

W3.2 : W84 17



*"I'd rather be with
them . . . than waiting"*

G. I. JANE WRITES HOME FROM OVERSEAS

LIBRARY OF
THE WOMAN'S COLLEGE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO, N. C.

DEDICATION



"I wish I could think of some way to tell the gals what being in the service would do for them — nothing like uniforms, wages, or male companions — but the intangibles.

"The feeling of gladness when you see the boys marching by in fatigues with sweat pouring down their faces. Inside you can say, 'I am doing something. I am helping those boys.'

"The satisfaction and pride that comes with being part of any large group devoted to an unselfish and single purpose — believe me, the gals would be better off for their WAC training.

"I shall continue doing all I can with all I have and be grateful for the chance."



**The Wacs Are Noncombatant Soldiers Backing Up the Front Lines —
"We're Stationed in All Foreign Theaters of War"**

"The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in Africa has proved that women can render definite contributions to the winning of the war, and that their capabilities in this

G. I. Jane Writes Home — While en Route Atlantic Crossing



LEAVING THRILL — "The ride to the ship with all our equipment, the ocean trip aboard a regular Army transport, the thrill of standing on deck and looking at the other ships in our convoy cutting through the water . . . all made me realize that I was starting on the biggest thing in my life."



FLIGHT TO POST — "I swore they'd never get me in a plane unless they ordered me up, and look at me — I volunteered — and we were flown to our post at Goose Bay, Labrador."



G. I. Jane Writes Home — While en Route Pacific Crossing

KING NEPTUNE'S COURT — "What fun we had in crossing-the-Equator initiation. We had to do plenty that was silly. We had to wear our shirts backwards for two days, and paint our faces with big red crosses. We had to stand many watches on deck looking out to sea through spy glasses made of two coke bottles held together with tape . . . At the conclusion of the ceremony before King Neptune's Court they dumped us in a large pool of water."



FIRST Wac ON HEBRIDES — "I am only here temporarily waiting for transportation to my destination. This is a beautiful place. The jungle flowers and vegetation are gorgeous. There are nice beaches and a cool breeze all day. I'm the first Wac who has ever been on this island and I have really been feted. The captain has been driving me everywhere in his jeep."



G. I. Jane Writes Home — From England and France



PREPARING FOR D DAY — "In field clothes with full packs and helmets, we are getting our field training for service in France."

CAN KEEP SECRETS — "Office work in the WAC is very exciting when it means the responsibility of being in on secret information such as a complete picture of shipping facilities on the famous D Day."



A CHANCE IN A MILLION — "We have never had such a chance before to be in on so many interesting things and to learn so much. We feel that we are playing an important part in this history-making war."

ENEMY ATTACKS — "Wacs are highly instrumental in the plotting room and the control tower for the raids carried out by the Marauders. They also plot the course taken by enemy aircraft attacking this country."



HISTORY MAKERS — "One girl said to me: 'Why just think. We will probably be in future history books and our children will read about us.'"

ON THE NORMANDY BEACHHEAD — "I'm so excited I could scream, but I don't intend to let the others down by giving way to the impulse."

G. I. Joe Writes from Normandy Beachhead

"They (Wacs) are proud of themselves and the people back home should know that we are proud of them."



G. I. Jane Writes Home — From England

CAN SPIN YARNS TO GRANDCHILDREN — "We're in England — the same old England you always read about, except now the green fields and valleys are tastefully dotted with G. I. barracks and WAC areas . . . Let me assure you the details of this trip are going to bore my grandchildren for years."



ETON AND WINDSOR CASTLE — "Dad, I have been through Eton! . . . I have seen the beams that were part of the Spanish Armada which were given to the school by Queen Elizabeth . . . Gosh, I could keep rattling on about Eton but I want to tell you about Windsor Castle."



YOUR SOLDIER GAL REPORTING — "Your soldier gal reporting . . . Strange as it may seem right now there are things available to us here that we couldn't get in the States . . . Our biggest worry such as laundry, dry cleaning, shoe repairing, are all taken care of, and let me tell you, Dad, that is a blessing."



