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WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

When the United States entered World War II, American women were called upon to serve the nation in various ways. Record numbers of women entered the lines of factory workers, helping American War industry meet the wartime production demands. Ships, tanks, planes, weapons and ammunition were produced in record numbers due to efforts of American women. Likewise, women also took up the call and entered military service as well. In all, approximately 290,000 women filled non combatant roles in support of the G.I.'s overseas and at home. Compiled in the following paragraphs are some facts in brief:

Numbers of Women that served in:

- Women's Army Auxiliary Corps or Women's Army Corps (WAAC/WAC) - 153,611
- Army Nurse Corps (ANC) ~ 60,000.
- Navy – Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES) -98,830.
- Marine Corps Women's Reserve (MCWR) - 22,709
- Coast Guard – Semper Paritus Always Ready - (SPARS) ~ 13,000.
- Navy Nurse Corps (NNC) ~ 14,000.
- Women's Air Service Pilots (WASPS) about 1,000. These women held civilian status, were all white, made less money than male counterparts, and could not fly in the cockpit with men. The WASPs were terminated in 1944, and it was not until 1977 that Congress granted the WASPS veteran status.

Why women were needed to serve:

- Manpower shortage.
- The nature of war had become transformed. Military technology meant fewer soldiers were engaged in battle. This is illustrated by the fact that approximately 25% of all soldiers never left the U.S., and [only 1/8 of the soldiers ever saw combat.](#)

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- Increasing civilian nature of many duties. Ten percent of military personnel were involved in clerical and administrative duties. These were activities performed by women in the civilian labor force. There was a general belief that women were more dexterous than men and had a greater ability to perform repetitive, monotonous tasks.
- Women role in the military was a result of military need and pressure from influential women.

Family/Dependents:

- WACs could not be married.
- Could not have children under 14 years of age.
- Only received benefits for dependents if she proved she was the family's main means of support.

New Fundamentals for World War II:

- Women participated in every activity except combat.
- Women gained permanent, regular status in the military.
- Women's work in military paralleled that in the general labor force.
- Few trained in "men's work" Most often in office, communications, and health care.
- WAACs/WACs stationed overseas from the early days of the War.
- WAVES did not go overseas until 1944.

Social Regulations:

Within the WAC, but not the WAVES, social relations between officers and enlisted personnel were prohibited.

Want to know more? Go to this new site!

<http://www.mscd.edu/%7Ehistory/camphale/index.html>

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Above: WAC stationed at Camp Hale



SOUND OFF!

Part of any group is participation – participation by your presence - by your thoughts and actions when called on – by your regular attendance in events when you are available.



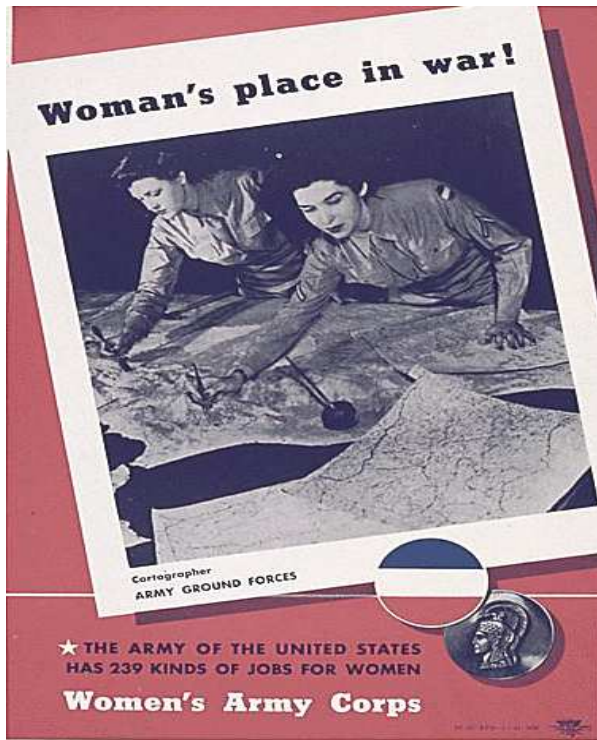
As members in an all-volunteer group, your membership and participation if key to the success of the overall group. In short, we need YOU to participate every chance you get. A couple of active people is not an effective group – 20 people who share both the burdens and the fun IS effective. Please help keep this group effective in what we do with your participation.

