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The First Year



*A Study
of Women's Participation
in Federal
Defense Activities*



The First Year



*A Study of Women's Participation
in Federal
Defense Activities*

BY LUCILLE FOSTER McMILLIN

United States
Civil Service Commissioner



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1941

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UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Form 3788—September 1941

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PREFACE

THE WOMEN of the United States are taking an increasingly important part in the national-defense program. Their duties have spread on the home front. As the manpower of the country continues to be drawn into the heavy industries of defense—as men are inducted into the land and sea forces of the Nation—there will be a growing need for their participation in those activities on the governmental and industrial fronts which are paramount in the national effort totally to arm and to defend our country, morally and physically.

The Federal Government has recognized the situation. In order to meet the task of securing additional qualified workers because of the withdrawal of men, the heads of its departments and independent establishments have been urged by the United States Civil Service Commission to explore the possibility of employing women for use in those occupations in which, heretofore, women have not been widely engaged. The Civil Service Commission has recommended that provision be made for training courses which will prepare women to qualify for and fill many of the positions essential to the prosecution of the national-defense program.

Great events have always carried women forward in their quest to find a secure place in the fields of labor. Nevertheless, their primary instinct has been, and still is, to cherish their greater interest in the protection of the home, the family, and the community.

Pioneer women found it necessary to join men in the protection of the home, the family, and the community against the dangers of new frontiers. They found it necessary to wield the axe which was to push back the wilderness; to assist in tilling

the cleared soil; to plant and to reap the harvest in order that the family might eat and the community prosper.

During the early years of the Republic, and through their age-old fight for the right to franchise, women have stood in the front ranks of those who have fostered great movements of community effort in extending education, culture, and better living conditions. They have always endorsed those modern attainments that make for a happier and more healthful life. It has been their duty to maintain the health and vigor of the family; to see that its members are properly fed, clothed, and kept warm; and to fashion and maintain the home, which is the strength of the Nation.

Wars have always brought new responsibilities to women, and in meeting them they have never failed. They served in the Civil War as nurses at the front and on hospital staffs; they prepared bandages for the wounded; they moulded bullets; they wept secretly and tilled the soil openly.

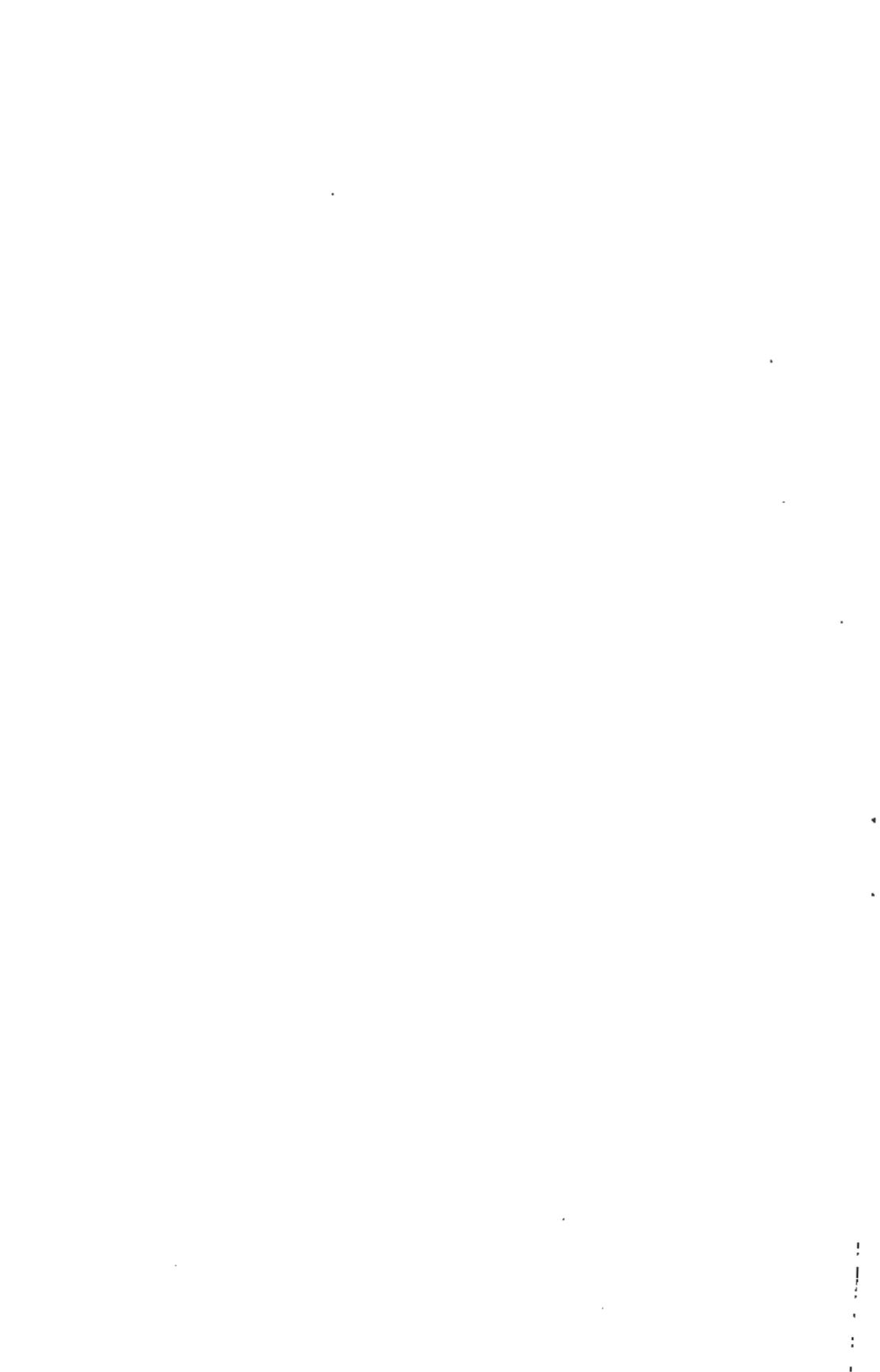
They extended their activities in the World War. Women became ambulance drivers, munition factory workers, ammunition inspectors, doctors, and members of home-defense committees, welfare associations, and recreational associations.

