

250 WAACS HERE TO RELIEVE MEN FROM S.O.S. DUTY

Women War Workers from England Will Aid in Labor Plan

FIRST ON CLERICAL WORK

Later Arrivals Will Be Assigned to Other Jobs as Army May Decide

Two hundred and fifty English girls have come down from the British front or over from England to work for and with the A.E.F.

They constitute a unit of the famous Waacs, or W.A.A.C.s, as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps of Great Britain was called until, for its good work in many branches of behind-the-lines war endeavor, it was taken under royal patronage and rechristened Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps.

These 250 girls are at present working in the Central Records office, near Tours, under the direction of the War Department's clerical department. Their duties, save for those of their number that are on their temporary camp's permanent K. P. and laundry detail, are in the main stenographic and clerical.

By September it is expected that there will be 1,000 Waacs in and about France, and the newly arrived girls broken and prepared for permanent barracks for them.

In Line With A.E.F. Policy

The bringing over of these English young women as part and parcel of the American military establishment is in line with the A.E.F. policy of employing women in offices and elsewhere, wherever they can replace men, the policy of "utilizing every able-bodied man in a man's job," as it has been called. In another line, for example, about 1,000 French women are being employed in the big sausage plant not far from the cantonment of the Waacs, and thousands of French women and girls are being employed elsewhere.

The cantonment of the Waacs deserves a bit of mention for its cleanliness, neatness, and general up-to-datedness. It consists of a number of long, low barracks buildings (the so-called Swiss barracks) on the same type as those used in hospitals. The fitting up of it, of its and all, is much like that of an American or English hospital.

One end of the principal building is set off at a mess shack, with an "officers' mess" for the officers, and a direct charge of the girls, and regulation tables for the "members," as the girls are called instead of being dubbed "united women," as one might expect. Then there are the officers' and the members' quarters; and here the difference between soldiering it as a woman and soldiering it as a man is plainly shown.

Issue Chairs and Mirrors

The Waacs, to be sure, have issue blankets, just like the rest of us; no more. They have cots such as we have when they are lucky enough to get into a hospital. But where we have issue packs and issue rifles and the like, the Waacs have each an issue chair, an issue table, and an issue mirror.

Also, in their barracks they have a rest or recreation room, fitted out by the American War Relief Commission with comfortable chairs, graphophone and rest, and presided over by one of the W.A.A.C. representatives. Outside their barracks is a neat walk, lined with whitewashed stones and most military in appearance. In fact, the whole life of the little cantonment is run on military lines, with regular calls, regular messes, and regular hours and all the other things that go to make army life the formidably perfect thing it is.

The Waacs' uniform is olive drab in color, to match pretty nearly that of the Tanks and the Tommies, of a rather heavy khaki material, in the form of a simple, most pleasing to the eye. It is surmounted by a soft brown hat, with a narrow brim all the way around—a jaunty, comfortable looking kind of hat it is.

All but Their Own Guard

For wear out of camp, the Waacs have a simple drab coat, with a loose belt similar to that on American officers' raincoats. While there is no strictly regulation shoe, the style most favored is the high and manish-looking tan.

The Waacs, as has been said, furnish their own K. P., laundry and other details—all except the guard, which is furnished by an outfit of American Engineers in an adjoining camp. And while the Engineers know and obey their general orders to the letter, it must be awfully trying at times to live up to the "hexagone maxim," "to talk to no one except in line of duty."

The W.A.A.C. is a strictly military organization, recruited when Britain first began to realize the need for releasing for active service every man possible. It made its beginning by taking over the bulk of the clerical work for the British Army in France. Later, it branched out into other activities, and now its members are employed as ambulance and automobile drivers, mechanics, gardeners, cooks and waitresses in officers' and non-coms' messes, to mention only a few of the varied jobs which the Waacs have held and are holding down well.

Motor Drivers May Come

There are tens of thousands of Waacs in France now, and even more at home, working in offices and factories directly concerned with the prosecution of the war.

At present the A.E.F.'s plans do not call for the employment of the Waacs in other than clerical capacities. There may be a corps of women motor drivers and so forth in future, but it is not yet in sight. But the big fact is, for the interest of the men at the front and the others who want to get there, that women will be employed in every place practicable behind the lines.

The body of 250 Waacs workers now with us is an earnest of the intent to follow out that policy.

CAN'T EVEN SKATE TO IT

Single: Say, France owns the island of Corsica, don't she?
Zingle: She sure do. But what's that got to do with the war?
Single: Not much, but it's nice to know there's one part of the country they can't make us hike to.

"I've only spent more than three days in one place since I left Hoboken," he said.
"Where were you then?" he was asked.
"On the boat," he replied.

YANK GUNS KEEPING UP WITH THE BIG PUSH



ALL MAIL DELAYS NOT P.S.'S FAULT

Incorrect Addresses Large Factor in Holding Up Deliveries

"E. F., N. Y." IS NOT ENOUGH

Neither Is "Company E, U.S. Infantry"—157 John Smiths Licking Huns

Incorrectly addressed mail is contributing its share to the difficulties of delivering letters and packages to the members of the A.E.F.

Twenty-one per cent of the mail arriving in France in June for American soldiers—a total of 700,000 letters and 65,000 sacks of paper mail was insufficiently or improperly addressed, according to statistics compiled by the postal service. Instead of being sent direct to its ultimate destination from the distributing stations at the base ports, it had to be forwarded to the Central Post Office at St. Pierre des Corps, near Tours, where clerks went through directories of the A.E.F., read-dressed it, and forwarded it to the men for whom, in their judgment, it was intended.

This task is a difficult one because there is hardly a name in the A.E.F. now which is not duplicated several times. There are, for example, 157 John Smiths, 105 Henry Browns, 94 James Wilsons, 52 Henry Jacksons, and 41 William Blacks serving under General Pershing against the Huns.

