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The Women's Army Corps Museum 3rd St and 5th Ave Bldg 1677
Fort McClellan, AL 36205 -
5000

on the date(s) of March 10, 1997

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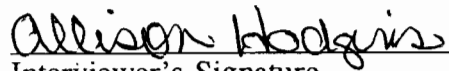

Interviewee's Signature

Date 10 MARCH 1997

Address 116 Gray Lane

Jacksonville, AL 36265

Phone 455-3487


Interviewer's Signature

Date March 10, 1997

Address 1805 Macon Hill Rd

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NAME: Eunice M. Wright

ADDRESS: 116 Gray Lane
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

CIVILIAN EDUCATION: 1950 - B.S., Business Administration, Savannah State College, Savannah, Georgia

MILITARY EDUCATION: Sep '58 - Feb '59 - Women's Army Corps (WAC) Officer Basic Course, Fort McClellan, Alabama

Jun '61 - Military Personnel Officers Course, The Adjutant General's School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana

Jan - Jun '63 - WAC Officer Advance Course, Fort McClellan, Alabama

CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: Jun '50 - Sep '58 - Secretary to Director of Student Personnel/ Secretary to the College President, Savannah State College, Savannah, Georgia

MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS: Feb '59 - Aug '59 - Instructor, General Military Subjects, US Women's Army Corps Center & School, Fort McClellan, Alabama

Aug '59 - Aug '60 - Executive Officer & Platoon Officer, Company D, WAC Training Battalion, US WAC Center & School, Fort McClellan, Alabama

Aug '60 - Dec '62 - Personnel Officer,
US Army Armor Center and US Army Train-
ing Center, Armor, Fort Knox, Kentucky

Jul '63 - Jul '65 - Family Housing
Officer, US Army Garrison (USAG),
Giessen, Germany

Jul '65 - Jul '67 - Personnel Officer/
Chief, Reception & Processing Division,
US WAC Center & School, Fort McClellan,
Alabama

Jul '67 - Feb '70 - Personnel Staff
Officer, US Continental Army Command
(now Training & Doctrine Command),
Fort Monroe, Virginia

Feb '70 - April '71 - Personnel Staff
Officer, Headquarters, Fifth US Army,
Fort Sheridan, Illinois

April '71 - Sep '73 - Adjutant General's
(AG) Administrative Officer, Office of
the School's Secretary, US Army Engineer
School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Sep '73 - Aug '79 - Executive Officer
to WAC Center Commander/Chief, Officer
Education & Department, US WAC Center &
School/Battalion Commander and Deputy
Brigade Commander, Military Police Train-
ing Brigade/Director, Personnel & Communi-
ty Activities, Headquarters, US Army Mili-
tary Police School/Training Center & Fort
McClellan, Fort McClellan, Alabama

BRANCH UPON CONVERSION:

Adjutant General's Corps

GRADES/RANKS:
(Dates Promoted)

1Lieutenant	Sep 7 '58 (Direct Commis- sion)
Captain	Nov 13 '61
Major	Aug 18 '66
Lt Colonel	Apr 20 '71
Colonel	Aug 6 '78

DECORATIONS & AWARDS:

Meritorious Service Medal with 1st Oak
Leaf Cluster; Army Commendation Medal
with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster; National
Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Re-
serve Medal (second award); Sharpshooter
(Rifle M-16)

MEMBERSHIPS:

NAACP, SCLC, Retired Officers' Associa-
tion, Heritage Chap #62, WAC Vets Assoc.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

Tutor, Kitty Stone Elementary School,
Jacksonville, AL; Deputy Registrar, Cal-
houn County Board of Registrars; ~~Member,~~
Vice Chairman
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Advisory Council

Former secretary retires as colonel in U. S. Army

After graduating from Savannah (Ga.) State College with a BS degree in Business Administration, Eunice Wright went right to work. She was hired as the secretary to the president of the college and served in that position for eight years.

Eunice liked her secretarial job, but there were things she wanted to do, places she wanted to go, avenues she wanted to explore--and she couldn't do all of this in Savannah, a town she still dearly loves.

