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I M M E D I A T E

R E L E A S E

DETAILS OF WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS

Mrs. William P. Hobby of Houston, Texas, former Chief of the Women's Interests Section of the Bureau of Public Relations of the War Department was sworn in today, in the presence of the Secretary of War and other officials, as Director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Organization of the Corps, which was authorized when President Roosevelt signed the bill for its creation, introduced by Representative Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts, will begin immediately, the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, announced.

The purpose of the Corps, the first of its kind in American military history, is to enlist women volunteers for military service with the Army to replace, and release for combat service enlisted men who are now performing certain non-combatant duties.

The Corps, while not a component part of the Army, is the only women's organization, except the Army Nurse Corps, authorized by law to serve with the Armed Forces. Units of the Corps may be called upon to serve in Zones of Operations, as well as in the Continental United States; but only in non-combat duties. It will not be used to replace the Civil Service Employees now working for the War Department.

Ultimately, the Corps will take over the major part of the Aircraft Warning Service, numerous Army administrative duties and whatever other suitable tasks its members can fulfill. It will be under military discipline, with uniforms and insignia, living quarters, food, and medical and dental treatment provided by the Government.

Under the terms of the bill, the Corps may be expanded to a total of 150,000 women, if and when necessary. General enrollment will not begin until after an Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer cadre has been trained, a matter of approximately 3 months. Formation of this Officer cadre will begin at once.

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