed individually on farms but the biggest proportion worked in squads and lived communally in camps. One group found time after the day's labours to compile an amusing record of their experiences, published under the all-embracing title of "The Wigtownshire War Cry, with which is incorporated the Turnip Thinners' Gazette, the Docken-Pullers' Adviser and the Hay Makers' Comic Cuts." The tone of the magazine is delightfully original and entertaining but a serious note is struck in the "Editorial," where it is stated "a single weed pulled may not seem much of a contribution to victory over Hitler, but a whole field weeded is a field cleared for action, whether for growing food or grazing cattle; and the more food—vegetable or animal—we can grow, the nearer we really come to victory," and later in the article, "it is good that we should sometimes work with our hands upon the surface of the earth, for by this means we link ourselves with the men and women who have always worked on the land, men and women whom we might otherwise never have met, and whom we might have despised as mere country bumpkins; while they in their turn might have looked down on us as people who 'had never done a day's work in their lives.' Well done! And that is how the 'regulars' feel about it too—of them including the Lumber Jills we now have about 5,500 in employment or training.

**A New Training Centre.**—To meet the ever-growing demand for trained girls another centre has been established at Dunira Home Farm, Comrie, where through the generosity of the owner, W. Gilchrist Macbeth, Esq., training facilities with accommodation for 12 girls and a warden have been made available.

**Welfare and Benevolent Fund.**—Scotland is to have its own Fund which it is hoped will be generously supported by all districts. More details of the organisation will shortly be available. Meantime please be thinking out ways of raising money.

**Berwickshire.**—Mr. A. Chapman, M.P., Under Secretary of State for Scotland, in visiting the W.L.A. hostel at Allanbank recently said to the girls there that he "didn't know what we'd have done without you"—and so say hundreds of farmers all over the country.

**East Lothian.**—J. Maxwell and E. Hill organised a dance and raised £22 for welfare purposes.

**West Fife** staged an interesting debate on the subject of "Should the W.L.A. continue after the war?" the speakers being Rita Cook and Edith Fletcher for the W.L.A. and Messrs. A. Robertson and T. Inglis for the Young Farmers' Club. The W.L.A. won easily.

**Kirkcubrightshire.**—Two small gangs have been started and are working satisfactorily at Kirkcubright and New Abbey.

The local W.L.A. was represented at an inspection of Civil Defence Units recently, the inspection being carried out by Mr. Hector McNeil in the absence of Sir Stephen Blisland.

**Lanarkshire (South).**—Mrs. Campbell, Dolphinton, kindly gave a party for the girls at which Mrs. Douglas presented Good Service badges.

There was also a rally at Symington arranged by Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Douglas again attending to present badges.

Carlisle Church of Scotland Women's Guild is taking a great interest in the welfare of the W.L.A. in the area.

**Midlothian.**—A very successful whist drive and dance organised by the land girls in the district was held at Pathhead for the Red Cross Fund—the proceeds amounted to £33 10s. Molly Syme was M.C. and Mrs. Callander of Preston Hall gave a short address on the splendid work done by the girls.

**Pertshire (East).**—Mrs. Agnew gave a talk on the W.L.A. to the Girls' Training Corps at Morgan Academy, Dundee and was accompanied by Audrey Dunlop, Jean Ruthven-Stuart and Isobel Walker, who all spoke about their particular jobs in dairying, market gardening, and general farm work.

**Renfrewshire.**—Miss MacDougall spoke about the W.L.A. at a well attended meeting of the Girls Training Corps in Renfrew.

## Fuel Economy

When the Save Fuel campaign started I decided to try haybox cookery. I am not going into details as to how to make a haybox as there have been articles in the papers and talks on the wireless about trying it; I can only say I have found it the most unqualified success, and it saves not only fuel but time and money. I put the porridge for breakfast into it every night. Mix the usual amount of oats or oatmeal with the usual amount of water, bring to the boil and cook for two minutes, and into the haybox it goes, to come out still hot and thoroughly cooked next morning, though it is necessary to put it on the stove for two or three minutes to get piping hot. Meat and vegetable stews can be perfectly cooked. I simmer these for half an hour, bring to the boil and put in the haybox. When I get home again all I have to do is put the saucepan on the stove for five minutes and the meal is ready. You can imagine what a blessing that is if one is late home from work. Milk puddings I do in a glass jar with a screw top, cooking the milk and rice, or whatever I am using in a saucepan for ten minutes, then in the jar in boiling water for 5 minutes. When I take it out I put the contents in a pie dish and put under the grill to brown for a few minutes. Fruit can also be stewed. Bring quickly to the boil and immediately put in the haybox. The beauty of it is that the food cannot be overcooked or burnt. You must have tight fitting lids to whatever receptacle you use and they must be nearly full. Minimum times in the haybox are:—Boiled beef or mutton 4-5 hours, Stews 3-4 hours, boiled bacon 3½-4½ hours, Soups 2 hours, Milk puddings 2 hours, Haricot beans all night after usual soaking. A longer time does not spoil anything.

