

WVS/WRVS Narrative Reports

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ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Report 7



WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE.

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT.

CENTRE Bristol COUNTY Glos MONTH April

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, numbers received and remaining, (b) Residential units, i.e. sick bays, maternity homes, nursery centres, 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) MEETINGS. (8) SALVAGE. (9) OTHER ACTIVITIES.

HEADINGS.

We have 12 canteens and this month has been more than usual, busy. For we have had to cook besides organising, also deliveries for all canteens are made from this office. We are buying everything wholesale. Keeping a store here, enabling us to continue the cheap meals. Our ambulance section continues we have now 1500. Trained among our other activities we are teaching a course at 4 AM tomorrow. Also 21. The overalls for F.A. posts are being dealt with by us. We are organising a band

Signed.....
(Centre Organiser).

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Reports 7
ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE.

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT.



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

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HEADINGS.

of men. to act between 10. pm. to 5 am.
 to meet and transport B.E.F. troops
 and this office also deals
 with enquiries for all Bristol
 laundries services. we deliver
 for the Queen Mary House H.S. depot
 and are now commencing
 an Anti waste house home canvas.
 we visit all part time depots
 and this week we have visited
 all full time depots.

Signed.....
 (Centre Organiser).

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WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE.

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT.

CENTRE... BRISTOL COUNTY... BRISTOL MONTH... May, 1940

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:-

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HEADINGS.

EVACUATION.

We are arranging to cut out the material sent from America for evacuees clothing.

REFUGEES.

We are preparing for reception of refugees and have collected three hundred people who are prepared to meet them if they arrive in Bristol.

A.R.P.

We are reorganising ambulance training which is necessitating a lot of work in this office.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Typists and clerical workers have been sent to the blood transfusion centre and some of this work is being done by our members at home.

CANTEEN

Canteens are being arranged to feed stretcher parties while they are waiting at the railway station for wounded to arrive.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Arrangements are being made for a sherry party in June for wool for the Glos. Territorial Army and Air Force at which the W.V.S. are assisting and also for an auction sale of antique furniture for the Y.W.C.A.

Four of our members are doing confidential work at the Ministry of Information.

Signed..... *Gera Thomas*
(Centre Organiser).

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ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

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Report 7
ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE



WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE.

11 JUL 1940

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT.

CENTRE... BRISTOL... COUNTY... BRISTOL... MONTH... June... 1940...

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- (5) CANTEENS. (a) Number of canteens (b) Authority under whom each canteen works (c) Number of helpers, paid/voluntary (d) Numbers fed per week (e) Type of food served.
- (6) HOSPITAL SUPPLY DEPOTS AND WORK PARTIES.
- (7) MEETINGS.
- (8) SALVAGE.
- (9) OTHER ACTIVITIES.

HEADINGS.

EVACUATION.

This has been very busy this month providing clothing for evacuees, B.E.F., and people stranded after air-raids, also beds for refugees from the Channel Islands.

A.R.P.

We are in process of organising a branch of the Housewives Scheme in Bristol.

CANTEENS.

The canteens are being considerably enlarged and have been exceptionally busy this month owing to the air-raids. We are now feeding 2,000 a week.

AMBULANCE TRAINING.

This has also been very busy.

SALVAGE.

We are organising a house to house canvas of Bristol.

Other activities as usual.

Signed... *Gea Thomas* (Centre Organiser).

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WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE.

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT.

CENTRE... Bristol ...COUNTRY... MONTH... July 1940



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- (8) SALVAGE. (9) OTHER ACTIVITIES.
- (10) SPECIAL ENQUIRY, MOBILE CANTEENS.

(a) Owned by whom, YMCA (b) Under what Authority. (c) Who supplies petrol
 (d) Type of Food served. EVERY KIND

The Home wife scheme has commenced
 So much time this month has been
 spent on Canteen reorganisation
 we have taken over so many more
 that I have little to say. Another help has been
 by far our busiest month.
 Amimmis has kept us a week and
 day, we have had a grand standard
 but the Canteen is by far the largest
 item we have sent a large supply of
 helpers to the Y.M.C.A. who are running the
 Mobile canteens for them

Signed... W. Thomas
 (Centre Organiser).

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R.13/38.

BRISTOL CANTEENS.

Bristol now runs 13 A.R.P. Canteens, 1 Canteen which serves anybody on Government or Services business, 1 Canteen for W.A.A.F.S. and 1 Dockers' Canteen. All the canteens are under the auspices of the Local Authority who provides for each one a paid cook, gives premises, tea and sugar. The W.V.S. are responsible for providing all necessary meals at a cost of 8d.

The Dockers' Canteen is being set up this week. It will provide $1\frac{1}{2}$ pint mugs of tea for $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per mug, and the charge for "The Ducker's Egg" is 3d. all the year round.

30th July, 1940.

CANTEENS

Seventeen canteens fully staffed night and day -
all types of meals served including hot dinners comprising
joint, two vegetables, and sweet.
All groceries for canteens supplied from W.V.S. stores
rooms at 38 PRINCE ST.

BILLETING

Billets found for E.N.S.A. and personally visited
by members of W.V.S.
Billets also for Dockers transferred to Bristol from
other centres.