Wide avenues into employment fields at that time provided a way to many new jobs for women in the Federal service. When the United States entered the World War the demand for workers was unprecedented. It was necessary to fill more than a hundred thousand Federal positions almost immediately. Skilled workers were needed in Government establishments and in private industry to turn out arms and munitions. There were labor shortages in many fields. Prior to 1917, the majority of Government officials had insisted that only men be appointed to Government jobs. But the pressing need for labor broke down the bars of prejudice, and the story of the woman worker in the Federal Government began to be written.

Many surveys have been conducted into the part played by women in the World War. Many studies have been made of their employment in the industries and occupations of the country since that time. In those surveys and studies it has

been discovered that women can satisfactorily perform almost any type of work.

Again, a state of emergency has brought the ability of women to the forefront—and the opportunity for them to extend their activities further. Their participation in the national-defense program is following closely the pattern of their work in the World War. In addition, they will profit by the experience gained from their employment in the industries and professions of the country since the World War; and by the policy of the Government to encourage the employment of women in those jobs which cannot be satisfactorily filled by men because of the transfer of men into the military and naval forces of the country, and into the heavier duties of defense.



RÉSUMÉ OF THE WORK OF WOMEN
IN THE FEDERAL SERVICE
PRIOR TO 1940

ISOLATED cases of the employment of women in the Federal service occurred before the adoption of the Constitution.

It is believed that the first two women employees in the Federal Government were Mrs. Elizabeth Cresswell, postmaster at Charlestown, Md., under the Continental Congress in 1786-87, and Miss Mary K. Goddard, postmaster at Baltimore, Md., who had been holding that office for 14 years when the Constitution was signed.

The story of women's rise in governmental positions is one of slow but gradual progress. Factory-type positions in the Philadelphia Mint were opened to them at an early date. Later, positions became available to them in the arsenals of the country, in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and in the Government Printing Office. They were particularly recruited as printer's assistants, and even as late as 1910 such jobs formed the bulk of those to which they were appointed.