K. L. Hill, W.L.A. 9483 (Surrey).

## Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I was one of the lucky ones to be asked to our "Typhoon Cheque" presentation at our beautiful new Headquarters in London and since then have thought how grand it would be if the girls from different counties could meet there more often. To meet all the Heads of our Organisation made it so much nicer too, as they were all so interested in hearing of our various types of work, and funny experiences. Even in those few hours I made friends with several other girls, and realise how we should keep in touch as it helps us with our work to get a useful hint from another County. Our Magazine keeps us in touch too, and I look forward to it every month—in fact the three of us at Cottesmore Farm, Ann, Pat and myself always have a lunch time discussion every time it arrives. We three are exceptionally lucky, as we are able to work with our farmer's wife and the men to keep the farm running whilst the farmer himself is away with our Gallant Navy. I, for one, hope to continue farming after the war—and would be pleased to correspond with any other girl who would like to join with me—Australia being my "goal." To my other pen-friends in the land Army I send all good wishes—and the best of luck to all newcomers—stick it, because it is a real job.

Yours sincerely,

Oxon. J. Aldridge W.L.A. 15096.

Dear Editor,

When I read your editorial "Charity Begins at Home," I felt at once that here was a most pertinent suggestion. I have often wondered what is going to happen to all of us in the near future. The conclusion of the war will mean the automatic release of hundreds of thousands of men and women who cannot all be absorbed immediately into industry. For the average person even a short period of unemployment means anxiety, perhaps hardship. We do not want anyone to say "Was it only for this I gave up so much?" If only everyone in the Land Army were to contribute £1, either at once or bit by bit, we would have over £40,000, a splendid capital to start with. Please accept my contribution.

Wishing you every success in your Fund,

Hunts. J. West, W.L.A. 17014.

Dear Editor,

Some people have wondered why Kent, numerically the leading County for the W.L.A., has shown such a poor return on the Spitfire Fund list. Worcestershire, with less than half the number of W.L.A. members, contributes £533 2s. 10d.; Kent only £81 9s. 4d. In fairness to the Kent girls, we should explain that this is not owing to niggardliness on their part, but to the fact that Kent, as a County, has provided its own complete Fighter Squadron, at a cost of £110,000, and that the Kent Land Girls have naturally preferred to support their own County's effort. They saw enough of the Battle of Britain to rise generously to the occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Kent. V. M. M. Cox.

Dear Editor,

Over 25 members of the W.L.A. were present at the first M. of I. Film Show held at Stanhill Hostel, Bowdon, on Sept. 8th. The front room proved itself a splendid cinema and the Ministry's compact talkie was greatly admired. We began with pictures of the war effort in India, went on to the landing of British Forces in Madagascar, a review of the Australian Navy and pictures from the Dominions and Colonies of their ever increasing war effort. Back to the Home Front for the "Way to Plough" which was of particular interest to the Land Army. In another film we saw how the splendid Russian factory workers entertain their comrades at the theatre. Afterwards we had excellent refreshments and a chance to talk to friends, old and new.

We were proud to know that usually these films are not shown to less than 50 civilians although there were about 30 of us—so we felt that at last the Authorities had recognised the Land Army as a fighting Force. We were pleased to hear that further shows are to be given each month.

Yours sincerely,

Cheshire. J. Ryder, W.L.A. 62746.

Dear Editor,

I wonder if among the readers of THE LAND GIRL there are some who know anything about rabbit breeding? Any kind of tip, however small, would be very acceptable as I myself know nothing about it, but being in charge of the "farmyard" section should like to make a success of this new addition, as a meat providing business.

Yours sincerely,

Surrey. E. Lane, W.L.A. 62336.

## Calon at y Gwaith



*An Open Letter from a member of the North Wales W.L.A. Committee to all Welsh-speaking Volunteers.*

Wedi teithio o amgylch mewn ffermydd yma ac acw a galw ar wahanol aelodau o'r Fyddin Dir, deathum i'r penderfyniad fod eu llwyddiant yn dibynnu i raddau helaeth iawn a'r yspryd sydd ynddynt tuag at y gwaith.

Gwn fod y gwaith yn galed, yr oriau, os nad yn faith yn anhwylyus, a'gorchwylion i'w gwneud ar Sul, Gwyl a Gwaith. O edrych ar y merched o'r cyfeiriad hwm gall fod yn fywyd o boen a blinder iddynt hwy, ac yn fwy fyth i'r ffermwyr sydd mewn cymaint o'u hangen. Treulia y math yma o'r merched lawer o'u hamser yn edrych ar eu horiawr a byddant yn cyfrif faint rhagor o oriau sydd rhyngddynt a chyrraedd wyth awr a deugain eu hwythnos waith. Yn sicr nid oes eisieu y math yma as ffermydd Cymru.

Ferched! yr ydych allan i enill y rhyfel, allan i gnhyrchu bwyd, allan i sefyll ochr yn ochr a'r ffermwyr i gyflawni y gwaith aruthrol. Rhaid cofio fod yr un mor bwysig i ddwyn y cynheuaif i mewn o ffermydd anghysbell ag o rai cyfeus a chyfagos, ac os digwydd mai eich rhan fydd myned i un o'r rhai anghysbell gwnewch eich goreu gan roi eich meddwl ar y gwaith. Teimlwch eich hum yn rhan o'r fferm, fel pe nas gallai fynd ymlaen hebddoch.