"In Savannah, in the South at that time, I had gone as far as I could go in the secretarial field," she says. "And I didn't want to teach. I wanted to travel and I wanted to see if I could improve myself."

She made the decision to take a two year leave of absence from her job and entered the Army, because she believed that being in the Army would enable her to do all the things she wanted to do, plus provide her with security.

"I had no intention of staying in the Army," continues Eunice. "But before I knew it, 11 or 12 years had passed."

This young black woman from historic Savannah who was seeking so much in life was suddenly finding it all--and more--with Uncle Sam.

And she found herself going up in rank at a fast pace.

The rather naive secretary who only planned to spend a short time in the Army was suddenly a mature woman. She had seen it all, done it all, and lived it all--just as she had hoped she would.

She retired, as a colonel, on Aug. 31, 1979.

She retired at Fort McClellan because that was her last duty station and also because she had bought a house in Jacksonville.

Eunice served a total of four tours at Fort McClellan. During her Army career, she was also stationed at Fort Knox, Ky.; Giessen Post, Germany; Fort Monroe, Va.; Fort Sheridan, Ill.; and Fort Belvoir, Va.

To this day, Eunice has a high regard for secretaries.

"I think being a secretary is a very good career field, because you have so much to do," she says. "So much responsibility is placed on you."

Eunice was born in Wadley, Ga., but only lived there a short time.

When she was about 2-years-old, her family moved to Savannah. She is one of eight siblings. There were five girls and three boys.

She has a brother who lives in Ozark, two sisters in Savannah, and one sister in Trenton, N. J. Two brothers and a sister are deceased.

Her parents are the late Charlie and Eunice Wright.

It is appropriate that Eunice was given her mother's name, because she believes she has so many of her mother's traits.

"People say I look like my mother," says Eunice. "She was a very independent woman, and I think I tend to be independent."

She still has family members who live in Savannah.

Eunice is treasurer of her family reunion which is held every other year.

When she retired from the Army, she found that she could slow down enough to enjoy some of the things that are so special to her, including photography, reading and cooking.

Eunice attends the ^{Soldier's} Women's Army Corps Memorial Chapel at Fort McClellan. ^{vic e char}

She is a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Advisory Council, a volunteer tutor at Kitty Stone Elementary School, ~~deputy registrar for Calhoun County~~, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Post 57 of the American Legion, board of directors for the Women's Army Corps Foundation, Heritage Chapter 62 of the WAC Veterans' Association, the Humane Society of the United States, League for Animal Welfare, Inc., National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Retired Officers' Association, and Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). ^{Host}

She also takes part in the Adult Wellness Exercise Program at Jacksonville State University, which is under the direction of Dr. Margaret Pope.

Eunice found herself involved in so many things, that she had to give up some of them, including her work on the Meals on Wheel Committee and serving as a puppeteer for Concern for Children, a program that teaches children what to do about child abuse.

Nine years ago, she acquired a new friend. His name was Rover and he came from the League of

Animal Welfare.

Eunice changed his name to Rosher. She kept the first part of his original name and changed the last part because in the Bible Asher means happy. And Rosher is, indeed, a happy--and extremely active--dog.

Eunice enjoys trying new recipes, and she doesn't mind trying them on company. So far, she says, all of them have turned out just fine.

She particularly enjoys the following dishes.

CHICKEN EUGENE

3-4 chicken breasts, halved, boned, and skinned
Salt to taste
Paprika

6-8 thin slices cooked ham
1/2 cup melted butter or margarine
1 (10 3/4 oz.) can cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
1/2 cup sherry
1 (8 oz.) carton commercial sour cream
1 (4 oz.) can sliced mushrooms, drained

Sprinkle chicken with salt and paprika. Place ham slices in a shallow baking dish; top with chicken. Combine remaining ingredients, blending well. Pour over chicken. Bake at 350 degrees for one to one and one-half hours or until done. Yield: 6-8 servings.

