CAN I BE AN OFFICER?



73 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MAAG

Here's everything you want to know about life in the WAAC. Here you'll find the answers to all your questions—about the work you'd do, the way you'd live, basic training, uniforms, pay, after-hours fun. Read every word! You'll see why joining the WAAC is so vitally important, why it can be the most exciting adventure of your life.

73 QUESTIONS and ANSWERS about the WAAC

. 1. What Is the WAAC?



proud of it as he is!

W-A-A-C stands for Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. When you join the WAAC, you work with the U. S. Army. No, not actually in the firing line. You don't pull any triggers or fire any cannons. But you take over Army tasks that are essential to help our fighting men win.

The organization of the WAAC is similar to Army organization. Your pay is the same as Army pay. You wear a uniform as snappy as any Army man's, and you're just as

Being a Waac is the biggest, most important job a girl can do in this war. To any girl with a true-blue heart, it's a challenge and the thrill of a lifetime!

2. Why Are Women Needed for Military Service?

It's true that in other wars the role of women has been a gentle one—to keep the home fires burning bright.

But this war is different. It is more desperate and terrible than any war has ever been before. An urgent call has gone out from our Army. You, the women of America, are needed in the WAAC to serve with your soldiers. Can you fail to answer — when it may be within your power to help shorten the war and save the lives of American soldiers?

In the Army there are many vital tasks which you can do—tasks which can often be done better by women than by men. From Army officers everywhere come urgent messages: "The Waacs are doing a great job. Give us more." But there aren't enough Waacs to send. You are needed by our Army. You are needed now!

3. What Will I Do in the WAAC?



Any one of more than a hundred important jobs the men would have to do if you weren't there. Maybe you'll play nursemaid to a jeep and keep it in shipshape running order. Maybe your weather observations will be the "go ahead" for our bombers to take off. You may handle the coding of historic messages; drive Army officials on secret missions. Whatever you do, you'll know it's vital to winning the war!

4. Are Special Skills Needed in the WAAC?

Here's a list of some of the special jobs in the WAAC. Check it over! Women trained or capable of being trained in any of these are needed urgently, right now.

Radio

Radio Operator Radio Mechanic

Medical

Pharmacist
X-ray Technician
Medical Technician
Surgical Technician
Optometrist
Medical Supply
Laboratory Technician
Pharmacy Technician
Dental Technician

Photography

Camera Repairman Motion Picture Projectionist Photographer Retouching Artist Motion Picture Cameraman Laboratory Technician

Aircraft Mechanics

Airplane Electrical Specialist Airplane Instrument Specialist Airplane Propeller Specialist Inspection and Maintenance

Textile and Fabric Work

Balloon Envelope Repairman Parachute Rigger and Repairman Army Airplane Fabric and Dope Worker

Office Work

Stenographer
Typist
Accountant
Proofreader
File Clerk
Personnel Clerk
Chaplain's Assistant
Cashier
Mail Clerk
Statistical Clerk
Auditor
Purchasing Agent
Code Clerk
Code Compiler
Cryptanalyst

Motor Vehicle Drivers

Tractor Driver Chauffeur Truck Driver

Motor Vehicle Mechanics

Automotive Electrician Automobile Mechanic Motorcycle Mechanic Motor Inspector

Weather

Meteorologist Weather Observer

Drafting

Mechanical Draftsman Electrical Draftsman Topographic Draftsman Tracer Cartographer

Communications

Switchboard Operator Telegraph Operator Equipment Repairman Messenger Dispatcher Teletypewriter Operator Instructor

Miscellaneous

Editorial Writer Publicity Expert Personnel Worker Dietitian Administrative Expert Public Speaker Public Relations Sales Clerk Chemist Physics Laboratory Assistant Historian Geodetic Computer Reporter Librarian Classification Specialist Teacher Linguist Physical Training Specialist Bugler

5. May I Do a Different Kind of Work From the Work I've Done Before?



Maybe when you're in the WAAC you'll find some new ability you never dreamed you had. Maybe there's a special kind of work you'd like to learn to do. You'll get a chance to say what you'd like—and the WAAC will try to consider your wishes when giving you your assignment.