"Company J, Pershing's Army"

The letter addressed, "Private John Foster, Company J, Pershing's Army" and the one addressed "Private Carmelo Abiss, E.F., New York," probably will reach their rightful owners, but it will take time. Four-fifths of the misaddressed 21 per cent received in June was addressed merely to "Company E, U.S. Infantry" or "A.E.F.," with no company or regimental designation.

The postal service declares that much confusion would be avoided and much labor saved by observing these rules: "Notify all from whom you expect mail of your address immediately. 'Have your mail addressed to your regiment and company, or, if you are on detached service and have a permanent station, to the office or branch of the service to which you are attached, with the A.P.O. number."

"If you have recently changed stations, notify the Central Post Office at St. Pierre des Corps, of your new address on cards which may be obtained at any A.P.O.

The Correct Form

"The following form of address should be used:
Sergeant John Smith,
Co. A, 95th Regt. Infantry,
American Ex. Forces,
A.P.O. (May be given if desired),
—or, if on detached service and permanently stationed:
Corporal John Smith,
Q.M. Corps,
A.P.O.

Here are some examples of improperly addressed mail for which the postal service now is seeking owners:
Mr. Bennie Hill, colored,
Colored Regiment,
Somewhere in France.
Mr. Geoff Patrick,
Moxhehugg 1st Lt.,
Soldiers' Mail,
Mr. Steward Abnaudding,
Military Mail, Foreign Service,
Passed by Censor, A.E.F.,
New York,
Private Howard E. Donegan,
Company B, U.S. Infantry.

NEW WEAPON FOUND FOR COMBATING HUN

It's Rather Expensive, but It Worked to Perfection Just Once

Yankee ingenuity has developed a new weapon for use against the Hun. No, it will not be used very often, yet there are times—

An American unit of Engineers (Ry.) was hauling ammunition and supplies for the French in the face of one of the German drives this year.

At the height of things, when the Hun was coming over in force and advancing in a way which meant the loss of anything that could not be moved promptly, a \$15,000 locomotive jumped the track. Sergeant George Robertson, in charge watched the battle for a moment, looked at his steam gauge, screwed the safety valve down tight, turned the oil fuel reserve supply into the fire box, and then effected a solitary and successful retreat.

Half an hour later, some 60 Germans were standing about the stranded locomotive when the boiler did the one thing which Sgt. Robertson hoped for—blew up.

It had all the effects of a 14-inch shell. Incidentally, Sgt. Robertson is now wearing the Croix de Guerre.

FOR SMALLER PAPERS

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, August 1.—The newspaper publishers' committee on the conservation of news print paper has recommended to the War Industries Board that reading matter be cut proportionately in all daily and Sunday papers throughout the country. The cuts range from five per cent on papers now carrying 50 columns to 60 per cent on papers carrying 400 columns.

The committee also proposes that the price of daily newspapers be fixed at two cents. Returns of unsold copies have already been cut off.

WIRE LINES NOW IN NATION'S HANDS

Change Is Accepted With Satisfaction—Western Union Indicted

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, August 1.—All telegraph and telephone lines in the United States were taken over by the Federal Government at midnight last night. Even the most determined supporters of private business express only mild and cautious objections, the nation as a whole accepting the change with apparently complete approval and satisfaction.

The New York federal grand jury has handed in two indictments against the Western Union Telegraph Company, based on the recent sensational disclosures that the company sent night messages by train.

Both indictments are under the United States criminal code, one for illegal competition with the postoffice, the other for carrying letters by private express. The penalty under the first indictment, which consists of eight counts, is \$500 for each count. The penalty under the second is \$50 for each violation.

It is charged that between August, 1917, and June, 1918, 346,000 messages were sent by train, so that technically the fines could reach \$17,000,000. Last May, 65,000 messages were sent by train from New York alone, according to the Government's charges.

TREAT 'EM ROUGHER, CABLES ST. LOUIS

War Secretary and Chief of Japanese General Staff Congratulate A.E.F.

Many congratulatory cablegrams on the recent work of the A.E.F. have been received during the past week at G.H.Q. Secretary of War Baker wired: "Accept our hearty and grateful congratulations on the brilliant work being done by your Army. The whole country is thrilled with pride in our soldiers. We follow eagerly every move they make. Their courage and success makes us all prouder than ever that we are Americans and are represented by such heroic soldiers. They are worthy of their country and the cause."

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Home Service Division American Red Cross, 4 Place de la Concorde, Paris, France.

SCORECARD SELLER GAINS DECORATION

Proving Once More That You Can't Tell a Hero Until He Is One

You can't always tell a hero by the look on his face nor the job he holds. An officer, now stationed in France, gained undistinct recollections of an average looking youth who used to dispense scorecards and souvenir programs around the Polo Grounds. The kid knew Jack Murray "personally" and had spoken to Mathewson. That was all the fame he claimed.

About three years ago the youngster suddenly disappeared. Last week the officer ran into the same scorecard expert again in the Z. of A. But he was no longer selling score cards. This time he was arrayed in khaki. Khaki—and something else. And the something else was the Croix de Guerre pinned upon his faded blouse.

All he had done was to volunteer to take a message across a stretch swept by machine guns, shrapnel and rifle fire after three French runners had been shot down almost at the time of starting. The ex-score card kid not only started, but arrived safely after four hours' stizzing from one shell hole to another where he had to make constant use of his feet, his head and his nerve through every second of the journey.

"Where have you been in the last three years?" he was asked.
"Oh," he said, "British East Africa, Egypt, Algeria, India—in about 20 different countries, as I remember it."

How many of the thousands who saw this kid selling score cards at the Polo Grounds read romance and valor in his face or in his job?

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