MARINATED VEGETABLES

6 T. lemon juice

6 T. vinegar
6 T. olive oil
1/4 cup garlic salt
2/3 cup salad oil
4 t. salt
1 t. sugar
Dash of pepper
1/2 head cauliflower
3 stalks celery, cut into sticks
3-4 carrots, cut into sticks
10-15 cherry tomatoes, halved

Combine all ingredients except vegetables; mix well, and set aside. Cut cauliflower flowerets one inch from top of stalks; then cut into bite pieces. Arrange vegetables on a serving platter, and pour marinade over all. Marinate six hours before serving. Yield: 6-8 servings.

COCONUT PIE

1 9-inch deep dish pie shell, unbaked
5 beaten eggs
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup buttermilk
1 stick of margarine, softened
1 cup shredded coconut
Vanilla flavoring

Beat eggs until well mixed; add buttermilk, sugar, coconut, margarine, and, if desired, vanilla flavoring. Mix well and pour into pie shell. Bake for 40 minutes at 350 degrees. Place on a cookie sheet to prevent drips in the oven.

TINY CHEESE BISCUITS

(Eunice says that these may be made ahead of time.)

1 lb. sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
1 lb. butter or margarine, softened
4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 t. salt
1 t. cayenne pepper (use less if you aren't a pepper fancier)

Working with hands or electric mixer, blend cheese and butter into sifted dry ingredients until smooth. Pat or roll out on floured surface to about one-third inch thickness. Cut with inside of doughnut cutter or other small cutter. (The cutter is stubborn about turning loose the dough. To avoid this dip cutter frequently into cold water.)

Place about one-eighth inch apart on ungreased pan and bake at 325 degrees for about 15 minutes. Do not allow the biscuits to brown; it's easy to overbake them. Store in airtight tin, placing waxed paper between layers. Freezes beautifully. Thaw in closed tin. Yield: about 125.



Eunice Wright

Anita Ford

Questions for Interview with
Colonel Eunice Wright

1. Where were you born and could you tell me about your childhood?
2. When did you start college and what was your major? What activities were you involved in as a student?
3. I have read that you went to work as a secretary to the President of Savannah State College, now Georgia State College. Did you enjoy your work, and was it fulfilling?
4. What were the circumstances of your decision in joining the Women's Army Corps?
5. Could you tell me about some of your assignments and what you thought of the places that you have served?
6. What duties were you responsible for during your years in the Army?
7. Did you feel any sense of discrimination in the Army for being a female? If so, could you please describe to me the circumstances?
8. Do you think that being a member of the WAC was a positive attribute to your life?
9. What were your feelings about the disestablishment of the WAC in 1978?
10. What do you think your life would have been like if you had not joined the WAC?
11. What do you think about women in the Army today? Do you feel that they are receiving equal opportunities, and if possible could you compare them to the opportunities that were available to you when you received your first commission?
12. What activities have you been involved in since your retirement?

Outline

Tape #1, Side A

1. Col. Wright discusses her birth in Wadley, Georgia. She was the seventh of eight children. She states that she did not know that they were poor until they moved around. Everyone that lived around them was poor, so when they moved around to more affluent areas, she began to see a difference. In Col. Wright's world, white people were not an element. The family lived in black neighborhoods, and she attended black schools. She was not subjected to integration until she came into the Army in 1958.
2. In college at Savannah State (now Georgia Southern) she majored in business administration. Her activities were the French Club, and she worked to help supplement her income.
3. After graduation, she worked as a secretary to the president of the college for eight years. She still holds secretaries in high regard.
4. She decided to join the Women's Army Corps because she felt that she had succeeded as much as was possible for her at the time in Savannah. The only jobs that were open to her as a black female were to teaching, and secretarial work. She did not want to pursue teaching. Her first job in the Army was as an instructor teaching trainees. She did not have to worry about discipline problems because the sergeants took care of problems that arose.
5. Her assignments throughout her career varied, although many of them were administrative. She found that working with trainees was the most rewarding. They developed into fine young women. As a platoon officer, she did the training in which there were about forty women in a platoon. Col. Wright and her staff were responsible for their discipline, and all of their needs. As an executive officer, and administrative assistant to the commander, she reviewed and wrote correspondence in between the commander and other members of the staff. As family housing officer in Germany, she assigned government housing to military personnel. In Germany, she felt very free from racism and enjoyed her assignment. Her staff was composed of mostly German nationals, civilians employed on the post. She did not experience any racism from the Germans, but did from her fellow

servicemen. One evening at a restaurant, a fellow GI mumbled something under his breath and the whole party got up and left.