6. What if I've Had no Special Training?

Even if you've had no special training, even if you've never worked before, the WAAC needs you. And in the WAAC you may learn a skill that'll be useful the rest of your life—a skill that will give you a real career!

7. How Do I Begin My Training?



When you join the WAAC, you'll be classified as an Auxiliary—the same as an Army private. (All Waacs go through the ranks.) Then for four weeks you'll have basic training at one of the WAAC Training Centers: Fort Des Moines, Iowa; Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; Daytona Beach, Florida; Fort Devens, Mass.; or Ruston, Louisiana.

8. What Is Basic Training?

Basic training is your introduction to Army life. It gets you in good physical shape. Teaches you the "Emily Post" of the Army. How to salute, and when. Military courtesy and Army customs.

You'll have interesting study courses — about military operations and world events, about map reading, and safeguarding military information. You'll learn to talk a soldier's language on a lot of subjects — company administration, property responsibility, mess management, and many more.

You'll learn about "close order drill" and special ceremonies. You'll work hard—plenty hard. And you'll love every minute of it! Every day, every hour you'll be learning something new.

9. Isn't Drilling Tough?



Your feet may protest a little, just for the first few days. But you won't. You'll love it. Every Waac does! You'll be amazed at how soon you learn to execute the orders . . . even though you never knew which foot was your left one before! And what a thrill you'll get when your company shows up best in Inspection Day parade!

10. What Happens After Basic Training?

When you've finished basic training, you'll take a series of Aptitude Tests. That simply means finding out what work you're best suited for. You'll also have a chance to say what you prefer. You may apply immediately for Officer Candidate School, or you may be sent to active duty with a field unit or to a Specialist School.

11. What Are the Specialist Schools?



At these schools you get more training to prepare you for one of the 142 specialist jobs that Waacs are doing. Perhaps you'll be sent to:

Administrative Specialist School. There you'll learn all the fascinating details of military procedure. How to handle secret information. How to

keep important Army records. The Army way of taking letters.

Radio School is where you'll learn the intricacies of radio operation, code, and radio repairing. With training like this you'll be invaluable to the Army Air Forces or Signal Corps. And think what exciting careers there'll be in commercial radio when the war is over!

Bakers and Cooks School might make best use of your talents. There you learn to prepare quantity and quality meals. "Just like Mother used to make"—only much more of it. You'll get a real Army diploma when you finish the course. And if you want a job after the war, you'll have swell training for restaurant management, or for opening that tea room you've always dreamed of.

Motor Transport School might be for you. There'll be no mysteries left in an automobile by the time you're finished. You'll know all the inside workings of carburetors and transmissions. You'll learn all about driving, repairing and maintaining everything from a jeep to a 1½-ton truck. And when you get through, let any man dare to say, "Humph, a woman driver!" You'll match the best driver alive!

Army Music School is where WAAC band members (if they pass certain Army examinations) are trained to become WAAC band leaders. And how those girls can make "The Stars and Stripes Forever" boom!

Photo Lab Technicians School teaches you a variety of photographic skills—how to develop and print pictures, the techniques of making enlargements. After this course the Signal Corps will find you a mighty useful person. And you'll have training that ought to give you a fascinating career when the war is won.

12. Can I Become an Officer?



You bet you can, if you have the stuff. Officers are badly needed Every girl who joins the WAAC has an equal chance to become one. You don't need a college degree. You don't even need a high school diploma—just the two years of high school or business school required for all members of the WAAC. At the end of your basic training, you can apply for Officer Candidate School if you've done well in basic training, and have been recommended

by your Commanding Officer. Officers' training lasts six weeks.

13. Is Promotion Quick?

Very—depending on you, of course. The WAAC is growing fast. You have a wonderful chance to get ahead quickly, especially if you join now. It's possible to be a Junior Leader (like a corporal in the Army) after only six weeks. And Waacs have earned their officers' bars in as little as ten weeks!

14. What Happens When I Go on Active Duty?



You may be assigned to an Army post, a famous airfield, an important Army head-quarters office. You may serve in the United States or abroad.

You get a chance to say where you'd like to be stationed—overseas, within 300 miles of your home town, or anywhere in the United States. The WAAC will try to send

you where you want to go, but the needs of the Service must naturally come first!

