

WVS/WRVS Narrative Reports

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WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES for CIVIL DEFENCE

W.V.S. Salvage officer's Report For January, 1942.

In an endeavour to assist the war effort (and in the event of achieving some success), local and other charities, Melton U.D.C. entered for the W.P.R.A.'s contest open for the month of January.

The Salvage Officer wrote to two of the promoters of the scheme and to the Controller of Salvage pointing out that the lack of conditions might lead to certain abuses that would result in fictitious claims. As the precautions necessary to prevent this occurring were of a very simple nature these were mentioned. The upshot of the correspondence was that the promoters thought that though in its present form the contest could hardly be termed perfect, in their opinion it would have the advantage of yielding the largest collection of paper and that was their aim. In fact the end justified the means. We did not find ourselves in agreement with this attitude, but nevertheless decided that our past records entitled us to believe that we stood a respectable chance of being "somewhere" at the finish.

The Salvage and the Council reported in the local press that Melton would enter for the competition and called upon the public to give their utmost support.

The Chairman of the Council, Mr. O. Brotherhood and the Salvage Officer visited the schools and addressed the children. Members of the Childrens Salvage Corps who had made notable collections were introduced and congratulated on their achievements.

A slide was ordered by the S.O. making an appeal to Meltonians to support their town and was shown at local cinemas.

A list of all businesses and the paper disposed of through sources other than the U.D.C. was compiled.

The S.O. put herself and the C.S.C. at the disposal of the U.D.C. to assist collections should the weather and extra work involved overtax the men on the job. The offer was accepted but it was not found necessary to fully employ it.

The total tonnage collected is estimated at approximately 38 tons, or more than 300%. A very high figure for a district that has shown a regular monthly average of 100%.

The November returns are now to hand. They were inadvertently assessed on the old population figures, 11000, instead of 12000. Paper 131%, Metals 181%, Kitchen waste 114%, Bones 79%. The metals were particularly high as a certain proportion of the October collection was not delivered till the following month. As the required number of waste-food bins were not in position till November it is very satisfactory to note that in the first clear month they showed their 100%. The figures for bones have risen, but as the difficulty for obtaining these from butchers has increased, to sustain this percentage may become impossible.

Childrens Salvage Corps badges can be obtained from the U.D.C. Surveyors Office @ 1/3 a dozen. (W.V.S. Salvage Officers please note.)

C.W. Soames W.V.S. Salvage Officer. Melton Mowbray.

COPY. 85

Reports 3.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE **MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT**

COUNTY Leicestershire CENTRE Melton Mowbray MONTH January, 1942
S.D.C.

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

A list suggesting the subjects on which information would be most helpful will be issued from Headquarters from time to time.

1. (a) More Mothers and children have returned home. The number of official evacuees billeted is now 386, and the estimated total of extra inhabitants 3186.
- 2 (b) Children hostel still open but very little used, and the War Nursery is in the process of building.
2. Very little doing at the clothing depot. We are ready to co-operate with the S.S.A.F.A., if required.
3. & 4. Nothing to report.
5. Canteens working as before, weather has made Mobile Canteen work difficult.
6. Nothing to report.
7. (c) The sock darning scheme is all arranged, but so far 25 pairs of socks were delivered by four men in an army lorry, and 20 of these were entirely beyond repair!
9. Hospital Supplies working regularly.
14. Savings movement is going very well and all making preparations for our Warship Week on March 7th.
15. Salvage report attached.
18. A successful tea given for the evacuee children from Sheffield at the W.V.S. Canteen, 7, Burton Street.

Wool Vouchers in January, 25th.

Signed J. M. Furness.
(Centre Organiser)

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(P.156)—Wt. 23852/102—40,000—S/41—C & Co. 745 (9).

Rep 413

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE
MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY Leicestershire... CENTRE Melton Mowbray... MONTH February, 1942...

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

A list suggesting the subjects on which information would be most helpful will be issued from Headquarters from time to time.