SEEING LONDON — "Have visited Buckingham Palace where I saw the changing of the guards and that is like something out of a fairy tale. I have ridden across the famous London Bridge . . . have seen the Tower of London . . . houses of Parliament, the Olde Curiosity Shoppe . . . Have been in Hyde Park and in the streets of Piccadilly and Leicester Square. Westminster Abbey is a spectacle to behold and the services are wonderful."



EXCITING JOB — "My own job is exciting. I'm permitted to say that I am with the Eighth Air Force Intelligence. It's good, clean, hard work — but it's exciting. Add to this me in a strange land with new places to explore and you've got a glimpse into the life of a Wac in the ETO."



CAUSE FOR ENVY — ". . . hope you're envious enough to make up your mind and join. It's an experience no amount of money can buy."



G. I. Jane Writes Home — From North Africa and Italy



UNIQUE QUARTERS — "Through dark and narrow streets we roared, until tired, but still excited we arrived at our quarters, an old French convent outside of town. The convent was still occupied by the nuns and by orphans and refugee French children but we were quickly assigned to bedrooms and then formed up for a more than welcome meal."



RELAXATION AND PLEASURE — "Though we work hard, we have our time off for relaxation and pleasure. No Wac need be lonely or have no place to go out here for all soldiers try hard for the honor of dating a Wac and taking her to beach parties, movies, socials, and dances."



MUTT AND JEFF IN AFRICA — "One of the strange sights I saw one day in North Africa, which is much like the Middle West, was a camel hitched up with a tiny donkey both pulling a plow. It reminded me of Mutt and Jeff."



MOTHER, DON'T WORRY — "Mother, don't you dare worry about me! I love it here and have the best of everything. I have traveled extensively and expect to see a lot before this terrible mess is over. It's no joke, Mom, and this war is no picnic!"



SECRET DOCUMENTS — "Then one day the colonel who is Executive Officer made me his secretary, moved me into the Administrative Office where the walls are covered with maps appropriately decorated with buttons and strings indicating fighting units and the front. Here I fulfilled the secret desire of every Wac — handling secret documents. I still get a thrill out of writing 'SECRET' . . . on papers, and sealing the envelopes with sealing wax."



KEEPS NORTH AFRICA AND WORLD TOGETHER — "All my life I wanted to travel and see strange sights, and now I am doing just that in the Women's Army Corps. Just think what a lucky woman I am, operating a telephone switchboard which connects North Africa with the rest of the world."



NERVE CENTER OF CAMPAIGN — "War goes on twenty-four hours a day, holidays and Sundays, and we take our turns at all the shifts. It is a thrill, whenever we have time to stop and think about it, to be part of the nerve center of the North African campaign. We brush shoulders with some of the most important men in the world; and the nice thing about important men is that they are pleasant and unassuming."

PRECIOUS HOURS — "Off-duty hours are precious. We spend them at the Red Cross building, the shows, the beauty parlors, or perhaps with some French family that has befriended us."



PROUD OF REPUTATION FOR NEATNESS — "We feel very proud of the fact that many compliments have been paid us on being the neatest and cleanest women in uniform, and we are doing all that we can to keep that phrase ringing wherever we may go."



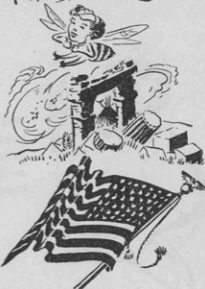
"COSMOPOLITE" — "This world we live in is so cosmopolitan. French, British, South Africans, Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, and Americans. Uniforms of every color, of every type, people of every race, of every creed — but as Carlyle once said 'A mysterious bond of brotherhood makes all men one' — for they are all working toward one goal — to finish this job as soon as possible and return to their homes, their own way of life."