I personally would like to thank each of you for your participation, because I know that it takes time away from other things that you could be doing. For every minute you have spent with this fine group – THANK YOU!

Your friend;

Dave Little





WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Ultimately, more than 150,000 American women served in the Army during World War II. The overall philosophy and purpose of the Women's Army Corps was to allow women to aid the American war effort directly and individually. The prevailing philosophy was that women could best support the war effort by performing noncombatant military jobs for which they were already trained. This allowed the Army to make the most efficient use of available labor and free men to perform essential combat duties.

The concept of women in uniform was difficult for American society of the 1940s to accept. In a 1939 Army staff study which addressed the probability that women would serve in some capacity with the Army, a male officer wrote that "women's probable jobs would include those of hostess, librarians, canteen clerks, cooks and waitresses, chauffeurs, messengers, and strolling minstrels." No mention was made in this report of the highly skilled office jobs which the majority of WACs eventually held, because such positions often carried with them significant responsibility and many people doubted that women were capable of handling such jobs.

Although women in key leadership roles both within and outside the government realized that American

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women were indeed capable of contributing substantially to the war effort, even they accepted the prevailing stereotypes which portrayed women as best suited for tasks which demanded precision, repetition, and attention to detail. These factors, coupled with the post-Depression fear that women in uniform might take jobs from civilians, limited the initial range of employment for the first wave of women in the Army.

Traditional restrictions on female employment in American society were broken during World War II by the critical labor shortage faced by all sectors of the economy. As "Rosie the Riveter" demonstrated her capabilities in previously male-dominated civilian industries, women in the Army broke the stereotypes which restricted them, moving into positions well outside of traditional roles. Overcoming slander by many Americans, a phenomenon shared by their British and Canadian sisters in uniform, American women persisted in their service and significantly contributed to the war effort. The 1943 transition from auxiliary status to the Women's Army Corps was de facto recognition of their valuable service.

The Women's Army Corps was successful because its mission; to aid the United States in time of war. This was part of a larger national effort that required selfless sacrifice from all Americans. The war effort initiated vast economic and social changes, and indelibly altered the role of women in American society and the military.

- Source: Susan Hartmann, [The Home Front and Beyond: American Women in the 1940s](#) (Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1982). - CMH online



FOOD!

We've significantly improved our ability to prepare meals in the camp site this coming year. With a small kitchen set, officer's mess table and the equipment we've owned in the past, meals at these events should improve dramatically! Now we need to know what you'll want to eat when you show up!



2005 CALENDAR:

Here is an initial calendar for your review. Please look at the dates and make a commitment based on what you can do. If we don't get enough interest, Dave can call these folks and gracefully bow out. There are a few events that we

need to do every year, based on long-standing commitments (in **RED**). If you are only available to do a few events, these are the ones to do!

2005 Tenth Mountain Calendar

January 23rd Loveland, CO Annual Meeting

Feb 25th - 27th Camp Hale, CO
"Operation Blizzard" - Winter Campout

Feb 25th ??? Leadville, CO *10th Mountain Ski Day*. - Come to Leadville and Ski with the 10th Veterans at Ski Cooper.

➔ Somewhere in this time period a documentary will be shot about the 10th at Camp Hale, and extras will be needed. Call Dave Little for details ←

April (date to follow) Highlands Ranch, CO
History Day at Ranchview Middle School. For our 7th year, we'll do a presentation for the 8th grade class.

April 5th Flood Jr. High Englewood, CO
"Kilroy Was Here" *History Day* Beginning at 7:15 am, this is a return engagement when we can reach an entire school in one day!



*** May 30th Tennessee Pass (outside of Leadville), CO Memorial Day Ceremonies honoring the 10th Mountain Division at the site of their memorial. Members of the 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group will support the ceremonies. This is #1 on out duties to**

the veterans and the public! Be There!

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June 11th - 12th Kiowa, CO *Kiowa Highlands Games* - The 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group will set up an encampment - other groups welcome.