1. (a) Present numbers, officially billeted 376, others (estimated) 2800.
- ✓ (b) War Nursery still not ready, Windybrow Hostel is filling up again as more mothers are going to the local Maternity Hospital.
2. Very little going at present in the clothing depot beyond clerical work.
3. (a) ✓ Housewives' are helping with next of kin inquiries, and Street Saving Groups and Salvage. In connection with next of kin notification and some checking of evacuees in billets help was offered (and accepted) by the Waverly Grammar School from Birmingham, during their half-term holiday. Some of the older girls did useful work.
7. (c) ✓ Sock mending scheme is going very well, and some extra repairs are being done for the Stapleford Park Convalescent Home.
15. ✓ Salvage report attached.
- ✓ 16. (a) Billets found for Land Army and Remount girls but I don't think we can manage any Ordnance ones from Queniborough.
18. ✓ Lists of volunteers were checked for statistics for Headquarters.
- ✓ 11, wool vouchers issued, 103, to date.

Signed..... J. M. Furness.
 (Centre Organiser)

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W.V.S. Salvage Officer's Report for February, 1942.

There is not very much to report this month. It is possible that the very unfavourable weather may effect the pig-food returns for this and last month.

To assist the Ministry of Supply's campaign to salvage all metal and rubber going to waste a special "Commando" Corps of boys from the senior school was formed. These picked lads scour every possible site where scrap is likely to be found; so far with excellent results.

A meeting of Salvage Wardens was not held this month, as most of the work that would fall to their portion is being carried out by the children.

It was satisfactory to note that the second prize in the W.P.R.A. Contest in this area was won by Oakham U.D.C. whose past record for paper collections is very high indeed. The fact that they were beaten by Ketton suggests that bags from the cement works in the latter place may have helped to swell their total.

Our December returns are to hand. On our new population figures, these work out approximately as follows:- Paper 175%, Metal 150%, Kitchen waste 140%, Bones 25%.

By error I gave our population figures in the January report as 12000, these read 12500.

It is interesting to note that the press campaign to make the public Salvage conscious is reflected in the far higher figures shown generally from December onwards.

C.W. Soames. W.V.S. Salvage Officer

Melton Mowbray.

To Mrs Bose
from Service Small
30/3/42
These two have interesting points

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VOLUNTARY
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ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

Reports 3

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY...WILTSHIRE... CENTRE...WILTON... MONTH...MARCH 1942...

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

A list suggesting the subjects on which information would be most helpful will be issued from Headquarters from time to time.

There are now 378 persons billeted under the Government scheme, about 750 privately billeted and we estimate about 1000 others including workers who are now being billeted compulsorily. Fifteen vouchers for service wool have been issued during the month.

Hospital Supplies Parties attendance has been less than usual (spring cleaning), sock darning is going well and we have also been hemming pudding cloths, roller towels etc. for our unit and mending and patching for Stapleford Park Convalescent Home.

Salvage Report is attached.

Warships Week was very successful, Street Savings Groups and Schools did splendidly. We served tea and buns to 90 sea scouts, after the parade.

A girls training corps is being formed and many W.V.S. members are helping. The War Nursery for daily children is not yet ready but the Residential one is to be opened very soon.

Miss Chinnery from the M.O.H. came to inspect Rest Centre arrangements and equipment.

Canteens are all very busy.

Signed.....J. M. Furness.....
(Centre Organiser)

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156) Wt. 23852/102 40,000 8/41 C. & Co. 745 (9).
(396) Wt. 37497/138 40,000 11/41 C. & Co. 745 (9).

Salvage Officers Report For March, 1942.

There is not much to report this month. The "Commando" Corps have been doing good work locating uncollected metal in out - of - the - way places.

It is our habit to fix a trailer to the Salvage Officer's car and take it to the destructor ourselves.

Taken 'by and large' very little paper is left on the ground after Tuesday and Saturdays Markets. Since it has been a fineable offence to throw away litter paper, even less is wasted. Until a prosecution appears in the press showing that the threat is in earnest, I doubt whether a very marked change will be observed in the public's habit in this respect.

A number of children earned 'bars' to their stripes this month and the older boys have been doing very good work.

January Salvage returns are to hand and show a marked falling off in metals owing to the fact that the men were engaged the whole of that month in concentrating on bringing in paper. Pig-food fell off a bit owing to the inclement weather. Lack of bones remains a weakness.

February returns should find us back to normal with weather conditions still having an adverse effect on pig-food.

It was interesting to have an unofficial conjecture confirmed concerning Ketton's victory in the Waste Paper competition. Practically the whole of their collection was cement bags from the works. On their small population figures it gave them an average of 24 lbs of paper per head per person!. The actual paper collection I understand was 1 ton.

