LADIES' DAY AT FT. McCLELLAN—An invading army of more than 200 women descended upon Ft. McClellan Tuesday and Wednesday, seeking admission to the first training camps and battalions of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps—known from coast to coast as America's WAACS. Directed by Col. H. G. Fry, Alabama's candidates took stiff tests which will determine whether they will enter as officers or as auxiliaries.

Top left, Miss Ethel Wilson (left), personnel manager for a large Birmingham department store, begins her 15-minute personal interview before a board of officers and assistants. Interviewers, left to right, are Mrs. L. E. MacGregor, Lt. Col. H. D. McHugh and Miss Virginia Ordway.

Top right, WAAC applicants just couldn't leave without trying out one of the famous army jeeps, so Col. Fry took the driver's seat for a brief tour of the fort. In the front seat are Peggy Smith, of Montgomery (center), and Martha Saxon, Birmingham, on the outside. Rear seat (left to right) are Joan Thompson, Birmingham; Margaret Warren, Tuscaloosa, and Eloise Scroggins, Flomaton.

Lower left, candidates for WAAC officers' school must be between five and six feet tall. Left to right, Agnes Thomas, of Birmingham, is two inches over the minimum. Anne Thornton, Anniston, is five feet six inches, just about average, and Mrs. Joan Thompson is two inches under the maximum.

Lower right, an education of high school or better is required of WAAC officers. These slightly worried women are taking the mental alertness—or I. Q.—test for the corps.

Weaker Sex? Not Any More, Brother

More Than 200 Alabama Women Take First Exams At Ft. McClellan For WAAC Officers

BY VIRGINIA VAN DER VEER
Birmingham News Staff Writer

FT. McCLELLAN, Ala.—Do you get along better with men or with women?

Do you blondine your hair?

How old are you? What salary do you make? Why do you think you would make a good leader in the WAAC? Who is the present undersecretary of state?

This is a small barrage in the firing squad of questions which Tuesday and Wednesday confronted more than 200 Alabama women—affectionately dubbed "them wacky women" by regular soldiers at Ft. McClellan.

"Them wacky women," aged between 21 and 49, physically fit, high school-educated and well-dressed, had two of the most exciting days of their lives taking exams for the country's first women's army.

Their pink application blanks, painstakingly filled out and including a 100-word statement on why they wanted to join the WAAC, had preceded them to Ft. McClellan and lay in neat stacks on the desk of Col. H. G. Fry at induction headquarters.

According to their applications, Alabama's WAAC candidates were waitresses, typists, bank presidents, mothers, school teachers—now volunteering to take over soldiers' tasks.

* * *

THEIR SALARIES RANGED from the $20 a month of a theater cashier in a small, Black Belt town to the five-figure annual income of an Alabama bank president.

Some had borrowed, scrimped and saved to make the trip to Anniston. Others had splurged on becoming hats and new dresses for the occasion.

All had one impressive aim in common—they wanted to join the women's army, not as a lark but as a duty, if not as an officer, then as a private.

With their seriousness, their capability, their obvious sincerity, the WAAC candidates impressed hardened army officers, sophisticated officers' wives, people of Anniston and soldiers of McClellan.

Even one skeptical private, five years an army man, whose day was devoted to chauffeuring the ladies around, finally admitted:

"Yep, I guess they'll be some help after all."

The Field House, scene of regular inductions, battalion dances and Winter sports, saw something new this week.

On its huge bare floor, would-be army women sat nervously awaiting interviews, bent, pencils in mouths, over the one-hour mental alertness tests, or stood in small circles, comparing experiences and sharing cold drinks.

* * *

FOR A 15-MINUTE personal interview, most important part of her exam, each candidate sat in a straight-backed chair facing an army officer and two women helpers—officers' wives or Anniston teachers.

There, with no holds barred, the applicant confesses all to her friendly but super-inquisitive questioners.

A question, for instance, like "Do you blondine your hair?" may reveal a lot more than she thinks. If her answer is an honest "yes" or "no," that's good. If she's angry at the very question, that usually means sensitiveness or bad temper. If she white lies about it, that's bad.

