

WAC
NEWS LETTER

WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS, WASH., D.C.
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

THIS ISSUE

Section	Page
Publications	2
Overseas	3
In The Field	5
Recruiting	7

THE COVER

You've heard about it. You've read about it. All of you have dreamed about it. Now you see the new WAC OFF-DUTY Dress on the cover of this issue, modeled by Corporal Mary Freeman, OPD Headquarters, Washington, D.C. Distribution of the Off-Duty Dress to the field began June 10.

Now that Wacs are the best-dressed women in military beige, they have something else to live up to. To be the envy of every eye, Wacs must now take special notice of personal appearance -- banish those bulges, cherish that complexion, hair WILL be neat and off the collar.



THE REGULATION MERELY SAYS "OFF THE COLLAR"

PERTINENT PUBLICATIONS

- WD Cir. 166 - Voting by members of Armed Forces.
- WD Cir. 175, Sec. II War Dept. Separation Centers.
- WD Cir. 181 - Fifth War Loan Drive.
- WD Cir. 182, Sec. III Shoes, Service application of dubbin.
- WD Cir. 188, Sec. III Students, Command and General Staff School.
- WD Cir. 193, Sec. VI WAC Eligibility for enlistment - changes in regulations.
- WD Cir. 197, Sec. V WAC Functions of the Third Training Center.
- WD Cir. 204, Sec. VIII WAC Public Relations Group established.
- Sec. IX Items issued as Class B clothing to enlisted women.
- WD Cir. 208, Sec. VII WAC appointment in Army Nurse Corps and Medical Dept.
- WD Cir. 211, Sec. X WAC Officer Candidate age limits - changes in regulations.
- ASF Cir. 103, Sec. VII Clothing.
- ASF Cir. 106, Sec. III Weapons. Sec. VI Demobilization.
- ASF Cir. 118, Sec. IV Occupational Therapists, appointment of: Sec. VI Officer patients qualified for limited service.
- ASF Cir. 126, Sec. IV WAC Establishment of special training unit.
- ASF Cir. 131, Sec. I & II Letter from Commanding General ASF, Subject WAC Second Anniversary.
- ASF Cir. 147 Discontinuance of opportunity school, for Des Moines.
- ASF Cir. 156, Sec. VIII Course WAC personnel in recruiting procedures.
- AAF Letter 35-88, 12 May 44, Subject: WAC Winter Clothing.
- WD Cir. 174, Secs. IV & V. WAC Summer Service Uniform - Buttons.
- WD Cir. 200, Sec. 1. Supply of Clothing Personnel returning from overseas.
- WD Cir. 201, Sec III, Mustering-out pay.
- WD Cir. 210, Sec. I Emergency Addressee and Personal Property Card.
- WD Cir. 225, Sec. III WAC-Off Duty shoes.

ARRIVAL OF WACS IN AUSTRALIA



Australia's welcome to the Women's Army Corps was as spirited as the faces of the women soldiers as they filed briskly down the ship's gangplank, smartly attired in full field uniform, while an Australian service band piped them ashore.

Waiting to greet them was Brig. General Thomas E. Rilea, Base Commander, who presented the escort officer, Major Hazel K. Miller, with a large basket of flowers bearing a banner "Welcome Wacs." High ranking Australian Army officers and representatives of the Australian Women's Services were also at the ship's side, as well as American nurses of the Army and Navy, the American Consul-General, the WAC Staff Director for the Southwest Pacific Area and other WAC officers who had preceded the detachment by air to assist in plans for their reception.

Immediately upon debarkation the contingent was transported by bus to a nearby general hospital which was to serve as a staging area prior to transshipment to their final destination, "Somewhere in Australia."

That evening a dance was given by the American Red Cross, when Army men who had been serving in the Southwest Pacific Area since before the creation of the Corps had their first opportunity to meet American women in khaki, only it was Olive Drab because the seasons are reversed "Down Under."

Another high light of the staging period was a visit to the WAC barracks by Lady Gowrie, wife of the Governor General of Australia, who, as an honorary colonel of the Australian Women's Army Services reviewed the troops following Retreat, taking the salute.

Two days after the contingent arrived at their final destination, enlisted women were operating their own mess in a suburban camp which quickly became a typical WAC installation. Two days later the first women reported for duty at Headquarters of the United States Army Forces in the Far East. They have since been joined by hundreds of others, some of whom are working at General (Allied) Headquarters and at United States Army Services of Supply Headquarters, while others are preparing for a trip "North" to New Guinea. The women are well, happy, comfortable and busy and one detail has already received official commendation for the manner in which it performed a difficult, emergency assignment.

