This booklet is dedicated to the contributors
Margot Bettles, Doris Bradley, Hilda Brooker, Helen Dawson
Eileen Egglesden, Olive French, Eileen Hodd, Betty Hollingdale
Evelyn Light, Edna Lower, Stella Masters, Jessie Matthews
Joy Moore, Edna Tree and Maureen Young
and all other former members of the
Women’s Land Army and Women’s Timber Corps.

I t was not until 2008 that members of the Women’s Land Army and Women’s Timber Corps received official recognition for their unique contribution to the war effort. Without their hard work an embattled country would have faced starvation. This is an essential and inspiring part of our heritage, which needed to be recorded. Former Land Girls, who were billeted in Kent and Sussex during the Second World War and who still live in these counties today, recall here their memories of that time. This project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and includes a film of the same name, The Forgotten Army. It features interviews of these former Land Girls and their stories re-enacted by students from Cobham Hall School, Kent, and Robertsbridge Community College, East Sussex.

THE FORGOTTEN ARMY

This project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Sound Architect would like to thank them for their support and encouragement throughout.
Standing on the top of a hill in the South Downs, near Haywards Heath, West Sussex, is a large manor house, Balcombe Place. This beautiful Grade II listed building was transformed during the Second World War into the beating heart of an extraordinary organisation, the Women’s Land Army.

In the years between the two World Wars, agriculture in Britain was in a state of decline. Despite government measures to stimulate farming in the 1930s, home production had increased very little by the beginning of the Second World War. Farm labourers had been leaving the land to work in factories in towns and cities, causing the rural working population to shrink. Britain’s volume of food imports remained high at 70%.

In 1939 the likelihood of war with Germany reawakened the fear of sea-blockades and the resulting national food shortage. There were still vivid memories of the First World War when the 1917 harvest failed leaving Britain with just three weeks’ worth of food reserves. Starvation loomed and the same could happen again if quick and decisive action was not taken to stimulate farming and boost home-grown food production.

A target was set to put 2 million acres under the plough between May and September 1939 and have it producing food by the harvest of 1940. An incentive of £2 per acre was offered to farmers to aid the campaign. This ‘Battle for Wheat’, as it became known, proved successful, achieving its target by April 1940.

‘The Land Army fights in the fields. It is in the fields of Britain that the most critical battle of the war may well be fought and won.’

Lady Gertrude Denman
Director of the Woman’s Land Army

TIMELINE

1917
WLA formed
23,000 recruited.

1919
First WLA disbanded.

1938
Ministry of Agriculture ask Lady Denman to reform WLA for England and Wales.

1939
Balcombe Place becomes WLA Headquarters. Recruiting begins.

1940
January: Rationing begins.
April: ‘The Land Girl’ first published, 3d per copy.
June: Almost 6,000 girls now on the land.

1941
May: British women, 19-40yrs, have to register for war work. June: Clothes rationing starts and 14,000 WLA working on land. July: HM Queen Elizabeth becomes Patron of the WLA.
The government of the day realised that women once again would be needed to replace the male work-force, who would soon be leaving the land by their thousands to join the armed forces.

Despite the obvious contribution of the Women’s Land Army in the First World War and the recognition given by politicians and farmers at the time, its re-establishment was met with mockery and suspicion.

Lady Gertrude (Trudie) Denman had been asked by the Ministry of Agriculture in April 1938 to reform the organisation. Lady Denman was the ideal candidate for the post. She had been deeply involved in recruiting the original Women’s Land Army in 1917 and had not only been the Assistant Director of the Women’s Branch of Food Production at the Ministry of Agriculture during the First World War but, was also chair of the National Federation of Women’s Institutes.

Lady Denman immediately set to work and, using her extensive contacts, drew up proposals for a network of committees, support staff, farmers and training colleges and other organisations that would manage the Land Army throughout England and Wales. The Treasury dragged its feet and, after considering these well thought out and thorough plans, dismissed them as ‘a sledge hammer to crack a nut’.

Fearing that she would lose her extremely able administrators to other women’s organisations set up to help the war effort, Lady Denman took drastic action to jolt the Ministry out of their indifference. In April 1939, a full year after she was originally appointed, Lady Denman threatened to resign, unless she was allowed to choose and appoint her headquarter staff immediately. This elicited the necessary result and on 1st June 1939 the Women’s Land Army (WLA) was officially reborn.