6. In Anniston in the 1950's and 1960's she cannot remember any experiences of racism.

She did not go downtown, everything that she needed was on the post. She believes that there were some black diners, but she did not have any transportation to go to them.

7. She never felt discrimination from civilians for being a female in the Army.

8. The Women's Army Corps was a very positive experience in her life. By the corps, she gained valuable friends, experience, travel, a sense of knowing people of all backgrounds and realizing that all people are the same. She would not have gotten all her experiences had she not joined the Army.

9. She believes that it is quite possible that she would be dead by now, had she not joined the Army. She thinks that people sometimes get into ruts that they cannot find their way out of, and she probably would have found herself in one of those ruts.

10. She thinks that women in the Army today are pretty sharp people. She is glad that she is not in the business of teaching trainees however, that they are a product of civilian life and things have moved too quickly for her. People today express themselves so differently, compared to her generation.

11. As a young woman, she respected her elders regardless of whom they were. They did not have access to the media as we do today. Now you can find out what is going on in a minute. If her generation had been exposed to more, maybe things would have been different.

12. She believes that taking prayer out of schools is one of the direct blames for the decay of morality and discipline in our society. She states that prayer is a firm basis in which to build your life. She feels that many children do not get guidance and prayer at home, and therefore, the child is lost.

13. She thinks that she would not have the stamina or the desire to teach today. Col. Wright feels that is an excellent job to have, yet you must have the total desire.

14. She feels that many problems with our schools are linked to the parents. They do not teach their children about discipline, and working hard to obtain a goal. Today, everyone wants things right now. They are not willing to wait and work for them. People are wondering where their child went wrong in life. A lot of people do not disciplining their child until they are ten or twelve, and then it is too late. A parent must start teaching their child when they are in the cradle. The community is also to blame. People should be able to inform parents if they see a child in bad behavior, and today people fear lawsuits. It takes a village to raise a child.
15. The military provided her with a comfortable life, although she had to live in a certain place to be comfortable. She did not get to see her neices and nephews grow up, and that is something that she wishes she could have been a part of through the years.
16. All of her jobs in the military were different, and each one was fulfilling. At one time, she felt that she was being discriminated against when a lower ranking officer was promoted to another position that she felt that she deserved. After complaining to her supervisor, she was told to "just live with it".
17. She would like to return to where she calls home, Savannah. The cost of living in Savannah is very high, and this is the reason that prevents her from moving.
18. She has no children, but has always had dogs.
19. As far as she knows, women in the Army today are getting the same opportunities as men. Today, women work in support combat jobs, and this was not allowed when she was in the military. Today, there is much more emphasis on physical training . She states that they marched to and from classes, but that was about all of the exercise that was required.

Tape #1, Side B

21. Based on her college education, and her working experience, she received a direct commission. She came in as a first lieutenant. Today, this is not possible. Her only requirements were to complete basic training.

22. She received promotions regularly and was surprised at her own progress. When the WAC was dissolved, she chose the Adjunct General's Corps. She could have gone to Military Police, Chemical Corps, or Quartermaster. She chose the Adjunct General's Corps because it was basically administrative and she felt comfortable in that department.
23. She was very sad when the WAS was dissolved. For a while, she told herself that it would one day be resurrected, but it probably never will. They were a neat group of people, all bound with a sense of pride and accomplishment. She was blessed for the women on her staff, they tried very hard to make her look good to her supervisors.
24. The retired WACS have so much to be grateful for, the Corps molded them to be good soldiers and citizens. It brought out the best in all of them.
25. The Corps was so general, the only thing that they did separately was train the trainees. They had to work with other Corps.
26. There is now discussion of segregating basic training, due to the recent sexual harassment suits against the Army. They must also consider the fact that after training, these people will have to work with one another, and they should try different strategies.
27. Although she came from a black neighborhood and school, she had no trouble in basic training. She thinks that one of the reasons is that she was a little older than most of the trainees.
28. Looking back on all of her assignments, she hopes that all of the people under her regard her as a fair. She feels that she was tough, but always fair. She tried to treat everyone equally, she could not afford favorites.
29. She has been involved in numerous activities since her retirement. She is a tutor at Kitty Stone Elementary, standby for Meals on Wheels, and Vice-Chair of the Retired Senior Voluntary Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Number 62 Wac Vets Association.
30. She wishes that she would have been more physically active while she was younger. Now, she is not able to participate in some activities that she would like to participate in.

