

Tokyo Color Line:

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White WACs Only! Gen. Mac Requests

I know you can do something about this.
- Maria

By JAMES L. HICKS NNPA Staff Writer

General Douglas MacArthur, supreme commander of United States forces in the Pacific, and General Joseph T. McNarey, commanding general of United States forces in Europe, have both requested the War Department to send only white Wacs to their theater, the War Department disclosed last Friday.

Major Henriette Horak, public relations officer for the WAC, said the War Department could not send colored Wacs to either theater, unless requested to do so by the theater commanders. Thus far, she said, all requests for Wacs coming from the two theaters have specified white Wacs only.

Asked whether she considered this discrimination against colored people, Major Horak said

she did not think it was. It is simply a matter of choice, she added.

When first asked to explain why no colored Wacs were included among the 2,000 soon to be shipped to both theaters Major Horak said:

"We have so few left in this country that most of them that are left are eligible for discharge."

She then was asked what would happen if a colored Wac who was eligible for discharge volunteered to go overseas.

"We are not recruiting colored Wacs at present," she said, "but if any of them wish to reenter the corps they can, but they will not be sent overseas because the theater commanders have not requested any."

Mrs. Irene F. Scott, in the of-

ices of Colonel Westray Betty Boyce, Wac director, who stated that she handled public relations for the Wac colonel, volunteered to explain that colored Wacs were excluded from overseas assignment because there were no housing facilities available for them. The War Department announced last Thursday that 2,000 Wacs will be shipped overseas during the next four months for duty in the European and Pacific theaters and with the Caribbean Defense Command.

The majority of the personnel needed overseas will be selected from white volunteers now serving the Women's Army Corps, but a small portion will come from reentries who are being recruited to meet requirements. Skills needed primarily include administrative, clerical, secretarial, communications, and a limited number of medical personnel.

The initial shipment of 800 is scheduled for Germany during the first week of August. Wacs sent to the Pacific will be assigned to General MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo and to

headquarters of the Eighth Army in Yokohama.

However, discharge whites who wish to reenter the service for overseas duty must first apply through their local recruiting stations. If they are to be reentered, they must be reentered at the time of discharge.

In order to receive an assignment white Wacs agree to serve the duration of their assignment, six months.