The organisation would see to the recruitment, training, placement and welfare of the Land Girls, and the Head Quarters and heart of the operation was to be at Balcombe Place, Lady Denman’s own beautiful country home.

By the time war broke out in September 1939, the first two groups of Land Girls had already been trained. By 1943 the Women’s Land Army had increased the nation’s food production to 70%. The dread of famine and starvation had been averted.

**TIMELINE**

**1942**

March: Women’s Timber Corps reformed. 4,000 ‘lumberjills’ employed over next 4 years.

June: 40,000 WLA members.

**1943**

June: 65,000 WLA members, rising to 80,000 by December.

Over 3700 in Sussex.

**1945**

February: Lady Denman resigns as government refuses WLA post-war benefits.

8 May: VE Day

December: Queen presents long serving Land Girls with gold armbands.

**1946**

June: Land Army joins Victory Parade, London.

August: WLA 54,000 members and 750 receive armlets from Queen. Women’s Timber Corps disbanded.
Excerpt from a letter from Diana Countess de la Warr, chair of the East Sussex Committee of the WLA, which appeared in Sussex Express and County Herald on 16 June 1939:

‘The Government has now appointed women’s committees in every county to assist with the organisation of the Land Army. One of the first activities of these committees will be to arrange short courses of training in farm work and tractor driving for those volunteers who are able to take them. In the meantime we ask every woman who is prepared to volunteer for work on the land in time of war to register her name by filling up the form in the National Services Guide, obtainable at any Post Office or enrolling themselves at the local branch of Women’s Voluntary Services (WVS). As chairman of the East Sussex Committee of the Women’s Land Army, I urge all Sussex women who have not already joined some branch of National Service to give this appeal their earnest consideration.’

JOINING UP

‘For a healthy, happy job join the Women’s Land Army’
Recruiting slogan

‘I joined the WLA in Lewes and lodged there at Admiralty House for 6 weeks. After that I lived at home in Brighton and travelled by bicycle and train. I worked all over Sussex.’
Edna Lower, née Godfree, Land Girl 1941-47.

‘One day I saw a friend in Land Army uniform. She said they needed more girls on their farm and I knew that’s what I wanted to do, so I joined up. I was nearly 17. I went home and told mother who wasn’t pleased. I spent a miserable weekend. She said that no boy would look at me, that the WLA hang around with ‘fags’ in their mouths and their hats on one side.’ Eileen Egglesden (left) worked at ‘Vincent’s Farm’, Barming, Kent.

‘My sister was already in the Land Army and left to get married. My parents also worked on the same farm and the boss said he would be happy to apply for me to join and take my sister’s place.’ Eileen Hodd, née Jarman, Land Girl 1942-1947 Sandhurst, Kent.

‘I worked as a telephonist and my boss was Head of Civil Defence in the area. I used to help at the Women’s Voluntary Service canteen in the evenings and met several Land Girls there. As soon as I was 18 I joined the Women’s Land Army.’

‘My mother was widowed in 1936 and couldn’t afford to stay where she was. I was one of six children. My three brothers had joined up and my two sisters had been evacuated. Mother went to live with her sister, so I had to find something to do.’
Edna Tree, née Ayers, (right) Land Girl 1940-1946.

‘I was 16 years old and working for an insurance company. I used to look out of the window and see the Land Girls and think “I want to be one of them”, but you had to be 17½ to join. As soon as I was old enough I applied.’
Stella Masters (left) WLA No: 146320 Land Girl at ‘Wick Street Farm’, Berwick, East Sussex.

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UNIFORMS AND TRAINING

UNIFORMS  Official list of items:
- A serviceable rainproof mackintosh
- A khaki overall coat
- Two fawn shirts with turn-down collar
- A pair of corduroy breeches
- A pair of dungarees
- A green knitted pullover
- Three pairs of fawn stockings
- A pair of heavy brown shoes
- A pair of rubber gumboots
- A brown felt hat
- A green armband with royal crown
- A badge of the buttonhole type
- A heavy wool greatcoat

The following additional items could be purchased: A brown leather belt, a WLA tie and a pair of pull-on trousers.

Have you seen the Land Girl,
With her uniform complete
And seen how very smart she looks,
So workmanlike and neat?