31. The last job she had in the military was Director of Personnel and Community Activities.

Sometimes, the job was too overwhelming. She was in charge of everything on post that had to do with the moral of the people. She was over all of the tennis courts, pools, the museum, the library, PX, Soldier Center, NCO Club, and the Officer's Club. No matter what she did, there was always someone unhappy.

32. In high school, she wanted to go ahead and join the Army. Her parents discouraged her, wanting her to finish college first. It was a good decision to wait, she got a very good starting position in the Army with her education.

33. After she was overlooked for a promotion, she became disgusted with the military. She applied with the Civilian Personnel Office, deciding to get out of the Army. At that time, there was a freeze on civilian jobs, and she was forced to stay in the military. She is very glad that she did, all good things come to those who wait. Her career after the incident was very rewarding.

Tape #2, Side A

34. Her advice to younger officers when they come into a new position is to ask questions of the staff before making changes. You must find out what makes the office run smoothly, and distinguish what is working and what is not. A lot of people go in and make changes that do not need to be made, and the staff resents you. The officer needs to ask the lowest ranking person what goes on in the office, because they know everything about the office. They perform all of the jobs.

35. She believes that your word is the barometer of your character.

THE WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

BY ALLISON HODGINS
WAC MUSEUM INTERNSHIP
DR. SUZANNE MARSHALL
APRIL 3, 1997

In 1942 it was apparent that the United States needed help in winning the war. After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 1942, it was evident that the nation needed assistance to continue the war. They called on thousands of women to continue the war effort, and thousands of women answered the call. The women were called to fill positions of stateside men, therefore releasing them for combat. For the first time in U.S. history, they put women in uniform to help win the war.

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was designed to assist the troops. The Corps was created on May 14, 1992 by Franklin Delanor Roosevelt, and Oveta Culp Hobby was assigned the position of the Director. In essence, it was a support corps for the Army. The purpose of the WAAC was to make available to the national defense, when needed, the knowledge, skill, and special training of the women of the U.S. (Morden 5). The women did not receive full military status however, they lacked medical benefits after the war, equal pay, and equal rank. Despite this disappointment, many women enlisted to serve their country. Training for the WAAC began at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. Among the trainees were four hundred and forty officer candidates, and then one hundred and twenty-five enlisted. The new classes averaged every two weeks. The numbers of enlisted women increased as recruiting became more public (Morden 7). The average age of enlisted was twenty-four, and sixty percent were high school graduates with some college courses. Among the commissioned officers, the average age was thirty, and forty percent were college graduates. The WAAC was a solid success. The standards for entrance were meeting height, weight requirements, two years of high school, a police check, character references, and a score of sixty on the Army General Classification test. The test includes aptitudes, capabilities and general knowledge, reading, vocabulary, arithmetic, reasoning, and pattern analysis (Morden 10).

Women joined the WAAC to improve their lives. According to Rose Rosenthal, a World War II WAAC, “thousands of women applied who were the sweethearts of soldiers, joined for patriotism, escape from boring jobs, domineering mothers, broken romances, or sheer loneliness (Rosenthal 8). There was frequently much concern and disapproval over the decision of the women. A familiar question to the WAACs was why did they join and disrupt their lives. When some men heard about the WAAC they exclaimed, “This is ridiculous, release a man for active duty?” They envisioned the Post Exchange out of shaving cream, but full of cleansing cream, rouge, and lipstick (Rosenthal 8).

