

anchors aweigh

SALEM'S FIRST WAVES PLATOON LEAVES TODAY

Photos by Kennell-Ellis



Marjory Rutherford



Grace E. Wall



Erma L. Graham



Merna J. Bissel



Genevieve C. Whelan



Elverta Minton



Dorothy L. Anderson



Viola C. Schultz



Martha R. Higdon



Elma H. Hoffman



Frieda E. Tredup



Mary E. Lovett



Shirley D. Johnson



Geraldine M. McGuire



Roberta Keefe



Myrtle M. McDonald



Nevelyn G. Branchflower



Maxine J. Scalf



Irma J. Huber



Alice E. Humphreys



Velma L. Yeoman



Katherine M. Montandon



Judith C. Jensen



Evelyn M. Berger

FIRST ALL-OREGON WAVES PLATOON to ENTRAIN for HUNTER COLLEGE, N.Y.

Through special permission this Waves platoon from Oregon will remain together throughout indoctrination training with their own recruit petty officers. Lt. Elizabeth Hill, Senior Waves Officer in Oregon, will be in charge of the group during trip to Hunter College.

Women Ages 20 to 30 Needed Now—
Write or Call at U. S. Navy Recruiting Office, Post Office Building

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IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

Next Sunday afternoon 25 young women from Salem and vicinity who have been recruited by the Salem naval recruiting office will leave to enter duty as WAVES. Others will join them in Portland to make up a full platoon of 32 who will go on to New York for training at Hunter college. This is the first time that a full platoon has been dispatched at once, and is testimony to the diligence of the local recruiting office and the response of Oregon young women.

However, those in charge of the recruiting station here say that they are running head-on into public complacency traceable to the feeling that the war is about over. Some girls have come in and inquired if they could get through their training course of four or eight weeks "before the war is over!" The progress of military action in Europe is causing a premature letdown at home. General Eisenhower said Tuesday that our armies are still a long way from the Rhine, which a glance at the map will show; and Germany's defense of its homeland will be fierce. So the war even in Europe isn't over, and no one can set a date for its termination other than by guesswork.

As far as the navy is concerned, its need for WAVES is increasing rather than lessening. A new ship for the navy is launched every two hours on the average. To man these ships men are required, and the navy is draining its shore stations of all eligible men for sea duty. This means that women must be obtained to handle the duties formerly taken care of by men. Right now there is a marked expansion in navy hospitals to take care of sick and wounded. This calls for more women (WAVES) for administrative duties. It is anticipated that congress will soon open foreign duty to WAVES so that those who volunteer for such duty may be sent to naval bases overseas.

After the war in Europe is over there will remain the war in the Pacific, which is largely a navy show, and the navy expects no pause for months ahead. In other words the war is a long way from being over as far as the need for WAVES is concerned.

It does seem that enlistment in this fine organization is a rare privilege and opportunity for young women. WAVES whom I have seen appear to be most enthusiastic over their work. They praise the treatment they receive in the navy and feel the thrill of taking part in a great enterprise and of really doing their turn for their country.

From a practical standpoint the WAVE gets many advantages—specialized training in work of her choice, the same pay and benefits and insurance as navy men of equal rating. After the war the WAVES will share in the provisions of the GI law for additional education, hospitalization, loan benefits, etc. And of course they will carry through life the proud distinction of having served in the armed service of their country during war.

It would seem except for those with prior responsibilities that eligible young women should be eager to "join up" both for what they may receive and what they may give to their country now.

★
BE IN THE NEXT GROUP TO GO!
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RELEASE A MAN TO FIGHT AT SEA!

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