Extract from poem by J H Summer, published in the Land Girl, December 1947

Olive French, nee Heath, in greatcoat and breeches (front row far left).
Olive was based at ‘Dittons Farm’, Polegate, Sussex. WLA No: 174200.

Betty Hollingdale then and now. She still lives at ‘Bullock Down Farm’ today.

Betty Hollingdale received her training in Cornwall, but was billeted at her uncle’s farm in Sussex. Betty wasn’t issued with gumboots, but would wrap sacking around her trouser legs and tie it with binder string as protection when cutting kale. ‘Breeches were saved for best. I never wore them in the field!’


‘I didn’t like the uniform at first’, Eileen Egglesden recalls, ‘it was too big.’ Her father, who was a Medical Officer in the Army, took her breeches to the army tailor for alteration. ‘The rest was alright. I was very thin and one of the farm hands used to say that his dog wore a bigger collar around his neck than the belt I wore around my waist!’

Eileen Egglesden, Land Girl at ‘Vincent’s Farm’, Barning, Kent.

‘Your first armband came with no diamonds on it. Then you got a half diamond for every 6 months service. After 2 years, you were given a new armband with two full diamonds already on it.’

Stella Masters, Land Girl at ‘Wick Street Farm’, Berwick, East Sussex

‘Oh I liked the trousers. I was a trouser girl anyway, but I did get laughed at a bit in my breeches and long socks.’ Eileen Hodd, Land Girl at ‘Bourne Farm’, Sandhurst, Kent

Edna Tree trained at Swanley Horticultural College and learned how to dig. Her instructor used to say ‘Dig a bit deeper girls. We’ve got to bury old Hitler in there!’

An armband showing 3 full diamonds and one half diamond, denoting 3½ years service.

Edna Tree, nee Ayers, Land Girl 1940-1946, was based in Kent.
Most Land Girls came from the towns and cities, from shops and factories, and many had never seen a cow, let alone milk one. The training they received varied greatly from official structured courses over a period of weeks, given at agricultural colleges or training farms, to being thrown in at the deep end and learning on the job. One of the courses was Dairy Farming and the Care of Livestock, covering cows, pigs, sheep and horses. There would be practical hands-on learning during the day and lectures on theory in the evenings. The girls would have lived in or near the training centre and would have had little time off. The animals still had to be fed and watered, so there were early and late shifts to contend with too.

Many girls came straight from school, driven by a desire to do their bit for the war and by the glamorous image depicted in the recruitment posters, suggesting an idyllic outdoor life. Farmers were often sceptical and doubted whether teenage girls with no experience on the land and little physical strength would be any good. They were soon proved wrong.

In 1939 the average national wage was 80 shillings a week, but for a male agricultural worker this dropped to 38 shillings a week. The much needed Land Girls earned even less than that. They received just 28 shillings a week, which had to cover everything, including their board and lodging.

‘I had six weeks training at Horsham College as a dairy maid. We had to practise on rubber udders. (Laughs.) We would get up at four in the morning to milk the cows by hand; twenty cows down each side of the shed. I learnt to make butter too. I enjoyed making butter.’

Helen Dawson, nee Buss, right, Land Girl in Bodiam, East Sussex, where she still lives today

Jessie Matthews didn’t have any formal training. ‘I was thrown in at the deep end’. She was midwife to the cows. If the vet came, Jessie always had to attend. She named all the cows. ‘I loved their beautiful eyes. I was present at the birth of a bull calf and I named him Loyal. I looked after him, cuddled him.’

Jessie Matthews, nee Ball, (left) then and now, joined in 1943, aged 21. Land Girl at Paddock Wood and Tonbridge, Kent

I learnt on the job, didn’t have any official training. I enjoyed tractor driving. The first time on a tractor I was told to plough a field. In the middle of the field the tractor stopped for no reason. I pulled all the levers as I had been shown by Harry, but nothing happened, so I went to find him. He said ‘Have you tried the starting handle?’ I said ‘What’s that? You never told me about that!’ (Laughs).

Doris Bradley, nee Moore, Land Girl 1942-1946 Land Army No: 75760

Olive French, nee Heath, joined in 1946 and went to Mr Wenham at ‘Dittons Farm,’ Polegate for one month’s training and stayed for six years.