15. What Do Waacs Do at Army Airfields?

Like the Air Forces? Waacs have already taken over more than twenty-five highly technical jobs at Army airfields. Every week they take over new ones. They're working as radio operators. Rigging parachutes. Repairing bombsights. Saying whether visibility's zero or unlimited.

16. What WAAC Jobs Are There in Army Headquarters?



Have you had office training? In each of the country's nine Service Commands, and the Military District of Washington, Waacs are assigned to the staffs of the Commanding Generals. They're doing clerical, secretarial, radio, and switchboard duties. And doing them well! They're taking on responsible jobs in the headquarters of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

17. What Do Waacs Do at Army Camps?



They're doing hundreds of different jobs! They're doing fine work in Motor Transport — operating and maintaining their own vehicles. Driving under emergency conditions—blackouts and air raid alerts. They're running movie theaters, libraries, and post exchanges, acting as hostesses in Service

Clubs. In post headquarters Waacs are handling personnel records, working with Army officers in secretarial jobs. Doing public relations work. Helping to put out camp newspapers.

18. How Many Hours a Day Will I Work on the Job?

That depends on the job. Ordinarily you'll have a regular working day. But war emergencies may call for extra duty—and a Waac is pretty proud of being on the job, and smiling, whenever she's needed!

19. Where Do Waacs Go?

Already WAAC companies are proving themselves at Army posts all over the country. Here are a few of the places in the United States where Waacs are serving:

Fort Huachuca, Arizona Fort Sam Houston, Texas Fort Devens, Massachusetts Fort Bragg, North Carolina Fort Custer, Michigan
Fort Meade, Maryland
Fort Sheridan, Illinois
Mitchel Field, Long Island, N. Y.

Every week, more WAAC companies are going out from the training centers to new Army posts. Every week come more reports from Army officers—telling what a grand job the Waacs are doing, asking for more Waacs quickly! You can be among these girls who are seeing new places, doing new things. You can help your fighting men where they need you most!

20. Where Will I Live?

If you're stationed at an Army camp, your company will have its own quarters. Roomy, with comfortable beds, plenty of bathtubs and mirrors. You'll have a special place for pressing and taking care of your clothes. And for off-duty hours there are homey, attractive recreation rooms where you can read or talk, or entertain your dates.

Food? Mmmmm, delicious! You get the same kind of carefully planned, good-to-eat meals the Army gets—prepared under the supervision of WAAC officers.

Of course you may be assigned to an Army office off a post. If so, the WAAC will help you find a good place to live. And you'll get ample allowance, over and above your regular pay, for food and rent.

21. How Much Will I Be Paid?



WAAC pay is the same as Army pay for corresponding rank. And good pay it is!

Here's the scale:

WAAC Grade	Equivalent Army Grade							Pay (per month)			
Chief Leader	Master Sergeant .								\$138.00		
First Leader	First Sergeant								138.00		
Technical Leader	Technical Sergeant								114.00		
Staff Leader	Staff Sergeant								96.00		
Leader	Sergeant								78.00		
Junior Leader	Corporal								66.00		
Auxiliary, 1st Class	Private, 1st Class .								54.00		
Auxiliary	Private								50.00		

Officers of the WAAC are paid the same as U. S. Army officers of equivalent rank. They are given additional compensation for quarters and rations. All medical and dental care is also furnished.

22. Why Is WAAC Pay Better Than Average Civilian Pay?

Figure it out for yourself! Even as a WAAC auxiliary you get \$50 a month—all clear! (And how often does a girl in civilian life have \$50 left after the bills are paid?) Actually, that \$50 is equal to about \$35 a week in civilian life—since Waacs don't have to pay a penny for food, rent, or clothing.

As a Waac you never owe a bill to your dentist or your doctor. All medical services are free. If you need medicines or hospital care, Uncle Sam foots the bill!

23. What Extra Benefits Do I Get as a Waac?



You're entitled to government prices at the post exchange (that's the post department store). You get special rates at movies and theaters. "Furlough rates" on round trip railroad tickets—same as the Army. And from coast to coast you'll find hospitality waiting at the USO, Red Cross, and Service Clubs.

