

APRIL 1944

ESSEX NEWS LETTER - APRIL

APPROX 1943

Essex now has 3706 Volunteers on the Register, 1552 being employed by the W. A. E. C. with 3 forewomen and 96 leaders - 2043 are employed on farms and in nurseries and market gardens and I hope now that Spring has really come our resignations will drop to a very low level and our new recruits bring us back to our 4000 figure of last year.

BENEVOLENT FUND. March has been a wonderful month and we have reached the splendid figure of £3032! There have been so many donations, subscriptions and entertainments that it is really impossible to enumerate them all in this letter, but strict accounts are being kept of every sum received and we propose to issue a complete balance sheet next month which will shew all the prize winners for (1) Districts (2) Hostels or Clubs (3) individual sums and collecting cards.

COLLECTING CARDS. Please send in any that have been filled (with P. O. for amount collected) as you only have another fortnight to win that Saving Certificate!

'DATES'. I feel I must advertise the 'Dunmow Week' as now that we have double summer time it makes it possible to go 'further afield' on bicycles etc.

AT THE FOAKES MEMORIAL HALL

- MONDAY 17th. April - AMERICAN CABARET & DANCE (W.L.A. and American Air Force) - Hill-Billy Band and American Orchestra. 7.30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Tickets 2/6. Light Refreshments
- TUESDAY 18th. April - WHIST DRIVE - Good Prizes - 7.30 p.m. Tickets 1/6. Refreshments included. Tickets from A. Cole, Dunmow
- WEDNESDAY 19th. April - DANCE - Maraunders Band - 7.30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Admission 2/6.
- THURSDAY 20th. April - CHILDREN'S CONCERT - CLOWN BERTRAM 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Admission 6d. and 1/-.
- FRIDAY 21st. April - VARIETY CONCERT by DUNMOW COMBINED SERVICES - Contributions by Women's Land Army, American Air Force Friends, N.F.S., G.T.C., A.R.P., Dunmow Fritch Bacon Co., Merchant Navy Comforts Service, Dunmow Rural District Council Staff, St. Luke's Nursery, Miss Judge's Ballet Dancers - 8 p.m. (Doors open 7.30 p.m.) Tickets 3/6, 2/6, 1/3 at the door. Tickets obtainable from H. S. Spore, High Street, Dunmow. 'Phone Dunmow 123.
- SATURDAY 22nd. April - DANCE - Parkinson and his Band. 7.30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Admission 2/6.

Don't forget the Writtle Club Bazaar and Baby Show in the Village Hall on Saturday 15th. April.

SUNDAY APRIL 16TH. as you all know is the beginning of our final 'Great Week' and we want as many Volunteers as possible who are living or billeted in the Banned Areas to come to the Cathedral Service. The Mayor of Chelmsford has kindly consented to take the salute at the Shire Hall and Volunteers should assemble for the Parade at 2 p.m. in Tindal Square. As it is 'Youth Sunday' various organisations are taking part and we have been promised a band to head the procassion.

Tea will be available by ticket for Volunteers who have come long distances directly after the Cathedral Service.

BRAINS TRUST on Friday 21st. in the Shire Hall, Chelmsford is the 'High Light' of our appeal - Will Volunteers please send in their questions as soon as possible. As the B.B.C. are arranging to broadcast the Trust to Canada we want really good questions.

AUCTION. An employer who wishes to be anonymous has most generously presented a young goat to be auctioned for the Benevolent Fund and this will take place in the Market on Friday 21st.

FANCY DRESS BALL that night in the Shire Hall, Chelmsford is a 'Date' to be remembered if you are in the Chelmsford District or any of the banned

areas. Lovely prizes and many valuable raffles (Fancy dress optional).

FLAG DAY SOUTHEND is on Saturday April 22nd. and we badly want W.L.A. sellers, so will all Volunteers who live in the town or who could get there from the surrounding districts by 2 p.m. please send their names at once to Miss Gribble, County Organiser, at this office if they have not already done so.

'WISHFUL THINKING' is I am afraid the only excuse I can give for this heading in the March News Letter relating to Income Tax!! Pay as you Earn (not Pay as you Please!) - There is still a good deal of confusion with regard to this new system and as it is complicated for the ordinary 'man in the street' we shall be pleased to supply Volunteer's with a pamphlet 'Pay as you Earn' on application to this office - price 3d.

EMERGENCY MILKERS. Will any Volunteers in the employment of the W.A.E.C. who are willing to assist in this most essential work in a National Emergency please send their names to this office for all particulars with regard to conditions.

AREA MEETINGS. We have at last been able to arrange the Health and Beauty talks which had to be postponed last autumn on account of Miss Philips illness - they will be as follows:-

May 1st.	Princess Louise, North Street, Golf House, Kingsmead, Billeter Girls	} at Congregational Hall Middle Street, Nazeing 7.30 p.m.
May 2nd.	Bois Hall, Bluebridge Hill, Great Yeldham, Billeter Girls	} at Bluebridge Hill Hostel 7.30 p.m.
May 3rd.	West Mersea, Peldon, Billeter Girls	} at West Mersea Hostel 7.30 p.m.
May 4th.	Station Rd. Stansted, Brewery House, The Limes, Church Hall Farm, Moor End, Langley Vicarage	} at Station Road, Stansted. 7.30 p.m.
May 5th.	Garth End, Littlewood, Tiptree Billeter Girls	} at Littlewood Hostel 7.30 p.m.

and we hope all Volunteers will make a point of attending.