Olive (below) and her proficiency award for ‘Milking (Machine) & Dairy Work’.
1947  ‘Land Girl’ ceases publication.

1948  WLA County Committees dissolved.

1950  WLA disbanded 500 Land Girls in stand-down ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

1951  Lady Denman awarded British Empire Grand Cross for her work with WLA.


2007  October: First memorial to Women’s Timber Corps unveiled in Scotland.

2008  January: WLA & Women’s Timber Corps awarded badge for work during WWII.
**WORKING THE LAND**

‘Back to the land, we must all lend a hand, To the farm and the fields we must go. There’s a job to be done, Though we can’t fire a gun, We can still do our bit with the hoe.’


By the time a Land Girl left the army she knew how to milk a cow by hand or machine, spread muck, hoe and plough a field; dig ditches, lay hedges and prune trees; pick sprouts, cut cabbages and harvest potatoes; ride a horse and drive a tractor; stook corn, pick fruit and thresh wheat through the late summer nights. She could tend sheep, look after pigs and poultry and kill rats. Those in the Women’s Timber Corps specialised in forestry, felling, hauling and milling trees to produce amongst other vital goods, pit props for the mines. The girls worked 48 hours a week in the winter and 50 hours a week in the summer. Though many worked longer hours than that, particularly during the harvest. Machinery was in short supply and often they had to work with old fashioned tools and equipment, using horse-drawn ploughs, and harvesting crops by hand. All this heavy, physical work made the girls very hungry. Extra rations were issued to all farm workers, including the WLA, to give them the energy they needed to do their work and get through the long day.

‘Everything was done by hand. We had to load the sugar beet onto the trailers at the station with a pitch fork. Hard work!’ Hilda Brooker, nee Baker, Land Girl 1942-1945

‘I worked on a small farm, did general farming for 6 months. I used to work along the railway at East Chiltington and the London to Hastings train would come by, so I’d quickly roll down my trousers, so they couldn’t see my knees. Other times we’d work in our bras to get nice and brown. We were naïve.’ Maureen Young, nee Streeter, (right) Land Girl 1947-1950, Plumpton & Isfield

‘If the weather was bad we went up into the oast house to sort the apples onto trays ready for storing. We’d throw the bad ones out.’ Eileen Egglesden

‘I have a vivid memory of riding on the back of an open lorry, to go sprout picking, and nearly passing out with the cold!’ Edna Lower, nee Godfree, (right), Land Girl 1941-1947

One of Olive’s regular duties was to clean out the cow sheds. She would deposit wheelbarrows full of muck and straw onto the top of the dung heap. Olive was very slight (the farmer had nicknamed her ‘fairy’) and one day as she was going up the narrow plank with a full load ‘the weight of the wheelbarrow pulled me in with it and I landed on my back in the slurry. The farmer picked me up and sent me home to change. I jumped fully clothed into the bath!’

Olive French, Land Girl on ‘Dittons Farm’, Polegate, East Sussex, WLA No: 174200

‘I hated hop trailing, really prickly and scratchy, but I enjoyed most other jobs. I loved picking fruit. Sometimes we’d be picking till late at night because of double summer time.’

Eileen Hodd, nee Jarman, (left) Land Girl 1942-1947

Margot Bettles worked in the same gang with Hilda Brooker in Sussex. They would be collected each morning by coach and taken to various farms in East Sussex that were not yielding. ‘We cleared a lot of trees and bushes with slash hooks, and then the field was ploughed up and you wouldn’t recognise it. We did one over at Hastings and I cut my leg open. I was taken to a doctor in Pevensey to be stitched up and I still bear the scar today.’ Mrs Margot Bettles (left) married before she joined the Women’s Land Army.
‘One day we were collecting potatoes and putting them on a horse-drawn wagon at the side of a field, and a doodle-bug came down. You could feel the heat from it. The horse was very frightened and reared up, and the potatoes fell off the back, and our carrot and pea sandwiches, which we had put at the edge of the field for safety, got trampled. It was very frightening.’

Margot Bettles (right) worked in a gang of 50 with Hilda Brooker, travelling around East Sussex in an old coach.

‘I loved the tractor work. Drove a Fordson tractor in all weathers. Very different to today, where they have computers and earmuffs. Once, when I was moving the combine harvester, I knocked down a gate post.’