REFUGEES

Two ships from Gibraltar met and refugees given
refreshment and conveyed to various centres where
they were cared for until they were transferred from
Bristol.

DEFENCE WORKS.

Arrangements made for diggers to be transported
to and from the sites of defence works.
W.V.S. members worked every week-end for six weeks -

ALUMINIUM.

Nearly seventeen tons of ALUMINIUM has been collected.

OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Help has been given with the "Plan a week fund".
The local Information Bureau has also had help
sent -
Telephone Switch-board at Southmead Hospital has
been staffed -



ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Reports of ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE.

MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT.

CENTRE BRISTOL COUNTY BRISTOL MONTH September

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HEADINGS.

Sept. was as usual a very busy month. Our ambulance work was about the same. Winford War Hospital is still being staffed by us in connection with the transport of soldiers to Bristol every day, also for domestic work. Our canteens are increasing, we shall open another this week at the Regional Headquarters, Woodland Road, Bristol, with a 24 hour service. Our Mobile Canteen is very busy, working all and every day for the Y.E.C.A. and also has been working all night with dockers.

We have done 4 days duty from 8 a.m. at Filton looking after the homeless, we have given assistance to Chipping Sodbury with evacuees from Eastbourne, also our Mobile Canteen did duty on all these same days.

Our wholesale department has increased from a turnover of £30 a month to £100 weekly. This Dept. deals with all our provisions for every canteen.

We have had a good response from the Spitfire Fund which is still coming in.

We are still doing the Blood transfusion work.

This month we are starting a new thing, washing and mending socks at Avonmouth for 1000 troops also arranging visits to homes.

Also our usual activities.

Signed L. H. O. W. O. S.
(Centre Organiser)

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UNOFFICIAL
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Reports-7
WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE



MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT.

CENTRE.....Bristol.....COUNTY.....Gloucestershire.....MONTH.....December 1941

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HEADINGS. December was our busiest month to date and a

real testing time for W.V.S. in Bristol - The plans we have been working out for a year had to be put rapidly into action. We have helped in evacuation, communal feeding, rehousing and organization of public shelters and rest centres -

Our clothing depots have supplied hundreds of outfits for men women and children and the Housewives Service have supplied bedding and comforts and furniture by the van-load.

Our emergency drivers have worked night and day with their own cars fetching and carrying, transporting people, and our Mobile Canteens (we now have four) have proved invaluable, and have been out immediately they were called for and frequently stayed out throughout the Blitz till daylight - serving the fire and casualty services &

there have been many cases of great personal courage & unselfishness amongst the drivers and attendants - we should like to say how grateful we were for the help from them in our emergency by other W.V.S. branches, notably Gloucester & Salisbury who rushed their own Mobiles help and helped for days. We do appreciate this.

Our Mobile Canteens also took tea, soup & refreshments to the demolition Squad and Royal Engineers working on 12 hour shifts during the day clearing the streets. W.V.S. members hold tea & coffee & sandwiches and washed up all day at these offices and others constantly cleaned and restocked the canteens which were out from early morning till after dark for three weeks on end. One of our most valuable drivers was most tragically drowned returning from his work when the Mobile Canteen got lost in the docks on a dreadful dark winter night.

Constantly altering rationing regulations make catering in a canteen very difficult. Signed (Centre Organiser)

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P.T.O.

difficult but all our Canteens are functioning satisfactorily. Two of them have been destroyed, but one was ~~destroyed~~ ^{repaired} and is now open again in new quarters. We have recently opened three new Canteens including one for the Regional Commissioner, Sir Hugh Ellis, and his staff.

Our Hospital Supply depot, have been most unfortunate in the raids and we have lost a great deal of valuable stores. Whenever they have been moved there has been a bomb on the very next road and it is a serious problem where to put them now, for safety and convenience of access.

Our voluntary Ambulance Drivers have been splendid and turned up promptly, having serious the Blitz. One has lost her life & many others been casualties themselves, and one has been recommended for the Gas Medal.

The Home Service, now over 9,000 strong, has proved invaluable and experience of these bad raids has shown other directions in which the Service can be usefully extended.

We had had to advertise for more volunteers for Canteen, Clinical and Relief work in the daytime. Very many former W.V.S. members have left or are leaving Bristol now and have a really serious reduction in strength.

We now run 18 Canteens and Staff three big ambulance depots and many F.A. Posts.

We rang the Flag Day for the Lord Lieut's Fund for Comforts for Troops on 23rd Nov. and raised £500.

Three new Hostels have been opened for the children under 5 of homeless or distressed people and we still have a lot of communal feeding and soup kitchens to help with all over the town.

We are also responsible for the feeding of troops brought in to guard the town at night.

We have taken on the washing and mending for large numbers of our local troops & help with their welfare and entertainment.

We hope we have our organization ready in advance for a "Blitz" any night and are prepared in every way we can possibly foresee, having profited from our own experience of the other bad nights and the days following them.

Many of our volunteers deserve the highest praise for their grit and devotion to duty all through these trying times.

The numbers of people fed by W.V.S. canteens are 2,146. Our mobile canteens visit outposts, visiting between 2,000 & 3,000 troops.

38 Price St.

22nd Jan. 1940.

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