

1943

## Letters from a WAAC

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*Auxiliary Marjorie P. Hinkle, '41, writes about her training and work in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps*

Aux. Marjorie P. Hinkle  
WAAC Band, 2nd WAAC T. C.  
Daytona Beach, Fla.

**D**EAR Homemaker Staff:

You asked me about my training in the WAAC—

Inducted into the WAAC in September in New York City, I started my training at Ft. Des Moines in October. Following four weeks of basic training we specialized in one particular division, were ranked as specialists and gained a chevron for our sleeve. During this training period we drilled and learned about the army, chemical warfare and first aid.

I specialized in band work and became one of the 28 members of the original WAAC band, now stationed at Daytona Beach. I feel that this band group is one of the more intimate of the special divisions.

Although the training period is short because the WAAC is such a new organization and must be set up as quickly as possible, the training is thorough. No time is wasted in teaching you the army way of doing things.

My college education has helped me to fit into my new surroundings more easily, although I am not in a division in which I am using my college training. Prior to entering the service, I was supervisor of a bakery in Washington, D. C., and before that I served as a dietitian in a sanitarium in Battle Creek, Michigan.

There are a great many opportunities for foods-trained women, for they are being worked into army "mess" service. Business courses would be valuable to college girls interested in administrative and secretarial positions in the WAAC.

Many people do not understand the real purpose of the WAACs. We were organized to replace men so that they could fight in the front lines. The jobs we do are essential to the progress of the war effort. They might not be as glamorous as our uniform indicates but they are important.

In order to release these men we receive training in any one of numerous fields. A WAAC may become a baker, accountant, bookbinder, cashier, bookkeeper, clerk, cook, cryptographer, dental assistant, dietitian, driver, draughtsman, hospital assistant, messenger, motion picture projectionist, printer, radio operator or a secretary.

According to statistics there are about 900 trained WAACs going into service every week and there will be 150,000 when the quota is reached.

Sincerely,

*Marjorie P. Hinkle*