

# WVS/WRVS Narrative Reports

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Registered office:

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE, Beck Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff, CF23 8RP.

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Report

1869



ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

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ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR A.R.P.

MONTHLY CENTRE NARRATIVE REPORT.

CENTRE

Bath

MONTH ENDED

August 31<sup>st</sup> 1939

This report should contain a short statement of the activities of the centre during the month and include information under the following headings.

(1) Meetings held.

None during this month, owing to vacation season.

(2) General publicity.

Through local press, + posters, etc.

(3) Factory schemes.

None during August, owing to holidays.

(4) Any items of special interest.

Since the latest we have taken over organisation of the Transport in connection with the Evacuation of Children.

Signed Daniel V. Abbot-Anderson.

Centre Secretary.

THIS RETURN SHOULD BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH IN TRIPPLICATE AND ONE COPY SENT TO HEADQUARTERS, 41, TOTHILL STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1. AND ONE TO THE REGIONAL ORGANISER ONE BEING RETAINED AT THE LOCAL CENTRE.

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT

Reports

CENTRE BATH (8, Quist Street)

MONTH ENDED September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1939.

This report should contain a short statement of the activities of the Centre during the month and include information under the following headings:—

Meetings held	General Publicity	OTHER ACTIVITIES.	Items of Special Interest
<p><u>1. re Hospital Supply Depot,</u> 3 Committee meetings held, President of Red Cross in Chair.</p> <p><u>2. re Clothing of Evacuated Children,</u> Several meetings with local Education authorities and with L.C.C. teachers &amp; helpers, the Mayor of Bath in the Chair.</p> <p><u>3. re Our Own Committee meetings.</u> Owing to great increase of work since war began, we have not spent any time over Committee meetings, but have been working in close co-operation with our Committee members, &amp; through them with the various organisations represented by them - e.g. League of Social Service, National Council of Women, &amp; many others.</p>	<p>Since the outbreak of war, we have been so busy with enrolment of Volunteers &amp; with many inquiries of all kinds, that we find we need make <u>no</u> efforts at publicity.</p> <p>Various references to our activities have appeared in the local press, especially with regard to the Transport of Civil Servants (see Column 4, item 1.)</p>	<p><u>1. The Evacuation of Women &amp; Children</u> was completed, and a voluntary corps of a large number of car-drivers organised for transport in this connection.</p> <p><u>2. Hospital Supply Depot</u> is now organised &amp; equipped, workers enrolled &amp; trained, in co-operation with Red Cross. Now only waiting for materials.</p> <p><u>3. Clothing for Evacuated Children</u> (also toys) now being collected at this office, sorted &amp; distributed under local scheme (see Column 1, item 2).</p> <p><u>4. Women's Land Army</u> now have representative working at this office daily, and she reports great increase in enrolments owing to this facility.</p>	<p><u>1. Transport of Civil Servants.</u> One outstanding work this month has been the organisation of over 100 voluntary car-drivers to take more than 4,000 Admiralty staff to their billets, also driving billeting officers round to find billets for them, over a period of 10 days.</p> <p><u>2. Civic Bureau for Advice &amp; Information on War Problems.</u> This was opened recently by one of our volunteers, at the office of Bath League of Social Service &amp; under their auspices, &amp; is doing valuable work there.</p> <p><u>3. Ministry of Information,</u> has sent representative here for an interview, &amp; we are sending him a fortnightly report.</p> <p><u>4. Fuel Advisory Committee</u> for Bath invited W.V.S. to send a representative from here, &amp; this has been done.</p>

To be completed in Triplicate at the end of each month.

One copy to Headquarters, 41, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.

" " Regional Organiser.

" " be retained at Centre.

Signed Muriel V. Abbot-Anderson.

Centre Representative.

(Hon. Secretary)

## REPORT

MONTH ENDED

October 31<sup>st</sup> 1939.

During the month and include information under the following headings:

Factory Schemes

Items of Special Interest

1. Hospital Supply Depot.

This was opened on Oct. 18th at 18, Walcot Street, where some 80 or 100 workers are actively engaged daily. Working parties in the Bathavon Rural District villages are affiliated to this Depot.