C. W. Soames.

W.V.S. Salvage Officer, Melton Howbray.
U.D.C.

F.W.H. 12.5.42

W.V.S. SALVAGE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR APRIL, 1942.

On April 9th the Waste Paper Recovery Association gave a luncheon party at the Bell Hotel to members of the Melton, rural and urban councils whose work is linked with the salvage campaign. After lunch, Mr. Rhys Thomas gave a short address on the importance of paper salvage and suggested one or two methods that might increase returns. The Salvage Officer proposed a vote of thanks to the W.P.R.A. for so nobly entertaining competitors, who, after all were only "also rans" in the January contest. Mr. Tabberer of Oakham U.D.C. mentioned during conversation that Oakham only just managed to keep her head in front of Melton U.D.C. in the monthly returns and that the former were fortunate in being a county town with a small population as a number of official papers had of necessity to come through their offices.

The Centre Organiser, Salvage Officer and other W.V.S. members were present at Nottingham University on April 15th and listened to Miss Hopkins addressing a packed Meeting on Salvage. This was afterwards followed by questions from the audience which brought a very profitable morning to a close.

Mr. Kempe from the Ministry of Supply visited Melton in connection with the Ministry's two weeks Salvage Drive (May 2nd-16th). It was arranged with the Council's approval to hold a Salvage Exhibition in the Hall of Egerton Lodge. Salvage Wardens to be on duty. Mr. Wilson of the Surveyor's Office and the .S.O. undertook to arrange the exhibits.

Talks to schools are being distributed to Head Teachers and the children will be asked to make another great effort to try and secure us a place in the new 3 months waste paper competition starting next month. Though the "field" is much larger it is more likely that prizes will be gained by local authorities with consistently high averages. We understand the inclusion of cement bags has been eliminated.

Our February returns showed very high paper and metal percentages, pig-food on population figures did not quite reach its 100% doubtless due to weather conditions. Bones picked up a few points. It is hoped that now that containers have been placed in the streets it may encourage better collecting.

C.W. Soames. W.V.S. Salvage Officer.
Melton Mowbray U.D.C.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE **MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT**

Copy.

COUNTY LEICESTERSHIRE... CENTRE MELTON MOWBRAY... MONTH MAY, 1942...

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

A list suggesting the subjects on which information would be most helpful will be issued from Headquarters from time to time.

1. (a) 370 Government Evacuees billeted. Estimated total 4170. Many London evacuees have returned home but many have come, especially from Norwich, now officially billeted as husbands are working here.
- (b) Windybrow Hostel has been busy but the new one for bombed babies is not ready yet. (Warwick Lodge).
2. Clothing Depot very quiet at present except for preservation from moth and dust etc.
3. Some housewives are finding great difficulty in completing lists of next of kin owing to the apathy of neighbours who will not give information, others are taking charge of shelters, helping in Salvage, Savings, darning and patching.
4. Nothing to report.
5. Canteens are very busy.
6. Nothing to report.
7. (b) Librarian attending on infirmary but not much to be done at present.
- (c) Sock darning for local forces -also for Stapleford Convalescent Home -mending for.
9. Hospital Supply going on steadily each week but not more than about twelve members as regular attendants.
16. (b) War-time Nursery should be open any day now.
18. Many helmit linings put in.

Signed..... J. H. Furness.
 (Centre Organiser)

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156) Wt. 23852/102 40,000 8/41 C. & Co. 745 (9).
 39) Wt. 27497/138 40,000 14/41 C. & Co. 745 (9).



WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES for CIVIL DEFENCE

COPY.

W.V.S. SALVAGE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MAY, 1942.

F.utt.
12.6.42.

The Ministry of Supply's fortnight's Salvage Drive showed a high percentage of returns for all forms of usable waste when it terminated on May 16th. We exceeded for the first time the Ministry standard set for bones. This I think was entirely due to the Surveyor's notion of putting containers for bones next to waste food bins. The March returns in this particular jumped from 27% in the preceding month to 63%. It is to be hoped and expected that a further improvement will be shown for April and with any luck 100% will be reached for May. If this is attained we shall be in the virtuous position of averaging monthly, the required standard for all forms of usable waste.

