

Vera MacDonald
(Ardgay)



*Flower Thomson presenting Vera
with her Land Army Medal*

The Land Army was not my first choice but the Army doctors thought I was not strong enough for the A.T.S.

When I joined I was fortunate in being sent to Buckinghamshire where most of the Land Girls were billeted in large houses donated by their owners for the duration. The friend I joined with and myself were sent to Little Hampden House,

a very pleasant house which was about thirty years old. We were six or eight to a room and slept in bunk beds. Our Warden was a very pleasant person and we had two other ladies who did the cooking and house work. Of course we were expected to keep our rooms clean and tidy and we took turns in washing up after meals. The house had been designed for a family and the nursery bathroom had an enormous bath, so we had a bath partner.

The first two winters I worked with five other girls for a man who owned a threshing machine and we travelled round to different farms. The machine was driven by a steam engine. In the summer we also went round different farms doing field work and haymaking.

After two years I decided I wanted a change and got a job with two other girls on a local farm. One of the girls and I still lived in the Hostel, we all had main jobs as well as doing the other farm work, Mine was looking after the pigs which were being reared for the local bacon factory and also supervising when we had gangs of P.O.Ws. On the farm. These were about sixteen men at a time and sometimes were German, sometimes Italian. They were needed when there was a big job to do such as lifting potatoes or cutting a field of cabbages for the market. We used to also have gangs of girls from the local Borstal but on and off the other girls supervised them.

I was country born although I lived a lot of my life in town areas but I like the farm work.



Photograph shows: Vera MacDonald's Discharge certificates, her W.L.A. Arm Band, photo of the girls she worked alongside and the Land Army Medal presented to her.



Copy of Front and inside of an unused W.L.A. Christmas Card

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY
 CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR
 BRIGHT WITH HOPE AND
 PROSPERITY.

*O may lightsome be yer gangin'
 An' yer every need be met,
 Through sun an' nau, at each day's fi'
 May there aye be a hamely yell.*

B.P.G.