Examiners also want to know her religion, her political opinions, her age, her ideas about rouge and lipstick, her romantic attachments—and lots more.

Finished with her interview, and greatly relieved, each WAAC applicant waits to be summoned to one of the long tables where she receives a written mental alertness test and a go-ahead signal from Lt. Charles van Houten, formerly of Birmingham.

* * *

MENTAL ALERTNESS—military name for the old-fashioned I. Q.—is a hard test. Its multiple choice questions are aimed at revealing the candidate's judgment, her general knowledge, her mathematical talents and her ability for clear thinking.

Taking it purely as an experiment, a newspaper reporter managed to ring up a raw score of 104 out of 140 questions. Raw score of 78 is passing.

At noon, applicants were stowed in buses by Col. Fry and sent either to rest in Anniston or to lunch at the Service Men's Club of the fort. Each woman was placed in one of four groups and followed the schedule for her group, which meant that some would stay two days and others would finish both tests in one day.

Next hurdle in joining the women's army will be the physical examination, to be given at government expense to all who pass the two Ft. McClellan tests. Alabama women will make a trip to Atlanta June 20 for this last event of army examination.

In Washington, where all papers will finally wind up, selection of 40 future officers of the WAAC from the Fourth Corps Area will be made, and the lucky ladies will be summoned to an eight-week training camp at Ft. Des Moines, Ia.

* * *

INTERVIEWERS WHO LISTENED Tuesday to life histories of Alabama's candidates heard some amazing stories:

Of the mother of five children, who, having worked to send herself and all five to college, was now ready to join the army.

Of the waitress from Birmingham who had saved and borrowed to make the trip despite the fact that it might cost her job.

Of the South Alabama girl who supports herself on a salary of $5 a week.

Of the skilled personnel director who was ready to give up her high-paid job for an auxiliary's pay in the women's corps.

Of the social leader whose husband had died from wounds of the last war.

Of women, tragic and happy, old and young, rich and poor—eager to help.

WAAC applicants notified to report at Ft. McClellan Tuesday were these women, from every part of Alabama:

Miss Mennette Ammons, Bessemer; Mrs. Lillian Pugh Andrews, Jackson; Miss Edna Earle Atkins, Dothan; Miss Margaret Delores Baldwin, Mobile; Mrs. Mary Kate Bamberg, Montgomery; Miss Jewel Elaine Barnett, Phoenix City; Miss Frances Bell, Tuscaloosa; Miss Katherine Bell, Prattville; Miss Anita Mae Best, Birmingham; Miss Maude Magdalene Bosarge, Bayou la Batre; Miss Dora Darr Briskey, Florence.

Miss Ruth Elmira Burgess, Duke; Miss Alline Campbell, Birmingham; Mrs. Etta Lee Turner Carnathan, Florence; Miss Margaret Amanda Clarke, Birmingham; Miss Martha Jane Cliff, Talladega; Miss Alice Mildred Clinkscales, Calera; Miss Elsie Mae Cornelius, Montgomery; Miss Goldie Mabel Covrette, Montgomery; Miss Mary Donna Crawford, Mobile; Mrs. Gertrude Jackson Crow, Florence; Miss Jane Marina Culbreth, Birmingham.

Mrs. Velma Farlow Curry, Anniston; Miss Frances E. Willard Daniel, Birmingham; Miss Ethel Mae Darling, Hillsboro; Miss Daphne Davis, Butler; Miss Eva Dendy, Florence; Miss Mittie Byrd Demuhes, Elmore; Miss Katherine Ora Diamond, Atmore; Mrs. Melba Park Dixon, Birmingham; Miss Mary Lillian Drewry, Carrollton; Mrs. Exel Dyar, Montgomery; Miss Gladys C. Elrod, Ballerton; Miss Geraldine Etheredge, Huntsville; Mrs. Sara Walker Farley, Boiling.