Jessie Matthews, Land Girl at Paddock Wood and Tonbridge, Kent.

‘I started at 5 o’clock in the morning and cycled 3 or 4 miles to the farm with some other girls. During the harvest I was put on the kavel to clear the cavings. It was very dusty work and even though I’d tied my long hair up it got very dirty, so I’d wash my hair in the water butt in the stables before I went home.’

Eileen Egglesden, Land Girl at ‘Vincent’s Farm’, Barming, Kent

‘There was a big pipe running through the main pathway (of the orchard) with taps all along, and you connected the 100ft long hose to these taps and sprayed blocks of trees with a 6ft lance. The men thought the Land Girls wouldn’t be able to keep up with the spraying, but we did!’

Evelyn Light, nee Allberry, Land Girl 1940/41—1945, Stodmarsh Rd, Kent

‘I remember one night sitting on top of the hay load on a wagon drawn by a tractor and it hit a rut in the field and stalled, and the whole lot came off. I ended up underneath the bales. They all scrambled to find me, to get me out, and I came up laughing.’

Maureen Young, nee Streeter, Land Girl 1947-1950, Plumpton & Isfield

Joy Moore worked at a flax factory in Five Ash Down, Sussex. She drove tractors and stripped down buses dating from the 1920’s. In the autumn Joy would collect the flax from farms all over Sussex and Kent to take back to the factory. The trucks could hold 4 tons. In the spring she would deliver the flax seed to the same farms for the next season’s sowing. The flax fibres were used to make parachute harness, webbing for machine belts and other strong materials. Joy was allowed half an hour for lunch at midday, and a quarter of an hour for tea in the afternoon. Joy remembers one day when a hedge-hopping German plane nearly took the factory chimney off.

Joy Moore, nee Wickens, (right) Land Girl 1942-1946, based at Five Ash Down, Sussex
**FOOD AND RATIONING**

The Second World War saw the advent of food rationing, which began on Monday, 8th January 1940. Each person was allowed a set amount of basic food items.

Typical amounts per week were:
- **Meat:** 1s. to 2s. (5p - 10p) a head
- **Bacon:** 4 oz. to 8 oz. (113 gm - 227 gm)
- **Tea:** 2 oz. to 4 oz. (57 gm - 113 gm)
- **Cheese:** 1 oz. to 8 oz. (28 gm - 227 gm)
- **Sugar:** 8 oz. (227 gm)

December 1941: The points rationing scheme was introduced for canned meat, fish and vegetables. Condensed milk, breakfast cereals, biscuits, rice and canned fruit were soon included. Everyone was given 16 points a month, later rising to 20, to spend as they wished at any shop that stocked the items.

‘I was always hungry. Never had enough to eat. We were always on the go, never seemed to get satisfied in the tummy!’

*Stella Masters*

‘I was in a good billet. It was about 2 or 3 minutes from work. I started at 6.30 in the morning and returned for breakfast at 8.00. My landlady used to say she’d never known anyone eat as much bread as I did. I was always hungry.’

*Evelyn Light*

**FOOD RATIONING TIMELINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>2 September: Driving Tests suspended, except for military personnel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>3 September: Petrol rationed to 200 miles of travel per month.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>8 January: Food rationing introduced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>July: Ban on making or selling of iced cakes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>June: Clothes rationing begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>December: Points rationing on fish, canned meat and vegetables begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Petrol rationing to licensed vehicle users only. Ordinary motorists did without.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Rationing of certain foods and products continued until 1954.</td>
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Helen Dawson, Land Girl at Bodiam, took two 3 gallon buckets of fresh milk to the local school for the children. ‘I had one bucket on each handle bar of my bike and pushed it all the way up the hill and I didn’t spill a drop.’

*Helen Dawson*

‘We used to have porridge for breakfast and fish roe on toast. Yuk! And we always had white bread, not wholemeal. We had meat puddings, suet puddings, bacon puddings—had a variety really.’

*Hilda Brooker, nee Baker, Land Girl 1942-1945, worked in a gang of 50 with Margot Bettles, travelling around East Sussex in an old coach.*
One afternoon I was kneeling on my bed looking out across the fields and I glanced down into the next door garden. And there I saw him, Peter, my future husband, in his RAF uniform, digging his mother’s garden, and I thought ‘Oh, I like that!’

