

Women's Army Corps deemed big success

While American discussed the merits of the WAAC, Congress opened hearings in March 1943 on the conversion of the WAAC into the Regular Army.

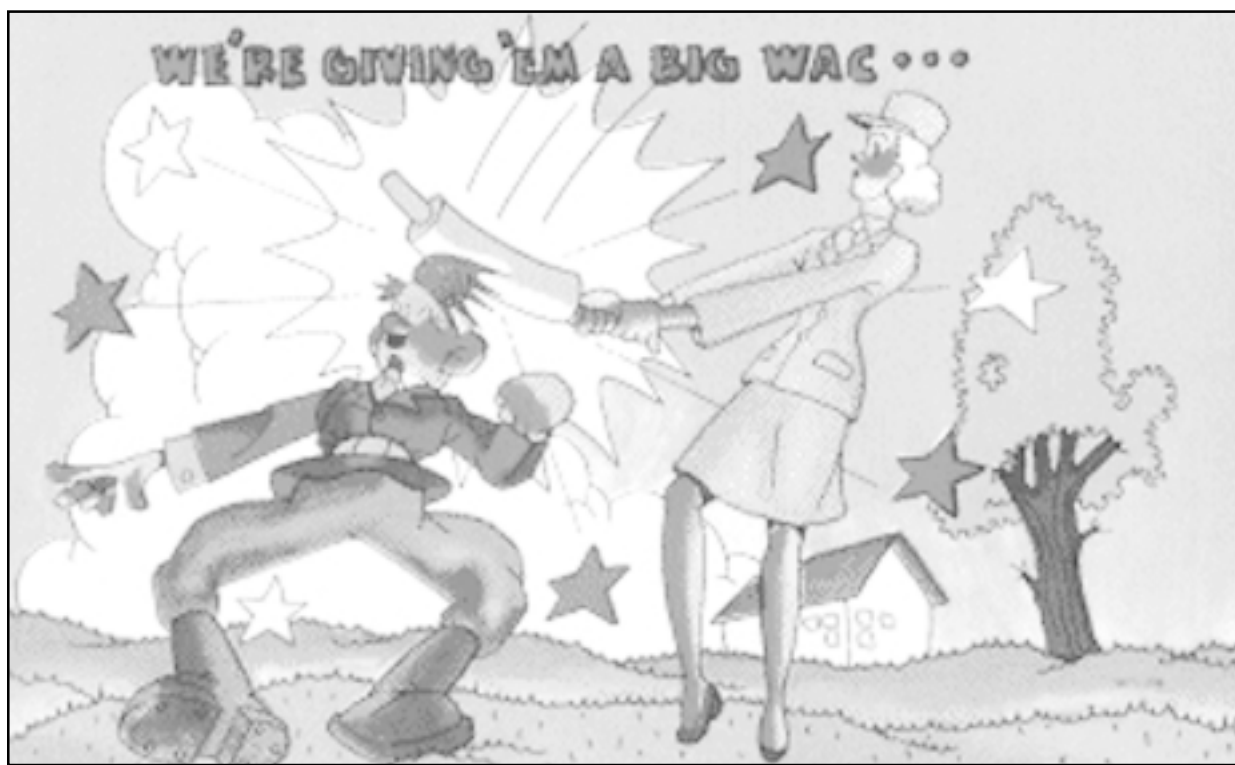
Army leaders asked for authority to convert the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps into the Women's Army Corps (WAC), which would be part of the Army itself rather than merely serving with it.

The WAAC had been an unqualified success, according to the unit's official history at the U.S. Army Center for Military History, and the Army received more requests for WAACs than it could provide. Although WAACs were desperately needed overseas, the Army could not offer them the protection if captured or benefits if injured which Regular Army soldiers received.

On July 3, 1943, after a delay caused by congressional hearings on the several controversial issues, the WAC bill was signed into law. All WAACs were given a choice of joining the Army as a member of the WAC or returning to civilian life. Although the majority decided to enlist, 25 percent decided to leave.

Women returned home for a variety of reasons. Some were needed at home because of family problems; others had taken a dislike to group living and Army discipline. Some women did not want to wear their uniform while off duty, as required of members of the armed forces.

Women electing to leave also complained that they had not been kept busy or that they had not felt needed in their jobs. Not surprisingly, the majority of those who left had been assigned to the Army Ground Forces, which had been reluctant to accept women in the first place and where the women were



A postcard from World War II shows a woman in uniform using a rolling pin to smash an enemy soldier. The motto of the WAC was "Replacing a man for combat." Fort Des Moines WAC Museum

often underutilized and ignored. Some 34 percent of the WAACs allocated to the Army Ground Forces decided to leave, compared to 20 percent of those in the Army Air Forces and 25 percent of those in the Army Service Forces.

