

WOMEN IN UNIFORM



Candid camera shots from Fort Des Moines —where it's now ladies' day in the army

WHEN recruits in the new Women's Army Auxiliary Corps—commonly dubbed WAACS—reported for training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, women for the first time in American history became members of Uncle Sam's Army. Some will become officers, some will remain privates, but all are there for one purpose—to help win the war by taking over army jobs which women can do, thus releasing men for combat duty.

They went through the army mill just as their brothers do, doffed their civilian clothes, and came out khaki-clad. Forty-seven items of clothing were given each WAAC member, ranging from girdles, pajamas (flannelette and cotton), anklets, stockings, slippers, to two uniforms—fatigue and regular—and a brown-and-white seersucker playsuit to wear during exercises. In the picture above, in which Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, WAAC Director, is reviewing a group of recruits on opening day, the women in the foreground are wearing the regular uniforms, and those in the background are in fatigue clothes.



On the last lap of the journey to Fort Des Moines, a Tennessee WAAC-to-be and one from Massachusetts get a newspaper preview of their arrival

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Good-by and good luck from the navy to a WAAC. Lucky candidates with friends or brothers stationed in Chicago were shown the town in a big way during the stopover between trains, seen off when they left.



Sergeant "Mickey" Eggert, with two pals and a guitar, serenaded the candidates in their car with Deep in the Heart of Texas and other cowboy ballads. The sergeant is a Tucson, Arizona, boy—now at Fort Hayes, Ohio.

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Five members of the colored regiment eat one of their first meals in the mess. According to WAAC Director Oveta Culp Hobby, they will eventually be assigned to Negro regiments at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

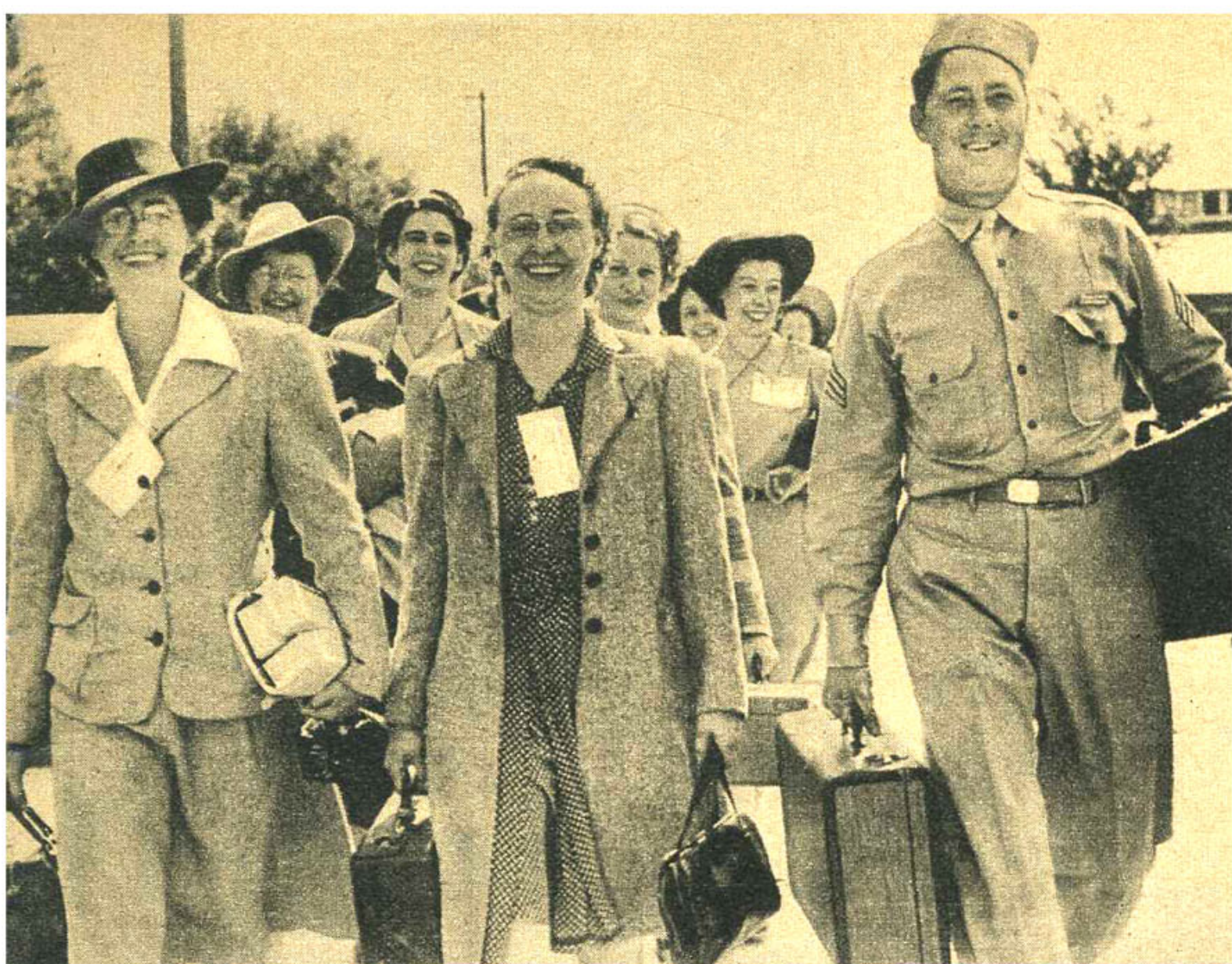


Inside the Receiving Center, Major William M. Harton, in charge of processing, chats with a newly arrived WAAC. Captain William C. Cord, at the table, waits to interview her and see that her papers are in order.