Pan yn gwneud darn o waith arbenig peidiwch a rhoi fyny i'r funud os wrth gario ymlaen am rhyw chwarter awr y gallech orffen y gwaith. Ac wrth ei orffen rhowch eiliad neu ddau arall ac ewch gam yn ol ac edrychwch arno. Tybed a fyddwch i'ch cymeradwyo?

Hoffais glywed un o'r merched yn dweud, wrth son am y gwaith, "Mae gennym Ni," hyn a'r llall. Yr oedd hi yn rhan o'r fferm. Dyna'r yspryd yn sicr, ac yna ceir ymddiriedaeth y ffermwyr yn y merched ac aiff baich oddiar eu hysgwyddau.

Ar ddiwedd y rhyfel fe deimlwch fod y diwedd wedi dod ychydig ynghynt am eich bod *Chwi* yn y fyddin ac wedi cyflawni eich rhan.

Aelod o Bwyllgor Gweithiol

Gogledd Cymru.

Dear Editor,

I enclose a photograph of four of our girls, all members of the W.L.A. Six of us all work together at some nurseries in Yorkshire, which is interesting work. There are over five acres under glass and about an acre of land on which we grow sprouts; when the season finishes about the end of September, we have to wash and sterilise the houses for the next crop which will be lettuce. In the winter time between the seasons we spend most of our time making and mending crates, we are always kept very busy, but we like it. Anything to win the war.

Yours sincerely,

M. Fiddling, W.L.A. 51230.

Yorks.

I. Adkins, W.L.A. 55630.

Dear Editor,

I would very much like to be able to correspond with another tractor driver one driving a Ford Ferguson.

Yours sincerely,

E. Langhorne, W.L.A. 27674.

S. Wales.

A/C. 1. F. Selby 1409560, 287 Squadron, 19, Foresters Drive, Wallington, Surrey, would like to find a pen friend in the Land Army, particularly one fond of animals. He is himself the son of a farmer, comes from Devon, and intends to resume farming after the war.

Mrs. Martindale, of Norfolk, finds that for such jobs as pricking out seedlings, it is much easier to sit at a table; she could never get used to bending, and finds that her method does away with many a backache.

## County News

**Beds.**—We hope that by now most of our girls have tracked down the new County Headquarters at 43, Harpur Street, Tel. 2937, opposite the new Telephone Exchange, where we are comfortably and appropriately settled next to the Potatoe Board. Mrs. Graham, of Lodge Farm, Toddington, is very kindly organising a Harvest Home outing for the girls in the way of an afternoon tea at Whipsnade Zoo on Saturday, 26th September. What can be done in the small savings line is admirably shown by the efforts of our Uniform Officer, Mrs. Sharnan, who has collected £1 18s. 10½d. for the Red Cross, by the simple method of keeping a collecting box in the Fashion Salon for the attention of volunteers selecting new autumn models. There is to be a M.O.I. film show at Milton Ernest Hostel on 14th October. This is the first of many film shows which we hope will be given in our Hostels throughout the County this winter. We welcome Mrs. Eugster, who has been appointed Assistant Secretary; she has been helping at the office for some little time and already knows several of our girls.

**Brecon & Radnor.**—Volunteers accommodated at the W.L.A. Hostel, Builth Wells, recently organised a very successful dance, the profits of which amounted to £14 4s. and were given to the local District Nursing Association. The Warden received a letter of thanks from the Organisation which shows how much the efforts of our volunteers to assist local organisations are appreciated. Our congratulations to the following volunteers on their marriages and continued service in the W.L.A.: Mrs. McLagan, nee Hughes, Mrs. Clarke nee Woodhead, and Mrs. Smith nee Smith.

**Bucks.**—In Mrs. E. M. Fellowes, of Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, Land Girls will find a County Chairman who is already well known as a tremendously keen worker for the W.L.A. in her area, and as Chairman of the Hostel and Welfare Committee. It is interesting to recall that she was a W.L.A. Organiser in Northumberland during what used to be known as the "Great War." Mrs. Fellowes is greatly to be envied and admired as she was fortunate enough to be the only woman with the Mount Everest Flying Expedition in 1933. She flew 16,000 miles in a "Puss Moth" with her husband, Air Commodore P. F. M. Fellowes, D.S.O., late R.A.F. and R.N., who was the leader of the Expedition and shared in all the thrilling excitements of that great achievement. Mrs. Clifford Smith, our new County Secretary, was formerly County Secretary for Cornwall, and is therefore entirely familiar with the many W.L.A. problems. The Land Army was greatly honoured by the inclusion of one of its members at the private funeral of the late Duke of Kent, at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. Miss R. D. Fox, who wore her uniform on that sad occasion, has been employed at Coppins Home Farm for over two years.

