

THE PRESS



Iris Carpenter of The Boston Globe

The Rhine Maidens

A redhead, a blonde, and a brunette last week had press-relations officers at Allied Supreme Headquarters in Paris in a stew. They were:

- Lee Carson, titian-haired correspondent of the International News Service.
- Iris Carpenter, Hellenic-looking blonde who is correspondent for The Boston Globe and The London Herald.
- Ann Stringer, brunette correspondent of the United Press.

In the strictly male Army view, the three women were out of bounds. They were up on the front lines, miles beyond the limits PRO regulations set for women correspondents: that is, no closer to the front lines than Wacs or Army nurses may go. Currently all three are with the First Army: Miss Carson at the Remagen bridgehead, Miss Carpenter in the same area, and Mrs. Stringer at Bonn, near the point where these troops made their Rhine junction with the Third.

Miss Carson, rated as Washington's best-looking woman correspondent before she went abroad, reached Normandy two weeks after D Day. So did Miss Carpenter. Miss Carson tied up with the Ninth Air Force, switched to the Third Army in time to enter Paris with it and only recently joined the First. Miss Carpenter charmed her way from rear to advance hospital bases, then thumbed jeep rides to the front.

Mrs. Stringer was a comparatively late arrival. The widow of William Stringer, American-born Reuters man who was killed in Normandy last August, she hit front pages recently with a vivid eyewitness account of the bitter struggle to clear German snipers out of Jülich, northwest of Cologne. SHAEF reprimanded her for being so close to combat but took no stricter action.

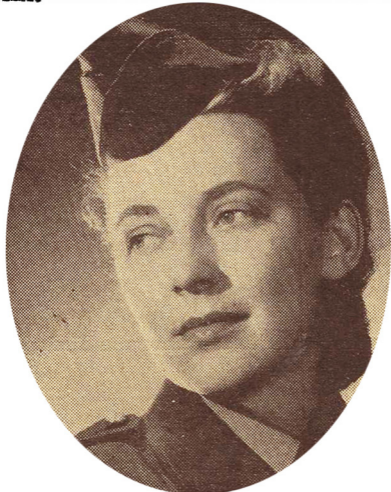
The Redhead, Blonde and Brunette



Lee Carson, INS correspondent

Destination Berlin: The Army's Chesterfieldian view is that the presence of women up front distracts the soldier. But the three correspondents had disproved this. They asked no favors and gave none. They dug their own foxholes, and took front-line life without complaint. But other women correspondents in Paris demanded irately: "If they can, why can't we?"

The upshot was that SHAEF reiterated its ban. The three women replied in effect the "Nuts" of Bastogne fame. Only MP's, they said, could drag them back. Recently Steve Early, President Roosevelt's secretary, visited the front. Miss Carson spied him and cried: "Gee, Steve, am I ever glad to see you! Fix this thing up for me." Early merely replied "Hello, Lee." In Paris, the press corps was betting the three would go on to Berlin.



Ann Stringer, UP correspondent