To members of the Corps all over the world, Southwest Pacific Wacs send greetings and the hope that they will soon be joined by hundreds of others whose Army experience fits them for important jobs yet to be filled in this theater.

MARY-AGNES BROWN
Lt. Colonel, WAC
Staff Director, USAFFE

REUNION IN AUSTRALIA



THE WAC GETS THEM THERE

From Headquarters, Ninth Air Force Service Command in England comes this word of a Yank M. P., a Wac, and a Personage.

Shortly before invasion time, a 20-year old American M. P. was on traffic duty somewhere in England. Everything had been quiet for some time when, looking up the road he saw a sedan approaching, and to use his words, "hitting it up". As it came closer, the M. P. saw that there was a Wac driver at the wheel, but if she noticed him, she only zoomed by without a pause. The M. P. fired his motorcycle engine and started after her. His speedometer registered 65 m.p.h. but the Wac was far ahead. Two traffic circles and several miles beyond, he overtook the car and flagged it over to the side of the road.

From the back seat of the car, a man leaned forward, his shoulders bright with stars. He spoke to the M. P.:

"Do you know who I am, son?"

"No, sir" replied the M. P.

"I am General Eisenhower, and I am in a hurry, son."

And the staff car, the General and the Wac roared out of sight on the way to a mighty mission.

From "down under" comes the happy news of four brother-sister reunions which took place when the first large contingent of Wacs landed in the Southwest-Pacific area. They were:

Sgt. Betty and Corp. Walter Curlee, Jr.
Fort Worth, Texas
Pfc. Wilma and Corp. Robert A. Day,
Montgomery, Alabama
Pvt. Beula and Tech. Sgt. Edward
Kirkpatrick, Enid, Okla.
Second Lt. Ellen and Chief Petty Officer
Edward McCullough, Newark, N. J.

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PARADISE OF THE PACIFIC

On duty in the Hawaiian Islands is the first WAC Company to be sent overseas with the Air Transport Command. These Wacs report that, despite curfew and Wartime restrictions, nothing has detracted from the excitement of seeing with their own eyes the far-famed charm of Hawaii. Its natural beauty and ideal climate is, as always, that of a South Sea Island paradise.

A military band greeted the Wacs upon their arrival in Aloha-land. They felt a bit self-conscious when they came down the gangplank, laden with GI gas-masks, duffel bags, canteens, first aid kits, and wearing the deep steel helmets, always so amazing atop a feminine head, for just then, the band swung into, "Oh, You Beautiful Doll".

The women soldiers were quick to seize their first opportunity for correct wearing of flowers with the uniform, in the lovely tradition of the Hawaiian lei, worn by service personnel stationed in the Islands for many years.

At their base, the Wacs may enjoy tennis, bowling, swimming and softball. Or they may spend some off-duty time with the station mascots, the wallabies, which appear to be vest-pocket kangaroos.

The Wacs in Hawaii were requested for specific job vacancies essential to the proper functioning of the base. They are doing a good job and requests for Wacs have been received from every theatre of the ATC.



STREAMLINING SCIENTIFIC

Correct weight makes for better looks, improved efficiency, and certainly, higher morale, affirm members of the WAC Detachment at Fort Mead who have benefited from a newly-instituted program for the removal of excess pounds.

Lt. Col. Robert B. Cragin, Medical Corps, has brought about scientific weight reduction for eighteen Wacs. Under his personal supervision, each case is studied individually, medication is applied when needed, and a reducing diet is prescribed which can be easily followed on the regular Army ration.

The diet is in no way a starvation one, since it allows plenty of nourishing, energy-building food. Recommended are soups, cereals with milk, eggs, cheese, lean meat, vegetables, - even potatoes once a week and bread, a piece at each meal. For dessert, fresh fruits, ices and gelatins are permitted. The restraint comes in with the strict admonition against fats and sweets. No gravy, no

butter, cream, or oily salad dressing. And absolutely no candy bars at the PX!

JOB WELL DONE

The WAC Detachment at Marana Army Air Field has earned the signal honor of being the first unit to win permanent possession of the Marana Plaque for Organizational Excellence. The trophy, awarded to outstanding replacement sections at the Army Air Forces Training Command, was first awarded in November, 1942.

The Plaque was won by the WAC Detachment first in June, 1943, and again in 1944. Presentation was made by Colonel Charles Backes, with the words;

"Aside from the fact that they are the only organization to win it twice, the Wacs have demonstrated their abilities to assume increasing responsibilities. I've said before that they are good soldiers. I say it again."

