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Mary Margaret Ryan
Iowa State College

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Coeds are Veterans, Too

A diploma is the target of Iowa State's women veterans, reports Mary Margaret Ryan

ABOUT face! Women all over the United States are leaving battalions for books, and joining the ranks of college students. As more and more ex-service women take advantage of the educational opportunities offered under the GI Bill of Rights, former members of the WACS, WAVES and women Marines choose Iowa State for their diploma target.

“I CAME to Iowa State because of its food department. The food economists with whom I worked in the army recommended it so highly that I decided to come myself,” explained Marie Gilmore, former mess sergeant in the WAC. With her brown hair fluffed back in a familiar WAC feather-cut, Marie, a dietetics sophomore, smiled and added, “I’m finding practical application in physics and chemistry for many of the food problems we encountered in the army.” Her duties in the WAC included inspecting mess halls, supervising food preparation and controlling food waste.

In comparing army life and college life Marie asserted that she had more privileges and freedom as to hours and rules in the army, but she enjoys her work in college and is having no difficulty adjusting to the change. Before enlisting, Marie taught school in Maxwell, Neb.

Coral Moore, a sophomore in home economics education, was also a teacher before entering the service. “In the WAVES I was assigned to statistical work at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D. C., so when I received my discharge, I decided to come to a technical school. My roommate in Washington was employed at the National Agricultural Experiment Station, and she advised me to come here because of the high rating Iowa State graduates have.” Coral Department of Household Equipment, received her B.S. degree from the University of Tennessee and acted as a county home economist in Scott County, Tenn., before enlisting in the WAVES in December, 1942. “In the Navy we had a long, hard grind,” Ella Mae stated. She attended aviation machinist school in Norman, Okla., and after completing that training, assumed duties in assembly and repair. Teaching pilots, cadets and crewmen to speak over radio gear in battle conditions was a phase of her assignment as a teacher in speech intelligibility.

You can’t go wrong at Iowa State,” the head of the Department of Home Economics at the University of Tennessee advised Ella Mae. “And that’s why I came,” the former WAVE announced.

To operate a Danish tearoom is Ellen Gebühr’s ambition and the reason she chose to come to Iowa State. “It’s the best school for institution work, and it’s well recognized in the field,” she declared. Ellen, whose home is in Council Bluffs, Iowa, enlisted in the WAVES in March, 1941. “I was crazy about the Navy,” she replied, “but it’s good to be back in school.” As a member of the WAVES she taught celestial navigation in link trainers. After graduation Ellen plans to go to Denmark to study Danish methods and customs.

“It’s fun to be at Iowa State!” exclaimed Rena Cotters, a graduate student in home economics education. During her career in the Navy, Rena was an operator of link trainers teaching radio navigation and “dead reckoning” not only to American cadets but also to cadets from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, France, England and Australia. At present she is on leave of absence from the faculty of Roosevelt High School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Service women who served on foreign battlefronts now are joining the ranks of college students with privileges of GI Bill of Rights.

stated that she has had no trouble adjusting to studying because she had such difficult work in the Navy. Her assignment in the WAVES concerned fire control, testing guns and radar equipment and working in the calculating department with the Bell electric computer.

Alice Schoessler’s fiery red hair illustrates the dynamic spirit of a former Marine. Her ready smile and easy-going manner, however, seem contradictory to the character of a tough Marine sergeant. “Why did I come to Iowa State?” she repeated thoughtfully. “I came because I’ve always been interested in food, and since this is one of the best schools in the nation for that type of work, I decided to enroll.”