

# WAC Bands



WAC BANDS  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS CENTER  
Fort McClellan, Alabama

BAND

One of the more colorful units on The Women's Army Corps Center is the WAC Band, the only WAC Band in existence. Permanently stationed on The Center, the Band's primary duty is as a training Band. It furnishes music for parades and other military ceremonies.

However, the members of the WAC Band are versatile musicians and can turn their hands to concert music or dance rhythms. As a concert unit, the WAC Band has gained national recognition. It has toured major cities of five Army areas.

This unit was the first WAC Band to march in an inaugural parade when they played in President Eisenhower's inaugural ceremonies. Radio and television are no strangers either to the WAC musicians. They played five concerts at the Auto-Lite Show at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York and this summer gave a concert in the Capitol Plaza, Washington, D.C.

Officially designated as the 14th Army Band, their history as a unit goes nearly to the beginning of the Corps. Organized in 1941 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, under the title of the 400th Army Band, they were transferred to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation at the close of the war.

The Band was inactivated at Camp Stoneman, California, in April, 1947, but came to life again shortly after the WAC became a part of the Regular Army in 1948. Re-named the 14th Army Band, they were transferred to the U.S. Center at Fort Lee, Virginia.

They have since grown in size and fame, making their national radio debut in 1951. For public appearances Band members wear the specially authorized white scarves and shoulder braids. Director and commander of the WAC Band is First Lieutenant Alice V. Peters; her assistant director is Second Lieutenant Rita Thoman.

## WAC Band Is Smart Outfit And Is Only One Of Kind

One of the more colorful units in the Capitol Plaza, Washington, D.C. is the WAC Band, the only WAC Band in existence. Permanently stationed on The Center, the Band's primary duty is as a training band. It furnishes music for parades and other military ceremonies.

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*The ANNISTON STAR*  
36 SEP 7 54

Afro-American (Negro)  
Baltimore, Md.  
DATE FEB 10 1945  
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## The Feminine Touch

Here's Only WAC Full-Time Band

The 400th Army Service Force (all-Negro) Band practice in front of its barracks at First WAC Training Center, Fort Des Moines, Ia. The 25-piece band is under the direction of 774 (Sgt.) Lenora J. Hull of Jacksonville, Fla. Sgt. Hull received her A.S. degree in Music from Fla. University, Nashville, Tenn., and attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio. Prior to joining the Women's Army Corps, she taught music at the South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, S.C., for three years, and for one year at Dillard University in New Orleans, La. The drum major, pictured in center foreground is 775 (Cpl.) Lillian F. Brown of New York City. Second Lieut. Ernestine L. Woods commanding officer of the band is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Woods of Stamford, Conn.

"WITH THE WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS"

*Negro WAC Band*

FIRST NEGRO WAC BAND MAKES DEBUT AT FORT DES MOINES

FORT DES MOINES, Iowa — The first Negro WAC band, which was organized in September and at present is composed of 19 musicians, made its initial appearance here recently at the re-opening of one of the Service clubs.

The band, with Second Lieutenant Alice M. McAlpine of Springfield, Massachusetts, as its commanding officer, is under the direction of Master Sergeant Joan Lamb of Cleveland, Ohio, a graduate of the Army Music School.

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