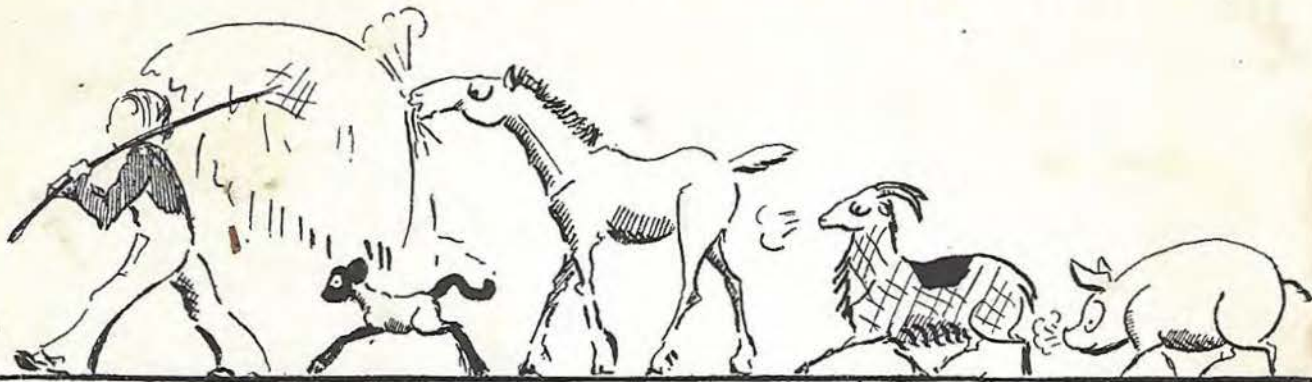


# THE LAND GIRL



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## THE USES OF GEOGRAPHY

PROBABLY there is no member of the Land Army old enough to have learnt geography under a system which consisted chiefly of learning the countries of the world, their capitals and their products. "Afghanistan-Kabul, Baluchistan-Khelat" sounded lovely even if it conveyed little, and it was interesting, though perhaps not vital, to know that Arabia exported woven cloaks and Guatemala chewing gum.

Doubtless even under a more modern system, something of the same information is conveyed, and this seems the moment at which to apply the knowledge. The 1937 *Whitaker* tells us that "the Federated Malay States contribute largely to the supply of raw materials of the British Empire," and they exported eight times as much rubber and latex as all their other exports put together. In the same year over four-fifths of the world's total production of rubber came from Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies, almost a third of the wool came from Australia and New Zealand, and nearly four-fifths of the raw silk from Japan.

The connection between the rubber plantations of Malaya and a British dairy farm may seem remote in theory but it won't seem so in practice to a member of the W.L.A. who has to wash out the floor of the milking shed and wants to keep her feet dry.

Cherish your gumboots as you would your dearest possession, and all the rest of your uniform too. We all know perfectly well how much the life of a garment can be prolonged by sufficient tender care and forethought, and shreds and patches are now honourable scars. We have perforce to abandon the "buy cheap and often" habit inculcated by modern methods of mass-production—in fact, we must change our hearts but not our garments.

The difficulties of transport, of which the Prime Minister spoke recently, also concern us vitally. The Land Army is making a great contribution to this problem by increasing home production, but we can also help by using car, bus or train as little as we possibly can. Increasing our powers to find interest and amusement in our own neighbourhood will bring its own reward, and it will be some consolation for absence of holidays and week-ends at home that every bit of coal and petrol saved helps towards the only end that really matters—to win the war as quickly as we can.

M. A. P.

## METHODS OF CLEAN MILK PRODUCTION

*Miss Strang, who has trained many members of the W.L.A. in milking and dairy work at the Northamptonshire Institute of Agriculture at Moulton, has very kindly written the following article for the LAND GIRL.*

**M**ILKING and dairy work are jobs for which Land Girls have a special aptitude, and it is always easier to place a girl on a farm if she has had experience in this type of work. Most of the larger herds of cows are now milked by machine, so it is an advantage for a trainee to know something about machine milking in addition to being able to milk by hand. A knowledge of hand milking is, however, essential for a cowshed job, as even where cows are machine milked, they have to be stripped out afterwards by hand.

Comparing the two systems of milking, it takes approximately the same time for a machine to get the milk from a cow as it does a good hand milker. The advantage of the machine lies in the fact that one person can look after about three milking units at a time, so in effect the machine results in a very considerable saving in labour. Against this, one must put the extra time taken to wash the milking machine parts, but on the balance it is now accepted that mechanical milking saves labour in the larger herds, say those with over 18 or 20 cows, but hand milking is the more practical proposition for small numbers.

The standard of cleanliness in milk production varies a great deal from one farm to another. There are, however, many thousands of farmers now producing what is known as "accredited milk." This grade of milk has to comply with a specified "bacterial" standard, or in other words has to be reasonably clean. In order to appreciate the care which has to be taken in the cowshed and dairy where a high grade of milk is produced, one must understand the difference between "clean milk" and milk which has been "cleaned." When dust, dirt or hair find their way into milk they are likely to carry with them thousands of germs or bacteria. Straining removes the visible dirt from milk, but no amount of straining will ever remove the germs. As it is the germs which turn milk sour, it is obvious that we must, as far as possible, prevent these germs from getting into it.

### Wash Your Cow

What may appear rather unnecessary work in grooming and cleaning is actually highly important. If we are to produce milk of the highest quality, the cows must be kept clean. The work of making them clean is simplified if

their hindquarters and udders are clipped regularly, about every six weeks in winter, or rather less often in summer when the coat does not grow so quickly. When the hair is kept short the manure does not become "caked" on the hindquarters. Before each milking the hindquarters and tail should be thoroughly brushed with a dandy brush, which should frequently be dipped in water. If the hindquarters are very dirty a curry comb may be required. The udders should then be washed with plenty of clean water and a cloth. Turkish towelling makes a good udder cloth, and is more suitable than a sponge, which is apt to get clogged up with dirt.

It is important to see that the washing water is not allowed to become too dirty, and it may even be necessary to get a fresh lot of washing water for every three or four cows. After the udders are washed they should be well dried with another cloth, which should be wrung out of clean water. The method which I have described, of cleaning the cows before milking, may seem a laborious sort of job, but in practice, if it is done regularly, the cows seldom get very dirty, and the whole process of grooming and cleaning should not take more than about two or three minutes per cow.

### Wash Yourself

Having cleaned the cows, the milker should then wash her own hands. Before starting the actual milking, the first stream of milk from each teat should be drawn into a special cup provided for the purpose, and this "fore" milk should not be mixed with the bulk. The reason for this is that germs find their way up the teat canal, but do not actually get into the udder. The first stream of milk may therefore be contaminated with germs.

Milking should be done with dry hands and as quickly as possible. Some people have a more natural aptitude for milking than others but it is chiefly practice which makes a good milker. A point for the beginner to note is that milking should be done mainly by wrist movement and that the elbows should be kept steady.

After milking, the milk should be taken to the dairy and cooled to as low a temperature as possible, but preferably to under 55 F. Cooling retards the growth of germs, with the result that the milk keeps better.



### Wash Your Utensils

The next step after the milk has been cooled is the washing of utensils. All milk utensils should be washed first in cold water, then in warm water, and finally sterilised, either by steaming or immersing them in boiling water. It is important that the utensils should be rinsed in cold water as soon as possible after use, as if they are allowed to stand for any length of time the milk dries and forms a film on the surface. If warm water is used at this stage instead of cold water, the warm water coagulates the albumen in the milk and again forms a film on the surface. Once or twice a week the utensils should be washed in hot soda water in order to prevent them from becoming greasy. When this is done they should afterwards be rinsed in clean water to remove the soda.

