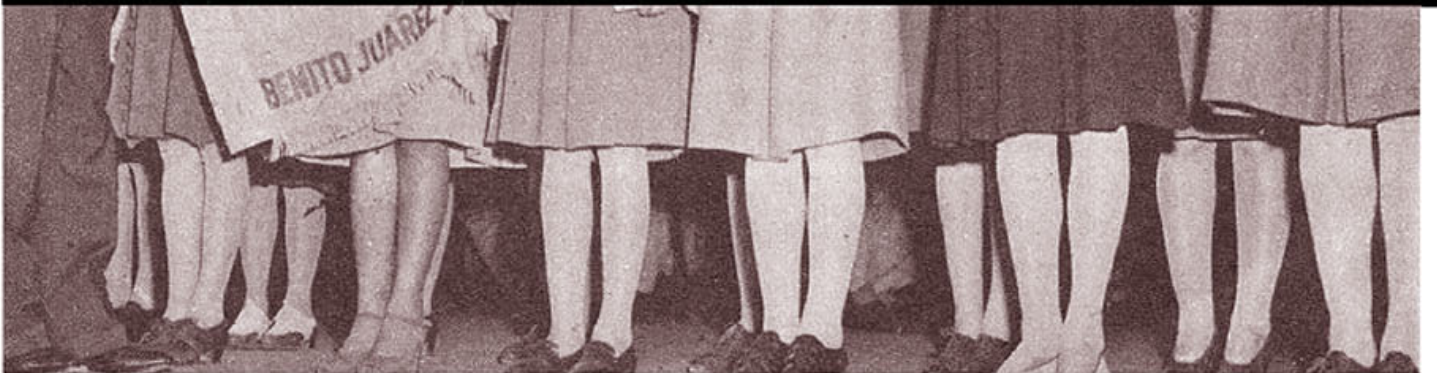




Latin-American Wacs Honor Mexican Hero



Harlingen Army Air Field, Tex.—A group of women of Latin-American extraction took the Army oath before more than 6,000 persons in San Antonio's Municipal Auditorium to become the second section of the Benito Juarez Air-WAC Squadron, named for the hero who helped liberate Mexico from European domination in 1862.

Highlight of the two-hour program of Latin-American songs, dances and music was the presentation of a guidon to the newly formed squadron by Armondo Orteaga Santoy, secretary of state of Mexico's state of Nuevo Leon. Pvt. Mercedes Ledesma, whose husband was killed in action in Italy, received the flag, which the "Bee-Jay" Squadron will carry with it to basic training at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

Led by an honor guard from the first Latin-American WAC squadron, the new war-women marched into the auditorium to be sworn in and to hear words of greeting from Col. Oveta Culp Hobby and from Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower.

Many of these new Wacs, after completing their initial training, will return to this south Texas area for duty assignments. Others have asked for assignments to Army air fields in other parts of the country.