**Cheshire.**—A series of delightful August parties have been held at which Mrs. Johnson presented good service badges. These were:—At Stoke Hall, by invitation of Mrs. Marshall Brooks; at the Office in Chester, where a lovely tea was provided by Mrs. Davies; and those given by Mrs. Rasbotham and Mrs. Naylor. In the Cuddington area Mrs. Hawke's party was as usual a great success and the volunteers appreciated her generous offer to loan books. We congratulate the Bramhall Club on their enterprise in arranging a stall at the Agricultural Show. Members also gave assistance as stewards and with side shows. On August 1st, volunteers in the Nantwich area gave valuable assistance in the Pony Gymkhana arranged by the Urban Council in connection with the "Stay at home holidays." In N. Cheshire another club has been formed at Bowdon and

volunteers will meet monthly at the Coppice, by invitation of Mrs. Spiegelberg. On the National Day of Prayer a little group of volunteers attended service in the Parish Churches all over the County. In Chester 20 volunteers took part in the Special Service and were allotted a very conspicuous place in the Cathedral where they were joined by the District Representatives and the office staff. Many reports of satisfactory volunteers reach this office each week—the following is a typical letter from an employer:—"I would like to mention the excellent service which Miss — and Miss — are giving me. They are so interested in the work and are willing to learn all they can. I allow them to experiment to gain experience and then try to guide them where mistakes are made. They will do any work they see wants doing, however hard and monotonous it may be. I cannot speak too highly of both of them in their respective capabilities."

**Cornwall.**—We are very sorry indeed to lose Mrs. Clifford Smith, but glad to know that she is to be the Secretary of Buckinghamshire. We welcome our new Secretary, Miss Dorothy Race, and hope she will be happy with us and not find our problems too trying.

We have recently added a number of Lancashire volunteers to our members and we give them a warm welcome to Cornwall.

One of our members, Miss P. V. Cooper, has sent us £5 as a donation to the Cornwall W.L.A. Welfare Fund, and we are most grateful for this!

Although we are tucked away in a corner of England, we did not realise that some people regard us as a separate country, but two local girls have recently enquired about the possibility of transfers to England to "learn their method of training."

**Cumb. and West.**—Our sixth hostel, opened at Appleby on 20th August, has already shown its enterprise by giving a concert to which Land Girls in the district were invited. Various groups of volunteers are busy picking an excellent damson crop in South Westmorland, after which some of them will transfer to our seventh hostel at Cocker-mouth opening early in October. Our Welfare Fund has made a good start with the proceeds of two dances; £22 from South Westmorland, organised by Ethel Mounsey and others, and £14 10s. from Holme St. Cuthbert, Cumberland, organised by Dorothy Chamberlin and others. There is also a beggarly 16s. 6d. collected from committee members for cups of tea after meetings. Hostel members are now having monthly film shows and Lazonby and Bolton Halls have each recently held a most successful dance to which soldiers stationed in the district were invited. A pioneer W.L.A. Club open each Saturday afternoon and evening is being started in Penrith in October with the help of the Towns-women's Guild and we hope others will follow.

**Denbigh.**—Our numbers are still rapidly increasing and we would like to take this opportunity of welcoming the many Lancashire girls that we have with us. They are doing splendid work—most of them are employed by the W.A.C. A large number during the winter will be detailed to work with the threshing sets; they will go daily from the Hostels when transport permits. We are having to make it quite clear that the girls must be willing and ready to go wherever the W.A.C. needs them most. Girls are apt to look upon one Hostel as their home and resent being sent to a billet or another hostel; this is understandable.

The Hostel clubs are proving a success. The Ruthin Hostel is sending the proceeds of its weekly social evenings to the Merchant Navy—the last contribution of £8, the proceeds of a Whist Drive, went to buy cutlery for the canteen. We have been making a smart appearance in several of the local tank week parades.

**Derby.**—During the past two months, tea rallies have been held by three of our Area Representa-

tives, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Wright and Miss Milligan. At all of these, in spite of transport difficulties a good percentage of girls were able to attend, and thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon off duty, and the opportunity it afforded of meeting their fellow workers in the district. Fourteen members of the W.L.A. acted as usherettes at the Regent Cinema, Sheffield, on 6th September, when the Ministry of Information showed a film entitled "The Harvest Shall Come," tea was provided at the end of the performance. The Dowager Lady Reading addressed a meeting of The Derby Women's Work for Victory Club on 8th September. Marion Leeson and Dorothy Roberts represented the W.L.A. and formed part of the guard of honour. Ida Smith and her sister Lucy sacrificed on the altar of the Benevolent Fund a banana which their brother in the Navy brought home for them. It was raffled and brought in the sum of six shillings. Will Derbyshire members please note that all subscriptions towards the Benevolent Fund should be forwarded to Mrs. Clowes Norbury, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

**Devon.**—We welcome our new Chairman, Lady St. Aubyn, and wish her a happy term of office. Not only has she been a member of both Devon and Cornwall Committees since the beginning of the war, but she owns her own farm and thus is specially well qualified to help us in our difficulties.

Additions to the Staff include Miss Morrison, a second County Organiser who is working in the northern half of the county, and Miss Grant-Dalton, who becomes Assistant Secretary after working 3 years as a Land Girl.

