

Helen Innes Golspie

Helen Wilson, at the age of 20, joined the Land Army on the 24th June 1944. Her placement was with Cantray Farm on the outskirts of the village of Croy near Inverness with a weekly, statutory wage of 22 shillings. The farm was owned by Mr Charles Munro.

The placement commenced with an initial four weeks training course. During her time at Cantray, Helen worked on the poultry side of the farm.

This involved the rearing of chicks, the grading of eggs and the distribution of their products around a significant area of Inverness and beyond.

It was as a Land Army Girl that she met her future husband Tom Innes, who also worked on the same farm. Helen and Tom were married in May 1946 and her service concluded with the Land Army on 7th July 1948. Tom continued to work with Mr Munro at Cantray for a total of forty six years -.



*Helen being presented with her
Land Army Medal and Certificate
by Flower Thomson helped by
Jonathan Brett Young*



Photographs of Helen
feeding the Hens and sorting
the eggs



The following documents belong to Helen and her permission was given to include them into this booklet. Helen's maiden name was Wilson.



By this personal message I wish to express to you

HELEN WILSON

*my appreciation of your loyal and devoted service
as a member of the Women's Land Army from
24th June, 1944 to 7th July, 1948.*

*Your unsparing efforts at a time when the victory
of our cause depended on the utmost use of the
resources of our land have earned for you the
country's gratitude.*

Personal message from
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Copy of Helen's Notification of Training Confirmation from
Department of Agriculture for Scotland

Correspondents are asked to address replies, postage on which must be prepaid, to
THE SECRETARY,
and to quote W.L.A. 25260.

Training confirmation.
For trainees.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR SCOTLAND,
(Labour Division),
15 Grosvenor Street,
EDINBURGH, 12.

Telegrams: "B.O.A.S. Edinburgh"
Telephones: Edinburgh 34661

27th June, 1944.

Enclosures - W.L.A. 33 & 53 and
Copy Order

Madam,

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY.

I have to confirm the arrangements made for you to undergo, as from 8th July, a four weeks' course of training on the farm of Gantraig, Gallowfield, occupied by Mr. Chas. Munro, with a view to subsequent employment thereon.

- (1) During training board and lodging will be provided free.
- (2) Personal allowances will be paid to trainees whose work and conduct are satisfactory, at the rate of 22/- a week for trainees, aged 18 or above, (18/6 if below 18), less National Health and Pensions and Unemployment Insurance contributions.
- (3) Immediately you begin training, you must forward your National Health and Pensions and Unemployment Insurance cards to this Office for stamping as no training allowance beyond that for the first week will be paid until the cards have been received. The cards will be returned to you on completion of your training and should then be handed to your employer.
- (4) If you abandon the course of training without good cause, or are dismissed by the farmer for unsatisfactory work or conduct, your claim to payment of the personal allowance may be forfeited and you may be liable to refund to the Department the sum expended on your training.
- (5) The farmer has been informed that during training the hours of work must not exceed 50 a week, unless you voluntarily agree to work longer, e.g. with the object of gaining more experience. The precise times of working will be a matter for arrangement between the farmer and yourself.
- (6) If your travelling expenses to the farm have not already been advanced to you, they will be refunded by the Department on receipt of the enclosed claim form (W.L.A. 33) duly completed.
- (7) Clothing for your use has been sent to the farm. If needed for dairy work, an additional coat-overall will be issued to you on request in place of one of the pairs of dungarees, which should be returned to the Department. As soon as possible after the end of your training period additional uniform equipment will be sent to you, on receipt of a certificate from the farmer to the effect that you have made satisfactory progress, and that he proposes to retain your services as a member of his permanent staff so long as you continue to be satisfactory. A form of certificate (W.L.A. 34A) has been sent to the farmer for completion at the end of the training period. It is recommended that you should timeously remind him that the form should be returned to the Department in order that the balance of your equipment may be issued. It should be understood that the equipment remains at all times the property of the Department and must be returned to them when requested or when your employment as a member of the Women's Land Army ceases. Proper care must be exercised in the use of the equipment.
- (8) Your training has been arranged on the understanding that compensation will be payable to you by the Department in respect of any accident arising out of and during the course of your training.

(9) The memorandum (W.L.A. 53) enclosed shows the basis on which your wages should be calculated on being taken into employment by the farmer after training and also contains information regarding National Health and Pensions and Unemployment Insurance contributions.

(10) Before going to the farm you should, in your own interest, obtain from the Food Office in your home district an emergency ration card for at least a week. This will give you time to carry through the re-registration procedure in your new district without causing catering difficulties to yourself or to those boarding you.

(11) You are expected to conform to the rules of the household where you are billeted.

(12) In case of any difficulties or complaints regarding wages, accommodation etc., you should, while still on the farm, communicate with the local representative of the Women's Land Army Sub-Committee for *Inverness-shire*, whose name and address will be given to you by the Secretary of that Sub-Committee, Miss *D. Smith, 23 Academy St.* Do not defer this until a later date when it may be difficult or impossible to reach a satisfactory settlement. The Women's Land Army representative mentioned will arrange to look after your interests and she should be immediately informed if you give or are given notice of termination of training or employment. You should not leave your training or employment without first consulting the Women's Land Army representative for the district. This is in your own interests as you may, depending on the circumstances qualify for a special allowance.

