

# WAAC WILL TRAIN 2 NEGRO COMPANIES

To Be Among the First Eight  
Such Units Put Into  
Service by Corps

## RECRUITING PLANS TOLD

Mrs. Hobby Says That Her  
Organization Will Number  
17,000 Next June

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, July 6 — Two companies of Negro women, commanded by some of the forty Negro women who are about to enter Fort Des Moines in Iowa as officer candidates of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, will be in active service by Nov. 16, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, director of the WAAC, revealed today.

In her first public address since becoming head of the corps Mrs. Hobby told a conference of members of the Alpha Kappa Kappa sorority at Howard University that these companies, two of the first eight WAAC companies that will be formed, will be stationed at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Members will do both administrative and clerical work.

At the same time Mrs. Hobby disclosed that 13,000 women are expected to be in the WAAC by the end of this year and 17,000 by June, 1943.

The first classes for auxiliaries privates in the WAAC will start at Fort Des Moines on Aug. 24, she said, adding that recruiting for auxiliaries will begin toward the end of this month.

At WAAC headquarters today it was announced that a total of 1,300 officer candidates had been selected by the special commission of women advisers which met here for four days last week. Although this number is twice as large as any previously reported figure for the number of officer candidates to be chosen, it was explained that this reservoir would carry the WAAC through December.

About 5,000 women out of 30,000 applicants were interviewed in the nine corps areas and the names of 1,700 were sent to Washington for the final selection. Of the 1,300 chosen, 375 will be notified within a few days to report to a main recruiting station for the swearing in process and then will be ordered to appear at Fort Des Moines on July 20. At the same time, 350 more will be notified to report to the Iowa training center on a date in mid-August. The others will be taken in for training gradually throughout the Fall until the first groups of auxiliaries have completed their courses and some can be sent on to officers candidate school.

Sixty-five women from the Aircraft Warning Service volunteers will also report to Fort Des Moines on July 20, but the members that may report with later officer candidate cadres is not yet known.

Speaking at the conference held by the Negro women's sorority, Mr. Hobby praised the type of Negro women who had applied for WAAC service.

"As I looked over their applications I was impressed by the integrity of their devotion to their country," she declared. "I was moved by the intensity of their desire to serve that country."

She quoted from several letters from Negro women who held high academic degrees and told how Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, whom she called "one of my good friends," had aided in the selection of the officer candidates.

"The women's Army Auxiliary Corps gives the Negro woman of 1942 a new opportunity to serve her country in a crisis," Mrs. Hobby said. "The Negro of 1942 who joins the corps will give to her country the full measure of devotion."