Clerical positions in the lower grades of the Federal service were available to women about 1850, and many years elapsed before they were admitted to the higher grades. Some lower-grade positions in professional and scientific fields were being held by women in 1897. It was the general rule, however, not to bestow position titles, responsibilities, or salaries on women comparable to those received by men; rather, according to a survey made in 1868 by Representative Thomas A. Jenckes, of Rhode Island, it was the questionable practice of those who stressed the employment of women in the Federal Government to place them in jobs because they

could be paid lower salaries, thus effecting retrenchment in Government pay rolls. No one challenged the fairness of the procedure, but it is interesting to discover that 2 years later there was written into the statute books the provision that "Women may, in the discretion of the head of any department, be appointed to any of the clerkships therein authorized by law, upon the same requisites and conditions, and with the same compensation, as are prescribed for men." While the letter of the law was not always carried out, the establishment of low-salaried clerkships for women gradually ceased, although it was not entirely discontinued until the passage of the Classification Act in 1923, which provided that "In determining the rate of compensation which an employee shall receive the principle of equal compensation for equal work irrespective of sex shall be followed." This removed the bar to their right to equal pay at "the discretion of the head of any department," and was, of course, a positive step forward for women in the Federal service.

In 1854 there were three women clerk-copyists in the Patent Office. These positions were forerunners of the stenographic and typing jobs which now form the largest occupation for women in the Government. One of these jobs was filled by Clara Barton, who later founded the American Red Cross. She held this position during the stormy times of the rise of women in the Government, and throughout the Civil War, paying for a substitute while she served as nurse at the battle front.

A provision in the deficiency act passed by the Congress on March 14, 1864, marked the first statutory authority for the employment of women. The provision vested the heads of the various departments with authority to "employ females instead of any of the clerks hereinbefore designated, at an annual compensation not exceeding six hundred dollars per year, whenever, in their opinion, the same can be done consistently with the interests of the public service."

In June of the same year their worth rose to \$720, and, again in 1866, to \$900. This latter rate of pay remained the legal maximum for women employees for many years.

The number of women employees in the Government gradually increased. The year 1893 found the various departments of the Federal Government in Washington, D. C., using 3,770 women in Government jobs, as against 8,377 men. But the next year there was a temporary outbreak of antifeminist feeling, and the decrease in women's employment began. The depression periods of 1897, 1903, 1922, and 1928, and recurrent waves of antifeminist feeling caused similar decreases in the number of women employees, but, notwithstanding these reverses, women always won back their gains, not only in the number of positions, but in the responsibility and importance of the positions.

While it is true that from its earliest days the Civil Service Commission gave tests for both men and women, for reasons of economy and convenience it was the common policy to limit many examinations and their resulting registers to one sex—particularly men. This policy prevailed until 1919 when the Commission ruled that all examination announcements should contain the following statement:

“Both men and women, if qualified, may enter this examination, but appointing officers have the legal right to specify the sex desired in requesting certification of eligibles.”

But the final bar to sex discrimination in certification was removed when it was later ruled that “certification shall be made without regard to sex, unless sex is specified in the request.”

The typewriter was in fairly common use in the departments of the Government when the Civil Service Commission was established in 1883. The Commission gave examinations for both men and women. Women seemed particularly proficient in the use of the machine. They received about 14 percent of the typist appointments in 1894; 21 percent in 1904; and about 25 percent in 1914. They received 77 percent of all appointments to the four grades of stenographer and typist positions in 1936. In 1940, however, the ratio dropped to 56 percent,

when they received 79 percent of the stenographic positions and 44 percent of the typist positions.

The employment of married women has been a bone of contention in the business world for decades.

There was early administrative discrimination against their employment in Government jobs, but it was not until the passage of the Economy Act of 1932 that married status became a factor which, with legal sanction, constituted a positive barrier to Government employment.

Section 213 of the Economy Act provided that in a reduction of force those individuals (in the class to be reduced) whose husbands or wives were also receiving Federal pay as employees, pensioners, enlisted men, or officers, should be dismissed first. The Section further provided that, in making appointments to the classified civil service, preference should be granted to those persons "other than married persons living with husband or wife, such husband or wife being in the service of the United States or the District of Columbia."

While Section 213 did not state that persons dismissed should be women, it resulted in the dismissal of three times as many women as men.

After a great deal of aggressive activity on the part of women's groups interested in the extension of the merit system, and upon the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission, the Congress repealed Section 213 in the final days of its 1937 session, thus removing the last discriminatory phase of the employment of women in the Federal Government.

