



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Women's Army Corps (WAC) Photography

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2022

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Women's Army Corps (WAC) Photography
Date:	1942-05-16 1940s
Identifier:	NASM.2022.0004
Extent:	.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	King George VI of Great Britain and Queen Elizabeth with American General James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle of the Eighth Air Force visited the billet and post exchange at the headquarters in London, England on May 16, 1945 for the third anniversary of the US Women's Army Corps (WAC).
Digital Content:	Image(s): NASM-9A18825: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visit WAC, May 16, 1945 Image(s): US Women's Army Corps Photographs

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Laura Lavine, Gift, 2022, NASM.2022.0004. Additional material added in 2024.

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Amara Pugens, 2022. Updated by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2024.

Preferred Citation

Women's Army Corps Photography, NASM.2022.0004, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was a US Army unit created during World War II to enable women to serve in noncombat positions. It was first established as the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) on May 15, 1942 but dropped "Auxiliary" when it gained active-duty status on July 1, 1943. Women who served often held clerical jobs such as file clerk, stenographer, and switchboard operator, but also nontraditional roles such as radio operator, mechanic, and cryptologist. During World War II, about half of the WAC personnel were sent overseas to serve in Europe. Some of the first assignments were with the Eighth Air Force at the US Strategic and Tactical Air Forces. The WAC continued operations through the Vietnam War until 1978 when all female and male units were integrated.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of seven photographs relating to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's inspection of the US Women's Army Corps (WAC) assigned to the Eighth Air Force at the US Strategic and Tactical Air Forces in Europe. Visiting their Headquarters in London on May 16, 1945, they were joined by American General Jimmy Doolittle to celebrate the WAC's third anniversary.

In May 2024, the donor sent an additional 31 black and white photographs of various sizes relating to the Women's Army Corps (WAC). Some of the prints are duplicates. Included in these photographs are additional views pertaining to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's inspection visit, a portrait of Jimmy Doolittle, personnel, an air-to-air view of an aircraft in flight, aircraft on the ground, and facilities. Some of the photos are marked on the reverse indicating they were printed at Base Headquarters, Patterson Field and with a note, "Please credit official AAF Fairfield AR Service Command Photo." Note: these additional photographs have not been scanned.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Aeronautics

Names:

Doolittle, James Harold, 1896-1993

Elizabeth, Queen, consort of George VI, King of Great Britain, 1900-2002

George VI, King of Great Britain, 1895-1952

United States. Army. Women's Army Auxiliary Corps