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Women On Parade With Home Guard --Not Officially

John Bull Frowns on it but Persistence and Press Support May Bring a Change in Policy

By ALAN RANDAL (Canadian Press Staff Writer)
LONDON, Aug. 14 (AP)—Women are serving now with Britain's Home Guard, the defence force which in little more than three years has grown from a shot-gun and ditch-fork army into a highly organized army. But the trouble, so far as women go, is that this particular aspect of their war service is absolutely unofficial.

The ban on enrollment of women in the Home Guards still stands—the War Office is adamant about it—but women nevertheless are serving in auxiliary sections charged with first aid, communication, transport and kitchenwork of the Home Guards.

Long since, of course, women have been enlisted, compulsorily or voluntarily, in the armed forces to serve in the A.T.S., the W.R.N.S. or the W.A.A.F. They lead men, in some phases of war industry and they work on the land in the Women's Land Army. The Home Guard is the only holdout, so they are sort of coming into the Home Guard by the back door. The movement is seen as a manifestation of women not qualified for regular army enlistment to stand shoulder to shoulder with their men in defence of their homes.

SMITHERS

Much-needed rain has started falling over the Smithers area and it will be greatly appreciated by everyone. For four weeks there has been a steady continuance of hot and fine weather broken only on one occasion by a heavy thunder shower. Bulkley Valley farmers have made the most of the opportunity and have gathered in one of the largest harvests of hay ever seen in the valley. In many fields it was not possible to drive a car between the shocks of hay. Owing to the shortage of labor the process of harvest has been slow and in some cases it is possible that all the crop will not be gathered, but on the whole there has been a large crop gathered in. Now the ground is exceedingly dry and a good heavy rain will benefit the grain crops a great deal and improve the timothy seed crop to some extent as well as help develop the garden produce.

During the past few days a large volume of smoke has drifted over the valley from the west, and yesterday with a heavy westerly wind the valley was very heavy with smoke coming apparently from a fire in the Terrace or Usk area. It was thought for some time that the fire was just behind Hudson Bay Mountain, and a crew was sent out to combat the danger which seemed quite close, but upon arrival at the spot where the fire was expected to be it was found to be still a long way off to the west and in another district. The smoke poured through the passes in the mountains into this area, however, which made it appear quite close. To date there have been no fires of consequence in this district but with the ground and forests tinder dry there is always an ever present danger of one starting at any time and a good fall of rain would be appreciated by the Forestry Department.

Timely Recipes

FRUIT SHORTCAKE
2 cups flour
1 tablespoon sugar
1-3 cup shortening
2-3 cup milk
½ teaspoon salt
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 egg, well beaten
Sift dry ingredients; cut in shortening until like coarse crumbs. Add combined egg and milk, stirring just until blended. Turn out on slightly floured surface and knead lightly ½ minute. Pat out in halves to fit 8-inch layer pan. Brush 1 round with melted butter and top with second round. Or pat dough ½ inch thick and cut with biscuit cutter. Bake in hot oven (425 F) for 20 minutes.
Spread either with crushed or sliced, slightly sweetened fruit between and on top of layers. Serve warm or cold with plain or whipped cream. Serves 6.

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WOMEN WEEK BY WEEK

By GLADYS BAILEY (British United Press)
LONDON, Aug. 14 (BUP)—"Mrs. Britain" is the working class mother, the woman, who with little money coming into the home every week, with three or four children to feed and clothe, and a house to keep clean and neat, has to work hard all day without stopping, seldom relaxing and hardly ever spending any time or money on herself.

Dr. Temple, the Archbishop of Canterbury, praised her heroism in the House of Lords during a de-

bate on the subject of allowances for working class families. He said: "The working class mother with a large family is the real heroine of our phase of civilisation, even more than the men who work dangerous trades."

What is she working for, this "Mrs. Britain"? Take one example of thousands like her. She is a London housewife, whose husband earns £3 17s 0d a week. She has four children evacuated to the country, three young ones at home and a boy who has just started work.

For her, it is a 14-hour day of work, with no reward, save the satisfaction of knowing that her home is clean and her children are healthy.

The country is worried about

the fall in the birth-rate and the prospect of a middle-aged nation in twenty years time. Something must be done to make living conditions easier for the people who, while wanting to bring up a family of children, cannot be expected to carry on in ceaseless drudgery so that the British race does not die out.

The family allowance proposal is that every working man earning less than a certain weekly wage shall be given five shillings a week for each child under the age of 15, and for children over that age provided they are receiving a full-time education.

What a difference such a scheme would make to "Mrs. Britain." The cost of the nation would be about £132 million a year.

"Can we afford it?" someone asked in the House of Lords.

"Can we afford not to afford it?" was the retort.

And that seems to be the real question. If Britain wants to maintain her population, if she wants a healthy people living decent and happy lives, then the lot of "Mrs. Britain" must be improved, otherwise she will decide that it is not worth the heroism which the Archbishop praised so highly, and there will be fewer children in working class homes.

LEFTOVER IN SALAD

To use leftover fish, flake the fish and make a salad with this combined with peas, cucumber, sliced tomato, dressing and lettuce.

BOYS IN GROUND CREW

LONDON, Aug. 14 (AP)—A group of boys of the Air Training Corps—now 200,000 strong—had a hand in the 1,000-plane raid on Cologne. They were camping at an airfield and helped the ground staff load explosives and incendiaries into the bombers.

FOR SUMMER RELIEF

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PUTTING THOUGHTS INTO ACTION

BY WESTOVER

REAL HOT THERE
NEWCASTLE, Eng., Aug. 14 (AP)—So much had heat of early June expanded metal on a Tyne River swing bridge that it was impossible to open the bridge until police deluged it with water, a steamship being held up during the de-heating.

PENANCE FOR WASTE
LONDON, Aug. 14 (AP)—Once current short supplies are sold, Britain's shoe dealers will have no more patent leather shoes to offer customers as this enamel-treated leather was imported from Germany and France.

WINDSOR, Eng., Aug. 14 (AP)—A 31-year-old former school teacher who was fined about \$5 and some \$10 costs for "wasting bread" has announced her decision to give up eating bread for the duration as additional "penance for her waste." She has three brothers in the army.

TURBULENT COLONY

During the 18th century Jamaica suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections and war with the maroons or mountaineers.