In a reflective study of the employment of women in the Federal service one will find that their increase in number has been continuous and large. Generally, it has followed the upward trends of their use in the industries of the country, although it is certainly true that the heads of Government agencies have been much more reluctant to accept their employment, and to foster legislation beneficial to them, than have employers in industry and business.

Prior to the inception of the national-defense program early in 1940, women's employment status in the Federal service was

on a somewhat even keel with that of men. Except for a few positions, such as guard and policeman, there was nothing to prevent them from proceeding to occupy any job in the Government provided they had the necessary training and qualifications. Slowly they had raised the level of their participation in the activities of Government until they were occupying numerous positions of trust and responsibility. Their ranks included a member of the Cabinet, a Director of the Mint, Federal judges, special assistants to the Attorney General, members of boards and commissions, collectors of customs, ministers to foreign lands, an Assistant Treasurer of the United States, and wardens in State institutions.

Because of their educational background and experience women were called to the Federal service to fill many positions in professional and scientific fields, such as those of dietitian, social worker, dental hygienist, and nurse.

They were occupied in research work in the Bureau of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture, and in the Children's Bureau and the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor.

They were found in positions involving work in law, medicine, public administration, illustrating, editing and writing.

In almost every department and independent establishment of the Government, women were holding good jobs and were rendering outstanding service.

By far the greatest number of women were in the clerical, stenographic and typist positions—a particular source from which the most women proceed to bigger jobs, better pay, and a successful career in the Federal ranks.

Since the inception of the national-defense program the number of women employees in the Federal service has continuously increased and their labor has steadily advanced into the defense activities of the governmental front. It is those jobs occupied by women on this particular front which are of first interest to this discussion.



PICTURESQUE JOBS OF WOMEN IN DEFENSE

A REVIEW of women's participation in Federal defense activities covering the first year of the national-defense program quickens the imagination and forecasts those spheres of preparedness wherein their greatest labor will occur.

From those spheres we now hear the ominous hum of arsenals, and the drone of motors in flight. In the review we already see the results of women's effort in the laboratories of science, in the workshops of the designer, in the defense industries of the Government, in the offices of administrators, and in the armed camps of the Nation. In it may be found a story which bristles with colorful action and keen endeavor—a story whose plot extends far over the embattled fronts of democracy.

While the number of women presently engaged in work in defense activities is small in comparison with the estimated number which ultimately will find employment therein, they are found in jobs which are picturesque and unique in character, and which include tasks not usually performed by women.

From many sources reports are received of their continuous placement on the "production line" in establishments of the War Department—the arsenals, the ordnance depots, the proving grounds, the munition factories, the Quartermaster depots, the air fields, the Engineer Department at large, and the Medical Corps; in the navy yards and air stations of the Navy Department; in the armament industries vital to defense, and in the multitudinous activities of those other departments and independent establishments of the Government which have been designated as defense agencies.



NEW YORK DAILY NEWS PHOTO

“ . . . women’s nimble fingers are used on the assembly line . . . ”

In the Picatinny Arsenal at Dover, N. J., more than 1,000 women are working as classified laborers, and more than 400 are employed there as explosives operators in the operation of machines and presses incident to the loading of munitions.

At the Edgewood, Md., Arsenal women's nimble fingers are used on the assembly line in the manufacture of gas masks. Every 24 hours more than 2,000 women work in 3 shifts 6 days a week, handling highly confidential processes, operating heavy-duty, high-speed electric sewing machines, using pliers, soldering irons, and presses, and performing skilled handwork in the assembly of incomplete parts of gas masks. Final inspection of the finished product is made by women. Patience and care are indispensable as a single leak or defective piece might be disastrous in some future battle! Women from this arsenal are sent to private companies engaged in the manufacture and assembly of gas-mask parts to act as instructors of the employees of the private firms. At the arsenal, women toxicologists and pharmacologists perform research work in testing the efficacy of chemical warfare materials. They test the value of defensive gases developed to counteract the known chemical warfare gases of other countries. Before the national emergency, Edgewood Arsenal had 181 women employees, as compared with 2,513 on April 1, 1941.