FIRST AID HOSTEL COMPETITION. Judging for the Silver Challenge Cup will take place (on dates to be arranged) during the weeks of April 24th, and May 1st., so don't miss any classes between now and then or you will be letting down your team.

SAVINGS GROUPS. Can any Hostel or Club beat Mangaps splendid record which with 27 Volunteers has averaged £5. 9. 0 a week - Congratulations to the Volunteers and their splendid Savings Group Secretary, Gladys Seward.

CANTEENS. I am sure Volunteers will be glad to hear that the following canteens are now available for members of the W.L.A.:- W.V.S. - Tillingham, Debden, Manningtree, Hatfield Peverel, Southminster, Gosfield, Bradwell-on-Sea, Baddow, Kirby-le-Soken, Harwich & Dovercourt, Downham, Weeley, Frinton, Wivenhoe, Ingatestone, Upminster Recreation Ground, Burnham-on-Crouch, Heybridge, Woodham Mortimer, Margaretting; Y.M.C.A. & Y.W.C.A. - Colchester, Harwich & Dovercourt, Dunmow Y.M.C.A. Club, Canteen Chelmsford Station, Ladies Electrical Assn. Mobile Canteen, Maldon, Chigwell - Grange Farm, Hatfield Heath - Congregational Church Hall, Canteen - Coryton, Nr. Stanford-le-Hope; Father Healey's Canteen Great Bromley; Methodist Church Upminster Station Road; The Rev. Mellish, V.C. Dunmow St. Martin's Club; L. T. Marshall, Esq. Felstead; Mrs. Kirkpatrick Barnston Club; Dunmow British Restaurant (running car for agricultural workers) Felstead, Stebbing, Thaxted, High Roding, Hatfield Broad Oak, Little Hallingbury; Congregational Hall Danbury; Wesleyan Hall Maldon; Salvation Army: 62, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, 1/2 Beach Way, Belsize Avenue, Jaywick, The Salvation Army Citadel, Southend.

CLUBS. Clacton Club has temporarily closed but we hope to open again in the near future when less expensive premises have been obtained.

ALLOCATION OF COSMETICS FOR HOSTELS AND CLUBS. This good news will I feel sure inspire Volunteers with the desire to join the nearest Club or to start one in their village!! - From a marvellous selection including

all the newest gala series, Outdoor Girl Boulevard, Everglades etc.!! we hope to supply every Hostel and Club in Essex in the near future - all goods being at ordinary retail prices.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER. We were very disappointed that of the 96 Volunteers who wrote to say they would like to attend a Parade on behalf of this splendid appeal only 13 turned up at Bethnal Green on March 25th.

We have now been asked to send a contingent to Romford for a Parade to be held on Saturday April 22nd. and hope that as many Volunteers as possible will send their names to this office and come.

REST BREAK HOUSES. The second of these delightful Holiday Homes has now been opened at Llandudno, South Wales and we hope it and the one at Torquay will be a real boon to many Volunteers. Christine Crawley is the first Essex Volunteer to avail herself of this American Gift and we look forward to her account of her holiday. Our Welfare Sub-Committee have presented the Homes with 12 luncheon satchels.

UNIFORM. Please note that the uniform Department will not be open at any time on Saturday May 6th. as 'all hands' will be wanted to help to organise the Rally on that date.

GUM BOOTS are becoming increasingly scarce so please wash yours and put them away until the autumn - it is extremely bad for your feet to wear them in warm weather and an utterly selfish waste of precious rubber. W.L.A. uniform is one which every Volunteer can feel justly proud of, but we do not feel proud when we see armbands mutilated and crowns cut out or hats worn like soup plates on backs of heads or with festoons of cord worn under the chin - Imagine an A.T. hat with a brown bow under the chin or the expression of the C.O. when she saw that embellishment on Parade. - Armbands can be obtained from the uniform Department price 6d. - and if the right size for hats is given and it is worn on the head no cords are needed.

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS. With deep regret we have to announce the death of Gladys Garner who had been a member of the W.L.A. since 19. 4.41 and had been our most efficient Hostel gardener at Hulmers Hostel Warley since March 1942. Her death was tragic and unexpected and we know all Volunteers will want to join in expressing our deep sympathy to her parents and sister Ivy.