24. What Insurance Can I Get?

You are entitled to all civilian benefits under the U. S. Employees' Compensation Act. And you also get the benefits provided by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

25. Why Do Waacs Wear Uniforms?



Because you're working with the Army, doing a soldier's work, you wear a uniform for the same reasons a soldier does—and you'll be just as proud to wear it! In uniform, you'll easily be recognized as a person in military service. Your uniform is a guarantee of respect and security.

Like a soldier, also, you'll be on 24-hour call—ready to go wherever you're needed. Uniforms make it easy to get yourself collected and to get going *fast!*

26. Who Pays for My Uniforms?

The WAAC outfits you from head to toe! Supplies you with equipment and good-looking clothes that would cost you more than \$250! Your uniforms are tailored like a dream. And they're fitted to you by experts. You get winter and summer uniforms. Clothes for working. Fine shoes. A swank-looking handbag. Even your well-cut, soft-feeling underwear! And everything's of a quality you'd find hard to match in any store today!

27. When Do I Get My Uniforms?

Your uniforms will be issued to you after you arrive at the WAAC Training Center.

28. What's the Difference Between an Officer's Uniform and an Auxiliary's?



They're both good-looking! They're cut the same way—and made of similar fabric. There's a slight difference in color, and in insignia. An auxiliary's insignia is mounted on disks—like an enlisted man's in the Army. On one lapel she has a U. S.; on the other a Pallas Athene head. WAAC officers have cut-out insignia—a U. S. on each collar wing; a Pallas Athene head on each lapel. On their hats WAAC officers wear a cut-out eagle

insignia; auxiliaries wear an eagle insignia on a disk.

29. What Does the WAAC Insignia Represent?

The WAAC insignia is a head of Pallas Athene, Greek goddess of Wisdom, Victory and of crafts—to symbolize the purpose and work of the WAAC.

30. What's the Difference Between Summer and Winter Uniforms?

They are the same in design and cut. Summer uniforms are made of cool cotton khaki—just like the Army men's. Winter uniforms are made of fine quality wool in the well-known olive drab shade.

31. May I Ever Wear Civilian Clothes?



Yes. In most places where Waacs are stationed, they're allowed to doff their uniforms when they're off duty and off the Post. But you'd be surprised how few of them want to! Once you see yourself in a WAAC uniform, you'll probably want to keep it on. Most Waacs are just plain proud of their uniforms . . . and they get a real kick out of wearing them. Here's how one girl put it—"As a Waac, I feel like somebody."

32. What Happens if I Become Ill?



If you're ill, tell your Company Commander. You'll have the best care in the world! At every Training Center and every Army post, there's at least one hospital and plenty of top-notch doctors.

33. What Arrangements Are There for Going to Church?



At every WAAC Training Center and every Army post there are regular church services—Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish. You'll count your chaplain among your most valued friends.

34. With Whom May I Discuss Any Personal Problems?

Feel free to talk with your chaplain at any time. At WAAC Training Centers you can always go to see one of the Civilian Counselors who'll lend a motherly listening ear to any problem you want to talk over. All services of the American Red Cross are available to the WAAC—as to the Army.

35. May I Have Visitors?

Indeed you may — whenever you're off duty.

36. Are WAAC Regulations Stiff?

No, let's say they're sensible. You'll find most WAAC regulations are like Army Regulations—there's a common sense reason for every one of them. They're not just to cramp your style! And you'll probably discover there's a lot more freedom than you ever dreamed there would be! As a Waac, you're expected to be a responsible person—and you'll just naturally go out of your way to show people, "The Waacs are wonderful!"

37. May I Wear Jewelry?



Wedding ring, engagement ring or signet ring—yes! You may also wear a wrist watch, and an identification bracelet. No other jewelry, though. You wouldn't want any brighter glitter with your shining WAAC insignia.

38. Must My Hair Be Worn a Special Way?



Wear it any way that's natural and becoming. That's up to you. Just be sure it's neat and above your collar.

39. When Do I Wear My Hat?

Outdoors you wear your hat. Indoors you do as you'd do wearing civilian clothes — hat or no hat, either way.

40. May I Use Cosmetics?



Why not? The Army wants you to be attractive and feminine—not a dull, "washed-out Winnie." So go right ahead. Use your lipstick, your powder and rouge. Just use good taste and keep it inconspicuous. (Even in civilian life, you don't want to look like a painted doll.) Nail polish isn't frowned on either, as long as it's a lightish shade.