The potato harvest is in full swing, and to meet the extra numbers of W.L.A. required a new hostel has been opened at Chagford.

The Okehampton Hostel has been holding regular weekly social evenings, singing, dancing and games, to which the girls are permitted to invite their boy friends. They have managed to buy their own piano through the efforts of Miss K. B. Coles, who with the help of others organised three dances, when music was provided by the R.A. Band. £5 was also given to the Okehampton Hospital. Altogether a most praiseworthy effort.

A County Welfare Fund has been opened and contributions both to this and to the Headquarters Benevolent Fund will be gratefully received.

**Dorset.**—"Now that the harvest is practically completed, the Dorset W.A.E.C. feels that it would like to express to the members of the W.L.A. its thanks and appreciation for all the efforts and assistance which members of the Organisation have given to farmers and, indeed, to the Country. The results have been extremely satisfactory in spite of difficult conditions and a large mead of the praise is certainly due to the women workers."—so runs a letter received in the County Office last week.

The success of a Film Show at the Corn Exchange recently was due largely to the way in which so many of our girls rallied round and gave up their precious "half day" to see what the M. of I. and the W.L.A. had to give them in the way of agricultural and other pictures. The afternoon was a great success, and we were very glad to welcome our new County Chairman, Mrs. Aston, who took this opportunity of getting to know so many of the girls present.

Our Cocknowle Training Centre had a "Red Letter Day" recently when it was decided to stage a film there; this film, we understand, is primarily designed for exhibition in Russia. We are proud that many of our Desert members have now taken part in film-making for W.L.A. propaganda, and hope that their efforts may be an inspiration to those still outside the ranks, to "join up" for this vital form of National Service.

**Durham.**—Everyone will be extremely sorry to hear that Mrs. Lloyd Pease has resigned from the W.L.A. Chairmanship of this County, which she

has held since the W.L.A. of this war first started. The Committee members and the volunteers have appreciated, fully, her kindness, consideration and unfailing interest in this Service and it is a great pleasure to know that she is to remain a member of the Committee. Lady Starmer, to whom a warm welcome is extended, succeeded Mrs. Pease on the 1st October.

With great regret, it was decided to cancel the Rally. Owing to the rather late bumper harvest, volunteers are working overtime and of course the interests of food production must be the primary consideration. But, it is hoped that conditions will permit a Rally to take place at some future date.

On the 24th September, the residents at the Darlington Hostel were given a splendid party to celebrate the first birthday of the Hostel. There was an excellent variety entertainment given by the "Darlington Entertainers," under the Chairmanship of Mr. Atkinson, in a hall kindly lent by the Y.M.C.A. Excitement was intense when the conjurer of the party apparently swallowed ten razor blades! Miss Stella Hall, W.L.A. 40976 once again charmed the audience by her delightful contralto voice. At the end of the entertainment, volunteers and their military friends, together with the artists of the show went to the Hostel for supper and dancing, and what a supper! Miss Johnson, the Warden of the Hostel certainly surpassed herself, and a thoroughly happy and care-free evening was enjoyed by all.

**Essex—NUMBERS.**—Since our last "news" our numbers have gone up from 2094 to 2749 employed volunteers, 884 are working for the W.A.C. and our new activities include a Pest Extermination Course which is taking place at the Institute of Agriculture, Writtle, under the expert tuition of Mr. Lake, the Pest Officer. "Teams" of threshers are being asked for all over the county and to every threshing set four volunteers are being allocated, one in each team being specially selected as "Leader." We expect to have about 100 volunteers employed in this most important work in the near future.

We have 12 volunteers working Cub-Excavators with remarkable success, and in the first week of October we are arranging to supply 24 "Husky" W.L.A. to undertake a beet-loading campaign through the W.A.C. These volunteers are to be housed in a charming house Hostel at Little Totham.

We now have 20 hostels and 21 clubs—plays, choirs, dancing classes, toy symphonies, lectures, cooking classes, etc., being amongst our Club programmes.

On Saturday, 8th August, Miss Tritton, our County Chairman, represented the W.L.A. at the opening of the Service Women's Hostel, 7, Harland Road, Epping, by Lady Portal. This hostel, the first of its kind to be opened in Essex, accommodates 16 girls and will be a great boon for volunteers on leave who cannot get home.

**HOSTEL GARDENS.**—Mr. Shemming, Head-gardener at the Institute of Agriculture, who kindly gave two intensive gardening courses to our Hostel staff gardeners, also gave up many evenings to judge the Hostel gardens and was most helpful and instructive at a demonstration and prize giving which was held at the Institute on 26th August.

We feel sure volunteers will be glad to welcome Miss Clark as Assistant Secretary in addition to Mrs. Melville. She joined our staff in August.

**Flints.**—At a clean milking competition held at Penbedn Hall, Miss Alice Haynes, W.L.A. 48944, won first prize, Mrs. Johnson, W.L.A., second and Miss Bailey, W.L.A. 47814, third. A special prize was also won by another W.L.A. member. Two W.L.A. members employed by the W.A.C. cut the whole of the oats grown on the 210 acres of reclaimed land at Ffrith-y-Garreg Wen, which is



*A happy group at Swineshead Hostel, Holland (Lincs.)*

*Photo by W. J. Wray, Boston.*

claimed to be the largest field in North Wales.

