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**<School name>**

**Level 1 History**, **2011**

91003 Interpret sources of an historical event of significance to New Zealanders

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

September 2011

**RESOURCE BOOKLET**

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for History 91003 (1.3).

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| **Achievement Criteria** | | |
| **Achievement** | **Achievement with Merit** | **Achievement with Excellence** |
| Interpret sources of an historical event of significance to New Zealanders. | Interpret in depth sources of an historical event of significance to New Zealanders. | Comprehensively interpret sources of an historical event of significance to New Zealanders. |
| **Overall Level of Performance (all criteria within a column are met)** | | |



**The Land Girl’s**

**Introduction**

The New Zealand Women’s Land Service, the Land Girls, was one of the most remarkable, yet least recognised, organised services in World War II. The women involved in this service left comfortable lives and put careers on hold to help feed Britain, New Zealand’s troops and US servicemen based in the Pacific. These women did not get the chance to tell their stories at the conclusion of the war, and did not receive the recognition they deserved.

Initially the Women’s Land Service attempted to break with the traditional pattern of female agricultural employment by explicitly prohibiting women members from doing “women’s work” while working on the farm. Many women wanted a land army that was similar to that set up in Britain. They did not want to do domestic work on farms, with its loss of status, poor pay and poor living conditions. Instead they would join a land army if it would free men up to go to war.

During the war farms and land production thrived and production ran to record levels despite many men enlisting in or being conscripted to the services. The contribution that women made to this success is little known. The agricultural sector was continuously portrayed as a “man’s world” not a place that had women working in it.

Yet, throughout the war, the women in the Land Service worked on coastal sheep stations, dairy farms and mixed cropping farms on plains and rolling hills, they worked on high country runs, hospital farms, schools farms, poultry farms, horse and cattle stud farms and the nature and demands of their service were as varied as the farms they worked on.

**Source B**

It has been reported from highly reliable sources that an attempt to assist farmers buy replacing male labour with feminine help…has been frustrated by farming communities. The women, more than the men, were the obstacle. They strongly resented the possibility of “town hussies” working in the fields or sheds with their husbands.

Farmers’ wives had cooked for single men before but never for women. IT was a source of resentment. ‘One manager’s wife had to cook for us and the kitchen was just off our bedroom and she used to call out, “Right, you bloody bitches of land girls, your bloody dinner’s ready.” We’d both been to private schools and were very protected and it took some getting used to.’

Source: D Bardsley, *The Land Girls, In a Man’s World 1939 – 1946* p8

**Source C**

The question of appropriateness of farm work for women hung over the service throughout its existence. This was more than a question of the aptitude of women for the work. The issue had two components, the first being doubts about the propriety of encouraging women to do “Men’s work” and the second, concern that Land Service Members were barred from doing “women’s work” on the farm, namely, the explicit prohibition of famers requiring members to do domestic work.

Farmers did not particularly want female labour, many preferred to pressure government to release men form the armed forces back to primary industry, to use industrial conscription to direct men out of white collar and retail occupations into farming and to allow troops to be used as a seasonal labour force.

Source: D Montgomerie *Men’s Jobs and Women’s Work: The New Zealand Land Service in World War II*, in *Agricultural History,* Vol63, No.3 (Summer, 1989) p9

**Source A**

**LESS FOOD IN BRITAIN**

The British Food Minister has announced reduced rations for the British people.

Let it not be said that we in New Zealand, by failing to attain our production targets, let the Old Country down. Our targets are:-

Butterfat……………………………….190 000 tonnes

Meat……………………………………..480 000 tonnes

Potatoes………………………………..37 500 acres

Onions…………………………………..2 000 acres

Peas……………………………………….35 000 acres

Wheat……………………………………300 000 acres

Maize…………………………………….12 000 acres

Malting Barley……………………….38 000 acres

Feed Barley……………………………40 000 acres

Oats……………………………………….60 000 acres

We stand pledged to Britain to aid her to the fullest capacity of our men and materials. The need is greater now than ever before.

**WE MUST PRODUCE MORE**

We can play our part

(1) by becoming as near self-sufficient as possible in

those foods normally imported, and

(2) producing greater surpluses of those foods that can

be exported to other countries

By reaching our quotas of maize, feed barley, malting barley, peas and wheat, there will be no need to import these feeds and this more will be available for Europe. By realising or exceeding our quotas of butterfat, meat, potatoes, onions and oats we will be making a direct contribution to the food needs of those less fortunate than ourselves.

So – “Let us to the task”

**FOOD IS THE FARMERS’ RESPONSIBILITY**

Issued by The New Zealand Department of Agriculture.