G. I. Jane Writes Home — From North Africa and Italy

A GENERAL SALUTES HIS SECRETARY — "I didn't know what to expect. I hadn't even seen the general. So I walked in and saluted just as smartly as I could and he saluted right back. Then he smiled and put out his hand. General Clark gives dictation perfectly. All his sentences are concise and clear."



HOME FRONT IS WRONG — "Back home I hear girls hesitate to join because they worry about homesickness and Army environment. Actually these two things have been no problem at all. We are so busy we just don't have time to worry about anything else. The environment is just what we hoped it would be. We get no special attention, yet everyone is very nice."



VESUVIUS AND POMPEII — "I've seen Mount Vesuvius and the ruins of Pompeii, and hope to visit Capri."

UNFORGETTABLES — "I'm really proud to be here — the places I've been, the things I've seen, the great people I've met, that certain feeling I get when I stand retreat, the chills that the Star-Spangled Banner sends down my back and the lump that comes in my throat when I salute the flag . . . the letters I get from Dad saying 'I'm proud of you' . . . these are things I'll never forget."

SECRET DESIRE — "Our favorite means of transportation is the jeep . . . and I've a secret desire to take one home with me."



TRIP OVER — "They did everything to make our voyage pleasant. We ate in the Officers Mess . . . there were dances every nite, movies, shows by the GI's, swimming pool . . . like a pleasure cruise, and best of all I wasn't the least bit seasick."



WELCOME DANCE — "We got a wonderful reception . . . band . . . huge WELCOME WAC floral wreath . . . we rode between cheering people. At the big welcoming dance for us the GI's 'mobbed' us, not having seen American girls, some of them, for over two years."

"HUTMENT" LIFE — "We have nice living quarters in a little hutment . . . six Wacs to each hutment . . . scatter rugs on the floor, large mirrors. There are laundry buildings with irons supplied by the Red Cross . . . beautiful scenery all around."



HUSH-HUSH JOB — "I have a very interesting job in the HQ of Army Forces in the Far East, in Supply, and I love it. It's very hush-hush and vital, just the sort of thing I wanted, and I feel very close to the war indeed."

G. I. Jane Writes Home — From Australia



DIFFERENT LAND — "Here in Australia many things are backward, traffic passing on the left. Even saw race horses run clockwise Saturday, my day off. This Saturday I'll try these interesting antique shops . . . and visit the Chinese section."

FOOD AND FRIENDS — "I'm on a per diem allowance for food . . . It's quite generous. Food is delicious and very inexpensive . . . steak dinner five shillings or 80 cents. I'm often taken out to dinner. The boys can't do enough for us and beg for our company. It's very flattering."



THREE MUSKETEERS — "I'm with a very nice bunch of girls . . . I pal around with Sandy and Kaye. We're the three musketeers. It's such an adventure being here. I'm so very glad I joined the WAC. How else would I ever have gone to Australia? . . . Between Hal and me, we'll have plenty to tell our children."

DREAMS — "Won't it be wonderful when all this is over and everyone is home again? 'Cause adventure and interesting experience notwithstanding, I'd sure settle for Hal and peace — you see I'm just a softie at heart."





ALL I HAD EVER DREAMED — "On an off-duty day recently, I flew with a party of British and American officers to the Taj Mahal and we went in the Supremo's plane. The Taj was all I had ever dreamed. All these things are of course a tremendous thrill to me because I never had the faintest idea of seeing them before I joined the Women's Army Corps."



CONTACT WITH BRILLIANT MINDS — "It has been a privilege to work with some high-ranking officers on Lord Louis' staff, and I am constantly thrilled with the brilliant minds of these and other officers. I am delighted with my experience in Army office work which I didn't have before."



"LITTLE WASHINGTON" — "Living and working in New Delhi is much like being at some small city in the United States; in fact, they call New Delhi 'Little Washington.'"



G. I. Jane Writes Home — From India

REUNION IN INDIA — "Guess who came with the new contingent of Wacs the other day! Dotty Drews. So my old 'bunk mate' in a double-decker is with me again. And Helen is here. It's like old home week."