The Dance in aid of the County "Benevolent Fund," held in the Beach Pavilion, Prestatyn, on July 30th, was a great success. The event was organised by Mrs. Caswell, area representative and members. The girls really worked hard and a cheque for £31 4s. was the result.

**Glam.**—During the last twelve weeks, since this county commenced functioning on its own, a great deal has been accomplished. We have increased in numbers from 263-450. Glamorgan is a highly industrial County and some of our girls have gone to neighbouring Counties. The new offices in 31, Queen Street, Cardiff, are in full swing and we receive many visits from our girls who are always welcome. Reports from the County indicate that the Glamorgan W.L.A. is doing good work with fine spirit, and seems to do its utmost to live up to that high standard which is traditional in the older uniform services. The Vale of Glamorgan is a beautiful place and we are proud to think that our girls are helping so much to increase its usefulness. Our motto seems to be "work with a Will, Laughter and Application," and we are certainly living up to that.

A change in the personnel of this office is now taking place, Miss Heppell, who has done all the initial work in the new premises, goes to Hereford and Mrs. W. Kinrade-Evans, Assistant Secretary from Carmarthen, comes to us here as Secretary and we extend to her a very hearty welcome.

**Hants.**—We were represented at the Enthronement of the Bishop of Winchester on 30th September by the County Chairman, ten members with two-year armlets and two officials from the County Office. During the last month the office has received more letters from farmers praising their girls than ever before, and volunteers from the H.W.A.E.C. hostels have recreated records in threshing, putting up ricks and ditching.

The new County Offices at 84, High Street, Winchester, have now been redecorated and have been made much more comfortable by the kind gifts of Miss White and members of the County Committee. Our new hostel at Hook opened on 28th September, with a full complement of 40 Hampshire girls.

**Hereford.**—We are pleased to record that the Secretary of the N.F.U. Herefordshire branch has

sent the following message to the W.L.A. in this county: "You are doing a grand job of work. We all thank you for it and appreciate the wonderful spirit you are showing. The crowning glory of success lies in the result. Both are yours." We are very glad that the dance arranged by Mrs. Whistance, Miss Turner and Miss Caudle gave us such a good start in the county contributions to the new Benevolent Fund, by raising no less than £18 3s. 2d., while the hostel at Ross added nearly £5 from their Whist drive. Volunteers will welcome the decision to hold M. of I. Film Shows at hostels and village halls during the coming winter.

**Herts.**—Like many other counties our story for the past two months has been one of growing numbers and new hostels. On June 30, we had a humble total of eight hostels in the County; by October 1st. there will be 17, with three more looming in the near future. Some of the new hostels, converted country houses, are quite charming and the girls already have settled in to them most happily.

Two of our members have recently been trained for "Pest Destruction" at a special course in Huntingdonshire. More and more girls are being trained by the W.A.C. for tractor driving and the winter promises to be a busy one.

Mr. Hunter Smith, Principal of Oaklands Agricultural Institute is very kindly giving up his Saturday afternoons to our volunteers. Invitations are issued for parties of girls for each Saturday and after a walk round the farm, the girls are shown an Agricultural Film and invited to ask questions. He is most anxious that the girls who work so magnificently shall understand the reason for many of their heavy and laborious tasks.

**Hunts., Cambs. & Ely.**—Six volunteers from Herts. and Lincs. have joined our girls at Sawtry Hutment Hostel for a Ratcatching course under the supervision of the W.A.E.C.'s Pest Officer. This has proved very successful.

Ministry of Information Films are being shown in those hostels where electricity is available and, with the approach of winter and the longer evenings, dances and concerts are likely to prove the most popular pastimes. The Women's Institutes in each of the three counties are hoping to arrange classes of Handicrafts for the more industrious of

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the girls and everything is being done to ensure that volunteers are happy in their war-time homes.

Nor must we forget the dozens of girls in private employment, who are carrying on with the job without a fanfare of trumpets. Occasionally we receive a letter that cheers our hearts and one recently received states "I would not have missed one day of my experiences since I joined the W.L.A. as so much happens each hour of every day, and months just fly past without my realising."

**Isle of Wight.**—Our County is small, only 70 miles round the coast and 24 miles across, so we do not think our numbers too bad. We have 270 members and mean to have more. We are in the main a dairy country, but there are also several large market gardens and a forestry nursery. Our dairy girls by their good work have helped to make us the leading county in the Southern Area for increased milk production. Our new county offices are very satisfactory and we hold a monthly social there for members. Our annual Harvest Home party was in Newport on 3rd October.

**E. Kent.**—We have had a harvest of which to be proud, and for which to be thankful; and our members, having played no inconsiderable part in the growing and in-gathering, are now turning to the equally important task of threshing. Sixty-five gangs are now at work, some with regular girl feeders and one set entirely manned by the W.L.A.