2. Clothing Depot (for Evacuees).

This was recently opened at 34, Walcot Street, where clothes and toys are now being collected and distributed in conjunction with the Joint Committee of the Mayoress of Bath's party and L.C.C. teachers.

3. Comforts Depot opened at 4, Walcot Street, for collecting and distributing comforts and gifts of all kinds for hospitals, both service and civilian.4. Club for Evacuated Women.

This is now being considered, and we are now looking for premises suitable for a combined canteen and club. In this matter the W.V.S. is working in conjunction with the Bath Education Department.

5. The local Food Control Office recently appealed for volunteers to help with clerical work on National Registration forms and Ration books, and we obtained over 100 workers for this.6. Welfare of Evacuees.

The Education Department and Chief Billeting Officer held a joint meeting, at which our Centre Leader was present, to consider this question. They arranged to divide Bath into 9 districts, and asked the W.V.S. to find volunteers to act as weekly visitors, to see and report on the condition of the children, to investigate complaints and so on. Several visitors were found for each of the 9 districts, and the scheme appears to be working smoothly.

7. Unravelling discarded woollen garments.

We have installed a small group of workers at this office to undertake this work, as advised by W.V.S. headquarters.

8. Gas Masks for Babies.

Representatives of W.V.S. working in Bath A.R.P. office have now been asked to organise the fitting and distribution of gas masks for babies.

9. Ministry of Information.

Our fortnightly report is still being sent to the above, as desired.

NOV 1939

WOMEN'S VOL

MONTHLY

CENTRE BATH (8, Quil-Street)

This report should contain a short statement of the activities of the Centre during

Meetings held	General Publicity
<p>1. re <u>Hospital Supply Depot</u> 4 Committee meetings held, President of Red Cross in the Chair.</p> <p>2. re <u>Clothing of Evacuated Children</u> 2 meetings held, one with all voluntary workers at the Depot, &amp; the other with London &amp; Bath teachers concerned.</p>	<p>No actual effort made for publicity, but frequent Press reports of meetings appear, where the W.V.S. is mentioned. As we work in co-operation with so many other organisations, the W.V.S. is often referred to &amp; consulted, and its activities noted.</p>

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“ “ Regional Organiser.

“ “ be retained at Centre.

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ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE  
REPORT

MONTH ENDED November 30<sup>th</sup> 1939.

During the month and include information under the following headings:—

Factory Schemes

Items of Special Interest

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

1. Hospital Supply Depot.  
Still very active, about 100 workers there daily.

868 garments and other surgical needs have been supplied to the 4th Southern General Hospital. These have all been made from materials purchased out of local subscriptions, and not from Lady Wraxall's free issue.

600 many-tailed bandages have been made and despatched to Lady Wraxall, made from material supplied by her.

2. Clothing Depot, and Comforts Depot.  
Both continuing their activities.

3. Clerical workers are regularly being asked for, and supplied to the local Food Control Office, and their work is greatly appreciated by the City authorities.

4. Welfare of Evacuees.

The scheme organised and started in October, for weekly visitors to evacuated children, is working very well. Also, the V.V.S. has been able to co-operate with the Billeting Officer in certain cases, where an exchange of billet was advisable.

5. Unravelling Discarded Woollen Garments.  
The small department dealing with this at our office is doing excellent work, and some very useful garments and blankets have been re-knitted from the wool available.

6. Canteen and Club Work.  
Hostesses have been supplied to Y.W.C.A. Huts for V.A.D.'s in the district, also washers-up and vegetable-helpers for 2 canteens under the Education authority.

7. Sea Boot Stockings.  
An issue of special free wool has been made for these, which are urgently needed, and many lbs. have been supplied to individual knitters and working parties in the neighbourhood, and the stockings received at this office for despatch to the Fleet.

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WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES  
for CIVIL DEFENCE

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

Holcombe Manor  
Bath

Dear Madam

In reply to your note from the Statistics Department enquiring about the knitting in this district.

We are still awaiting the supplies of wool promised us for making hospital supplies. In the mean time several villages have made collections & bought wool so far the completed garments which have already been despatched are:-

- 22 helmets
- 12 prs. bedsocks
- 4 scarves
- 3 prs. gloves
- 4 pr. socks.

Many of us have written for wool & have not yet been able to obtain any.