Steam is a more efficient steriliser than boiling water and should be used where possible. In

the process of sterilising, the utensils should be placed in a steam chest and the temperature raised to 210 degrees F. This temperature should be maintained for ten minutes. The steam should then be turned off and the door of the sterilising chest should be opened. If the utensils have been placed upside down in the chest the cold air which rushes in when the door is opened will cause them to drain and dry quite quickly.

In addition to observing the foregoing points it is important that the cowshed is kept clean. In order to facilitate this, the manure is ordinarily removed before each milking, the floor swilled down at least once daily, and the walls lime-washed periodically.

The care of cows and other stock is very much a matter of common sense. Each cow should be treated as an individual if the best results are to be obtained.

J. W. STRANG.

### HOME TUITION

Learn the science of farming with the practice. Mixed, Poultry, Pig Farming and Dairy Factory management. Diploma examinations.

(Secretary J.), Agricultural Correspondence College, BATH

**Leather Gloves** Strong, pliable, for land work. 4/3 pair, post free.

**Fabric Gloves** Strong, warm, suitable for general work on farm, etc. 3/3 pair, post free.

COLLARD, "KERISVENE" TOLLGATE AVENUE EARLSWOOD, SURREY

## Life in a Bothy

**A**S we have never noticed an article in the LAND GIRL about work on a private estate, we thought a brief account of our duties, etc., might be of interest. There are five of us here (four Land Army and M., an ex-college girl whom we are hoping will join the L.A.). J. and I have been here longest—18 months. Until May last year we lived in a cottage provided for us in the village, then as the men who lived in the "bothy" were called up, we moved in. This address, by the way, our friends and relations think sounds queer, but we explain that it's a Scottish word and above reproach. It is a nice comfortable house, three bedrooms and box-room upstairs, and bathroom, parlour, living-room, scullery, pantry downstairs, and we have a good supply of hot water, as we have got a Triplex grate and oven; we have also an airing cupboard. We are provided with a daily woman, who comes from 9—1 to cook and clean, and we get other benefits, so live cheaply. We take it in turn to do the shopping at week-ends, and to get breakfast by 7.15 a.m., as now it is dark we go out at 8 a.m. instead of 7 a.m. A legacy left to us from the men is a cat called "Tiger."

Our hours of work are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the summer, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the winter, with a break from 1—2 for dinner. We take it in turn to do week-end duty, and overtime is worked at intervals during the summer as there is a good deal of haymaking to be done in the pleasure grounds, which are vast, as can be judged from the length of the three avenues, viz., cedar 600 yards long, oak 500 yards, and poplar 400 yards.

R. and M. work in the greenhouses, of which there are about 16. They grow vegetables, tomatoes, lettuces, cucumbers and fruit. They also have to contend with a large and dirty boiler, which heats the houses and requires a lot of attention, stoking and cleaning flues, etc.

The kitchen garden is registered as a market garden, a lot of produce is sold, just sufficient being kept for the "big house."

The other three, J., C. and myself, work inside or out, wherever we are needed. J. and I have been doing a lot of digging lately—we have also had charge of two Jersey cows since last August; we lead them in on halters to be milked. The route to the stables where they are quartered at night during the winter, and where we now milk them, starts from the orchard, through a kissing gate, which has to be lifted off its hinges (Cynthia, the larger cow, nearly

always squashes Pixie in her haste to be first through), along a narrow path between yew hedges, and round the long back drive, dodging cars, etc.

Before joining the Land Army R. was a carpet designer (she is an excellent artist; at our last rally she was honoured by having her portrait of a Land Girl in full kit (me) purchased by Lady Denman). J. had done a year at a horticultural college. C. was a lady of leisure, and I, among other things, was a nursery governess.

We have many interests between us; in the evenings we sew, knit, read, cook, paint, play recorders, piano and organ, write letters, keep diaries, ride horses and bikes, attend classes for lessons in art, pottery, singing, literature, French, and keep fit, play Badminton, and in the summer we are allowed to use the lovely swimming pool in the grounds. We go to concerts and films and bike 6 or 14 miles (there and back) according to which town we visit.

We also fit in an occasional whist drive and dance—we ran one in the village in aid of the L.A. Spitfire Fund and made over £15.

In our spare time we have painted, papered, and whitewashed parts of the "bothy," and planted the small garden. From all this it may be judged that we are never dull or idle.

Our head gardener dislikes having women round the place, but he has to admit that we are on the whole ably replacing the men he has lost.

We are very fortunate in having a kind and sympathetic district representative in the energetic wife of the Rector. Finally, we must add that our employers, the Lord and Lady of the Manor, are most appreciative of our efforts, and they do their best to see that the "Land Ladies" (as they call us) "lot is cast in a fair ground."

D. PEMBRIDGE, W.L.A. 34,573 (Worcs.).

### Studley Horticultural and Agricultural College for Women, Warwickshire

A SCHOLARSHIP of 75 guineas is offered by Old Students of this College for a course of two years or more, commencing September, 1942. Applicants must be 18 years of age or over, and unable to afford the full fees. A personal interview will be considered necessary unless the Selection Committee decide otherwise. Forms of application, which must be returned before April 1st, 1942, may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Studley Old Students' Scholarship Fund, Creekmoor Farmhouse, Poole, Dorset.

## Straw Pulp Making Demonstration in Yorkshire



By courtesy of Northern Echo.

**A**T a demonstration arranged by the Imperial Chemical Industries in York, Miss Alice Tindall and Miss Bessie Codlin, two Yorkshire members of the W.L.A., showed how to make straw pulp.

Mr. Routledge, of Low Parks Farm, writes: "We make straw pulp here three days a week, and it is entirely done by the two Land Girls. The process is as follows: 200 pounds of chaffed straw or cavings (that is chaff after threshing) is steeped in a caustic soda solution for five hours,

and then is put into the sump to drain off for half an hour; thence into the washing tank, and fresh water is allowed to run through it until it is free from caustic. The water is then drained off, and the pulp is ready for feeding.

"The effect of the caustic soda on the straw is to break up its fibrous nature, and release carbohydrates which make it more palatable; at the same time giving it a much higher feeding value which, of course, is the most important point about it in these days."

### B.B.C.

THE PRACTICE AND SCIENCE OF GARDENING. 1.50 p.m.

- Feb. 16. Work to do now in the Garden: C. F. Lawrence.
- " 23. Seeds and Seedlings: B. A. Keen.
- Mar. 2. Thinning and Transplanting: Dr. Keen and Mr. Lawrence.
- " 9. The Growing Plant: B. A. Keen.

COUNTRY WORK AND COUNTRY WAYS. 1.50 p.m.

- Feb. 17. The Glasshouse Industry: Catching the early markets.
- " 24. Good Seed: Advice from a seedsman.
- Mar. 3. Potatoes for seed: A visit to a Scottish potato farm.

FARMING TO-DAY: Every Thursday at 6.45 p.m.  
BACKS TO THE LAND: Every Saturday at 1.15 p.m.

### Competition

"What do you like best in THE LAND GIRL?" proved much the most popular competition the magazine has had. The final order of popularity was:

1. D. Front Page.
2. G. Articles by volunteers describing their jobs.
3. E. Correspondence.
4. C. County News.
5. A. Technical Article.
6. B. Story.
7. F. Poem.

There was a very close race between the first two, and County News was not far behind Correspondence, with the Technical Article fairly near. The Poem was very much an "also ran." First prize goes to H. Fearn (Denbigh), whose only error was to reverse E. and C. Second prize is divided between M. Ball (Yorks) and P. Isherwood (Somerset), who each had five right.

## Make and Mend

**F**OR over eleven years I've worn breeches and shirt, socks and rubber boots, and used my hands for all kinds of rough and dirty jobs, so some of you may be interested in the methods I've used to look after them. First of all, I must thank the W.L.A. for introducing me to dungarees, quite the most sensible garment ever invented for women working on the land.