‘My weekly treat was going to the pub near Brighton Station and having a glass of light ale and a packet of crisps.’

‘We would borrow each other’s dresses, and when someone got married she’d use a second hand wedding dress. When my sister was married (she was in the WRAF) she had eight bridesmaids and each one was in a different coloured dress, because she’d borrowed them all.’

Maureen Young, née Streeter, (right) Land Girl in Plumpton & Isfield, 1947-1950

‘I used to go to the pub with my parents and play the piano for the locals. It was always crowded and everybody sang. I’d go to Framfield (where I now live) for dances or to Uckfield Town Hall for a live dance band or the pictures.’

Joy Moore (left)

‘I used to keep my nylons in a glass jar to keep save them from snagging.’

Edna Lower

‘I had Saturday afternoon and Sunday off once a month. There wasn’t a bath at the cottage, so I would go home for one and to give my clothes a clean. In the summer I would swim in the stream to get clean.’

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Maureen Young, née Streeter, (right) Land Girl in Plumpton & Isfield, 1947-1950

‘There was a little pub in the village, ‘The Bull’, down the bottom of the hill, and in the summer a temporary stage was set up outside. One of the fruit pickers from London would sit on the stage and play the accordion and the other fruit pickers would dance and we’d watch or join in.’

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Edna Lower
It took more than fifty years for the British government to officially recognise the unique contribution that the Women’s Land Army and Women’s Timber Corps made to the war effort. Without their hard work an embattled country would have faced starvation. The surviving members were presented with a specially designed badge, commemorating their service and ‘acknowledging the debt that the country owes to them’ (DEFRA 2009).

The badge was specially designed by the Garter King at Arms and bears the Royal Crown. It depicts a gold wheat sheaf on a white background, encircled by pine branches and pine cones to represent the work of both the Land Army and the Timber Corps. The first badges were awarded to veterans on 6th December 2007.

A National Ceremony was held at Downing Street on 23 July 2008. Fifty former members of the WLA each received their badge and met the then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Hilary Benn.

The number of girls working in the WLA gradually decreased until, on October 21st 1950, it was officially disbanded. At a ceremony at Buckingham Palace 500 Land Girls marched past the Queen, who addressed them, ‘I have always admired their courage in responding so readily to a call which they knew must bring them... hardship and sometimes loneliness. Now the time has come to say goodbye, because the job has been done, but the sadness which many feel should be outweighed by pride in the achievement.’

Olive French, nee Heath, (right) was one of the ten Land Girls chosen to represent Sussex in the above parade. Olive’s Release Certificate (far right).
ON RECEIVING THE BADGE

‘Receiving the badge is an honour, but it’s along time coming.’ Evelyn Light.

‘I couldn’t believe I would be getting a medal.’ Helen Dawson

‘We should have received something years ago after the war as the soldiers did. We didn’t get a pension or de-mob help. It’s too late for many.’ Betty Hollingdale

‘It’s fantastic to finally get recognised with a badge like this. It was really hard work, but I’d do it all again.’ Edna Tree

‘I’m glad I’ve got it. It’s very nice, but I didn’t want it.’ Doris Bradley

‘I’m please to receive it, but it’s too late.’ Eileen Hodd

‘I feel very proud’. Olive French

Over 90 veterans from the Women’s Land Army and Timber Corps joined the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace for Tea. It was exactly fifty nine years to the day after their disbandment on 21st October 1950. This followed a Reception Lunch held at Covent Garden, hosted by the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Hilary Benn.

Grateful thanks goes to Ann Kramer, women’s historian and author for all her advice and guidance, and material supplied for this booklet. We also thank Stuart and Anne Olsson and Ivy Goodall for generously providing images and information.

Front cover: Students from Cobham Hall School re-enacting a scene in the film ‘The Forgotten Army’. Photograph by Connie Ferguson.


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Acknowledgements


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‘I loved it! Really, really loved it!’
Eileen Egglesden, Land Girl at Vincent’s Farm, Barming, Kent.

‘It was a great adventure!’
Joy Moore, Land Girl 1942-1946, at a flax factory in Five Ash Down, Sussex.

‘We are all proud to have done our bit.’
Margot Bettles, Land Girl 1942-45, worked in a gang travelling around Sussex.