

# FIRST WOC UNIT WITHIN A MONTH RIGHT FROM U.S.A.

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**Women's Overseas Corps  
Will Do S.O.S. Typing  
and Record Work**

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**5,000 NOW BEING RECRUITED**

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**They'll Wear Uniforms and Live in  
Billets—Don't Confuse Them  
With the Waacs**

The Wocs are coming.

Five thousand women are to be brought from the United States to be a part of the A.E.F.

The first contingent of the Women's Overseas Corps—yes, the Wocs—will arrive in France within a month. Recruiting of other units, up to the 5,000 limit now set, will be carried on rapidly to meet the demands of the big departments of the S.O.S. for typists and record workers.

The new corps will consist of companies of 50 women each. The members of the W.O.C. will be under soldierly discipline and wear uniforms, although it is not expected that the discipline and general regulations will be so closely defined as for the W.A.A.C. of the British Army.

## **May Not Have to Salute**

It is expected that the Wocs will live in billets—probably special hotels—instead of in camps, as under the British plan, although this detail has not been finally decided. It is not expected they will march in formations or observe the formalities of the salute.

The uniform will be of black, tailored on stern, simple lines, and the hat will be a black, broad-brimmed, untrimmed affair. The uniform will resemble very closely the uniform worn by the women telephone operators with the A.E.F.

## Women's Overseas Corps

Miss Elsie L. Gunther, head of the Labor Bureau, S.O.S., is in the States arranging to bring the first contingent to France. She was a secretary in the office of the commanding officer of the first Plattsburg training school for officers. She also served at one time as secretary for Major General Leonard W. Wood.

### Director in Command

There will be a director in command of the W.O.C. and each unit will be in charge of a supervisor. It has not been decided whether girls who came to France as typists in the Q.M., Signal Corps and Ordnance Departments will be brought directly into the new organization. Another question undecided deals with recruiting girls in England and France.

A large number of Waacs are now working in the Central Records Office, S.O.S. They live in camps and are under the same regulations that govern similar units with the British Army.

It is planned at present to limit the work done by the W.O.C. to inside office tasks, although it is possible that women may later be recruited to drive ambulances and other motor cars.

### High Standard of Personnel

The Labor Bureau plans to make the new service as attractive as possible, with a view to maintaining a very high standard of personnel. Only women of proved capability in civil employments, with a meritorious record of living, are to be accepted. Expert stenographers are particularly needed as secretaries in some departments. Officers say that, in addition to freeing men for other duties, the women will be able to perform these secretarial duties much better than men.

Hundreds of French girls already have given invaluable service in S.O.S. departments, many of them having overcome the handicaps of a language only partly familiar to them at the time of their employment.