There were many hardships that the women endured in the WAAC. First, they had to overcome their first winter at Ft. Des Moines. They were living in cramped conditions, and were issued insufficient clothing. The Army did not expect the numbers of women they received, and failed to order enough winter coats. Second, was the basic adjustment to the military lifestyle. Most of the women constantly improved once their daily routine set in. Third, a slander campaign tarnished the image of the WAAC. Mary Schisler Salm, was sworn into the WAC in 1943 at Stockton Army Air Force Base, the site where the slander began. Civilian women who worked at the Stockton Ordnance Depot dressed in khaki, “got drunk in bars, were foul-mouthed and got in fights. The townspeople believed they were WAACs” (Hoyt 252). Mary wrote, “We were in a world originally exclusive for men. Some were angry and thought we did not belong” (Hoyt 252). Despite these hardships, the women advanced in their training. They had no trouble with their courses in map reading, first aid, and mess management. After basic training, the WAAC was assigned to clerk, typist, driver, cook, or cadre positions. It was disappointing to some women who thought their civilian skills such as accounting, dental hygiene, drafting, library science, and photography would be useful to the Army (Morden 8, 9).

The Army realized the value of the WAC and gave the corps a permanent home in the military, establishing the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1943. As a branch in the Army, women received medical benefits and retirement. The first jobs they were given were cooks, bakers, administrative positions, and drivers. After time, they were mechanics, radio operators, air tower specialists, medical surgeons and technicians.

After World War II and in to the 1950's and 60's, the roles of women in the American culture began to take new meaning. More women than in past decades started attending college, developing careers for their own personal benefit, and setting goals for themselves over marriage and families. Many joined the WAC to help finance further education, to seek adventure and gain experience, and to make a career in the Army. Eunice Wright was one example of the new women emerging in the 1950's. As a college graduate working as a secretary in the southern city of Savannah, she knew that opportunities for her career advancement were limited. She received a direct commission to the WAC in 1958, the stepping stone to a fulfilling career within the Army. Barbara Boyd Hughes enlisted on her twentieth birthday. Her father, who was an Army man was pleased, yet her mother was disgraced. To Hughes' mother, a female joining the Army was not what the "proper smart-set socialite" should do (Hoyt 254). Rose Rosenthal is another example of a woman who took the risk. Her plan was to teach eighth grade for a few years, get married and have children. Her plan was not proceeding as planned, and she found that she needed a change in her life (Rosenthal 9).

The men of the Army were slow to accept this new change in women. Women were now their competition for the better assignments, promotions, and schools (Morden 171). They felt threatened due to the fact women were becoming their equals in the office rather than waiting at home for them. Frequently, women were not promoted because they lacked supervisory experience. Even ambitious women who improved their military

occupational specialties skills had trouble getting leadership positions. Men felt demeaned to report to a woman. Many who did not have a real problem with the women objected regardless because they felt their peers expected it (Morden 171). Eunice Wright experienced only one incident in her twenty-one year Army career, when a junior officer received a position she should have been awarded. It was a supervisory position, and she with higher rank, should have been considered. After sending a note to her supervisor about her complaint, she was told to “live with it.” The WAC had no recourse except to live with the system, understanding that it benefited the great majority and hurt only the WAC composing less than two percent of the Army’s strength (Morden 170). Lack of acceptance was the main complaint of WACs. Many women felt they would be instantly welcomed by other service persons, and some were disappointed. However, Eunice Wright felt she never had a problem with lack of acceptance. She never sensed any real contempt by her staff or fellow service men for being a female. She stated that may have been there, but it was never sensed.

In 1954, the Army established a permanent home for the WACs at the WAC Center, which was designated at Fort McClellan, Alabama. It gave the women a sense of pride, and was visible proof that Congress and the Army appreciated the WACs. It improved their morale and gave recruiters a selling point (Morden 148). The center provided camaraderie which was the main thread that held the women together. According to Eunice Wright, whom spent much of her service time at the WAC Center, the atmosphere was filled with pride and dedication.