With the conversion of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps to the Women's Army Corps, former WAAC first, second, and third officers became captains and first and second lieutenants, respectively.

Director Hobby was officially promoted to the rank of colonel, while WAC service command and theater staff directors were promoted to lieutenant colonels. Company command-

ers became captains or majors depending upon the size of their command and their time in service.

Enlisted women were ranked from master sergeant through corporal and private, the same as their male counterparts.

Although WAC enlistments never reached the levels attained early in the war, recruitment maintained a steady pace from the fall of 1943 through early 1945, allowing the War Department to respond to overseas theater requests with additional WAC companies.

One month after V-E Day, May 8, 1945, WAC Director Oveta Culp Hobby resigned from the corps for per-

sonal reasons. Colonel Hobby's dedicated and skillful administration was the primary force behind the wartime success of the organization, from its formation and overall philosophy through its rapid growth, the conver-

Wichita pays settlement to jailed

WICHITA (AP) — A class action lawsuit filed on behalf of more than 7,000 people jailed for failure to pay Wichita Municipal Court fines was settled Tuesday with the city agreeing to pay \$2.7 million.

Under the out-of-court agreement,

the plaintiffs will get at least \$115 each, in addition to a cash payment depending on how long each was jailed, the city said.

Their attorneys will collect at least \$1 million, and are requesting the court approve additional fees totaling more

than \$2 million. The lawsuit challenged the constitutionality of the so-called time to pay docket to collect unpaid fines and court costs.

In addition, the city agreed to forgive the court debt for cases owed.

were allowed to return home immediately, however. In order to accomplish its occupation mission, the Army granted its commanders authority to retain some specialists, including WACs, in place as long as they were needed.

Within six months the Army bowed to public and political pressure and sent most of its soldiers home. On Dec. 31, 1946, WAC strength was under 10,000, the majority of whom held stateside duty and hoped to be allowed to stay in the Army.

Earlier in 1946, the Army asked Congress for the authority to establish the Women's Army Corps as a permanent part of the Regular Army.

This is the greatest single indication of the success of the wartime WAC. The Army acknowledged a need for the skills society believed women could provide.

Although the bill was delayed in Congress for two years by conservatives, it finally became law on June 12, 1948.

With the passage of this bill, the Women's Army Corps became a separate corps of the Regular Army. It remained part of the U.S. Army organization until 1978, when its existence as a separate corps was abolished and women were fully assimilated into all but the combat branches of the Army.

only the best

Whispers inside Howard Johnson

Roast Beef, Ham, Chicken, with all the trimming's & a flower for mom.

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Mother's Day, May 12

I-70 & K-27
785-899-3644
Goodland, KS



Moonlight Gardens Greenhouse

Ready to Plant:
Trees Annuals
Fruit Trees Perennials
Shrubs Roses

Hanging Baskets • Planters
Pond Fish • Water Plants • Mulch
Don't Forget Mother's Day - May 12
(reserve your selection now)

Open 7 days a week
Mon. - Sat.: 9:30 - 5:00 • Tues. & Thurs.: Open til 8 p.m.
Sunday: 1 to 4 p.m.
1837 county Rd. V., Colby, KS
3 miles north on Hwy 25, 1/2 mile west.

Safari Steakhouse

Smother Mother with Love!
Sunday, May 12th
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Serving turkey, prime rib, cherry glazed ham., smoked salmon, and fruit pizza dessert. Limited supply of FREE flowers to Mothers

We've added two more buffet lines and additional seating for our customers convenience.
Now serving certified Black Angus beef.
1523 Arcade Ave. • Goodland • 899-6275

Mother's Day is Sunday May 12th




Show your love with The Thomas Kinkadee Teapot Bouquet featuring roses, lavender larkspur, mini-carnations, waxflowers and more.
Cobblestone Floral & Garden Center
508 E. 12th • Goodland, Kansas
785-899-3663
"Service, Selection, Satisfaction!" Teleflora.

Mother's Day Subscription Special

1 yr. • \$72
(maximum renewal, 2 yrs.)

6 mo. • \$38

Only available at the Goodland Daily News office
May 8th through May 13th



The Goodland Daily News
1205 Main • Goodland, Kan. • (785) 899-2338

Choice Picks For Mom

A large selection of urns, blooming hanging baskets and twig planters!!

- ROSE PLANTS •
Blooming Potted Roses! Miniature Roses!
Jackson & Perkins Roses!
- TREES • SHRUBS
Quality Nursery Stock!!
- Vegetables ~ Annuals
We have a large selection of zoned perennials!
- OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
- Colby's Full Service Garden Center --
- GOLDEN PLAINS GARDEN CENTER**
1140 Plains Ave. 462-7528
- OPEN: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday-Saturday
Thursday till 8:00 • 12:00-5:00 p.m., Sunday

Happy Mother's Day!