Mrs. Pauline Rains Forester, Fort Payne; Miss Alcesta Fehr Fowler, Jacksonville; Mrs. Shirley Christina Frazier, Mobile; Miss Mary Julia Geesland, Birmingham; Miss Emma Florence Goggans, Hiseop; Miss Mary Elizabeth Goode, Wylam; Miss Edna Lucille Graham, Chrichton; Miss Melba Griffin, Montevallo; Miss Addie Maxine Griffith, Huntsville; Miss Geldie Louise Hafner, Mobile; Miss Ruth Hamner, of Talladega; Miss Mary Elizabeth Harris, Dothan; Mrs. Ann Grace Hawkins, Birmingham; Miss Martha Reeves Hereth, Birmingham.

Miss Ruth Hines, Decatur; Miss Barbara Hodges, Eufaula; Miss Mazfred M. Holt, Bankston; Miss Louise M. Howard, Mobile; Miss Elizabeth Lee Jemison, Montgomery; Miss Vera Ellen Johnson, Birmingham; Miss Margaret Anne Joyce, Selma.

Miss Ruby Nerrine Kerr, Ft. McClellan; Mrs. Edna Pauline Foster Killough, Bessemer; Miss Mary Ethel Kitchens, Fairfax; Miss Anna Louise Knowlton, Anniston; Miss Elizabeth Cole Lambert, Uriah; Miss Martha Adelia Lambert, Uriah; Miss Angie Ophelia Lamb, Opelika; Miss Maud Mae Lawrey, Geraldine; Miss Virginia Neale Ledbetter, Birmingham.

Mrs. Lucille Nelson Lloyd, Fairhope; Miss Gladys Sunshine Love, Andalusia; Miss Zolner Maxine Lowry, Mobile; Miss Winifred Jackson Marion, Alexander City; Miss Sara Ruth Marshall, Florence; Miss Ona Pearl Massey, Honoraville; Miss Evelyn Matthews, Andalusia.

Mrs. Janet Anne Mattix, Mobile; Miss Sara Martin Mayfield, Tuscaloosa; Miss Mary Florence McCarthy, Troy; Mrs. Velma Alice McCluskey, Birmingham; Miss Mary Virginia McCutcheon, Jasper; Mrs. Kathleen McEniry, Talladega; Miss Evelyn Ivery McMillan, Montgomery; Miss Martha Washington Milstead, Birmingham; Mrs. Gladys Corbett Morgan, Birmingham; Miss Sarah Nell Morris, Montgomery.

Mrs. Gene Winston Morton, Selma; Miss Jacqueline Moss, Birmingham; Miss Mary Irene Mundine, Birmingham; Miss Vista Nay, Birmingham; Miss Nell Nutt, Lake Neighbors, Montgomery; Miss Mabel Azalea North, Montgomery; Miss Mary Josephine Norton, Birmingham; Miss Dannie Orr, Birmingham; Mrs. Estella Pearl Oswalt, Fayette; Mrs. Anne Grimes Pratt, Montgomery; Miss Lenora Virginia Patridge, Clanton; Miss Laura Katherine Pickett, Montgomery; Mrs. Elizabeth Montgomery Poe, Birmingham; Miss Vivian Louise Porter, Talladega.

Miss Marion Elaine Prather, Auburn; Miss Myrtle Sanders Preer, Montgomery.

Mrs. Lucie Mae Price, Tuscaloosa; Miss Irene Randolph, Montgomery; Miss Anna Margaret Ray, Ensley; Miss Mary Josephine Ray, Birmingham; Miss Ida Lee Bella Richardson, Tuscumbia; Miss Margaret Moseley Ripper, Montgomery; Mrs. Maude Smyly Roan, Talladega; Mrs. Lillian Margaret Robertson, Montgomery; Mrs. Kathryn Brennan Roy, Montgomery; Miss Margaret Amy Sanderson, Birmingham.

Miss Mildred Rebecca Sargent, Abbeville; Miss Mary Elizabeth Saxon, Birmingham; Miss Marguerite Cecelia Schwinn, Birmingham; Miss Dora Eloise Scroggins, Flomaton; Mrs. Janie Morris Schzackmann, Montgomery; Miss Minnie Segler, Grant; Miss Eudora Nell Shelton, Montgomery.