41. Is There Social Life in the WAAC? Will I Have Fun?



Bushels of it! The only trouble with a Waac's off-duty time, is that she usually has so many swell things to do, she can't tell which to choose. On an Army post, for instance, you'll go to Army dances, and probably get the rush of your life! You'll be invited to men's Service Club parties. You may be asked to visit Army classes, and share extra courses in such interesting things as radio code and camouflage. You'll get in on special entertainments staged by visiting movie and

radio stars. You'll see the best movies — usually before they hit the big towns!

42. What About Extra Activities — Like Dramatics, Art and Music?



You'll find yourself with dozens of extra activities and hobby classes to choose from, if you want them. Glee Clubs. Classes in art, photography, languages, and leathercraft. And wait till you see the grand dramatic shows the Waacs take part in!

43. Are Dates With Army Men Allowed?



Of course. You'll have plenty! And with Navy men, Marines, and civilians, too! In Army camps, military custom prevails. WAAC auxiliaries and noncommissioned officers date enlisted men and noncoms. WAAC officers date Army officers.

44. What About Friends Who Are Officers?

If you're an auxiliary and have friends who are officers (either men or women) you can still be friends off duty. On duty, they're your superior officers, and *you'll* want to remember your "military manners," and act accordingly.

45. What Kind of Girls Will I Meet in the WAAC?



You'll meet all kinds of girls from all parts of the country. Girls who've traveled all over the world. Girls who've never been away from home before. You'll meet opera singers and secretaries. Milliners and movie actresses. Writers, teachers, artists, statisticians. The pick of America's girls are in the WAAC—you're bound to make friendships you'll value all your life.

46. Can a Married Woman Join the WAAC?

Indeed, yes — provided you have no dependents, no children under fourteen.

47. Can a Serviceman's Wife Join?

Of course! And she'll get a *special* thrill out of being in the WAAC—sharing her husband's experiences, and helping to get him home sooner! (And you can't blame her husband for being pretty proud of her!) Don't forget — servicemen's wives keep right on getting their monthly allotments while they're in the WAAC.

48. Can I Get Married While I'm in Service?



Of course you can. You can say "I do" at any time while you're in service. And the WAAC places no restrictions on whom you marry, either — Army man, Navy man, Marine, or civilian. That's your choice.

49. What About Furloughs?



Waacs get the same furloughs as Army men — thirty days a year, if you can be spared from duty. (Compare that to your civilian ten days or two weeks!)

Budget Note: Remember the good news about railroad tickets. You get the same special "furlough rates" that Army men get on round-trip fares.

50. Can I Go Away Week Ends?

You can get special week-end passes, any time you're not needed at your job.

51. Can I Get a Furlough When Some Special Circumstance Arises?

Yes, the WAAC gives what are known as "emergency furloughs" for special circumstances. If your husband should get home from overseas on furlough, if a member of your family should be seriously ill, the WAAC will do everything possible to arrange to let you get away.

52. How Long Do I Serve?

The same as Army men. The WAAC term of service is for the duration of the war, plus six months afterwards.

53. May I Resign From the WAAC in Case of Personal Emergency?



If a really important emergency arises and you feel you must request a release from service, you can be sure your request will be sympathetically considered.

54. Can a Civil Service Employee Get Her Job Back After the War?

Yes, if she has a permanent Civil Service status when she joins the WAAC.

55. May Students (or Teachers) Enroll in the WAAC and Finish the School Year?



Yes. They will be enrolled and placed on reserve until the current school year is finished.

56. What Are the Requirements for Joining the WAAC?

Age: 21 to 44 years, inclusive.

Citizenship: You must be a citizen of the United States.

Marriage: You may be single or married.

Dependents: You must be without dependents; without children under 14.

Character: Must be excellent, of course.

Education: Two years of high school, business school, or similarly accredited school is required. (No high school or college diploma necessary.)

Health: Your health has to be good. You'll be given a physical examination at the Recruiting Center. Your height and weight should be average.