BARRACKS VISTA IN ELEPHANT TILES — "Our new barracks have been built just back of a mansion and I do mean a mansion. It was probably a palace. Blue elephants in white discs border the roof. Each entrance is topped with a blue elephant."



BARBECUE IN INDIA — "Our social life is something to shout about. There are invitations galore for dances, dinners, and parties. Last Sunday I went to an outdoor barbecue at an American home."



G. I. Jane Writes Home — From New Guinea

OUT OF THE SKY — "And then our plane swooped down from the blue Guinea sky, steps were rolled up to it side, the door opened and out we came — Wacs in full field dress carrying about 30 pounds of equipment and clothing."



MAIL CALL — "It's a grand feeling to know that the boys up front will be getting more mail because of the work we do."



A FEELING OF UNITY — . . . "The fellows were so thrilled to have a party, and someone to give it for . . . And most important of all, this outfit had something we hadn't met up with before, a feeling of unity about it from living together and sweating it out through plenty of hot spots (they carried the troops by air to Buna and saw their passengers walk off the strip into action just a few yards away, for one thing) that gave us, in turn, a feeling of being honored to make their acquaintance and share an evening in their Club."

WHY WE'RE HERE — "It (the war) is all around us, and it's why we're here."



THE PHILIPPINES AHEAD — . . . "We've got the Philippines ahead of us, and the kind of reunion in Manila that will be worth all the fighting and at least one double-chocolate-malted victory."

SOME OF THE MEN CAN NOW GO HOME— "Well, anyway, it's nice to know that because we're here some of the men can go home now, before it's all over. And there'll be more of us."





“Quotes”

Letters quoted in this booklet were written by the following members of the WAC:

From Somewhere in

Pvt. Helen C. Bragdon, Larchmont, N. Y.....	New Guinea
Pvt. Dorothy Jane Brown, Cory, Ind.....	England
Pvt. Michaelena J. Cesarano, New York, N. Y.....	England
Sgt. Rita E. Corey New York, N. Y.....	England
Cpl. Helen Coon, New London, Ohio.....	India
Sgt. Averil Curtis, Weston, W. Va.....	England
Cpl. Dorothy Drews, Randolph, Wis.....	India
Sgt. Cecile Dunn, Greenville, Miss.....	Africa
Lt. Margaret Essary, Washington, D. C.....	Australia
Lt. Velma P. Griffith, Scottsburg, Ind.....	New Guinea
Cpl. Geraldine Horne, Lucedale, Miss.....	Italy
Pvt. Ethel S. Horton, Asheville, N. C.....	Africa
Pvt. Mary H. Kirk, Weehawken, N. J.....	Africa
Pvt. Noreen McKusker, Marengo, Iowa.....	Africa
Cpl. Mildred Meyer, Bronx, N. Y.....	France
Pvt. Catherine O'Malley, Brooklyn, N. Y.....	Africa
Sgt. Elizabeth Osmer, Alameda, Calif.....	India
Cpl. Agnes Ruth, Brooklyn, N. Y.....	India
Lt. Suzanne Scarborough, Darien, Conn.....	Australia
Cpl. Sybil Sklar, New York, N. Y.....	Australia, New Guinea
Cpl. Joyce Smith.....	Africa
Cpl. Miriam E. Stehlik.....	Africa
Cpl. Lottie J. Tencza, Garfield, N. J.....	Africa
Sgt. Margaret Teschendorf, Detroit, Mich.....	England
Sgt. Ella C. Wright, Kalama, Wash.....	Africa



What War Correspondents Say About the Wacs

DREW MIDDLETON, New York Times, 7/18/43

PLEASE THE BRITISH, TOO — Allied Headquarters, North Africa — "The Wacs in Africa are a group of extremely hard-driving, competent young women, notable for their ability to keep their mouths shut about forthcoming military operations and for a lively interest in their surroundings . . .