### HANDS.

Wash in rain water whenever possible, wear gloves when practicable (oh yes, you can get used to it), and buy a pound tin (1s. 3d.) of veterinary petroleum jelly with which to anoint hands liberally after washing, and every night. It will last about twelve months.

### SOCKS.

Always wear an oversock when using rubber boots. Old lisle stockings, parted off and seamed across will do, or get a pair of dad's old thin socks and wear them with the heel in front. Instead of darning wool collect the soft cotton thread, chain stitched across artificial manure sacks, and use instead; it wears well and costs nothing. When things get too bad cut squares from the legs of one pair and patch. Apply patch to the outside of the heel, matching ribbing and herring bone in place. The cotton thread will also do to darn W.L.A. shirts, being just the right colour.

### FOR BREECHES AND DUNGAREES.

I can only recommend patching. One of my pairs of dungarees has six patches, the other seven. Most dungarees as issued are supplied with small discs between the removable buttons and shanks. These discs prevent the buttons being pulled out, or the material torn, but are apt to get lost. I've made myself a good supply by cutting  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. squares of rubber from an old teat cup line and punching a hole in the middle. Fairly stiff leather would do instead of rubber. My latest issue of dungarees was not fitted with these discs, and until I used my rubber substitutes the buttons flew all over the place whenever I bent down.

### FOR WET WEATHER.

I prefer oilskins for wet weather, as although clumsy they don't get heavier when wet and dry quickly; besides they can be kept waterproof for a very long time by brushing over frequently with boiled linseed oil, obtained very cheaply from the ironmongers. Apply sparingly with a fairly stiff brush and pay particular attention to the places most likely to crack. As this takes about 48 hours to dry choose a dry spell, unless you have a second raincoat.

I've used boiling linseed oil successfully on shoes, putting plenty round the welts and on the soles. It doesn't collect the dust like dubbin and is cheaper. For 2s. 9d. I bought a piece of good leather and some brads, and borrowing a hammer, an iron foot and a sharp knife, soled a pair of shoes for about half the price it would have cost to have it done. One thing has beaten me with W.L.A. shoes—they will spread round the ankle.\*

### RUBBERS.

A tube each of "Rhinasole" and rubber solution, pieces of motor-car inner tube, and strong thread will do a lot to make them watertight longer. Always sandpaper the surface to be repaired and the patch thoroughly, before applying two coats of rubber solution to each, allowing the first to dry, the second to become tacky before uniting. A rounded patch will stay put longer than one with corners. Draw the edges of a slit together with thread before patching. For holes on or near sole use Rhinasole according to instructions on tube. In either case leave for 48 hours before wearing again.

ELAINE R. BULLARD, W.L.A. 28,860 (Hants).

\* Punch another hole for laces near the ankle.

## From the January Press

### OF MONMOUTH:

The work of the W.L.A. was considered beyond praise.

### OF HEREFORD:

As far as my own small farm is concerned I have found the girls extremely useful, and I could not have managed this autumn without them.

### OF WARWICKSHIRE:

One bright little star was the Women's Land Army. The girls who joined it were doing a far harder job than in the services. There was no glamour in it, only mud, toil and sweat—what they lacked in brawn they made up in brains, punctuality and cheerfulness.

### OF LANCASHIRE:

It would never worry me if we had no more men here. I have three of the finest girls working on my farm that ever worked anywhere.

### OF CORNWALL:

The best thing the war has brought to my farm is the Land Girl.

### PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENT.

RIDING BOOTS, black sixes, 15s.; brown fives, 25s.; good condition.—RUDLAND, Little Stonham, Stowmarket, Suffolk.



Mrs. Hudson, Miss Rowley and a Volunteer.

By courtesy of the Oxford Mail.

## Oxfordshire Rally

**A** SATURDAY afternoon, near to Christmas, was well chosen for the procession of Oxfordshire Land Army Volunteers. Crowds lined the Cornmarket and High Street to watch the girls march by, and really splendid they looked. It was encouraging to note that many people cheered and clapped as they passed, and that a large number of men doffed their hats in salute.

The procession ended at Rhodes House, where Mrs. Hudson spoke to the Volunteers, emphasising the great importance of the work of the W.L.A. She concluded by congratulating the Oxfordshire Volunteers and then distributed the good service awards. 150 Volunteers were due for awards and 100 were present.

Four Volunteers then told the meeting about their work—Miss Knighton (milking and general farm work), Mrs. Chandler (gardening), Miss K. Grant (milking and general) and Miss Ames (gardening). Mr. F. T. Whitlock, Chairman of the Oxfordshire branch of the National Farmers' Union, congratulated the Land Army on its excellent turn-out that day and welcomed Mrs. Hudson as an Oxfordshire farmer. The Mayor of Oxford presented prizes in connection with the Sale of Work held in the Hall. He said the gathering had impressed the Mayoress and himself very much. The Land Army was second to none in usefulness and importance.

A comprehensive vote of thanks was passed by Mr. F. E. Withington, Chairman of the Oxfordshire War Agricultural Committee.

A Sale of Work held at the same time in the Hall of Rhodes House raised over £16 for the Land Army Welfare Fund. Many of the gifts on the stall had been made by Volunteers and prizes were awarded for the most useful gift to Miss B. M. Fletcher, for the best made article to Miss N. E. Adkins, and for the most original article to Miss Moss Holland.

IDA M. S. ROWLEY.

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### SAVOURY ROLY-POLY.

$\frac{1}{4}$  lb. suet. (When unobtainable grated raw potato may be used instead).

$\frac{1}{2}$  lb. flour.

1 teaspoonful baking powder.

Left-over cold sausage, meat or bacon.

1 large onion.

1 carrot.

Water or milk to mix.

Salt, pepper.

Mince left-overs, onion and carrot, add flour, baking powder, seasoning and shredded suet, and sufficient fluid to make a soft dough. Shape into a roll. Tie in cloth and steam in usual way  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Or mixture may be put into greased basin and steamed. Serve with thickened gravy.

## DESTINATION UNKNOWN

BY BARBARA BREW AND JEAN MONCRIEFF.

### CHAPTER V

THE next hour seemed like a lifetime to Judy and, as the minutes slipped by, she realised that Ronnie must by now have given up waiting for her. In her dilemma she would have welcomed any form of rescue, although she trembled at the thought of what might happen if the Shooters discovered her in this forbidden place. It was obvious that she had stumbled on a dangerous secret, but what this was she still did not understand.

The light was growing rapidly dimmer, when suddenly she heard scratchings outside on the wall of the silo, followed by a heavy thud on the roof. Looking up, she saw a hand inserted through the half-open skylight. It gripped the side and there was a rending sound as one of the wooden boards forming the ceiling was wrenched away, leaving a jagged hole large enough to take the man's body which began to wriggle itself through. For a brief second before he jumped lightly to the ground the intruder swung in mid air. Judy shrank back against the wall to be caught by the beam of a torch flashed full in her face.

"My God, Judy! What the devil are you doing here?"

"Ronnie? It can't be —!" Gasping, almost crying with relief, she instinctively stretched out her hands to find them clasped in his.

In answer to Ronnie's rapid questions she told him in a few broken sentences what had happened.

"But I want to know about you," she asked anxiously. "How have you got here?"

"With the help of a bit of rope and the nose of a bloodhound," he grinned at her. "I got browned off waiting for you, and when I saw your jolly little house party clear out I thought I'd have a snoop round. There was no sign of you, but, as the place seemed deserted, it struck me it was a good opportunity to look at the silo. You see, besides being an airman, I do a bit of intelligence work, and I've been sent up here on a special job because I know the district. This farm is the centre of an enemy organisation which is manufacturing poisonous bacteria and distributing it over the country. The idea is to keep it in cold storage until Hitler gives the word. Since we've been on the trail we've managed to keep track of each consignment of bugs they've sent out, but the trouble is that a whole lot of stuff was dumped before we got wise about what they were doing. We couldn't round up the gang until we found out where this stuff was because we were afraid that if they got wind up they'd destroy the plans which we guessed must be somewhere on the farm. I had a hunch when you told me Shooter had built a silo that it might be worth exploring."