57. Why Should I Join the WAAC Right Away?



An imperative call has gone out from our Army. More Waacs are needed urgently—now! But there aren't enough to fill the demand. The faster you get in the WAAC, the more you can help to get the war won quickly and bring our soldiers home again. Looking at it selfishly—the faster you get in the WAAC the better your chances for quick promotion. (It's really an extra-special

thrill to pin on those nice, shiny lieutenant's bars!)

58. Why Is the WAAC More Important Than Other War Work?

There are many jobs at home to be done in this war. Important jobs. Useful jobs. But there are many people who can do them. Older women, teen-age girls, women ineligible for the WAAC.

Only a *special* group of women can serve in the WAAC. Only women without dependents — of a certain age and physical condition. If you fit the requirements, then joining the WAAC is the most important job you can do in this war. You, and only you, can help our soldiers where they need you most!

59. If I Have More Questions About the WAAC What Shall I Do?

Look in the back of this booklet for your nearest WAAC Recruiting Station. Come in and talk with the Waac on duty. She'll be glad to answer a whole load of questions, and tell you all about the opportunities you'll have in the WAAC. You're under no obligation to enroll, of course.

60. How Do I Go About Joining the WAAC?



Go to the nearest Recruiting Office (or write if it's hard for you to get there). You'll be given an Application Blank. Fill it out and hand it in. Then the WAAC officer in charge will sit down with you and have a friendly talk. She'll ask you what you've done before. What you like doing best. What your special interests and abilities are.

You'll also be given a Mental Alertness Test. (It takes about an hour, and it's really not hard at all. You can get a copy of a sample test at the Recruiting Station.) Then comes the Physical Examination. (If you're in good health, you should pass it like a whiz!) Last of all—you'll be sworn into the WAAC, in an impressive ceremony.

61. What Papers Should I Bring With Me When I Go to Join?



Bring evidence of your age and citizenship—your birth or baptismal certificate. (Bring your naturalization papers if you were not born in the United States.)

If you have a Social Security card, bring that too.

62. What If I Can't Get Hold of My Birth Certificate?



The WAAC will give you an affidavit form for you to have signed by a person who can swear to the date and place of your birth.

63. Is the Mental Alertness Test Hard?



Not a bit. You can get a copy of the sample test at any WAAC Recruiting Station, and see how easy it is. You don't have to write anything. Each question has four answers given — all you do is check the right answer.

64. What Is the Physical Examination?



It's a complete physical examination — the kind your own doctor gives you, the kind you always meant to have. A nurse will be in attendance while you are being examined. Throughout the examination, you wear a regular hospital gown.

65. How Soon After I'm Sworn in Will I Go Away for Training?



After you're sworn in, you'll be placed *on reserve*. You'll be given time to wind up your affairs and get all set for your new life. Usually you get about two weeks. Sometimes more.

66. What If I Can't Arrange to Leave Right Away?

If you've some special reason for wanting extra time before you're called to active duty — like finishing your college course or a teaching semester — the WAAC will arrange it. You'll be placed on reserve, and not called before a certain specified date.

67. When Should I Resign My Job?



It's best not to give up your job until you are actually called for active duty.

68. What About My Expenses While I'm Being Examined and Enrolled?

The WAAC will provide your food and lodging — if you have to travel more than 50 miles from home, and are kept away beyond your meal or bedtime.

69. What About Transportation?



You'll be furnished transportation from your home to the place where you're examined—if it's more than 50 miles away. And your return trip will be furnished, too—even if your application is rejected.

70. When Does My Pay Start?

Your WAAC pay starts the day you leave for the Training Center to which you are assigned.

71. Who Pays My Expenses From My Home to the Training Center?

The WAAC provides your transportation and meals from your home to the Training Center. From the moment you wave good-bye to your friends at the station, the WAAC starts taking care of all your expenses.

72. How Much Luggage May I Take to the Training Center?



You may do a lot of traveling before the war is over. So travel light! Don't give yourself too much to cart around. Two average suitcases ought to be plenty!

73. Where Are the WAAC Recruiting Stations Where I Can Get Further Details?

There is a Recruiting Station in the Post Office or Federal Building in nearly every important city or town. Go to the most convenient one. (A list of WAAC Recruiting Stations is enclosed with this booklet.) Most of them are open from 9 in the morning till 9 at night—so if you're working, you can go after business hours! Go today. Get started on the most thrilling, satisfying job of your life!