"A VERY REAL HELP IN TIME"

A booklet published June 1 at the AGF Replacement Depot No. 1, serves a dual purpose of orientation and welcome to new Wacs arriving at the Post. Included in its nine mimeographed pages for the convenience of the newcomers, are the Standard Operating Procedure, names of commanding officers, schedule of the day, uniform regulations, information on supply, recreation, sports, fire rules and areas off limits.

New Wacs arriving in small groups are presented with personal copies of the brochure, thus receiving individual indoctrination from an authentic source to which they may refer at any time.

CHIEF VISITS TRAINING CENTER

In a surprise visit to Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., General George G. Marshall recently had his first view of the Third WAC Training Center. Welcomed by Lt. Col. Elizabeth Strayhorn, Commandant, the Chief of Staff made a tour of inspection, visiting Reception, station hospital and mess halls, and talking with WAC personnel. He took the review at a retreat parade held in his honor.

CONGRATULATIONS, PRESIDENT

When a woman becomes president of a traditionally masculine club, that's news. At Las Vegas Army Air Field, Corporal Helene Murray holds the distinction of being the first woman president of the Non-Commissioned Officers' Club.

The Corporal achieved this office in a circuitous but legitimate manner. She was elected Vice-President in a hotly-contested, twice-tied ballot, against the friendly opposition of a male Sergeant. Shortly thereafter, the NCO President was shipped from the field, boosting Corporal Murray upstairs and giving the Army its first WAC to serve at the head of a non com club.

From Corporal Murray, "It was a little frightening at first. But really, it has worked out swell. Nothing is done except at a board meeting. There have been no complaints and the club is running very smoothly."

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GOVERNMENT

Twenty WAC officers will be selected for training in Military Government at the Far East Civil Affairs Training Schools. The first women to be trained for this work, they will emerge from the school equipped for the same types of jobs held by men serving in Allied Military Government. The work involves military administration of civilian affairs in occupied territories, together with the reestablishment and direction of governmental organizations. Emphasis will be given in training to language and background of certain Far Eastern areas.

Selection of applicants will be made by the Provost Marshal General in accordance with procedure set forth in War Department Circular 136, dated 8 April 1944.

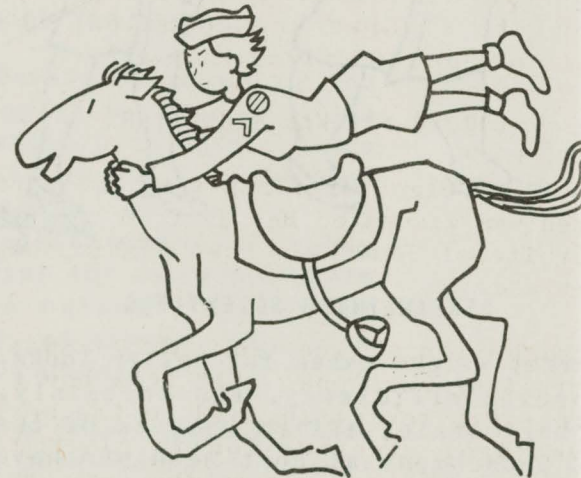
CANDLE IN WINDOW DEPT.

Each time a member of the WAC Detachment at the New York Port of Embarkation leaves for overseas duty, a star is added

to the service flag hanging on the front door. At last check, there were four blue stars brightening the vista. The post is an equestrian's dream Riding is the chief off-duty sport, and the Wacs enjoy regular riding classes and excellent cavalry horses.

COLLOSSAL WELCOME

The word, "colossal" has long been associated with Hollywood. The Hollywood Guild Canteen Home for women of the Armed Services fulfills its mission throughout the year. Now, enlisting in terms of welcome. A large number of women are released for the first time at 1401 N. Crescent Heights Blvd. months of 1944. The figures tell their story - a success story for the Corps: Enlisted women are accommodated for and officers for a small fee. The home is located within a block of the Hollywood Canteen, where meals are served free to service personnel.



AT THE CAVALRY SCHOOL

Wacs stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, singing, "Hit the Leather and Ride", a traditional Cavalry song, with pride and meaning. Attached to The Cavalry School these Wacs live on a beautiful and historic army post that dates back to the time when troops were trained for battle with the Indians. Now, with its training program geared to the demands of modern war, Wacs are serving as specialists and technicians at The Cavalry School. Several are training to be instructors in Weapons. Much of the work on the Cavalry School publications is done by Wac artists, draftsmen, mapmakers, lithographers, and machine operators.

RECRUITING FIGURES SOAR

Large enlistments were reported on D-Day, and it is reasonable to hope that when complete figures are compiled, the month of June will lead them all.

COURSE FOR WAC RECRUITERS

The first class of forty-five enlisted women was graduated May 11 from the WAC Recruiters' Course at Fort Washington, Maryland.