Ronnie's torch swept over the table, revealing, in addition to the test tubes, a Bunsen burner and a brown jellified substance in flat dishes. He emitted a low whistle which became one of exultant triumph as the light shone on a map hanging on the wall.

"I believe this is the very thing we've been looking for!" he exclaimed.

They went up to it eagerly and Ronnie nodded his head in confirmation.

"Yes. This is the goods all right. They've got a detailed plan here of where every one of those damn milk cans has gone to."

"Milk cans?" queried Judy, beginning to see daylight.

"Um, milk cans," Ronnie replied. "Every third day Shooter put out a bogus can full of infected milk which he took care to have picked up by one of his agents before the real milk collecting lorry came along."

"Then you mean Mr. Shooter's the head of this gang?"

"Good Lord, no! He's only very small fry. It's Dixon who's the brains behind the show. One of the cleverest scientists in Germany is Herr Doktor Franz Grüner."

"Then he isn't really dumb at all," Judy said, adding thoughtfully. "So it was his voice I heard my first night."

"Dumb my foot!" Ronnie laughed. "He can't speak English, that's his trouble. The Shooters are here to provide him with a hide-out. From what I can see he's got this place fitted out as a regular laboratory. Look, there's his incubator!"

They were kneeling on the floor examining a queer looking chest when they heard the sound of the trapdoor opening in the dairy. In a second Ronnie had switched off his torch.

"Our visitor may have a gun and I haven't," he whispered. "Don't worry; we'll have to use our wits, that's all."

They could hear the steps approaching along the tunnel.

"Can you bluff it out? They won't know I'm here, and if I hide behind those milk cans I'll have a chance to catch them unawares."

Judy nodded. She stood up and Ronnie slipped silently away.

It was Grüner who mounted the steps and faced her. With one hand he held a lantern above his head; a revolver was in the other.

"Ach, zo!" The exclamation fell slowly from his lips as he set the lantern on the table. "Eet ees pity I find you here. Es tut mir leid, aber —"

Although the language was foreign to her, the expression on his face left no doubt in Judy's mind that he meant to kill her. She did not move, but watched him with dull fascination raise the revolver. He was about to shoot when Ronnie in one bound sprang from his hiding place and, seizing him round the ankle, flung him to the ground.

The revolver clattered at Judy's feet. As Ronnie struggled to keep Grüner pinned to the ground she picked it up.

"All right, I've got him covered," she called out.

Ronnie released his hold and jumped to his feet.

"Good girl," he said. "Hang on whilst I rout round for something to tie him up with."

Grüner, alias Dixon, sat up to find himself looking down his own revolver and, with a shrug of the shoulders, accepted the inevitable. Judy could feel her heart thumping, but she kept her hand steady and never for a moment took her eyes off her prisoner. Strange to think that a few hours ago they had been calmly milking the cows together!

About to secure Grüner with a piece of rope he had found, Ronnie suddenly stopped short.

"Listen," he hissed. "There's someone coming."

The sound of stealthy movements could be heard in the tunnel. "If this is Shooter, we'll be in a nasty jam."



They waited breathlessly, conscious that their fate hung in the balance as the soft footfalls gradually drew nearer. Although he was wise enough not to move, a smile of triumph spread over Grüner's face. Cautiously the unknown mounted the steps and a head and shoulders loomed out of the darkness.

"Sam!" Ronnie cried. "You old earthworm! So you followed me, did you? Thank God, I had the sense to leave word where I'd gone."

To her amazement Judy saw that the man whom Ronnie was hailing as their rescuer was the drunken soldier.

"I guessed you might be up to some mischief," he said with a wink. Fortunately that careless lout on the floor left the dairy open and the trapdoor up or I might have tramped round the farm for hours."

Ronnie pointed to the map.

"The plans are there. Take over the revolver from Judy whilst I start tying up the doctor."

"O.K., Vickers. But please introduce me."

Sam turned and smiled at Judy.

"I've had the pleasure of meeting you before, but in rather an unfavourable guise, I'm afraid."

"Well, I must admit I didn't exactly take to you," Judy confessed.

"I haven't had a chance to tell you, Judy, that this disreputable son-of-a-gun is really one of the bright lads of the British Intelligence Service," Ronnie chipped in. "Sam Browning, Judy Bancroft! It's thanks to her, you know, Sam, that we've pulled this show off."

Whilst the two men were busy strapping Grüner's arms fast to his sides they told her how, since it had become known that bacteria were being sent out from Hawkshead Farm, Sam had passed himself off

to Shooter as a Nazi agent masquerading as a British Tommy, and been given the job of distributing the bogus milk cans.

"I still can't see the reason for your extraordinary entry into the railway carriage," said Judy.

"Oh, that!" Sam laughingly explained. "Well, I had to contact Vickers on the train. He'd been told to look out for a drunken soldier who'd give him the password 'Boy Blue.' Of course, I'd heard from Shooter that he was expecting a Land Girl and I was keeping an eye open for you, too, but I didn't think I'd find both my eggs in the same basket!"

"Yes, but all the same I think you overplayed your part a bit, old chap," Ronnie said. "By the way, the Shooters ought to be back any moment."

"Don't worry your head," Sam retorted. "Our fellows have seen to that. They should be under lock and key by now. I thought it best not to take any chances."

He straightened himself, rubbing his hands together with satisfaction in the knowledge that everything was accounted for.

"Bang goes my job," Judy remarked half ruefully.

Very swiftly Ronnie replied:

"I think my father could find you some work."

"It's very nice of you to suggest it, but I'm sure he wouldn't want to take me on permanently."

"I'd rather he didn't," Ronnie said gently. "You see, I want to do that—if you'll let me."

Sam took one look at Judy's face, then, pulling Grüner to his feet, he pushed him down the steps.

"Come on, Herr Doktor. This is our cue for exit."

(The End.)

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



Lady Mather Jackson, Miss Hopkin and Volunteers at Monmouth Rally.

## SCOTTISH NOTES

THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTES AND THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

IT is very satisfactory to note the interest taken by members of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes in the welfare of the Land Army, and it is most appropriate that it should be so, for the born countrywoman can help enormously in overcoming the feeling of loneliness that many town girls experience when they are first transplanted from the bustle of the city to the quietness of the country.

Doris Brown, who is employed on a farm in Kirkcudbrightshire, is now a member of the committee of the local Institute, and writes: "It is quite evident that the W.R.I. is really trying to make us feel at home in our new surroundings. The girls are encouraged to attend the first meeting of the 'Rural' held after they arrive in the district, so that they can get an idea of what it is like. Then, on joining, they become acquainted with the other members and take part in the social and cultural activities of the community." And how better could they employ their spare time? In addition to learning how to "gar auld claes look like new"—a knack which should be of great value in prolonging the life of their uniform—provision is also made for the "little nonsense now and then" which is relished by Land Girls just as much as by "the wisest men." Enjoyable parties have been given by County Federations, notably those of Kirkcudbright and Midlothian, and the Central Council has recommended that they do even more in this direction. The February issue of *Scottish Home and County* contains an appeal to this effect, and now it only remains for every member of the Land Army to show her appreciation by supporting all "Rural" activities.

Land Girls going to a new district should find out if there is an Institute in existence and get into touch with the Secretary. We feel sure they will be given a warm welcome.

**Aberdeenshire.**—Alford and Deeside sends yet another donation to the Spitfire Fund, this time for £7 9s. 6d., the proceeds of a dance organised by Williamina Dickson at Glassel. There is more to follow, we hear, as another money-raising function was arranged by Charlotte Robertson at Lumphanan. A move is afoot to start a Dramatic Society, of which we hope more will be heard.

