

'COLLEGE DAYS' ARE OVER—

900 WAACs Leave Fort Each Week

ASSUME JOBS HELD BY MEN

Demand for Girls Exceeds Supply.

A population nearly equal to that of Tabor, Ia., leaves Fort Des Moines for active duty each week.

That is, 900 WAACs are shipped out to jobs for which they have been trained—jobs now held by men.

Active duty means just that. "College days" for the women's auxiliary army corps are over. They now are going to work.

Can't Withdraw.

The girls in the OD uniforms, who elected to give up the relative ease and independence of civilian life for war work from which they can not withdraw because they are tired of it, have been assigned to various forms of work.

Their labors will increase in quantity and variety.

The army wants to use as many of its men as possible for combat duty. Somebody has to take the non-combatant jobs they leave. They go to the WAACs, trained in discipline and for service.

Members of the women's army auxiliary corps are engaged in aircraft warning, in recruiting, currently for the corps, possibly on a wider scale later; and in administrative clerical work at Washington and in army posts.

Service Schools.

Some have been assigned to specialized training in advanced service schools, as those for bakers, cooks, and motor transport corps; and the adjutant general's school, from which they will go on as administrative instructors.

Others have been detailed for duty with the nine army service commands.

Perhaps more than a quarter of the nearly 3,000 who have been graduated will train the cadres at Daytona Beach, Fla., the new training center to be opened Dec.



Gathered around a large container and several egg cases, these WAACs doing k.p. duty break eggs for a French toast breakfast at Fort Des Moines. They are (left to right), Margie Bloodworth, Frances Bokyo, Eleanor Dinkel, Winifred M. Clemens and Jean Ryall.

Exceeds Supply.

If the women were not equipped to organize the school, men necessarily would be withdrawn from other departments.

Demand for WAACs exceeds the supply, and new instructional centers must be opened.

Capt. Van B. Kennedy of Fort Des Moines said the situation at Fort Des Moines is typical. The population there is growing, but manpower has been reduced. "WAACs are doing the work," he explained.

Beginning in early December, complete WAAC companies are to be sent to 19 army posts, with more to be assigned later.

These companies, Captain Kennedy explained, carry a complete setup for the required work—supply, mess, finance, administrative

officers. They are prepared to function immediately.

Prepared.

Upon arrival at the post, the commanding officer of the WAACs will report to the commanding officer. She will ask not much more than "Where do we go?" and "Where do we stay?" before taking on the new duties.

If total replacements are required immediately, the WAACs will be prepared to do it. They can take charge in the kitchens and bakeries, do all the tremendous clerical work required at an army post, issue clothing, "man" the trucks, run the post exchange and public relations. They are prepared to do practically anything but combat service.

At Fort Des Moines, four weeks of basic training are followed by more work in a special line, such as motor transport; administration, secretarial, stenographic, clerical, cooking and baking.

Blonds in Trucks.

It still is startling to see a luscious young blond whipping a ton and a half truck through the traffic, or a feminine quartet sitting tight in a jeep; but aptitude tests have revealed many sound mechanical brains under bobbed hair.

The motor transport course covers eight weeks for instructors; otherwise, four weeks, except for the "blitz" course of three weeks, which may be telescoped even farther if necessary.

"It depends on how many drivers are needed," said Ethel Ponder, of Silver Springs, Tex.

Tire Patching.

The course includes such ordinarily unfeminine knowledge as combustion, lubrication, changing and patching tires, blackout driving, map reading, conveying, and "trouble shooting," which the auxiliaries agree might be almost anything.

They are not required to perform intricate or extensive motor repairs, but are expected to make adjustments possible with the vehicle's tools.

Blackout driving is done with regulation dimout lights over a fairly hazardous course. Trucks have four gears which the driver must master, and she must know how to prevent a cargo truck from throwing its weight about too much.

In good weather or in bad, the motor transport service must cover this course. The road, rough frequently, is marked by steep inclines and is laid through a semi-wooded area. As the speed is slow, obstacles, a quick turn at the top of a hill, or a tree in the middle of the road, are startling rather than dangerous.

Convoys.

Convoy duty is one of the more important phases of the motor transport course. In addition to blackout driving, the women have actual practice in night driving, planning of a theoretical convoy, and a course in leadership.

WAACs drive command and staff cars (the former the closed five-or six-seated models), cargo trucks, and carryalls.

Among their duties following practical instruction will be transporting recruits, furnishing transportation for WAAC social affairs, and convoying troops to trains, this last a foretaste of what may be their actual job.

Although the plant has no linotypes or presses, auxiliaries assigned to the publications department get plenty of "paper work."

Pamphlets, classroom courses, and forms are mimeographed here; the sheets are assembled and fastened together. The printed matter is issued from the library.

Jeannette Apple, a Cincinnati WAAC, did mimeographing for the board of education in the Ohio city, and works hard at it here.

More Efficient.

Tucked in between the library and the assembly room is the art department, with its large colored map prepared for the current events course of the officers' candidate school.

Fifteen WAACs hold post office jobs at Fort Des Moines. First lieutenant J. H. Dinan, postal officer, said the WAACs are more efficient than men. "They like the work," he declared, "do not look upon it merely as a job, as do so many men, and don't mind the detail."

These postal jobs, of course, are another type of work now done by men in army camps which the WAACs can take over.

None of the WAACs has been sent outside the United States as



Working on two of the WAAC trucks are (left to right), E. M. Edwards, Marie Berry, Agnes Rogers and Kay Sisti, checking a tire, yet, although this is in prospect. It's what most of the WAACs want, a poll showing that 90 per cent favored going overseas.

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At commencement exercises Friday at the Oransky building, 52 cooks and bakers and 35 administrative specialist WAACs were graduated from a specialized curriculum.

The fourth administrative specialist class and the fourth and fifth cooks and bakers classes were graduated after completing an eight-week course of training that followed immediately upon their four-week basic training course at Fort Des Moines.

The graduation address by Col. Albert C. Morgan, assistant commandant of the first WAAC training center at Fort Des Moines, stressed the importance of the role the new graduates are to play in the army organization.

"The present day army is built around groups of non-commissioned officers who train the selectees in drill, military courtesy and above all, the spirit of the army," he said.

"In the service we never stand still; we either advance or fall back. Remember this, and keep up your studies—learn all you can, always train an understudy for your job if you can and learn the job just above the one assigned to you."



Making map for a current events course for officer candidates are (left to right), Catherine Willett, Third Officer Lorraine Marshall and Lenore Fisher.