

10,000 Women in U. S. Rush To Join New Army Corps

By LUCY GREENBAUM

The Woman's Army whizzed into being with a spectacular start yesterday. Shoving aside prospective masculine soldiers, more than 1,000 women surged through the doors of staid Army Recruiting Headquarters, 39 Whitehall Street, as enlistment in the

first officer-candidate school of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps began officially.

From ocean to ocean, from the Rio Grande north to Canada, women poured out of homes, offices and colleges to roll up a total of 10,000 for all the recruiting stations of the nation.

From Brooklyn, the Bronx, Long Island, New Jersey and Westchester, by subway, ferry, train, bus and "El," women beat their way to the Battery.

As early as 8:30 A. M. 250 women had shouldered their way into the offices seeking application blanks. Army figures late in the afternoon put the total requests at 1,400 by person, 1,200 by mail. The latter did not include 1,500 received previously.

Mild brute strength was used to combat the feminine forces. A guard's broad shoulders held back the tidal wave of patriotic pulchritude that lessened during the noon hour, when women sat down to enjoy lunch served on the house.

Side by side stood glamour girls

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Eager to be interviewed: Applicants crowding the corridor yesterday at the Army Building here



Recruits awaiting the call

10,000 WOMEN RUSH TO JOIN ARMY UNIT

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and grave young mothers. Fur coats and \$2.98 cotton dresses. Blondes, brunettes, redheads and gray-topped women. Single women, wives, widows, divorcees—and one grandmother.

All races, colors and creeds turned out. There were colored women, members of the American Women's Voluntary Services. There was a Chinese woman, Mrs. Leo Gum of 54 Elizabeth Street, whose husband is in the Army.

And there was an Indian woman. Even the Army did not believe its eyes when Laughing Eyes, a full-blooded Creek, appeared. She was dressed for a war dance, in tribal outfit complete from beaded band around her straight black locks to white buckskin dress and brightly-colored Indian blanket as shawl.

Army officials questioning her authenticity were convinced of it when she produced a document testifying that she had been born on a reservation in Muskogee, Okla.

Asked Laughing Eyes: "Don't you think I have more right to join than some of the other women?" Her brother, Straight Arrow, she said, was in the Navy. As she was explaining that she owns a store in Brooklyn, where she sells Indian novelties, but yearly visits Muskogee, a young soldier stationed at headquarters grabbed her hand, shook it warmly and introduced himself as Morris Meyer of Sapulpa, Okla., thirty miles from Muskogee.

Private Meyer, a Dartmouth graduate, was homesick. His first question was: "Did you get home for Christmas?" As she walked away he said, "That's terrific. Gee! Imagine meeting her!"

Although there were many women who obviously had never held jobs, the majority were working girls. Stenographers looked eager to exchange the command "Take a letter" to "Company halt!" Young actresses appeared pleased at the chance to give up thoughts of occupying the spotlight in order to set the stage for others.

Women Phone Excuses

Telephone booths kept clanging with nickels as calls were put through with excuses as to why the women would be late to work.

"My boss thinks I've got a toothache," admitted Miss Wally Borysevich of 309 East Ninth Street, who is a stenographer for a laboratory house.

Some brave souls even defied parents. Miss Carolyn Waring, blonde 21-year-old social registerite of Plainfield, N. J., was alarmed at what her family would say.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Waring confessed, "Dad thinks it's all right, but mother is practically in hysterics."

There were women who made their minds up ages ago that they would enter the Army, were one created for them, and those who decided only recently to tackle warfare tactics.

"I joined the A. W. V. S. with the thought in mind that we'd have a woman's army some day the way England has, and I would serve in it," declared Miss Patricia Schepps, 23.

A first lieutenant in the A. W. V. S. Motor Transport Corps, she said that her rank would no doubt disappear—"I'll probably be Private Schepps for the duration."

Comparatively recent was the decision of Mrs. Celia Weinberger of Middle Village, L. I. A bride of seven months, her husband is in the Army in Mississippi.

"I'm joining to see what he's doing," she said, putting down for a moment her copy of Thomas Wolfe's "You Can't Go Home Again." She added, "I want to do the sort of thing he's doing."

A directly opposite reason was given by Miss Verda Newberger of Brooklyn. "I've got no relatives in any of the armed forces," she declared. "That's why I'm joining up."

Mothers, Too, Would Join

Women with children said they felt their mothers could adequately care for them while they were gone.

Mrs. Maureen Evans, 43, of Brooklyn, has no home problem with her son, Donald. He is an aerial gunner in the Air Corps, she



Ready to command

said, "somewhere in the Philippines."

Fame for being technically the first arrival went to Miss Annabelle Barr, 27, of New Rochelle, N. Y., who left her warm bed at 4:30 A. M. to reach headquarters at 6:45.

She said that she had no alter-

native but to join the women's forces, as her employer, a doctor, is leaving for the Army today.

Actually, however, Miss Dorothy Klafter, 21, of 4716 New Utrecht Avenue, Brooklyn, beat every one to the gun. She said that she was so excited she had

been awake all night, reading in bed.

"I got here a little after 5 o'clock this morning," she explained, "but it was so dark that I was afraid. I rode on buses and subways to kill time. When I returned at 7 o'clock I found some one was here before me"

Miss Klafter said that although she hoped the training would help her reduce, that was not her objective in applying. Miss Klafter is pleasantly plump.

"If a man can give up his life for his country, certainly a woman can give up her time," she asserted. Sticklers might say that Mrs.

Anthony E. Sclafani, an A. W. V. S. member, came before any one. Her application, written on notepaper, was at the recruiting station three weeks ago.

"I'm here because I figure it this way," she said. "I was too young in the last war to realize its significance. I'm doing what is expected of me now." She lives at 3017 Eastchester Road, the Bronx.

Miss Lillian Fox, a member of the examining staff of the Civil Service Commission, said she obtained a leave of absence "for the duration" to join the Army.

A warning note was sounded by Miss Betty Lou Bregoff, 22, of Knickerbocker Village. Having lived at an Army post in Panama for five months, she said she knew Army life pretty well.

"I'm sure these women don't know what they're in for," she commented. "Camp life is pretty tough."

In the rush of the morning Colonel John F. Daye, executive officer for recruiting in the Second Corps Area, surveyed the women.

"They are a fine type of young women," he said. "We could use 90 per cent of them in this building right now to replace men."

Sixty candidates will be sent from this area to the officers' training school at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. Enlistments for privates will take place when the first batch of officers has completed the eight-week course. When that starts in New York the Army had better call out the Marines.



Laughing Eyes, a Creek Indian, receiving her application

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