Advertisement from New Zealand Journal of Agriculture, 16 July 1945

Source: D Bardsley, *The Land Girls, In a Man’s World 1939 – 1946* p2

**Source F**

We are constantly afflicted with land girl propaganda over the radio. These appeals paint such an attractive picture of farm life, that, if heeded, they will cause some very sad disillusionment. We farmers do not want the help that comes to us for health’s sake to ride around the farm, doing all the light off jobs that are all a girl can do. We need experienced farm workers, men who can drive tractors , lift grain onto trucks and haul lime, shear sheep, fence and grub gorse. When we get men, we will increase our production…

Agricultural Farmer

Nov 4th 1943

D Bardsley *The Land Girls, In a Man’s World 1939 – 1946* p14

**Source E**

**Source D**

Sir

May I though your columns express my disgust – in which many share – at the very poor recognition the Land Girls have received from the Socialist Government which at present misrules this country? It is indeed deplorable to think that this section – most vital to the production of this country during the war – have not been included in those engaged in wartime service who are entitled to some gratuity. Many of these volunteer girls had never had previous experience of farming, they had taken on work, much of it unpleasant, they worked outside in all weathers. Many of them worked in distant parts away from their friends and where no amusements or amenities and comforts to which they had been accustomed were available, and the pay they received would not have been tolerated by the pampered watersider, miner, or other ‘favourites’ of the Government. It reflects very little credit on all concerned that they have not received better recognition. The matter should not be allowed to rest as at present and it is up to our women’s organisations to take it in hand, from a deputation to the Prime Minister and circularise the Members fo Parliament, and insist on a definite and straightforward answer to the question as to what they intend to do about it before the next election.

The writer has no personal connection with the Land Army and is in fact a man, but considers the shabby treatment the government has extended to these Land Girls is a disgrace to the country.

I am etc FAIR PLAY

Wellington

April 5th, 1946

D Bardsley *The Land Girls, In a Man’s World 1939 – 1946* p14

I agree with Agricultural Farmer, if production is to be increased we must have men to help us on the farms. However, the land girls are doing a splendid job or war work by helping the farmer with lighter work, but they do not, and cannot take the place of a man. Therefore I do think that these girls when farm work persists should be allowed to help the farmers’ wife. And by the way in many case the farmer’s wife has been doing a land girls work for years as well as bringing up the family and looking after the home, without a glamorous uniform, holidays or advertisements about it…

Yours etc

Another Farmer

Nov 7th 1943

D Bardsley *The Land Girls, In a Man’s World 1939 – 1946* p14

**Source G**

July.

What a frost! The mutton I killed last night was set hard. The cows were hidden out of the cold and reluctant to move, when I, or rather Jean, found them. Her keen nose was a better guide than my eyes in the half-light of a winter dawn. Today was going to be a good day with the prospect of something new in the way of work, we were heading down the road to cut chaff.

But after milking disappointment waited – I was not to go.

The neighbour’s wife had phoned to say she did not want me to come  
 – there’s a patriotic person for you, no land girls for her. She needn’t   
worry, I’ve seen her better half only once. He seemed like an old dear,  
 hen pecked of course…but I have no ambitions to lure him from her   
side! I’ve meet most of the valley people by now and they are a  
charming community. They do not seem to disapprove of me, thank   
goodness.

So my work programme was altered, and I spent the most uplifting   
day – yeah! – lifting shovelfuls of manure out of the nightpens,   
preparing the shed for the impending crutching. The task was   
lightened by thoughts of coming sheep work and punctuated by   
Master Three’s rosy face with its brown eyes and honey-coloured  
 hair, announcing smoko. How used one becomes to a place in one   
short month, I have settled into the routine here as if born to it.…

D Bardsley *The Land Girls, In a Man’s World 1939 – 1946* p66



Grace Johnson grew up on D’Urville Island an only child who began crutching lambs at 9 and shearing sheep at 14. Her father allowed her to develop these skills and it stood her good stead when she took over running a large property near Awatere when it owner went to war.

**Source H**

In 1940 the Mayor of Hamilton, the principal town in the important Waikato farming district, went so far as to initiate a voluntary women’s land service, The local branch of the Farmers’ Union and its Women’s Division attacked the idea, the Farmers’ Union arguing the it was “ridiculous for girls to work on the farms when there were young men in shops doing work women could easily do.” The Women’s Division said that it was domestic help that was really needed on farms and that a women’s land army was superfluous.

Source: D Montgomerie *Men’s Jobs and Women’s Work: The New Zealand Land Service in World War II*, in *Agricultural History,* Vol63, No.3 (Summer, 1989) p3

I wanted to be a vet, but in those days it was impossible for a woman to do something like that. In 1941 I went to work on my uncle’s farm. He bought me a tractor and said, “You’ll do all the tractor work Carol.” I went to a mechanics sources in Te Puke and passed my exams ahead of all the men on the course….There was always a lot of co-operative labour sharing in my uncle’s distract and I worked on neighbouring properties. I stayed three years before I joined the WAACs. That was a real holiday…but I soon became tired of driving and returned to the WLS.’



Source; D. Bardsley *The Land Girls, In a Man’s World, 1939 – 1946* p16

**Source I**



**Source J**