A number of persons visited the Salvage Exhibition at Egerton Lodge. The schools went in force. The Ministry Official who dismantled the "props" was good enough to say that it was the best set-out display that he had so far seen.

Instead of a meeting of Salvage Wardens this month, the Salvage Officer sent round a circular letter, thanking those who had undertaken duty at Egerton Lodge and asking them to make known that it was hoped that bone containers would be made the fullest possible use of.

In consideration of the splendid work the children have done the Salvage Officer approached the Council with a view to obtaining a small grant to be awarded each term for the tonnage collected. The prize to be expended on some purpose that would benefit the generally. The Salvage Officer was invited to state her case at the Council meeting on May 25th. The Councillors present took such very opposing views regarding the matter that it was considered that further deliberations must be brought to bear and the verdict reported the first week in June.

A rumour has been current that the Board of Education may advise Schools to collect and sell their usable waste direct to merchants. The Council have not so far been able to get either confirmation or denial of this report. Needless to say they are very opposed to such a practise.

C.W. Soames, W.V.S. Salvage Officer,
Melton Mowbray.

Reports 3

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY LEICESTER CENTRE MELTON MOWBRAY MONTH JUNE 1942

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

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1. Official evacuees 301, estimated total 4,301 - not much to do at present in this connection.
5. Mobile and stationery canteens very busy.
7. (a) Hospitality has been asked for and given for Canadian Soldiers.
(b) Very little library work just now.
(c) Sock mending and also mending and also for Stapleton Park Comrades sent home.
9. Hospital Supply doing regular work.
14. National Savings Street Groups are in 36 cases run by W.V.S. members (total 59).
15. Salvage position satisfactory but report not in yet.
16. We are not doing the billeting of industrial workers, but co-operate with the War time nursing if needed.
18. Eleven Wool vouchers issued in June.
One Emergency Cooker built with the help of the Rangers and three others planned and prepared. No demonstrations held here yet, but some members went to Nottingham - probably 4-6 people know how to build us 1 cooker.

W.V.S. Office taken into use on June 13th. Mending done for Windybrow Hostel.

Signed..... J. M. FITZGERALD
(Centre Organiser)

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1156 Wt. 23852/102 40,000 8/41 C. & Co. 745 (9).
(399) Wt. 37497/138 40,000 11/41 C. & Co. 745 (9).

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY LEICESTERSHIRE CENTRE LEICESTER MONTH JUNE

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W.V.S. Salvage Officer's Report for June 1942.

11742
Due to the fact that there was some difficulty in ascertaining what decision the Council had arrived at with regard to Salvage prizes for the schools and the gift of hand trucks to move the heavier stuff, the Salvage Officer was held up in paying her usual school visits.

Telephone calls to the Clerk of the Council at regular intervals eventually revealed that a member of the Council had visited Head Teachers (not all it was discovered) and had intimated that the Council were not anxious to award any sort of prize to the schools. It transpired that there had never been any question of the Education Authorities selling the school childrens collections of town paper. The paper referred to was school booksets. The suggestion of supplying the Senior and Junior Boys Schools with some sort of hand cart to facilitate their salvaging activities has apparently been shelved.

The S.O. supplied all Head Teachers with the W.V.S. detailed list describing the character and purpose of the latest additions to the realms of useable waste.

No bone returns were apparent in April. It is hoped that those for the following month will make up for this omission.

Oakham still sets us the standard of what can be done in this direction and in fact in the collection of other types of vital waste material.

It is the S.O.'s intention to try what a "pep" talk in the local paper will do to give things a leg up. (The Editor's space permitting)

The S.O. having undertaken other voluntary duties and finding the day all too short, has not been able to be "on the job" with the same

Signed.....
(Centre Organiser) P.T.O.

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(150) Wt. 23852/102 40,000 8/41 C. & Co. 745 (9).
(396) Wt. 37497/138 40,000 11/41 C. & Co. 745 (9).

continuation

persistence that such a branch of national effort demands and merits. However, July shows signs of being less strenuous and the opportunity to make up for lost time will be grasped.

C. W. Soams.

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WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE
MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY... LEICESTER... CENTRE... MELTON MOWBRAY... MONTH... JULY...