(13) Should you terminate your employment without giving proper notice or without due cause you will be liable to dismissal from the Land Army.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,

D. EDWARDS.

Miss Helen Wilson.

SPECIAL NOTE

REMEMBER THAT YOUR SERVICE IN THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY IS YOUR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS WINNING THE WAR. IF YOU LEAVE THE FARM WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE W.L.A. REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE DISTRICT WHERE YOU ARE EMPLOYED, THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE WILL NOT PLACE YOU IN OTHER EMPLOYMENT OR ALLOW YOU TO JOIN ONE OF THE OTHER WOMEN'S SERVICES UNTIL THE LOCAL W.L.A. REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND YOU MAY ULTIMATELY BE DIRECTED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE TO ANY WORK OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE, INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL WORK, NOT OF YOUR OWN CHOOSING INTERESTS, THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD FIRST OF ALL GET INTO TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE. SHE WILL BE READY AND WILLING TO HELP YOU.

Copy of Memorandum regarding Rates of Pay and National Health, Pension and Unemployment Insurance

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

Memorandum regarding Rates of Pay and National Health, Pensions and Unemployment Insurance.

(1) Rates of Pay

Members of the W.L.A. shall, on taking up employment, be entitled to receive weekly wages at not less than the appropriate minimum rate prescribed in the Order (copy enclosed) of the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board in force in the district. If board and lodging are provided by the employers a deduction may be made from the wage of the value of board and lodging as fixed in the Orders. In the event of members being boarded out in approved billets provided by their employers, ~~the gross weekly wages paid to the members must be sufficient to leave them, after they have paid for such board and lodging, with at least the net cash wage to which they would have been entitled, in terms of the relative Wages Order, if board and lodging had been provided direct by the employers.~~ The hours of work fixed in the Order for the district will also apply, unless it is agreed by employer and worker that shorter hours should be worked, in which event no reduction in the wage indicated above may be made. In addition to the above weekly wages, overtime payment at not less than the rate prescribed in the Order will be payable for overtime employment as defined in the Order.

It is desirable that a written contract, which would be legally enforceable, should in every case be entered into by the employer and the Land Army worker. Such contracts are necessary to safeguard the interest of both worker and employer.

Land Army members are provided on condition that full wages will be paid during periods of sickness, less any sickness benefit due in terms of the National Health Insurance Acts, until such time as notice of termination of engagement has been given and the period of notice has expired.

(2) National Health, Pensions and Unemployment Insurance

All members of the Land Army in training or employed on farms are regarded as insurable under the National Health & Pensions and Unemployment Insurance Schemes. Any member who has not already got her insurance cards may obtain the National Health and Contributory Pensions Insurance card from a Post Office and the Unemployment Insurance card from an Employment Exchange. A note of the rates of contribution in force is given below for your information:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Employee</u>
<u>National Health and Pensions</u>			
16 and upwards	1/7d.	9d.	10d.
<u>Unemployment</u>			
<u>Age Group</u>			
16 - 17	3d.	1½d.	1½d.
18 - 20	5d.	2½d.	2½d.
21 and upwards	6d.	3d.	3d.

For the three schemes (Health, Pensions and Unemployment), therefore, the combined contributions are as follows:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Employee</u>
<u>Age Group</u>			
16 - 17	1/10d.	10½d.	11½d.
18 - 20	2/-	11½d.	1/6d.
21 and upwards	2/1d.	1/-	1/1d.
Medical/			

Medical Benefit. Members of the Women's Land Army are entitled to free medical attention immediately on becoming insured. It is important that a member who undertakes training or enters into employment should take immediate steps to obtain a medical card, if she has not already got one, and to choose a doctor: she should not wait until she is ill before doing this. The medical card is, of course, quite separate from the National Health Insurance contribution card.

A member of the Land Army if a member of an Approved Society, should already have received a medical card from the local Insurance Committee; but if not, or if she has lost her card, she should obtain the appropriate form of application from the nearest Post Office, fill it in, and send it to the Insurance Committee for the area in which she is being trained or employed.

If a member falls ill before receiving a medical card she should apply to an insurance doctor for treatment and explain to the doctor that she is insured. If the doctor charges a fee by way of deposit or if on his instructions medicine is purchased from a chemist, receipts should be obtained and forwarded at once to the local Insurance Committee for their consideration of the question of refunding the money.

Where a member changes her address and cannot get treatment from the doctor originally chosen by her, she should choose a new doctor, complete the appropriate part of her medical card (Part B or Part D as the case may be) and hand the card to her new doctor.

A list of insurance doctors and the address of the local Insurance Committee can be obtained from the local Post Office.

Hospital Treatment. If a member requires hospital treatment or needs nursing which she cannot obtain on the farm or in her lodgings, she should apply to her Women's Land Army representative, who may be able to arrange for her admission to a local hospital participating in the Emergency Hospital Scheme. She will be expected to contribute towards the cost of her treatment as far as possible, in accordance with the ordinary practice of the hospital concerned.

Nursing Service. If the illness does not necessitate Hospital Treatment but the skilled services of a district nurse are considered necessary the Women's Land Army member should at once communicate with her local Women's Land Army representative. She, in turn, will notify the County or District Nursing Association who will arrange for a district nurse to give attention. No charge will be made for the services but it is hoped that patients will contribute towards the expenses of the Nursing Association.