Miss Eleanor Small, Montgomery; Miss Mary Elizabeth Smith, Prattville; Miss Peggy Smith, Montgomery; Mrs. Trevis Savage Smith, Centre; Miss Edith Mary Stewart, Birmingham; Miss Katheryn Maude Stewart, Huntsville; Miss Nora Stokes, Abberville.

Miss Annmlyn Vincent Street, Clayton; Miss Eugenia Tate, Montgomery; Miss Agnes Carolina Thomas, Birmingham; Mrs. Florene Ellen Joan Thompson, Birmingham; Mrs. Nettie Smith Thompson, Montgomery, and Miss Ann Thornton, Anniston.

Miss Romona Madeline Whitaker Tripp, Montgomery; Miss Katheryn Tucker, Montgomery; Mrs. Ellie Irene Thrift Turner, Warrior; Miss Annie Olivia Turner, Montgomery; Miss Helen Harris Walker, Birmingham; Mrs. Helen Kelly Walthall, Birmingham; Miss Margaret Warren, Tallassee; Mrs. Rachael Christopher Whitehead, Gadsden.

Miss Virginia Aubrey Williams, Montgomery; Miss Ethel Margaret Wilson, Birmingham; Miss Queen Ester Beverly Winningham; Mrs. Willye Garrett Dasher, Dothan; Miss Evelyn Martha Bryant Edwards, Tuscaloosa, and Miss Annie Laurie Storey, Talladega.

Forms For Property Owners Distributed By District Rent Chief

They Will Be Available Soon; Tenants Asked To Take Issues To Landlords

The forms that the Office of Price Administration require landlords to fill out in registering rental property were being distributed Thursday and will be available to property owners or their agents Friday at all real estate offices in the county, postoffice and other centers.

This was announced Thursday by John G. Million, OPA rent chief in this district, who declared that it will not be necessary to go to his office for the forms as they will be distributed from more convenient places, more to be announced later.

He was preparing also for the publication of necessary information for registrants.

Million has 100,000 of the forms for this defense rental area and they are to be filled out in triplicate and mailed or delivered otherwise to his office, 312 Phoenix Building.

They will be checked carefully at his office and one copy will be returned to the landlord or agent, one to the tenant and one kept on file in the rent office here.

In announcing the distribution of the forms, Million also urged tenants to make every effort possible to settle their rent problems directly with landlords rather than resorting to the services of the government agency.

"If the tenant can do this," Million said, "it not only will be less costly but probably more pleasant in the long run, since the man from whom he rents will continue to be his landlord upon whom he is dependent even after a rent adjustment is made."

Rents for living accommodations in this area are automatically reduced to the highest levels charged on April 1, 1941, and the OPA regulations require that property must be registered.

Mandamus Petition Denied

NEW ORLEANS—(AP)—The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a ruling by Judge T. A. Murphree, of the Northern Alabama District, by denying a petition Tuesday by Ada H. Keith and Bettie Keith for a writ of mandamus directing that they and 22 named tenants in Dallas County, Ala., be permitted to withdraw $21,526 deposited by the government in court registry as compensation for 6,262 and 163.3 acres of condemned land.

The Appellate Court said the District Court's refusal to appoint separate commissioners to fix just compensation for petitioners was neither arbitrary nor unreasonable but held, however, that in such "preferred proceedings," it was the duty of the government "to leave no reasonable step undertaken to bring them to as speedy a conclusion as is reasonably possible."

Ben Duggan To Make Home In Chattanooga

A former assistant city attorney and civic leader for many years in the Central Park section of the city, Ben Duggan will leave Monday for Chattanooga, where he will become associated with the law firm of Sizer, Chambliss and Kefauver.

Among other civic connections Mr. Duggan is retiring president of the Central Park Civitan Club which he served as secretary for two years and is also past president of the Central Park Business Men's Cooperative Club of which he also was secretary for two years. He has been teacher of the Brotherhood Bible Class of the Central Park Baptist Church for the last two and one half years and for several years was an assistant city attorney.

He is also a member of the Central Park Masonic Lodge No. 808. His wife and two daughters, Marion and Barbara, will accompany him to Chattanooga.

A convicted bigamist can be barred from voting in four states.

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