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1. Few government evacuees now remaining and a school returned to Birmingham. Town very full of industrial workers.
2. Much strenuous ^{work} in spring cleaning, sorting and arranging clothing but very little given out.
3. Basic Training course held and 11 members completed the lectures. (e) Sand Mats stitched.
7. (c) Mending Services very busy and also hemming of Tea Towels. 228 pairs Socks darned to 11.7.42.
- 9.. Hospital Supply Depot has had to move to Blakeney Institute, Burton Street.
16. (a) Quite beyond us and a part-time billeting man appointed.
(c) 28 children in Nursery.
8 Wool Vouchers issued.
Many flag days run by W.V.S. by request.
V.C.P. not in great demand so far.

(Signed) J. R. Furness

Signed.....
(Centre Organiser)

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(832) Wt. 14044 40,000 5/42 C. & Co. 745(8).

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**WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE
MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT**

COUNTY..... CENTRE..... MONTH.....

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W. V. S. SALVAGE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR JULY 1942

L.P.F. Mts. 21.8.42
The Salvage Officer has been in touch with an interested party who has kindly undertaken to provide sufficient funds of a modest nature to enable a Sports Day with prizes awarded, to take place for children belonging to the Salvage Corps. It is hoped that side shows can be arranged so that overalls can be bought for the lads who regularly go out collecting. A second objective would be the purchase of a truck or hand-cart.

Owing to the fact that the bone returns were not coming up to the standard expected, the S.O. made further enquiries into the matter. It appears that only 20 bone tins were placed beside the pig-food bins, instead of sufficient to cover the town. This weakness has now been rectified. Approximately 100 are now in position. Dogs and children permitting, it is hoped to very much pull up collections. A Salvage Officers meeting took place on Thursday, July 30th, several wardens mentioned that both dogs and children had been interfering with the bone bins. The former, of course, to supplement their rations. the latter, to use the tins as wickets and suitably shaped bones as balls. It seems that the only way this contingency can be overcome is by employing some method of hooking or attaching the bone tins on to the handles of the pig-food bins with the hope that they will appear less handy and tempting.

It might be as well to mention that it is quite unnecessary for the public to bury or burn their bones when the dustmen are slow in collecting, as they can be rendered quite inoffensive by placing in the oven IMMEDIATELY IT HAS BEEN TURNED OFF AFTER COOKING. The heat that persists will be quite sufficient to sweeten them.

The 3 months W.P.R.A. waste paper competition ends to-day. From reports that I have heard. the results should show, in certain places, really astonishing figures. One local authority is purported to have collected 80lbs of paper per head of its population during

Signed.....
(Centre Organiser)

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(832) Wt. 14644 40,000 5/42 C. & Co. 745(8).

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WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE **MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT**

COUNTY..... CENTRE..... MONTH.....

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SALVAGE OFFICER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

one month. Needless to say if that is the case, we shall find ourselves a long way down the course. Our paper returns have not risen much above the average. Owing to the fact that the U.D.C. were very busy in the office during May, the May returns were sent up later than the specified date, which has resulted in their not being included in the Hon. Area Advisers analysis for that month. We hope they will be added to the June figures.

August being regarded as a 'holiday' month, it will be interesting to see if we are able to maintain our standards throughout that period.

In case it may be of use in other areas, old petrol tins have been used here for bones, with a letter box type of aperture arranged- cut and turned in- Tins purchased from the Army.

C.W. Soames, W.V.S. Salvage Officer.
 U.D.C. Melton Mowbray.

Signed.....
 (Centre Organiser)

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WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE
MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

COPY

COUNTY...LEICESTERSHIRE..... CENTRE...MILTON-BOWBRAY.. MONTH...AUGUST.....

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

A list suggesting the subjects on which information would be most helpful will be issued from Headquarters from time to time.

1. (a) Government evacuees down to 221 but private ones up to 3,700, nearly 600 industrial workers officially billeted. Total extra in town 5,113.
- (b) Windybrow childrens' Hostel has had 117 children since June only 11 there at present. Mending and repairing has been done by W.V.S. They are in urgent need of large toys (swing or see-saw) and have the money and priority certificate, but can get none.
2. Very little given out last month. Depot now in very good order.
5. (a) Burton St. Canteen was responsible for the feeding of the Home Guard for the exercises from 31st July-3rd August. Three good meals a day for about 150 men and officers.
7. (c) Sock mending scheme June, July and August, 400 sent from troops (373 pairs repaired) 124 from Stapleford Park Convalescent Home - total 497 repaired.
9. We are hoping to get new members. So many now are being called for part-time work or having workers billeted in their houses.
14. Report not to hand as people will not answer.
16. (b) War time nursing now full and very busy.
17. More held this month.