Discrimination and prejudice have followed people in all walks of life. The evils of it carried on into the Women’s Army Corps. Charity Adams Early, the WAC’s first African American commanding officer of the only black organization to serve overseas recalled many situations of prejudice from her fellow servicepersons. In One Woman’s

Army, she recalled that while in England the British wondered why the black WACs had such an early curfew, and the American male personnel told them that all Negroes had tail that came out after midnight. The commander wanted them in before this display occurred (Early 154). Another incident recalled by Early was when a general in the chain of command was reviewing her troops. Some of her women were sleeping and working, as the battalion worked twenty-four hours a day. The general complained that the whole battalion was not present and told Early that he would “ send a white lieutenant down and show her how to run the unit “ (Early 160). One final recollection by Early was an incident with a superior officer she refers to as Colonel X. One evening she had been invited to the Officer’s Club for a drink by a major. The next day she was called into the colonel’s headquarters. She was given a speech for her behavior:

“So, you are the Negro down at the Officer’s Club. There’s never been a colored there. Who had the nerve to invite you? I don’t believe in race mixing. I understand that you are from South Carolina. I’m too and it makes it worse. I can’t stand a Negro from my home state socializing with the same people I do. You’re folks were probably slaves to mine. Now you try and act like white folks. I don’t care if you’re part of the Training Center, the Officer’s Club belongs to the post” (Early 107, 108)

Lucia Pitts, an African American woman who served under Early, stated “ In Rouen, France we caused a flurry at the Patio Club. When we entered the dining room, those in charge seemed flustered, and tried to put us in the corner. Later, we plopped where we pleased and made a point to be seen” (Pitts 17). Another member of the 688th recalled that the Europeans treated the black soldiers like kings and queens, yet at home they were made to travel behind the engine when traveling by train. They went through it with their mouths shut (Dolman). According to Lucia Pitts, the Europeans welcomed them everywhere,

including pubs, theaters, and their churches. They recognized the difference in color, but made no difference in treatment to the black WACs. They were made to feel like people, and it gave the black WACs a great sense of pride (Pitts 11). Eunice Wright felt very similar to Pitts with her experience in Germany. She felt free in Germany, and would have remained there had it not been for her family. However, Eunice Wright could not recall hostility for being a black female except for one instance when she entered a dining hall and a group of servicemen stared at her, then all got up to leave. That was the only instance she could recall of outright hostility towards her. During her stay in the late fifties and early sixties in Anniston, Alabama she could not state any memories of which she would want to recall concerning the turmoil in this country between the racial gap.

As the demands for women's equality began to increase in the United States, the military also slowly began to open their doors for the advancement of women. Between the years of 1948 to 1970, women began attending Army officer schools, along with male officers for advanced training. Women were allowed promotions above the grade of lieutenant colonel, and were authorized the same monetary allowances for dependent that men received (Morden 401). Policy changes in age of enlistment, and assignment restrictions eliminated most restrictions on women (Morden 402). President Lyndon B. Johnson stated in 1967 after signing the PL-90-130 authorizing service women the right to return to work after maternity leave, "We have brought women to an even higher and more influential position throughout the land-government has improved. Women are leaders and doers today in our Congress and throughout our government. We will end the last vestige of discrimination I hope in our Armed Forces" (Morden 214-216). These changes have provided great access for women in the military, they are now seen as a vital, and equal component in our military.

However, many women miss what the WAC provided after the disestablishment in 1978. Eunice stated that the Corps provided great camaraderie, a sense of pride, and a strong bond between the women. She used to try and convince herself that one day the Corps would be resurrected, but now she believes it probable never will. She spent all but one year of her service time bonded to the WAC, and still holds a strong tie to it. Today, many of her friends are WACs, she participates in the WAC Veterans Association and those remain powerful elements in her life. She attributes most of the wonderful things in her life to the WAC and the Army, for she would have never been able to achieve the success in her life without them. Lucia Pitts in her book, One Negro WAC's Story, "Was it worth it? Yes, I served my country, enjoyed the work, new friends, camaraderie, travels, patience, and teamwork. Were there criticisms? There was inefficiency, blundering, inequities, racial segregation, but the good outweighed the bad and I don't regret one moment I was WAC" (Pitts 21). According to Pitts, the whole WAC philosophy was, "I am not afraid of today, for I have seen yesterday and I love today" (Pitts 3).

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