July 2nd - 4th Vail, CO *4th of July Parade and Display* We'll set up at Vail Covered Bridge

July 22nd - 24th Cheyenne, WY *Cheyenne Frontier Days / Fort DA Russell Days*. - The 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group will set up an encampment - other groups welcome.

August 5th - 7th Leadville, CO *Leadville Boom Days* We'll set up our exhibit in the usual spot - vehicle transport available for jeeps & larger!

August 13th - 14th Highlands Ranch, CO *Colorado Scottish Festival* - We will set up a large encampment - other groups welcome.

Sept. 9th - 11th Estes Park, CO *Rocky Mountain Highlands Festival* This is the **BIG ONE!** We will set up a large encampment - other groups welcome.

Sept. ? Vail, CO Vail Oktoberfest.

Nov. 5th (?) Colorado Springs, CO *Veteran's Day Parade* The 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group will march in Colorado Springs' Veteran's Day Parade.

Nov. ? Denver, CO *Colorado Ski Expo* at the Colorado Convention Center in conjunction with the Colorado Ski Museum.



LEADVILLE IN BOUNDS FOR CAMP HALE SOLDIERS

Leadville, Feb 23. -(AP) - The out-of-bounds ban against Camp Hale Soldiers visiting Leadville was lifted today by Col. L.D. Bogan, commanding officer of the mountain troop training base. Leadville was declared out-of-bounds for Camp Hale Soldiers last November. City, county and health officers have been at work since to meet army requirements on liquor and social disease control.

(Rocky Mountain News 2-24-43)



HELP A GUY OUT!



If you are willing to loan a few items to the Army for a week or so, they'd sure be grateful! In conjunction with the film crew at Camp Hale (see CALENDAR – February's events), they will be filming in **Italy** in early February for about 10 days. We have been asked to provide uniforms for one WWII vet (Bob Parker) and one active duty soldier (MSgt Pat Muir). To pull this off, we need the following items:

Bob Parker

Shoes:	10 EE
Mountain Pants:	36 waist, 30 inseam
Sweater:	Large
Shirt:	16 x 34
Mountain Jacket:	42 or 44
Mittens:	Large
Hat:	7½"

SSG Pat Muir:

Shoe Size	9 D
Mountain Pants	33 waist 32 inseam
Sweater	Large
Shirt:	16½ x 33
Mittens	Medium,
Hat:	7½"

The uniforms will be returned clean & ready to wear, but will provide both local color and good scenic backdrop as these guys are being filmed. Plus you'll be able to claim you uniform is a veteran of Riva Ridge and other battle sites. Call Dave Little if you can lend a hand! (303) 470-6921 ASAP!

Want to go to Italy? Sorry – you're on your own!

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APATHY IS A MAJOR SOCIAL PROBLEM - BUT WHO CARES?

Actually, it is-and we all should care because it's enthusiasm, not apathy, that makes the world go 'round. John Wesley, the famous founder of Methodism, was asked how he was able to attract such crowds when he preached. He replied, "I just set myself on fire and people will come from miles to watch me burn."

Being enthusiastic isn't merely talking energetically and gesturing wildly about your passion. It can take a quieter path. Maybe your enthusiasm is revealed by the earnestness and persistence with which you seek to get others involved. Maybe it's shown by your strength of commitment, your refusal to become discouraged. Maybe it's that spark in your eye, or that warm smile, and the unmistakable genuineness that emanates from you as you explain, again and again, your mission.

Our mission is the story of the Tenth Mountain Division - let's stay enthusiastic!



TENTH MOUNTAIN CD-ROM?

We are working on a reference CD-ROM for our member's access. It is planned to have the following on it for your reference:

Our "Uniform Guide"

Our "Safety & Risk Management Guide"

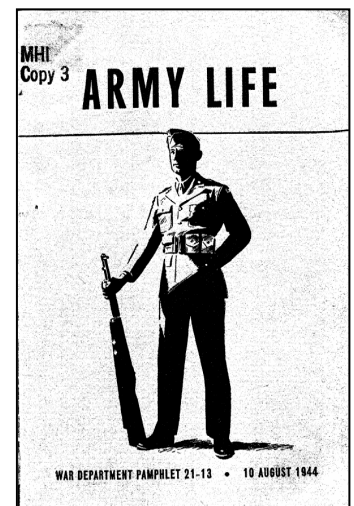
A complete version of the 1944 manual "ARMY LIFE" – all 182 pages! (War Department Pamphlet 21-13)

Forms, applications, waivers, etc.