Received in W.V.S.
SEP 1942

Signed J. M. Furness.
(Centre Organiser)

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(832) Wt. 14644 40,000 5/42 C. & Co. 745(8).

W.V.S. SALVAGE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 1942.

F.M.H.
18.9.42

The chief occupation for this month has been to see that the containers for bones are really serving their purpose and sending up returns. This point can best be estimated at the end of the first week in September when practically all bins that are now in use will have been in position for a month. From talks I have had with the foreman in charge a big jump can be expected. For some obscure reason for April, May and June, we appear to have had no bone returns whatever. A disappointing fact as March showed and improvement in this direction.

The question of attaching the bone bins to the pig-food bins has received consideration. A solution presents itself if metal suitable to make the attachment were forthcoming. The fact that the Press broadcast the news that shortly all meat imported into the country will be boneless or hydrated suggests that only a simple and very inexpensive device should meet the case. However, most of the meat that is being sold in the town appears to be home-grown, so we should still be in a position to make some returns.

The Primary Boys School had a special paper drive in the last week in August and produced a bumper collection. In recognition of their good work over many months the area representative of the W.P.R.A. presented the Head Master with the necessary sum to buy the school a football.

The Fete and Sports Day to be run by C.S.C. members of the Boys Central School is scheduled to take place on Sept. 17th. It is proposed to have 4 stalls, competitions and sports. Contributions of all descriptions for the former will be welcome. Mr. Bates, the Vicar, is kindly lending the Vicarage grounds for the event.

The S.O. went up to the Central Boys School to speak to the new boys at the beginning of the term with the object of enlisting their help in Salvage activities and encouraging them to join the C.S.C.

C.W. Soames. W.V.S. Salvage Officer. U.D.C.

Melton Mowbray

Received

16 SEP 1942

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Miss Hope F.M.H. 26.10.42

Report 3

COPY

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE
MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORTCOUNTY LEICESTER CENTRE MELTON MOWBRAY MONTH SEPTEMBER 1942

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

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1. (a) Total extra inhabitants 5,020 (680 of which are transferred War Workers) only 240 official evacuees.

(b) Water shortage is preventing full use of childrens Hostels.

2. (a & b) Very little clothing given out now but a good deal of work in cleaning - stocktaking etc.

3. We have been asked to supply a Rota for the report centre from Monday to Saturday each week 9 - 1 and 1 - 5, they will have special course of training.

5. Forces Canteens are now very busy.

7. (c) Mending is being used very extensively and many more helpers have to be got.

9. Two very regular Members are in hospital for serious operations and others are having more calls on their time, but a regular amount of work is being done somehow.

10. V.C.F. causing the centre organiser many headaches.

14. Very flourishing but very difficult to get reports in.

15. F.M.H. Separate report.

16. War time nursery full.

18. The Librarian does regular work at the P.A.I. as there is now much to do for the Troops.

Signed..... J.M. Furber.....
(Centre Organiser)

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(832) Wt. 14644 40,000 5/42 C. & Co. 745(8).

W.V.S. SALVAGE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1942.

Proof of 2 things concerning salvage returns is now forthcoming.

- FMH.
26.10.42
- a) That there are plenty of Bones available for collection.
 - b) That we have at last devised a method of collecting them satisfactorily.

For the first time since usable waste was made compulsory we have succeeded in collecting 12 cwts. during one month, namely for August.

Various theories had been put forward as to why in this one particular our returns were so poor. The explanation was simple (but it has taken a long time to discover). Bones were not saved because people were not provided with a convenient receptacle to put them in. Spurred on by this success to improve on the scheme, we are during the next few days, going to make an attachment from scrap metal which will hook the bone tins on to the waste-food bins and raise them some 2 or 3 ft. from the ground.

