

DES MOINES REGISTER

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“ALL NEW WACS TO BE TRAINED AT DES MOINES”

“Camp Oglethorpe to Close Apr. 1.”

Camp Oglethorpe had been the last WAC training center to open and now with its closure all new WACS will be sent to Fort Des Moines. Fort Des Moines will continue to offer in addition to basic training, specialized schools for cooks, clerks and motor vehicle operators as well as leadership courses for non-commissioned officers.

The choice of Fort Des Moines was well received by all the military personnel there who felt since Fort Des Moines was the original women's military training academy that it should continue. There was no estimate given as to the number of women to be trained.

ALL NEW WACs TO BE TRAINED AT DES MOINES

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Camp Oglethorpe to Close Apr. 1.

All basic and military training of WACs will be consolidated at Fort Des Moines following the closing down of training activities Apr. 1 at Camp Oglethorpe, Ga., the war department announced Thursday.

The women's army corps center at Oglethorpe is the last of five camps established during the expansion period that followed inauguration of the program at Fort Des Moines.

There are some 4,000 officers and enlisted personnel at Oglethorpe at this time, and about 3,500 at the Des Moines center.

No Cutback.

War department spokesmen said the army will seek fewer unskilled women volunteers in 1945, but said there will be no cutback in the number of women taken who are especially qualified for work in army hospitals.

The army wants 22,000 WACs to train as medical and surgical technicians to serve in army hospitals.

The war department announcement said only the Fort Des Moines training center will be needed "for basic and specialized ~~training~~ reduced enlistment quotas for 1945."

Medical and surgical technicians, however, were excepted, the announcement stating that they "will receive specialized training in army medical department schools and hospitals after completion of basic military training."

Specialized Schools.

The Fort Des Moines center, in addition to basic training, has conducted specialized schools for cooks, clerks and motor vehicle operators, and also a leadership course for non-commissioned officers.

Officers here said many WACs, after completing basic training at Fort Des Moines, have been sent to regular army schools, such as quartermaster and adjutant general's department schools, for advanced training in the same classes with men.

Some 90,000 WACs now are in service, including about 15,000 who are overseas. Trainees from Fort Des Moines, the first of whom arrived here July 20, 1942, have gone to military posts in every state and to every major overseas theater of war.

Pleased.

"Naturally, we are glad that Fort Des Moines was chosen as the WAC training center to continue in operation," said Col. Frank U. McCoskrie, commandant at the center, when informed of the war department action.

"This is the original women's military training academy," Colonel McCoskrie said, "and it offers all the advantages of a good military academy."

"Boomtown" was built especially for women in 1942. Barracks which had been constructed previously were altered for women.

"Des Moines has been hospitable to the WACs and we know that our present cordial relations will continue."

Stress on Skills.

The army made clear that its 1945 recruiting program "will stress the enlistment of women possessing specialized skills rather than large numbers."

While no estimates could be obtained as to how many women will be recruited and trained during the coming year, it appears likely that the reduction may be in the neighborhood of 50 per cent.

The navy reduced its recruiting program Dec. 1 to 500 girls a month, these to be used only for replacements.