Dairy farming is also on the up-grade; and thanks to the enterprise of the Kent W.A.C. in organising a training centre at Herne Bay, where under their instructress, Miss Unsted, the girls get a first-rate training for two to three months, we now have an adequate supply of milkers far better equipped for the job in which they excel.

We all wish to congratulate Miss Marian Pine and Miss Maisie Larke on being awarded the special Courage Badge by the Kent W.A.C. Congratulations, too, to Mrs. Vera Kennedy, Miss J. Sayers, and Miss A. A. Milne on completing three years of excellent service. The office staff is also congratulating itself on having a permanent home with a telephone after nearly four months of make-shift. Though social and educational activities had to be suspended for the harvest, monthly meetings in the district centres have now begun again.

**W. Kent.**—In August Lord Woolton made a tour of Kent. He visited the West Kent W.L.A. Office in company with Lord and Lady Cornwallis and was very interested in everything, particularly in the Uniform Department, as he said he had dealt with clothing during the last war.

Next day a letter was sent to him signed by all the Office staff expressing their personal appreciation of all his work for the country. He sent a charming reply saying it was letters of this kind which gave him great encouragement in his work.

Amongst other farms, he visited Mr. Barker's Farm at Southfleet and was much impressed by his 400 acres, mostly vegetables, and the 30 Land Girls employed there.

On Wednesday, 16th October, at 8 p.m., great excitement! Orford Hostel held their "Harvest Home." The room was decorated, corn and hops camouflaged the heating stoves and Old Man's Beard hung from the rafters.

Miss Cox, four members of the Office staff, forty Land Girls, various friends and the Band all sat down to plates laden with roast pork and followed by trifle. The rapidity with which the meal disappeared was a compliment to the kitchen staff! After this terrific meal the Band struck up, the troops came in and everyone danced and sang until 11.30 p.m.

**Lanes.**—Social activities are the chief items of news from Lancashire. We should like to thank the Mayor and Corporation of Southport who, after the United Nations Day Rally invited the local Land Girls to tea and to meet members of the newly arrived American troops. We are also very

grateful to Mrs. Sharrock, the Chairman of the Victoria Hall Canteen, Freshfield, near Liverpool, who has extended a very warm welcome to members of the L.A. Mrs. Blunt, the local representative, gave a party to her Land Girls at these premises, which were placed at her disposal. All Land Girls in the area are invited to join in any activities in this canteen and their presence will be warmly welcomed.

Permanent premises have now been found by the Ormskirk Land Girls Club. A very successful effort has been made, resulting in getting sufficient money to furnish two club rooms which are open every day. Facilities afforded by this club are greatly appreciated, and we look forward to hearing of their activities in the coming months.

There are two changes to report from the office. As from October 1st, Mrs. Jackson will be taking over the Magazine, and all communications should be addressed to her at the County Offices, Preston. Miss Ramsey is now Mrs. Reeve, but still Assistant Secretary.

The Committee and the many girls who have been trained at the Bolton Open Air School Farm, Lostock Junction, were very grieved to learn at the beginning of September of the sudden death of Mr. Eatock, the Principal. We should all like to convey our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Eatock, and our appreciation for the willing assistance which Mr. Eatock always gave to all members of the Land Army.

**Leics. & Rutland.**—Another Hostel at Stathern Old Rectory to house 40 workers has been opened and several small hostels housing 6-12 girls are being opened throughout the County. These girls will be employed in threshing and will follow the threshing set around their district throughout the autumn and winter. During September 200 land girls in the Melton Mowbray district helped the local Agricultural Red Cross fund by the bumper contribution of £168 7s. 6d. W.L.A. members, with the help of district representatives organised dances, whist drives, and various competitions. Coupon free gloves from discarded dungarees or breeches were in great demand. Last, but not least firewood was collected and trundled and sold very readily to eager buyers in the town. This last, a backaching but noble job, helped the Nation's fuel supply, as well as the Red Cross, and we certainly feel we have plenty of ideas in Leics. & Rutland for our County Benevolent Fund. A Land Girl and a farmer were invited to speak at the Leicester Rotary Club luncheon. At the last minute the farmer couldn't spare the girl, whose absence might have spoiled the sale of his horse, and so a substitute went to the luncheon and a most interesting discussion on "The Land" took place.

**H. & Kest.**—Four new hostels have been opened recently in Holland, one for the summer only and we hope to transfer the girls shortly into more permanent premises. A small hostel at Sutton Bridge and one at Holbeach have also started and Holland House, Spalding, was officially opened early in August.

Harvest Festivals have been much in evidence during the last few weeks and our girls have taken a prominent part in these services. The Office has been opened at Spalding on Saturday afternoons and girls are finding this a great help for collecting uniform and making enquiries. Sleaford office is also now open every other Saturday afternoon.

**Lindsey.**—We have had a spate of marriages in the last few weeks, so our numbers are somewhat reduced. We welcome four Yorkshire volunteers who have come into the county as rat catchers—a new employment in this county. One of our girls who is driving a "cub" excavator on drainage work has done so well that we have been asked for six more. The employer says, "It is a treat to watch that girl—she works so cleanly and there is never a bit of mud dropped round her machine."