We regret that Col. Walker was described last month as Chairman of the Aberdeen and Ellon A.E.C., when he is, in fact, Chairman of the Alford and Deeside A.E.C.

**Berwickshire.**—The event of the month in the Borders was the decoration awarded to Miss Bremner, who is now a M.B.E. All her girls and friends will be delighted to hear about it.

**Caithness.**—Commander Gore-Brown Henderson, Chairman of the Agricultural Executive Committee, presented Good Service Badges at a party in the Town Hall, Thurso, organised by Mrs. Mill and Miss Langlands.

**East Lothian.**—The Wheatsheaf Club, Innerwick, had a successful open night recently. Congratulations to Lillian Downie, who has become Mrs. McLetchie and who is continuing her job.

**Inverness-shire.**—The W.L.A. film was shown at Dochfour and Drumnadrochit Rural Institutes, and was much enjoyed.

**Kirkcudbrightshire.**—By some unexplainable slip of the pen credit for starting clubs was given to Dumfriesshire in last month's notes instead of to Kirk-

cudbright. Apologies to the latter county and congratulations on the success of their efforts. Congratulations also to Janet Lamond on her marriage to a Canadian soldier. She is now Mrs. Wilson and is staying on at her job.

**Stewartry.**—The Stewartry S.W.R.I. Federation entertained the local Land Girls to tea and music in Dumfries recently.

**Lanark.**—A most successful rally was held at Glasgow, when volunteers from North and South Lanark met to receive Good Service Badges from the Duchess of Hamilton, who was introduced by Mrs. Anne Douglas and thanked by Mrs. Luke.

**Midlothian.**—Mrs. Paterson gave a lovely party at her home "Glenesk," Penicuik, to the volunteers under her care.

**General.**—Sir Patrick Laird, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, has sent a much appreciated letter of encouragement and thanks to all volunteers who have completed two years' service in the Land Army.

Placing goes on apace. Our strength is now on the 2,000 mark.

## To all whom it may concern

DEAR EDITOR,

On looking through our monthly Spitfire lists I'm struck by the fact that a few hundred enterprising people have raised over £2,000 in seventeen months, but I am told a Spitfire costs £5,000 and we don't want ours to be a post-war product!

May I suggest that we make a real Spitfire drive? Not only a thousand members in Yorkshire (*vide* January Spitfire article) but thousands and thousands all over England, Scotland and Wales haven't given 6d. to the Fund. There are over 21,000 members in the W.L.A. at the present time, and there has been a general rise in wages recently. I am quite sure volunteers would make a ready and generous response if they realised that this L.A. Spitfire is up to them and that we *all ought to do something about it.*

Let us each and everyone raise every penny we can this month and next. Don't you think it would be grand to give the W.L.A. Spitfire as an Easter present to Lord Beaverbrook?

Yours truly,

E. PALETHORPE,  
W.L.A. 30,011 (Derbyshire).

# "PELWEAR"

REG'D.

CHURCH GATE  
LEICESTER

MAKERS OF THE LAND  
ARMY WINDCHEATER

AND

WINDCHEATER TROUSERS

Shade card and price list on application

## Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

After nearly three years of land work I find I have several pairs of socks unfit for wear, so I have cut them up and sewn them together to make blankets for Mrs. Churchill's Aid to Russia Fund. If any other Land Girls have any old socks, any colours, and wish to send them to me I will make them up into blankets, if you think they will be of any use.

With very best wishes to the Land Army for 1942.

Yours truly,

SHEILA B. SMITH, W.L.A. 6,372.

Estyn, Sandy Lane, Chester.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested in Doreen Sandberg's letter about tomato growing. My friend and I have both done this work at a very large nursery garden. Eight acres of glass! Our greenhouses were 187 feet long and held roughly 2,500 plants in each; there were 52 tomato houses and four for cucumbers. I honestly think it is one of the most interesting of all the various hand jobs; there are so many different things one can learn.

Here are a few tips for tomato growers:—

1. Get a couple of khaki hankies, even if it means giving up a coupon or two. I found that one's hankies look really repulsive after wiping one's nose a couple of times. The green tomato stain comes off your face on to your hanky, and all your other clothes, too, and it *will not* boil out! The stain doesn't show on the khaki.

2. *Don't*, whatever you do, wear silk underclothes for coolness; it's the biggest mistake you can make. Wear a light interlock vest and panties, shirt and dungarees, and always have a pullover or coat to put on when you go out into the open, even in the summer, for a few minutes.

3. Wear a shady hat, until the plants are high enough to offer some shade, and wear a beret or scarf round your head to keep your hair from being pulled about when turning above the wires or your hair will be green too.

4. Keep all cuts wrapped up, with self-adhesive bandage; there's a lot of germs in the wet-manured soil of a greenhouse, not to mention the fungus that sometimes attacks the plants. I always carried iodine, scissors and bandage with me to work.

5. Until one is used to the atmosphere inside the houses, try carrying a smelling bottle of frozen or liquid Eau de Cologne, as the plants use up all the oxygen, and one finds it an awful job to keep awake sometimes, not to mention headaches.

6. Wrap up well in the winter. Greenhouses are very, very cold when the furnaces are out while digging, flooding, manuring, etc., is in progress.

Yours sincerely,

Bedfordshire.

D. HAYWARD, W.L.A. 12,933.

DEAR EDITOR,

Isn't it amazing how the W.L.A. badge serves as an unspoken introduction where one Land Girl meets another. In the 'bus recently another girl and I were introduced in this manner, and we were soon engrossed in "shop talk"—soon another voice joined in, from a Land Girl who was "strap-hanging" nearby, and it turned out that we had all been to the same training farm at different times, so all three of us were chattering away "nineteen to the dozen" for the rest of the trip.

I simply love and enjoy every moment of my job; my only "grouse" is that I am more than sorry that I didn't join two years ago. I keep thinking of all the enjoyment I have missed.

Yours truly,

Isle of Wight.

F. TURNER, W.L.A. 49,753.

DEAR EDITOR,

I joined the W.L.A. soon after the outbreak of hostilities and found myself transplanted from a busy London office to a farm which needed a girl to deliver milk. At first it was bewildering, but after many months of delivering milk, using sundry means of transport (horse and cart, van, and private motor-car), and covering several different rounds, I have decided for me it is the one job which matters until this war is won.

Combined with work are several interesting hobbies, chief of which is the "Victory" saving group, now flourishing most successfully. It occurred to me six months ago that the employees on the farm would welcome the opportunity of saving sixpences for the national cause—and their own ultimate benefit! So with 30 members (including the farmer and his family) I organised my group, and it has been enthusiastically supported, bringing in an average of £10 per week. Perhaps other W.L.A. members would consider organising Savings Groups amongst farm employees. I can assure them that the results obtained are well worth the sacrifice of a few hours leisure time.

I have always been very keen on outdoor sports and games, so was delighted to be included in the village tennis club, and have spent many happy evenings on the tennis court. In the winter months there is great fun to be had out of helping to organise dances, etc.

With many varied activities and in the company of fine colleagues and good friends my life in the Women's Land Army is happy, and I am proud to be a member of it.

Yours sincerely,

Herts.

V. M. WALTER, W.L.A. No. 10,002.

DEAR EDITOR,

We read the correspondence in the W.L.A. magazine each month and delight in hearing of other members' life on farms. My pal and I work on a combined line of market gardening and general farm work. We grow broccoli, cabbage, potatoes, sugar beet, onions, corn, etc., and of course we have the usual amount of milking, hay carrying, threshing, manure spreading, as well as horse hoeing and banking cabbage, and helping to prepare the earth for replanting. We sincerely hope that all members may be happy and love their work as we do. Although we all hope that this war will soon be over and victory ours, and every man and woman settled in their own sphere of life, this is our prayer—that our loyalty and love may always remain for those who must in peace or war work hard to earn a living from the land.