Colonel Thomas E. Harwood, post surgeon, gives a recruit her inoculation for paratyphoid. Later she'll have one for lockjaw and one for scarlet fever. For foreign service she gets a fourth—for yellow fever.

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As soon as they arrived, they were checked in at the Receiving Center, tagged with 3-by-5 cards. Now, escorted by a sergeant, they're on their way to the barracks which will be "home, sweet home" during their stay.



Undismayed at the sight of the first women to crash this man's army, a lieutenant gives the new recruits a helping hand as they alight from the army truck that brought them and their luggage from the railroad station.

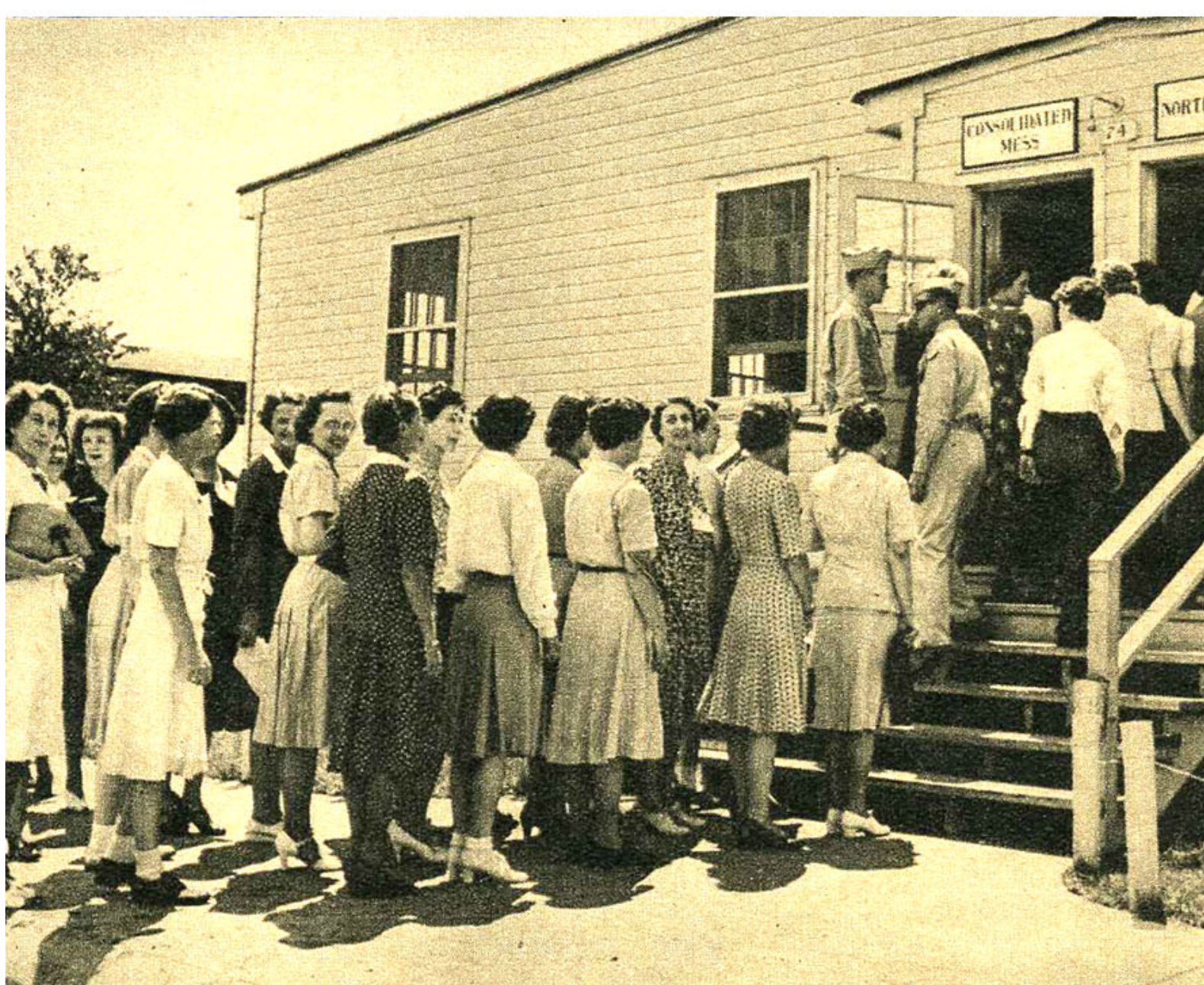


In the blue uniform of the Royal Canadian Air Force Auxiliary, Sergeant Mary Long of Brooklyn, New York, who has transferred to our own Women's Air Corps Auxiliary, describes the actions of British planes.

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They emerge from the Supply Room where they've just received their outfits, duffel bags slung professionally over shoulders. The second girl has already put on her uniform. All wear low-heeled general-issue shoes.



Time for lunch, and they line up outside the mess. The meals are all cafeteria style. Lunch consisted of tomato essence, crackers, cold-cut sandwiches, combination salad, strawberry ice cream, and coffee or tea.



No more feminine frills, gay colors, "amusing little hats." From now on it's khaki from head to skirt hem—cap, shirt, jacket (omitted here because of heat), gored skirt. Both cotton and rayon stockings are issued.