## County Returns

COUNTY	EMPLOYED
Yorks.	3292
Kent	3046
Essex	2411
Hants	1829
E. Sussex	1657
Leics. 1377, Rutland 255	1632
Herts	1484
Northants	1462
Surrey	1429
Lincs (H. & Kest)	1384
Bucks	1361
Worcs.	1248
Warwicks	1226
Somerset	1198
W. Sussex	1194
Cheshire	1148
Lancs.	1109
Wilts	1051
Berks	1045
Norfolk	1033
Glos.	993
Northumberland	981
Devon	942
Notts	912
Hunts 247, Cambs 401, Ely 167	815
Cornwall	809
Oxon.	793
Salop	790
Cumb. & West.	734
E. Suffolk	716
Dorset	669
Lincs. (Lindsey)	608
Durham	582
Staffs	570
N. Wales	558
Monmouth	504
Hereford	490
Glamorgan	483
W. Suffolk	479
Beds	407
Denbigh	382
London & Middx.	341
Flints	309
Derbs	296
Brecs.	287
Isle of Wight	261
S. Wales	Not recd.

On 30th Sept. there were over 49,000 volunteers in employment.

### "THE LAND GIRL"

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October, 1942

We have to record two contributions for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. Three volunteers at Thoresway, Miss Butters, Mrs. Warburton and Miss Markham, organised a dance which made £2 profit, and the girls of Carrington Hostel have raised £10. Our hostels seem to be going in for pets—one has a dog, another has a cat and a hedgehog, Freddie, who comes when he is called, and who is great friends with the cat. Corn harvest is almost over, with bumper crops gathered in and many girls will soon be busy on the potatoes which are almost as important as corn this year. Mrs. Wintringham and Lady Beryl Groves had a party for our Hostel Wardens at Revesby Abbey and we were very glad to welcome Mrs. Palmer from Headquarters, who gave us some most useful "hints on hostels."

**Norfolk.**—The most notable recent event in this county was the Church parade held in connection with Norwich War Charities week. Contingents from all the forces attended the Drumhead Service and over 100 Land Girls, some of whom had travelled 40 miles and done the morning's milking first. The W.V.S. kindly opened the Elm Hill Club for us and over 50 girls stayed on for dinner and seized the opportunity for an exchange of views about work and life in the W.L.A.

**Wilts.**—At the end of August a new hostel was opened at Bromham, with 15 girls, all market gardeners. As there is so little market gardening in Wiltshire there was plenty of competition to get into this W.A.C. gang, and everyone has settled down happily to the work. Potterne has a new warden, Miss Olive Stenson-Stenson, who has been very busy getting activities organised in the hostel, including a flourishing Savings Group and fire-fighting groups. A Ministry of Information film show was arranged, and members were able to see agricultural films made in Wiltshire, complete with Land Girls. The high spot of the month was a joint 21st and 25th birthday party in honour of Ethel Goodchild and Margaret Baskerville, at which some 70 or 80 guests and hostesses managed to squeeze in and to enjoy dancing, games and refreshments.

Everyone has been so busy getting in the harvest that there has been little time for parties and recreation. One L.A. member, however, has found time to become a Guide Commissioner for a Salisbury district. Another member in this area has solved the billeting problem by getting married and living with her husband in a caravan. A record number of Good Service Badges has gone out this month—218. Several threshing gangs are now at work for the W.A.E.C. In one area Land Girls have been hearing something about how farms are run on the other side of the Atlantic, as American soldiers have been working with them in the harvest fields.

## Benevolent Fund

September brought in £168 16s. 6d., including a donation of £100 from Lady Denman. Lincs Hostels have begun very well and Miss Tiltson has set Wales a good example, while old friends in Derbyshire, Hunts, E. Suffolk and Wilts are carrying on the good work they did for the Spitfire Fund. The Fund now totals £367 0s. 8d. September lists follows:—**Beds.**: 5s.—Keable. **Denbigh**: £10—Tiltson. **Derby**: £1 10s.—Carr, Colley; 6s.—Smith; 5s.—Beresford. **Total**—£2 1s. **Devon**: 8s.—Berringer. **Glos.**: 10s. 6d.—Lovell. **Hants**: 6s.—Filmore. **Hunts**: £4—Mott (dance); £1 5s.—West; 3s. 6d. Hibberd; 2s. 6d. Swynfor1 House. **Total**—£5 11s. **Lincs.** (Lindsey): £2—Waltham Hostel (dance). **Lincs.** (Hol. & K.): £10—Carrington Hostel. **Lon. & Middx.**: 14s.—Lalcham Club (per Rogers). **Mon.**: £6—Park. **E. Suffolk**: £1—Knight; £1—Wade; £1 "Polly"; 5s.—Raynam. **Wilts**: £6 10s.—Hughes (Whist Drive); 5s.—Maudrell. **Total**—£6 15s. **Yorks**: £9—Ware (Dance). **Timber Corps**: £1—Culford. **Misc.**: £100—Denman; £10—Land Girl; £1 1s.—Samuels.