Yours sincerely,

Cornwall.

TWO HAPPY LAND GIRLS.

*Don't forget* that prizes are offered for (a) a set of sketches; (b) a set of pressed wild flowers found in bloom between October 15th and March 15th. Directions for sending in entries will be given in the next issue.

## To the W. Sussex County Secretary

*Miss Adam, dear madam,*

It is with regret  
I have to inform you  
I'm not fitted yet.  
The pullover's splendid  
And so is the mac.  
And thanks for providing  
Two shirts to my back.  
The hat's on the large side  
But don't send another;  
I never wear hats  
So I've lent it to mother.  
The overall trousers  
Are roomy and rather  
Too long in the leg,  
But they're just right for father.  
I have three pairs of hose,  
And I thank you for sending 'em.  
(Good idea, to enclose  
Some worsted for mending 'em).  
And now I must mention  
An article which is  
Requiring attention,  
My corduroy breeches.  
They are large round the waist,  
Though my hips try to stop 'em,  
I'm afraid they'll slip down,  
So please will you swop 'em?  
Believe me, Dear Madam,  
I'm sorry to trouble you,

*Yours most sincerely,  
Phillips (M. W.).*

M. W. P., W.L.A. 4169 (W. Sussex).

It is regretted that several new subscribers who wanted to start with the January number have had to wait until February owing to the fact that January is sold out.



J. Hayhurst (Staffordshire) as pig man.

## Spitfire Fund

(See also page 10).

Thanks mainly to our old friends, January brought in over £230. Dances, whist drives, carol singing, raffles, making lavender bags, etc., and collecting, were all profitable. Wiltshire, with the biggest of all dances, has passed Cheshire in the County race. But what about our "also rans"? Surely Yorkshire is not going to be represented for ever by Mrs. Colley and Miss Carr, or Durham remain contented with a blank space?

Volunteers from Hants, Kent, Worcs and Somerset who sent rises in wages, think this is "a jolly good idea."

The Fund is now £2,430. The following is a list of donations received during January:

**Berks:** £1 10s.—Hall, Howard, Eldridge, Payne & Seymore; 5s.—Lefebure, Walpole. **Total—£2.**  
**Cheshire:** £20 10s.—Davenport (dance); 12s. 6d.—Powell & Watts (Christmas boxes on milk round); under 5s.—Lachan, Scragg. **Total—£21 7s. 6d.**  
**Cornwall:** £8 5s.—Jeffrey (dance); £5 8s.—Cox (whist drive); £2 13s. 6d.—Matthews (dance); 10s.—Spinks; under 5s.—Hawkins & Booth. **Total—£17 0s. 6d.**  
**Cumb. & West.:** £7 10s.—Forbes & Hodgson (dance); £1 2s.—Sproat (lavender bags and pincushions); £1—Irving. **Total—£9 12s.**  
**Derbs.:** £13—Neave, Copps, Palethorpe & Spooner (dance).  
**Devon:** 10s. 6d.—Amery. **Dorset:** 5s.—Macausland; 2s.—Office. **Total—7s.**  
**Essex:** £3 10s. 1d.—Felsted Volunteers (carol singing per Hammond); £3—Martin (Monday Night Club); £1 14s.—Witham Volunteers (carol singing per Wells); 15s.—Warner; 5s.—Letch; under 5s.—Bannister, Brown, Clerk, Spicer, Wright. **Total—£9 14s. 1d.**  
**Glos:** £1 10s.—Dursley area (carol singing). **Hants:** £13—Jarvis & Andover area (dance); £2 8s.—Kingsclere area (Anon, Andrews, Bullars, Escott, Fooks, Harris, Hyde, Holdaway, Jackson, Lever, Sampson, Woolley); £1—Grant; 5s.—Wort (first rise). **Total—£16 13s.**  
**Hereford:** 10s.—Wade; 5s.—Nicholson; 4s.—Spitfire Socks. **Total—19s.**  
**Herts:** 10s.—Chapman; under 5s.—Gulline. **Total—11s.**  
**Hunts, Cambs, Ely:** £10—Busbridge & Davies (whist drive); £3 10s.—Harradence (dance); £3—Jackson (raffle); 15s. 6d.—Clapton (sixth dance); 10s.—Arnold, Thorpe; 8s.—Huntley; 5s. 9d.—George; 5s.—Turk; under 5s.—Smith, Hoare, Clay, Turnbull, West, J. West, Muffett, Sheldrake-Kindred, Woolsley. **Total—£20 6s. 9d.**  
**Kent:** 10s.—Godfrey (first rise). **Lancs:** 10s.—Atkinson, Lefann; 6s. 3d.—Ramsay; 5s.—Brown, Crossley, Fenton, Forsyth, Gaskell, Mackinson, McDonough; under 5s.—J. M. Clough, Gaskell, Alcock, Bathgate, Gibbon, Harrison, F. Taylor, J. Taylor, Boulton, Dawson, Hanson, Armitage, Cannell, Huntingdon, Dunwell, Haydock. **Total—£4 17s. 3d.**  
**Leic. & Rut.:** £12 4s.—Clayton (whist drive & dance); £1—Wright; 5s.—Tyman, Solisbury; under 5s.—Austin, Bullock, Birch, Pye, Young. **Total—£14 6s. 6d.**  
**Lincs (Kest. & Holl):** £6—Buckberry (dance). **Middx.:** £1 5s.—Godfrey (sale of calendars). **Northants:** £1 5s.—Edwards, Eyre, Gayton, Heckman, Holton, Kerwick, Moore, Rollitt, Strange, Tyler, Vokes. **Oxon:** 10s. 6d.—Bellows; 10s.—Moss Holland; 5s.—Banks, Hazelwood; under 5s.—Fonge. **Total—£1 14s.**  
**Somerset—£5—D'Arcy** Cruttwell; 10s.—Ward; under 5s.—Colley (first rise), Lewin. **Total—£5 14s. 3d.**  
**Staffs:** £17 13s. 6d.—Roberts (dance); 5s.—Cooper; under 5s.—Gouldbourne. **Total—£18 0s. 3d.**  
**E. Suffolk:** 10s.—Free-man; under 5s.—Office, Smith. **Total—14s. 6d.**

(Continued on page 13).

## COUNTY NEWS

[Owing to the growth of County News it has become necessary to ration the allowance of space. In future news from each county will only appear every other month. This month, counties from Bedfordshire to London and Middlesex (alphabetically) which have sent in news are included. The others will appear in the March issue.]

**Berks.**—A dance was held by the Land Girls of several villages, including Yattendon, Hampstead Norris, and Ashampstead, at the Village Hall, Yattendon, recently. The dance was in aid of the Merchant Navy, which benefited by £9. The evening was voted a great success, and it was hoped that it would be repeated in the near future. The Land Girls would like to thank all those who helped in the arranging of refreshments, music, etc.

**Bucks.**—The increasing number of Land Girls and the demand for them still continues in the county.

One of our tractor drivers lights a fire every day of hedge cuttings, etc., to have her dinner by. It is not done without skill when hedges are damp and matches scarce. It may be an idea for others, but be sure not to light it too near hedges or trees.

January 10th was the date of a dance at the W.L.A. Hostel, Stoke Mandeville. The piano lent by Mr. Plested arrived on a tractor. The R.A.F. provided the musicians, and Mrs. Fellowes, our committee member for that area, gave invaluable help. The whole evening was a great success.

Another area also had a small party that afternoon, when games, competitions and tea were enjoyed by all present.

Our W.L.A. comforts circle is doing splendid work, much appreciated by those who have been able to benefit by it.