"One British major general, noted throughout his army for being difficult to please, told me: 'These girls would work twenty-four hours a day if you let them. And they keep their mouths shut. Most of them know more secrets than the average general, but we have never had a single case of breach of security by a Wac.' "

ERNIE PYLE, New York World-Telegram, 7/8/43

FOND MOTHERS NEEDN'T WORRY — North Africa — "The fond mothers of Wacs in Africa may have visions of their poor little girls all alone over here in this big bad world of fighting off olive-skinned rogues with one hand and snakes with the other.

"They needn't worry. The girls are perfectly safe. The city they are in is as modern, though in a European way, as cities back home. Thousands of French women and girls, dressed just as Americans dress, crowd the streets at all hours. There are American Army nurses and British nurses, WAAFs, WRENs, and ATS girls, and five different kinds of French service girls in uniform.

"There is the thrill of being in the midst of vital things here, without the drawbacks of either physical danger or spiritual peril."

RITA HUME, Philadelphia Record, 4/13/44

GENERAL CLARK PROUD OF Wacs — Allied Force Headquarters, Italy, April 12 (INS) — "They are the 'farthest forward' Wacs in the world. Up front where tents, mud, and the ability to slide quickly into the nearest fox hole are essential to living, a platoon of Wacs is proving that soldier girls can take front life in their stride . . . They have drawn the most adventurous assignment in the Women's Army Corps. In this job they're the envy of the entire Corps and Lieutenant General Mark Clark's best morale builders.

"'We honestly couldn't—and wouldn't—do without them,' declared the General. 'Their work on the mobile telephone switchboard is not only valuable, it has released men who are now laying important communication wires close to the enemy lines. They're great girls, enthusiastic and hard workers.' "

CATHERINE COYNE, Boston Herald, 7/17/44

BETTER FOR THEIR PRESENCE — U. S. Marshalling Area, England, July 12 (Delayed) — "The first WAC detachment scheduled to invade France . . . is picked and ready to shove off across the Channel tonight. This small hand-picked group of girls, commanded by Captain Isabel B. Kane of Tacoma, Washington, will be an important part of the forward echelon communications zone of the first Army of the U. S. in France.

"Today the girls were friendly morale builders. They played in several hilarious softball games with the boys or just sat on the grass talking. 'Just talk, just talk American,' the boys pleaded, and though at first the girls thought they were being tossed a line, they found the boys were serious.

"Tonight in the canteen the girls are giving the boys an entertainment . . . The whole area echoed with community singing tonight. This bleak and barren jumping-off place certainly was better for the presence of these pioneer Wacs. Now they are looking toward France."

JUDY BARDEN, New York Sun, 7/17/44

WAC LANDING IN FRANCE — Cherbourg Peninsula, July 14 (Delayed) — "The first contingent of Wacs has arrived in France for Bastille Day . . . The girls traveled across the Channel two or three to a cabin in the peacetime troop carrier ship in which we made the trip . . . As a newspaper correspondent I was able to go about the ship, and I encountered in the men's section Captain Thomas Frawley, 455 West 23d Street, Manhattan, whom I had met soon after his arrival in England . . . Over lemonade, he told me how proud all the American boys were of their Wac Army.

"'They are proud of themselves,' he said, 'and the people back home should know that we are proud of them.' "

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR EVERY WAC



A share in the honor and glory . . . a deep rich taste of the fruits of victory.

A dream of service fulfilled. A tremendous pride in a job well done.

The eternal respect and gratitude of the Army of the United States . . . and of all America.

A new poise. A new wisdom. A new understanding. A new grasp of world problems, and new skills with which to work for everlasting peace.

A new ability to take her place in a postwar world. A better chance to make her dreams and ambitions come true.

This is what the future holds for a woman who has truly shared the work of war with men . . .

This is what the future holds for a Wac.

If you, too, would "RATHER BE WITH THEM THAN WAITING" . . . go to your nearest U. S. Army Recruiting Station for full information today.

GOOD SOLDIERS . . .
the WAC*

LB-X-66-RPB-10-10-44-125M



*Women's Army Corps

LIBRARY OF
THE WOMAN'S COLLEGE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO, N. C.