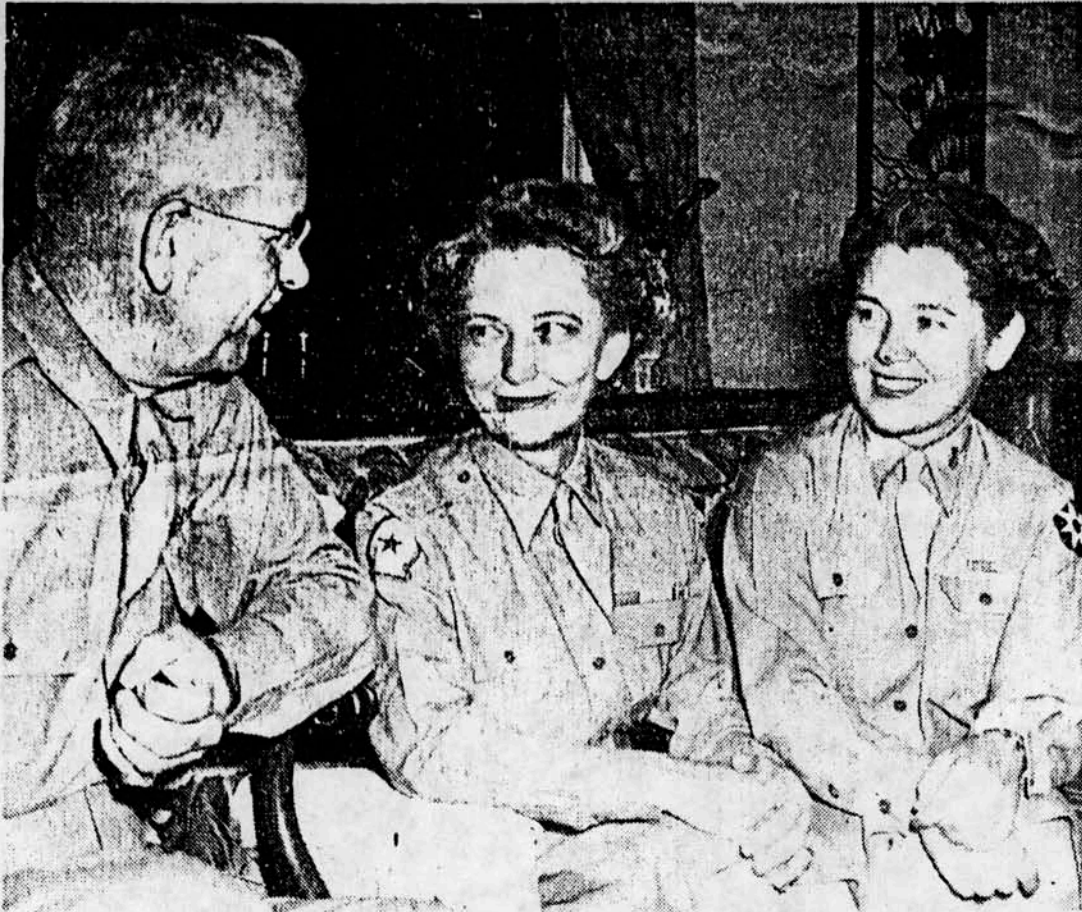


“New WAC Commander Visits Fort Des Moines”

The date of this is unreadable but article content places it approximately in 1945, three years after the opening of Fort Des Moines.

Col. Westray Battle Boyce returns to Fort Des Moines for the third officer candidate graduation. An accompanying photo opportunity shows her with Col. Frank U. McCoskrie, commandant at Fort Des Moines and Col. Mary Louise Milligan, executive officer at Fort Des Moines. Col. Boyce was originally commissioned a second lieutenant at Fort Des Moines on September 12, 1942 and she now returns as their leader.

New WAC Commander Visits Fort Des Moines



Pictured Friday at the home of Col. Frank U. McCoskrie, commandant at Fort Des Moines, are (from left), Colonel McCoskrie, Col. Westray Battle Boyce, successor to Col. Oveta Culp Hobby as head of WAC, and Col. Mary Louise Milligan, executive officer at Fort Des Moines.

A modest little colonel whom the WACs salute as their leader "came home" to Des Moines Friday night.

Col. Westray Battle Boyce, 43, who was appointed director of the women's army corps July 12, flew to Des Moines to attend the officer candidate graduation at Fort Des Moines this morning.

Third Anniversary.

The graduation, which marks the third anniversary of the opening of Fort Des Moines, is the first since her appointment to succeed Col. Oveta Culp Hobby.

Colonel Boyce wears the first Legion of Merit to be awarded a WAC.

"That was earned by 2,000 WACs in the Mediterranean theater," she said. "They couldn't divide it into 2,000 pieces, so they gave it to me."

She served as WAC staff director in the North African theater of operations for more than a year.

Discussing her new position, she said:

"Our hearts are very heavy about Colonel Hobby. She made a great contribution to us. I

only hope that I may be able to do as much."

Praises WACs.

As for the work the WACs have done, Colonel Boyce refused to be modest.

"The girls have done a superior job," she said. "Their performance right here is as good as anywhere, including overseas, for they do the job wherever they are."

Returning to Des Moines was "coming home" for the director because it was here that she was commissioned a second lieutenant on Sept. 12, 1942.

Old Family Name.

Colonel Boyce worked for eight years for government agencies in Washington, D. C., before joining the WAC. Prior to that, she had been employed for a time in an insurance company office at Raleigh, N. C.

Westray is an old family name

and Battle was her maiden name. A widow, Colonel Boyce has an 18-year-old daughter, Westray Battle Boyce, jr., who attends Sweet Briar college.

During her stay, Colonel Boyce is a guest of Col. Frank U. McCoskrie, commandant at Fort Des Moines. An informal reception in her honor will be given at 8 p. m. today at Allen circle by the officers' club. She will leave early Sunday morning for Washington, D. C.