Our engagements and marriage list is a long one this month and includes:- Engagements:- O. Carswell, K. Watson, K. Kerry, Q. Alderidge. Marriages:- E. Adams now Mrs. F. Loven, M. Simons now Mrs. Long, E. Weatherill now Mrs. Firman, D. Austin now Mrs. Hilinski, M. Minshall now Mrs. Corcoran, L. Edwards now Mrs. Maiden, M. Daly now Mrs. Tickner, V. Perry now Mrs. Ling, K. Robinson now Mrs. Haynes, I. Tennison now Mrs. Mayes, M. King now Mrs. Waterman, E. Curwen now Mrs. Baird, D. Johnson now Mrs. Bacho, A. Fry now Mrs. Mawson, D. Reynolds now Mrs. Howie, J. Warr now Mrs. Trigwell, D. Suckling now Mrs. Watson, J. Harvey now Mrs. Dubois, T. Lewis now Mrs. Crump, E. Goulding now Mrs. Nicoll -
Spring certainly has come!

I think all Volunteers will be proud of the record of Pat Boyce whose promotion was announced in the following letter by Mr. Kalman, proprietor of the Silverpines Poultry Farm:- 'Mr. Quinn is shortly taking over a farm of his own and in connection with this fact he is leaving Silverpines. I have decided to promote Pat Boyce from Assistant Manageress to full Manageress and have promoted Miss Sapsford to Assistant Manageress. As much as I regret the departure of such an outstanding expert as Mr. Quinn I am fully confident that under the capable management of the two girls, who will be assisted by another three workers, the farm will be able to maintain its high output to the benefit of the Country on whose side I am privileged to work. I would be grateful if you would kindly put the above mentioned on record.' Mrs. Crittall, New Farm, Great Easton has sent us the following extremely nice account of five Volunteers working for the W.A.E.C.:- 'I had five girls who were employed by the War Agricultural Committee working for me last week, they were doing threshing. They were:- Doris Wood, Grace Crane, Evelyn Sherring, Ellen Smith, Norah Naylor. I should like to tell you that my foreman says he has never had five people working better on this job and I thought you would like to know

this.

Apologies are due for 2 clerical errors in last month's News Letter (1) K. Copley should have read E. Copley as passing with distinction in the Proficiency tests and M. Statt should be Ivy Pass as forewoman.

RALLY - MAY 6TH.

Owing to the difficulties arising from the banned areas it has been decided to hold our Great Rally in Dunmow instead of Writtle so Volunteers from any part of Essex can attend. Dunmow is on the branch line that connects Witham and Bishops Stortford, it should therefore be easy for Volunteers (who are too far to bicycle) to come by rail. Below is a time table that we feel may be helpful:-

Leave Shenfield 11.48) Change at Witham.
Leave Chelmsford 12.11) Leave Witham 12.41 changing at Braintree.
Leave Colchester 12.4) Leave Braintree 2.0 arrive Dunmow 2.22.
Broxbourne 1.50 Change at Bishops Stortford. Leave Bishops Stortford 12.45 arrive Dunmow 1.16.

Leave Saffron Walden 12.6 Change Audley End. Leave Audley End 12.20 change at Bishops Stortford then please enquire if 12.45 from Bishops Stortford to Dunmow is the connection for above train.

RETURN JOURNEY for Witham, Chelmsford, Shenfield & Colchester.

LAST TRAIN for connections - Leave Dunmow 6.17 Change at Braintree.

Leave Braintree 7.20 Change at Witham.
Leave Witham 7.55 arrive Chelmsford 8.13.
Leave Witham 7.55 arrive Shenfield 8.36
Leave Witham 7.43 arrive Colchester 8.10

RETURN JOURNEY for Broxbourne

LAST TRAIN - Leave Dunmow 7.23 change at Bishops Stortford.
Leave Bishops Stortford 7.57 arrive Broxbourne 8.17.

RETURN JOURNEY - Leave Dunmow 7.23 change at Bishops Stortford.
Leave Bishops Stortford 7.37 change at Audley End.
Leave Audley End 8.16.

PROGRAMME OF RALLY MAY 6TH.

- 2.30 p.m. Volunteers to assemble in Oakroyd Avenue, Dunmow (close to Railway Station) for Procession.
- 2.45 Procession headed by a band to march through town to 'The Downs' (weather permitting) when Lady Denman, our Hon. Director, will present the Essex W.L.A. banner, 4 year Arm-Bands, Proficiency Badges and the Silver Cup for our Inter-Hostel First Aid Competition.
- 4 Tea in the Foakes Memorial Hall.
- 4.45 Massed Choirs from Hostels to sing 'Jerusalem' and 'Land of Hope and Glory' under the directorship of Miss Nettleship, the Regional Musical Adviser for C.E.M.A.
- 5.30 National Anthem.

NOTE. Volunteers should not wear overcoats, but W.L.A. shirts, green pullovers with arm-bands, breeches, stockings, shoes and Hats.

FINALLY. Every Volunteer will realize that these plans depend on the National situation on that date. Now that there are great hopes of the Second Front starting sometime this summer we must impress on all Volunteers that when it does start every one must 'stay put' and carry on as far as possible with her job. Instructions must only be taken from W.L.A. Officials, employers, Hostel Wardens or other people in authority.

M. E. SOLLY-FLOOD,
Organising Secretary.