A large gift of illustrated papers divided between Bletchley and Stoke Mandeville Hostels was much appreciated.

**Cheshire.**—Land Girls' clubs in Cheshire continue to flourish. At a recent meeting of one club a most helpful discussion took place on such varying subjects as canteens, overcoats, uniform, organisation of dances and socials. Miss M. Foster and Miss Rigg are to be congratulated on having each formed a club in very isolated parts of the county. Their efforts are appreciated by the members. The W.A.C. hostels took on a very festive appearance during Christmas. Members spent a very jolly time, and at least one hostel invited employers to take part in their celebrations.

By the time these notes are published our new County Organiser will have taken up her duties in Cheshire. We extend a very real welcome to Miss Dewhurst, and hope she will enjoy her work with us and quickly become well known to all volunteers. Congratulations to Miss Davenport and Miss Parker and their helpers who organised a most successful dance,

and as a result have sent £20 10s. to the Spitfire Fund. Miss Davenport has already raised £30 for the Fund.

**Cornwall.**—Since our last report we have to record a number of social events, beginning with our Christmas party at Miss Collett's farm—where Women's Land Army and staid Committee members joined in strenuous round games organised by Miss Harris and Mrs. Croggan—which we all appreciated very much. A whist drive organised by Miss Cox and dances organised respectively by Miss Matthews, Miss Bolitho, Miss Jeffery and the Torpoint W.L.A. have realised a welcome sum for the Spitfire Fund and given much pleasure. An agricultural bee and a sing-song held by the East Cornwall Club were literally a howling success.

The usual hard winter grind has tried the staying powers of the girls, but they have been equal to the test. One farmer in applying for a second girl states: "The best thing the war has brought to my farm is the Land Girl."

Between now and March W.A.E.C. gangs of 150 girls will be starting work in the Penzance area to help produce Britain's earliest potato crop. The Scilly Isles are already employing twelve Land Girls and hope to have another twenty as soon as accommodation is found. The latest recruit arriving at St. Martins (the smallest island), and asking the reason for the crowd at the landing stage, was told that they had come to see the "landlady."

**Cumberland and Westmorland.**—A third Cumberland hostel opened at Longtown on a very cold day in January (if we may say so, Mr. Censor). The new arrivals were welcomed by the Warden, Mrs. Audus, who served in the Land Army in the last war, and were in very good spirits despite a very chilly journey.

Gill House members are doing forestry work at present, while farm work is slack, and many hostel members are spending their spare time in knitting for the Merchant Navy.

We are proud of having raised over £100 for the Spitfire Fund, mainly by dances, though Mary Sproat has earned a useful £1 2s. by making and selling pincushions, lavender and pot-pourri bags. These are decorated with little figures of the women's services, the favourite naturally being the Land Girl, with spade over shoulder. That old-established firm, McKissack and Bath, have accounted for more than £50 of our total.

Most of our farming members are employed singly, as the average size of our farms is very small by south-country standards. Some satisfied employers are venturing on a second Land Girl, however, and one farmer, ordering a third, said: "If you can send me one as good as the two I have I will be satisfied."

**Devon.**—Many congratulations to Miss O'Connor on her engagement to Mr. Frank Palmer, a farmer in South Devon.

**Dorset.**—Our great event recently was Plough Monday, the ceremony of blessing the plough, which is of very old origin and is kept on the second Monday in January. There was a service in Holy Trinity Church at Dorchester, at which the Bishop performed the ceremony of blessing the plough, and was afterwards photographed with Land Girls and examples of ancient and modern ploughs. Subsequently at the Corn Exchange the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hudson, tapped a barrel of Dorset brown ale, and he and others made speeches. Dances, both ancient and modern, followed. The Minister was greeted at the Corn Exchange by six Land Girls, one of whom presented him with a basket of six eggs. He much admired the new greatcoat.

**Surrey:** £7 8s.—Bray (dance); £1 3s.—Nower Lodge (1d. week fund); 10s.—Rotherham. **Total—£9 1s.**  
**W. Sussex:** 10s.—Kennerley. **Warwicks:** £3—Raikes; £1 1s.—W.L.A. 17004 (Christmas box); £1—Birch. **Total—£5 1s.** **Wilts:** £30—Lake L.A. (dance); £5 5s.—Warminster District (dance). **Total—£35 5s.**  
**Worc:** £1 15s.—Mrs. Lea & children (carol singing); £1 5s.—Oakes; £1 3s.—Office Box; 6s.—Dalton (first rise); under 5s.—O. & P. Bould, Burchard. **Total—£4 16s. 7d.** **Yorks (W.R.):** £1—Colley & Carr. **Scotland:** £7 9s. 6d.—Alford & Deeside per Bickson (dance). **Headquarters:** 10s.—Bower.

Miss Peacock, one of the Land Girls present, avoided a nasty accident by the skilful way in which she handled the horse drawing her hay cart when it bolted.

It seems a pity that other counties do not follow the example of Dorsetshire in reviving a festival which is so interesting and was once held all over the country.

**Essex.**—The Essex "Army" has now grown from 795 to 1,225 enrolled volunteers, of whom 435 are working for the W.A.C. At one moment it seemed that we should never reach our goal of 1,000 volunteers, and now we seem to have passed it "in our stride" and are a long way towards the 1,500 which must be our ambition for 1942.

**HOSTELS** are booming—we already have six "house" hostels, one hutment and six Ministry "barrack" hostels, holding from 12-40 girls each and we expect to have twenty by April.

**CLUBS** are being formed all over the county in villages and in hostels (in many cases by volunteers themselves), and include in their programmes recreative physical training, dancing, singing, first aid, etc.

**PARTIES.**—We have (with the generous help of our Chairman and County Committee) held 19 Christmas parties and have tried to arrange these so that every volunteer should have an opportunity to attend at least one. We feel sure our volunteers enjoyed these parties and are grateful to their hostesses for the trouble they took, and above all for the wonderful "pre-war" teas and suppers.

**NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS.**—Alas! we have too little space to quote letters from volunteers, but the following engagements and marriages have occurred the last two months: Joan Cronin, Esther Horne, Lillian Underwood, Doris Goodyear, Irene Morris, Barbara Beard, Rose Broad, Elsie Butcher, Barbara Crisp, Elsie Brand, Louise Robinson, Joan Wright, Septima Rayner, Peggy Price, Gladys Unwin, Joan Young and Violet Welch, the latter having a W.L.A. Guard of Honour and the Press at Cranham Church on the occasion of her wedding.

**SPITFIRE FUND.**—Essex has contributed £39 3s. 10d. towards this splendid fund since last October, and we hope to do even better during the coming months.

**Hampshire.**—Parties are in the news this month. Owing to transport difficulties, district rather than area parties are becoming popular. Mrs. Chute, County Chairman, entertained Land Girls from Basingstoke and Kingsclere areas to tea at the Vyne on January 4th. Porchester and Curdrige hostels gave successful New Year balls, and Porchester also gave one in Christmas week. On January 17th Mrs. Little gave a wonderful party at the W.L.A. Club in Winchester; about 40 volunteers were present. After a delicious tea a message was given from Mrs. Chute, who was unable to be present: and Miss Barton, the County Secretary, was introduced to everybody present. Games were organised by Dr. Cooper, which ended a most enjoyable evening. Mrs. Bruce gave a party for Droxford District, and Mrs. Hall another for Fareham District. Mrs. Dalgety had a supper party at Lockerley Hall for volunteers in the district; and it was decided to form a club and meet at her house each month.