Yours sincerely  
L. C. Shore

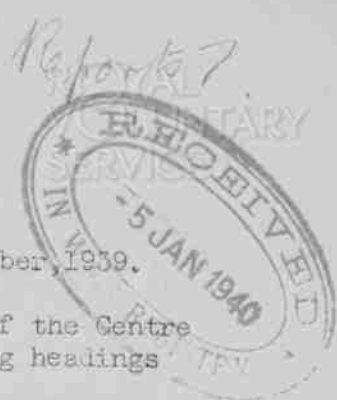
Headquarters Copy.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE.

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT.

CENTRE... Bath .....

MONTH ENDED December, 1939.



This report should contain a statement of the activities of the Centre during the month and include information under any of the following headings which are appropriate:-

- (1) EVACUATION, (a) General position, percentage remaining, (b) Residential units, i.e., sick bays, maternity homes, children's homes, hostels, etc., (c) Communal Feeding, (d) Clothing schemes, (e) Leisure time activities - Adults, Children, (f) Any other activities, (2) A.R.P. (Including provision of shelter and amenities for the homeless after air raids), (3) TRANSPORT, (4) HOSPITAL SERVICES (Including Nursing Auxiliaries, First Aid lectures, Blood transfusion service, etc.) (5) CANTEENS, (6) HOSPITAL SUPPLY DEPOTS AND WORK PARTIES, (7) OTHER ACTIVITIES.

1. Evacuation

a. About 45% of children remaining. W.V.S. or visiting Committees, working under Billings officer.

b. Home in Bath as far, all children & adult evacuees are billeted in individual homes. Only two cases remain in Maternity Home, & no

for Maternity reports no more expected. W.V.S. workers asked to stand by at present.

Three large canteens organised by Education Authority supply meals to children during term. W.V.S. members employed at these canteens for vegetables & washing up. Clothing depot is carrying on food work

(figures etc on separate form) This depot works in close co operation with

the Billings officer & L.C.C. teachers.

d. Club for Evacuee women still open, but attendance not high as women are leaving Bath gradually. Christmas party was given

where all Evacuee Mothers & accompanying children were invited.

2 A.R.P.

A Social Club & centre for all Civil Defence workers is being organised in Central A.R.P. building. W.V.S. representatives in an Exec Com. & advising on equipment etc of canteen & furnishing of rest-rooms. The centre will be in use shortly, & W.V.S. will work at Canteen.

All work in connection with defective gas masks & Baby helmets is carried out by W.V.S.

3 Transport

Nothing to report

Signed... Mairie Bhumler (Centre Organiser).

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IF FURTHER SPACE REQUIRED PLEASE USE BACK OF FORM.

P.T.O. 1939



#### 4 Hospital Services

Nine N.A.s called up for Service. 92 are attending first Aid lectures & fifty are home nursing. Course ends in middle of January

All W.V.S members within correct age <sup>limit</sup> have been asked to be tested as a "Blood Donor". Response so far good & we hope to form a W.V.S group by the end of January.

#### 5 Canteen

At the request of the organisers for the "Social & Welfare work for Troops" W.V.S sent a representative to the Executive Com.

W.V.S members have been asked to help carry out the necessary canteen work for the Troops stationed in Bath. A services club in the town opened on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Transport of concert parties run by the voluntary entertainment dept. is being done by W.V.S members.

#### 6 Hospital Supplies

Average attendance at depot is 75 members daily.

The depot has so far been able to meet all demands from the 4<sup>th</sup> Southern Command Hospital Bath.

122 Badges issued. Every recipient having put in at least 12 attendances with a promise of continued Service. Rep. + President presented these badges.

#### 7. Other activities

1. All food control clerical work continuing by W.V.S members.

Bath Food Control director appointed 3 W.V.S members to act as advisors & Bureau, to answer all questions & solve difficulties concerning ration cards.

2. 867 balls of sea-boot wool have been issued (two balls make 1 pair stockings) 96 completed pairs stockings have been sent to Admiralty. (This sea boot wool is a free issue)

105 various knitted comforts sent to Bath Comforts Scheme for local units

3. Parents or visitors Sunday were taken to outings, directed by W.V.S. members.