Thorough training received in this course, recruiting personnel will know how to turn every recruiting aid to the best advantage. Instruction is given in subjects which range from the technique of interviewing, public speaking and the use of the telephone to general salesmanship, prospecting, and administrative procedures incident to enlistment. Tested and approved methods of public relations are emphasized, as well as the effective use of publicity material of all types.

The course met with such approval that the quota has been doubled and the hours of instruction have been increased from 80 to 112. To be selected for this training, enlisted women must have had six months of field experience beyond basic, they must be high school graduates between 20 and 40 and of excellent character. In addition, they must have had former experience in dealing with the public. They must be women who

present a correct picture of the WAC in order to insure a favorable public relation of the Corps.

INFORMATION, PLEASE

Through the cooperation of the New Hampshire Telephone Company, every telephone operator in the State has been given the address of the nearest WAC recruiting station, and will give the information upon inquiry.

Also in New Hampshire, the first recruit secured by the American Legion was presented with a life membership card in the Legion.



G. I. HOSPITALITY

The WAC Detachment at Bradley Field, Conn. had eighteen civilian girls as their house guests recently, in the interest of the accelerated recruiting program.

The guests, rounded up from surrounding Connecticut towns by a WAC recruiting bus, spent twenty-four hours with the Wacs, during which they enjoyed army chow as served only in a WAC mess, rested in the WAC dayroom, and attended movies on the base. They learned to make their own "brown beds" and arose earlier than is traditional for civilians on Sunday morning. After breakfast, they accompanied the Wacs to religious services and completed their tour of the base.

When the bus was ready to return them to civilian life, the soldiers for a day had a clearer understanding and more personal appreciation of the Army's way of life. Two have already decided to make the Army's way their own and have since enlisted in the Corps.

AMONG NEW RECRUITS

A young woman who only three days before had learned of the Japsneak attack on Pearl Harbor, took the oath of enlistment in the WAC May 9 at Davenport, Iowa. Alberta Erdtsieck, 20, who was among 669 repatriates to arrive in this country March 15 on the Swedish exchange liner, Grips-holm, reported for basic training at Fort Des Moines on June 1.

Born in Davenport, Iowa, Private Erdtsieck left America at the age of four to live with her family in Holland. In September, 1942, when the Nazis occupied the Netherlands, she was arrested along with others at her boarding school and taken to a concentration camp in Holland where she remained for two months. She was transferred to an internment camp in Germany where she stayed for six months, followed by ten months at a similar camp in France.

Private Erdtsieck first learned of the Women's Army Corps aboard the Gripsholm, and determined to enlist as soon as she arrived in the States. She attempted to join with 24 hours of landing, but was persuaded to rest long enough to regain her strength. She said that the sudden contrast in living here and abroad made it difficult to realize that this country was at war.

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From Los Angeles, one of Movielands four Lane sisters, Leota Lane Pitts, sister of Rosemary, Lola and Priscilla, recently enlisted in the WAC and was sent for basic training to Fort Des Moines.

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Nancy, Wac-Wac, a Yakima Indian princess, was sworn into the Corps in Seattle,

Wash. She is the great granddaughter of Chief Ka-Mi-Akin, for whom a Fly Fortress was recently named.

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Because recruiting is the business every member of the Corps, each will interested to hear that Maj. Gen. N. Dalton, Director of Personnel, Army Service Forces, spoke in behalf of the WAC at a state-wide rally in Winston Salem, N. C. Excerpts from his talk follow:

"The basic, the unanswerable, reason for a woman to enlist is that she is needed. For over a hundred and sixty seven years we have been enjoying the fruits of the democratic way of life. Now again during the present conflict, all of us men and women, must assume aggressive the responsibilities inherent in a democratic form of government.

"How are we to provide more and better needed manpower for the combat fronts, ashore, afloat, or in the air? The answer rests with the womanpower of America.

"To all those gallant women who have already cast their lot with the services, the Army is grateful. It will take the combined effort of all of us, of every man and woman, to hasten America's ultimate day of Victory.

ORCHIDS FROM ONE WHO CAN SPARE THEM

The WAC Recruiting Office in Pittsburgh, Pa., had a distinguished visitor some time ago.

Charles E. "Commando" Kelly, who holds the first Congressional Medal of Honor awarded for fighting on the Italian mainland, plus The Silver Star for gallantry in action, paid this tribute to the WAC while at home on furlough.

"Wacs are doing important work and making it possible for more soldiers to get at the Japs and Nazis. I have seen Wacs on the job in Italy and Africa and I'm sure glad they're in the Army with us."