**Hereford.**—For those volunteers who could not spend Christmas at home there were parties in various districts. In Hereford our Chairman, Lady Lettice Cotterell, invited members to an informal party at the Y.W.C.A. Thanks are due to Mrs. Redman and Miss Kennett-Hayes, who made the arrangements for the tea, and to Mrs. Richardson,

who so successfully organised the games and competitions which filled the evening. A party was given at Miss Braby's (The Granary, Merrivale, Ross), organised by Lady Shuttleworth and Mrs. Cox. The room looked very festive, and games which were played were much enjoyed by all. Some of the local representatives were able to be present, and this also was an opportunity for W.L.A. members in the Ross district to meet and to welcome the New Year. At the Ewyas Harold Hostel a very successful party was held on Christmas Eve. Sixteen girls were there and a number of guests were invited. The Warden and Miss Coleman did wonders with the catering, and the generous help of Mrs. Smith was much appreciated.

A new hostel has opened at the Springfield Estate, Ross-on-Wye, for volunteers employed by the W.A.C. It is hoped that it will become a centre for Land Girls in the district, and the Warden, Miss, Crane, will welcome members of the W.L.A. every Tuesday evening.

**Herts.**—Hertfordshire enters the New Year with a feeling of satisfaction in her past achievements and full of encouragement for the future. During 1941 our numbers have risen from 140 to 518 in January of this year, while no less than six hostels have been started and more are under consideration. We have welcomed to the county over 100 girls from the North, as well as from other counties, and we are glad to see them settling down so well and joining in our activities.

As a result of our Rally at St. Albans last October we have again been asked to join the Mayor's Procession, this time during Warships Week, and we hope to see the new overcoats on parade for the first time in this county.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Phillis Price (22241), who was knocked down on her way to work and died later from her injuries. Phillis had been in the Land Army since September, 1939, and was a member we can ill afford to lose.

**Hunts, Cambs, Ely.**—Many interesting letters have been received, amongst them the following: "We are busy straw carting and littering the bullock yard. We have started the mangolds to-day, so now we shall have plenty of work to occupy us for some time. We are in our twentieth month on this farm, and send our best wishes for a Happy New Year to all the County Committee, office staff and members of the W.L.A., and let us hope we shall see a more peaceful ending of 1942"; and this one, after asking for new uniform: "I help feed stock, pigs, etc., in the afternoon, and animals do like to make sure you are not new by grabbing you, and pigs do like to see you wallowing in the slush."

The most welcome news of the month was the letter from Miss Busbridge and Miss Davis, of Caxton, who sent us £10 for the Spitfire Fund as the result of a whist drive. "We are very pleased with the result, as we did not expect quite such a large sum. We had a big crowd there on the evening, twenty tables, and everyone seemed to enjoy it very much. All the prizes were given to us, and the two raffles we had, a bottle of sherry and a box of chocolates, brought in a nice sum." Miss Clapton has also sent us another donation after running her sixth dance.

A very enjoyable party was given by Mrs. Keys and Mrs. Lewis, the representative for St. Ives, on Friday, January 23rd, for the girls at Higham's Farm Hostel, to which Land Girls from neighbouring villages and farms were invited.



W.L.A. Young Farmers' Club at Lampeter, S. Wales.

**Kent.**—We take a particular interest in one East Kent venture. Miss P. Broadley, W.L.A. 27195, has been given six acres of land by her father, and the farmer who employs her has helped with a loan of tractor and seed. She has ploughed up her own land in her free time and sown winter wheat. As Miss Broadley worked in a town before training at Wye College in November, 1939, we feel we have a real Land Army farmer in the making.

Lady Tomlin had a tea party for the girls in the Stelling Minnis area, which gave one of our very successful threshing gangs a chance to meet other Land Girls working in the same district.

**Kesteven (Lincs).**—Mrs. Wallace gave a most delightful Christmas party to the Land Army Girls of Kirton and district in the Parish Hall. The girls from the outlying districts were conveyed to and from the party in a bus sent by their employers, Messrs. Dennis and Son. An attractive programme was made up of games, dancing and music and community singing. One girl sang a solo, another delighted everyone with her recitations, and there were wonderful refreshments. It was a lovely idea for all these girls to meet in this way. Mrs. Hill, our County Secretary, also Miss Griffin, were present. After refreshments were partaken of, badges for six months' service were presented by Mrs. Wallace. A very enjoyable evening closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Wallace and the singing of the National Anthem.

**Lancs**—Lancashire volunteers are very sorry to lose the services of Miss Worsley-Taylor, who has been their magazine representative since the LAND GIRL first went to print in April, 1940. The monthly circulation of the magazine in Lancashire has increased enormously since those days, and now stands at approximately 350, largely due to Miss Worsley-Taylor's efforts. We would all like to wish her

every success in her new war work, and send her our thanks for her hard work in connection with the LAND GIRL. Miss Rosemary Ramsay succeeds her as Magazine Representative.

We are pleased to be able to record a gratifying increase in the Spitfire donations for the month. Both individual efforts and dances held at the clubs which have been formed in the county have brought this about.

We would like to congratulate Miss M. Maguire upon her marriage, and we are pleased to hear that she is continuing her work for the Women's Land Army.

It may interest Lancashire readers to hear that in the past six months the number of volunteers equipped and transferred to other counties amounts to 1,484. As so many of the Lancashire volunteers are transferred almost immediately upon their enrolment, we often feel that a good deal of our news can be found in the paragraphs welcoming contingents of girls to their new counties. We should like to wish both them and the girls employed in our own county all the very best for 1942. Carry on, Lancashire lasses!

**London and Middlesex.**—A very successful dance was held on December 18th by nine members of the Women's Land Army working in Staines. Nearly three hundred people were there and the whole evening went with a swing. Several other W.L.A. girls were able to go, and two of the visitors in uniform helped to raffle a chicken and some eggs and onions. The girls were fortunate in the generous support given them by their employers, Mr. A. E. Mason and his brother, and must have felt proud to be able to hand over £28 3s. 0d. to the Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund as a result of their effort. The same girls are holding another dance in the Staines Town Hall on February 19th, and hope that still more Women's Land Army girls will be able to come.

## County Employment Returns and Spitfire Contributions

COUNTY.	No. of Vols. now working, placed in empmt. since outbreak of war.	Spitfire Contribution £ s. d.
Kent	1,769	39 11 2
Yorks	1,057	31 2 2
Hants	1,021	75 17 9
Essex	1,007	47 2 9
Sussex (East)	838	42 14 6
Surrey	807	98 3 6
Leic. 522, Rutland 143	665	69 14 6
Northants	658	39 12 6
Wilts	644	136 7 10
Berks	613	21 1 9
Cheshire	613	134 2 10
Worcs	578	210 0 2
Sussex (West)	575	28 15 8
Glos	568	29 1 6
Herts	557	53 8 2
Norfolk	550	11 3 0
Lancs	538	20 9 11
Warwicks	526	44 18 9
Notts	506	13 10 6
Somerset	485	40 3 3
Devon	457	13 19 3
Oxon	451	46 5 7
Bucks	428	9 3 6
Hunts 146, Cambs 251, Ely 31	428	160 2 2
Salop	424	85 9 2
Northumberland	402	5 5 6
Dorset	333	31 17 0
Cumberland and Westmorland	309	101 5 0
Cornwall	303	47 1 11
Lincs (Lindsey)	293	5 13 6
Hereford	288	26 4 6
Monmouth	273	6 18 9
Suffolk (West)	255	9 7 6
N. Wales	243	14 16 3
Isle of Wight	192	3 4 3
Denbigh	165	14 10 0
Beds	158	6 13 6
Derby	151	17 2 0
London and Middx.	150	3 4 0
Flint	133	4 16 6
Brecon and Radnor	129	—
Staffs	Not received	103 14 4
Lincs (Holland and Kesteven)		136 5 9
Suffolk (East)		52 1 0
Durham		—
S. Wales		11 15 2
Scotland		280 12 0
Headquarters		122 13 0
THE LAND GIRL		5 0 0

On January 31st there were over 22,700 members of the W.L.A. in employment.

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