The Children's Salvage Corps held their Fete and Sports Day in the Vicarage grounds on Thursday, Sept. 17th. We were blessed with fine weather and the children contributed a wonderful collection of produce and goods of all descriptions. There was a very good attendance and very keen competition to enter for the Sports. I think next year, if we are all here, the whole thing will have to be carried out on a larger scale. We were able to forward a cheque to the Shipwrecked Mariners Society. A very appreciative letter was received from the Secretary.

The S.O. was much gratified at getting a real shipwrecked mariner in the person of Stoker Derek Harris, a survivor of H.M.S. Manchester, to present the sports prizes to the children.

We look forward in the last quarter of the year, to achieving our 100% for the 4 major collections of usable waste.

C.W. Soames, W.V.S. Salvage Officer, U.D.V.
MELTON MOWBRAY.

Mrs. Hopson. 23.11.42.

Report 3

COPY WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE
MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORTCOUNTY LEICESTERSHIRE CENTRE MELTON MOWBRAY MONTH OCTOBER 1942
U.D.

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

A list suggesting the subjects on which information would be most helpful will be issued from Headquarters from time to time.

1. a. Estimated total 4,690- Govt. scheme 210. There are now only 24 unaccompanied children (apart from the hostels) 86 accompanied and 51 mothers.
2. Very little being done.
3. Housewives continue to help with salvage, flag days, savings- rest centres etc.,
5. Service Canteens are very busy- Miss Marsh's canteen (W.V.S.) is now open on Monday evening, as a club for men from the Technical College courses, and she has also arranged for suppers for batches who are leaving and want a farewell party.
7. c. Total number of socks mended July-October 937 (in September 559), we have also hemmed tea and roller Towells for the R.A.O.C. and done mending and darning for St. Raphael Park Convalescent Home.
9. One or two new members but two regular ones still away through illness.
14. Melton Mowbray and district raised enough for 3 heavy "Churchill" Tanks to bear our name. Summer campaign increase was 37.5 %.
15. f. With 23.11.42 Separate report attached.
18. If "V.C.P." is "another activity" it is causing a great deal of work.

Signed J. M. Furness
(Centre Organiser)

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(832) Wt. 14044 40,000 5/42 C. & Co. 745(S).

If further space is required, please use back of form

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE
COPY
W.V.S. SALVAGE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1942.

It is very satisfactory to report that for the month of September we collected 14cwts of bones. 1½cwts over the Ministry standard.

In the last few months it is noticeable that the figures for bone returns in this area have increased considerably. Presumably the local authorities concerned have discovered a suitable method of increasing collections, for the benefit of those who have not, I will sketch the device we use for attaching the bone tins to the food bins, because it has the advantage of simplicity and cheapness and may be manipulated into shape without much labour. We have used bed laths to construct the attachment as they were available at the Destructor and having the edges turned, are easy and not dangerous to handle. As the metal is thin the lid of the waste food bin can remain in place without interference. The hook is screwed permanently to the bone bin but not of course to the waste food bin.

The Centre Organiser, having heard a wireless appeal for the collection of hair, it is being ascertained whether human or animal hair is required. Up to date the demand here has been restricted to cattle hair. *Sent address to B.C. 27.11.42*

The U.D.C. have received a notice from the Ministry of Supply asking the to initiate a drive to recover non-ferrous metals. We shall, of course, do what we can in that direction.

C.W. Soames, W.V.S. Salvage Officer,
Melton Mowbray, U.D.C.

* Sketch not attached but can be seen if required.

Have written for sketch 30.11.42

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY Leicestershire. CENTRE Melton Mowbray MONTH November, 1942.
30-XII

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

A list suggesting the subjects on which information would be most helpful will be issued from Headquarters from time to time.

1. There are now 112 evacuee children still in Melton billeted, not counting hostels, but the majority of extra inhabitants are now war-workers and soldiers.
5. Forces Canteens are very busy, and some feeding has been done for the Home Guard also.
7. Mending Services are rather unsettled owing to the erratic conduct of laundries. We are either overwhelmed with work or without any at all. There is now a request for the mending making of 100 cooks' aprons out of surplus palliasse covers!
9. Hospital Supply continues on its course.
14. National Savings are doing well.
16. (b) War-time Nursery about full and would like some very large toys to use up energy!
17. Several meetings of Rest Centre Helpers, and checking of equipment - and one grand afternoon of scrubbing and cleaning at one centre!
18. A Good contingent of W.V.S. joined in the Civil Defence Parade on Sunday, 15th November.