Unit Histories for all 3 Regiments

Bunches of fun stuff like printable forms for day passes, immunization records and a lot more!

Look for a sample at the Annual Meeting!





TO CONTRIBUTE:

Send Ideas, Stories and Pictures to:

Michael Voelkelt
 6761 S. Washington St.
 Centennial, CO. 80122
mvoel7@netzero.com



THINK ABOUT IT !

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YOUR SERVICE RIBBONS – WHAT THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY MEAN.

Each ribbon on your uniform has some meaning – both to you and to those around you. The following ribbons signify service, and should only be worn as specified. Do you have these Ribbons? Do you know what they mean within our group?



Good Conduct – worn for 3 years good service



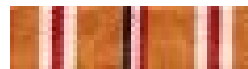
American Defense Service – worn by those who were around at the founding of the unit



American Theater Campaign – every member is eligible to wear this, to honor the service of the 10th Mountain veterans.



Europe Africa Middle East Campaign – every member is eligible to wear this, to honor the service of the 10th Mountain veterans.



Asiatic Pacific Campaign – only worn if your impression is for a soldier who served on Kiska



WWII Victory – every member is eligible to wear this, to honor the service of the 10th Mountain veterans.



These ribbons have a specific order – here is how they are worn all together. For more information, go to <http://armyawards.com/awards.shtml>

No other ribbons shall be worn unless earned by the wearer in military service.

SOMETHING FUN!

Unofficial plans are in the works for a fun "Class A" outing in the early part of the year. Those of us who have spouses who tolerate our hobby and even encourage us deserve some fun time and a little recognition, not to mention an event where you don't come home with camo net in your teeth and a sore back!

Scott Koskie is exploring the idea of a ***Class A Date Night*** – a chance to bring your partner or just a friend out on the town, and to be seen with a bunch of guys and gals in uniform. As much as possible, we'll encourage but NOT REQUIRE '40's style attire for both men and women. We are hoping to go to dinner and a play, or something similar. If you are interested, please let Scott know. He can be reached at:

Scott Koskie, 14570 N Co. Rd 7, Wellington, Co. 80549



→ NOT ON THE CALENDAR ←

Not noted in the official planner is the possibility of a trip to Vermont in September. We have been penciled in as possible exhibit for the 2005 International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) summit in Stowe, VT. As this would be a MAJOR trip, we need to ask for volunteers who could make the trip for a week. I've offered our services and the Army will put us up – I'm trying to get them to transport us (or the equipment) to Stowe as a training exercise. Wish us luck!

If you are crazy enough to want to do this, and can take the time off work, see Dave Little

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WHAT ARE THOSE PATCHES?

If you look closely at the picture of the WACs on page 2, you can tell they are not wearing the 10th Mountain patch. You are right – it's the 7th Service Command patch!



The 7th Service Command had its headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska and was responsible for Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The official patch is the center example – the upper patch is an early version, seen in both black and blue backgrounds. Some conjecture is that this is an "Officer's" version, but this has NOT been fully documented. The official version is what appears on Camp Hale's signs and in period photographs.

The lower patch is the generic Army Service Forces patch, worn by support staff in transit or not assigned to a base station.

Because of ARMY rules at the time about NO women in service with a combat unit, no women officially wore the 10th patch in WWII.

If you'd like to learn more, check out the web site noted on page 2 – it's well worth your time!



LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN:

The *Tenth Mountain Division Living History Display Group, Inc.* is looking for a few good men and women who want to learn history at the feet of the men who made it. With our strong relationship with the WWII veterans, we are charged to learn their story and to tell it to the public. We have been established for 22 years and are recognized by the State of Colorado and the IRS as a not-for-profit corporation.



1198 Thornbury Place
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129