

Two Negro Women Now Taking SPAR Training in New York

Two Negro women recruits to the SPARS, Olivia J. Hooker, of Columbus, Ohio, and Aileen A. Cooke, of Los Angeles, Calif., are now taking "boot" training at the Manhattan Beach, N. Y., Coast Guard Training Station, United States Coast Guard official in Washington announced this week.

Miss Hooker, a former public school teacher in Columbus, was born in Muskogee, Okla., attended Central High School in Columbus and graduated from Ohio State University in the class of June 1937, with a degree of B. S. in Education. She is a member of the Ohio Education Association, Colored Teachers Federation and the National Education Association.

Miss Cooke is the daughter of a Navy man, Allen A. Cooke, steward first class, and received her high school education at Pasadena Junior College and attended the University of Southern California for three years, majoring in psychology. Before her induction, she was employed as a clerk-typist at an Army Signal Depot in Los Angeles.

SPARS are women's reserve of the Coast Guard and their recruitment program was enlarged last fall along with other branches of the naval program to include Negro women. "Boot" training courses last six weeks. All SPARS who receive "boot" training at Manhattan Beach are assigned to District Coast Guard units or are sent to specialty schools.

The SPARS discontinued their Officers Training School last summer.

Veteran of Two Wars Lands in Same Port

WITH U. S. TROOPS, COUTH-ERN FRANCE—Disembarkation at the same southern French port in two wars is the unusual experience of First Sergeant Samuel Devaughn, 330 Braggsmith Street, Columbus, Georgia, now serving with Company A, 41st Engineers. Sergeant Devaughn enlisted in 1917 with the old 24th Infantry and in 1918 went overseas and fought in France.

"What's different from the last war in France," he said, "is that this time there are far more negro soldiers in action." He added that in the last World War, the old 92nd Division with elements of the 8th Illinois, 15th New York National Guard and the 370th were the only Negro outfits in combat.

In 1940, he was assigned to the 41st Engineers and in the same year went overseas with them to North Africa. Here he had the pleasure of meeting President Roosevelt while acting as his chauffeur when the late President toured the country in company with President Bar-

clay of Liberia.

"I have a deep and profound admiration for the people of the Liberian Republic," said Sergeant Devaughn adding, "they are so warm, sympathetic, understanding, and hospitable to all." He took an active part in promoting closer relations between the United States and the Liberian Republic and received the coveted Legion of Merit for his services.

His wife, Mrs. Katherine Devaughn, lives in Columbus, Ga.

Red Cross Ringers

Combat Swimming Courses For Redeployed Troops

In the 18 months before V-E Day, 125,000 men received American Red Cross-directed combat swimming instruction in Hawaii, and now the program is being stepped up, at military request, for troops awaiting redeployment to the Pacific.

ARC Transmits POW Messages

Twenty-five thousand liberated American prisoners of war have already cabled to their families in the U. S. through the special American Red Cross communications system set up early this month.



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