Members staffed the shop lent us for the drive for non-ferrous metals week.

Since April we have organised five flag-days, raising £258.8.6.

Signed J. H. FURNESS.
(Centre Organiser)

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W.V.S. SALVAGE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 1942

It is pleasant to report that we have scored another 100% month for the 4 principal collections of useable waste. The returns are not yet to hand but the U.D.C. Office can assess the approximate figures.

On examining the table, issued quarterly showing the comparison of monthly percentages for the 11 districts in our area, a rather disquieting fact arises. For the quarter ending September, 1942 Oadby U.D.C. & ourselves are the only authorities showing consistently good averages for paper, metal & kitchen waste. For the last 2 months of that quarter we have averaged 100% for bones, as well. Apparently only 4 out of 11 attempt to collect kitchen waste. The consistently low figures of a large town like Kettering with a population of 41,000 can only be described as, 'disgraceful'. I should like if I might, to make a suggestion here or rather an enquiry? Is there a Salvage Officer W.V.S. or otherwise, working there? If so what are they about? If the Kettering Town Council is willing to co-operate with anyone putting forth methods to facilitate and increase collections why in the 4th year of war, has nothing so far been done?

That the Ministry of supply are more than willing to offer help & advice wherever they can I have no doubt. It seems to show a remarkably poor sense of responsibility on the part of those in charge, if month after month poor figures are recorded. That it is unnecessary, with a little intelligent effort, I am quite persuaded. I venture to say that I think the W.V.S. could make themselves a little more active in this respect. What one is impelled to ask, are they doing in these bad districts?

For the whole of last week a non-ferrous metal drive was held in the town. An empty shop kindly lent by Mr. Hill, and 4 school were used as depots. So responsive has the public been to the various drives instituted at one time or another, plus the regular collections, that much was expected. However under the inspiring direction of the Headmaster of the Boys Primary School, over a large lorry load of valuable metal was contributed from that place alone.

It has been ascertained from the merchant who purchases animal hair from us, that human hair cannot be used for the same purpose as its texture is too soft. Whether its collection & disposal through other channels is worth while, needs a little consideration.

W.V.S. SALVAGE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1942

C.W. Soames, W.V.S. Salvage Officer, U.D.C. Melton Mowbray.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE
MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY Leicestershire CENTRE Melton Mowbray MONTH December, 1942.
U.D.

This report should describe the activities of the W.V.S. Centre during the month. Where W.V.S. members are assisting in activities outside the work of the Local Authority, the Authority or organisation responsible for such activities should be stated.

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There is nothing very much to report this month

- 1 (a) Position really static. 112 children still here (only 18 unaccompanied) Children's Hostels not very full, partly owing to the shortage of water.
- 3 (a) Housewives helped with the Xmas stockings for the Institute of the Blind, and are now busy collecting the cash from them. They also did a delivery of leaflets to every house in the town also, and anti-frost precautions on the request of the Local Authority. There have had to be some changes in Report Centre Staff, owing to more billeting of industrial workers.
5. Forces Canteens are all very busy.
- 7 (c) Mending Service is in full swing, and a lot of foot-ball jerseys and stockings came in as well as the usual socks, and 56 aprons were made for army cooks
- 9 Work as usual, but members were specially busy at home this month!
- 14 I have not had a recent report, but our members are all very busy and regular with this work.
15. ~~14~~ Report attached.
- 16(a) We do not do the billeting, but more and more of our members are having workers in their homes
- (b) We helped with the children's Xmas party.

Signed..... J. M. Furness.
(Centre Organiser)

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(832) Wt. 14644 40,000 5/42 C. & Co. 745(8).

W.V.S. Salvage Officer's Report for December, 1942.

A very brief report this month. We have maintained our 100% for the 4 principal constituents of useable waste. It sometimes so happens that one month's collection is taken a little later than usual; though probably showing a drop for the following month's returns, the average over the 8 weeks puts us right again.

Miss Harrild, the W.V.S. Salvage Officer in Westminster writes to me that they are now attaching their bone tins to waste food bins in a similar manner to ourselves and are hoping for good results.

May 1943 bring bumper returns to us all.

C.W. Soames, W.V.S. Salvage Officer
Melton Mowbray U.D.C.