At the Frankford Arsenal, Philadelphia, women hold the majority of positions in the fuze shop. Girls with a high-school education, but having little or no experience in the work, are accepted for training in this important job in one of the country's largest arsenals. Here, on the production line, women assist in the manufacture, in the inspection, in the testing, and in the intricate subassembly of parts for mechanical time fuzes used in artillery shells. Here, women are machine tool operators and precision optical workers, performing duties which correspond with those required in the finest type of watch making. Tiny, delicate parts, cumbersome to the heavy hands of men, are handled easily and efficiently by the quick fingers of women. Here, women are munition inspectors. Here, their quality of patience, their temperament, their dexterity,



“ . . . deft hands turn out the missiles of defense.”

© E. M. DEFENSE PHOTO

their devotion to duty, are vitally essential as their deft hands turn out the missiles of defense.

At the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot the majority of positions in the clothing factory are filled by women. The factory manufactures uniforms and clothing equipment for the soldiers. It is the only factory operated by the War Department for this purpose. Many women occupy supervisory positions there.

In the Marine Corps Supply Depot at Philadelphia—the only clothing factory depot operated by the Marine Corps—women manufacture matine uniforms.

At the Middletown Air Depot, Middletown, Pa., women are engaged in various positions in aircraft work.

At the Holabird Quartermaster Depot in Baltimore a woman does mechanical and free-hand illustrating for Army texts and manuals; another woman handles work in connection with the purchase of automotive spare parts.

At Savannah, Ga., a draftsman is employed in the Office of the District Engineer; the Quartermaster at Elgin Field, Fla., employs a woman storekeeper.

In the Chemical Warfare Service at Cincinnati, Ohio, 250 women have been appointed to jobs as "arsenal learners," gas-mask inspectors, process inspectors, and laboratory aides in connection with the manufacture of gas masks. In the Engineer Department at large women occupy the position of engineering aide. One woman is a junior architect. In the Ordnance Department at large women are serving as under inspectors of ordnance.

At the Fairfield Air Depot, Patterson Field, Fairfield, Ohio, women apply radio-active luminous material to various dials used on aircraft instruments.

In the St. Louis, Mo., Ordnance District Office women work as inspectors of ammunition parts and small-arms ammunition, and in the recording of intricate drawings and specifications of ordnance material items.

At the San Antonio, Tex., Arsenal women are used in cleaning and grinding lenses in the optical section.

At the Quartermaster Depot in New Orleans women are employed as examiners of woven and knitted articles.

At the San Antonio Air Depot women employees make heavy fleece-lined suits for pilots.

The laboratories of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics at Moffett Field, Calif., employ women with majors in mathematics, physics or chemistry to make computations on wind tunnel tests.

In the Brooklyn Navy Yard more than 500 women are employed in the Naval Clothing Depot as operators of power sewing machines used in the making of uniforms for sailors. In the sail loft they make and mend flags and pennants for the ships at sea.

In Boston a woman is serving as an immigration inspector.

At the Philadelphia Navy Yard women operators are employed in the Naval Aircraft Factory in the manufacture of parachutes and related equipment used by the Navy.

The Inspector of Naval Aircraft at San Diego, Calif., employs women as inspectors of engineering material.

At the Mare Island Navy Yard, San Francisco, women are employed in drafting, as matrons in the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and as interpreters. Here, too, they make flags and pennants for naval vessels of all kinds.

At the Sacramento Air Depot women are employed as leather and canvas workers in the unique duty of drop-testing, inspecting, mending, and repairing parachutes.

In the military camps of the country, in the hospitals, in defense agencies, in the field activities of the Government, women are employed as nurses, hospital attendants, hostesses, librarians, receptionists, mess attendants, laundry operatives, surgeon's assistants, dental hygienists, dietitians, inspectors of textiles, elevator operators, cooks, welfare workers, and technicians of all kinds.

Women cryptanalysts are rendering outstanding service to the Government in coding and decoding secret messages.

In other Government agencies women are studying ways of improving bread for the military forces. They are developing



O E M DEFENSE PHOTO

"In the sail loft they make . . . flags . . . for the ships at sea."



U. S. BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS PHOTO

"They design work outfits for women employed in farm, home, and factory occupations . . ."

new recipes with the aim of making bread more nutritious. They are conducting experiments in the preservation of food-stuffs, such as potatoes, eggs, milk, and other staples. They are engaged in nutrition studies which are a part of a national nutrition program. They serve as inspectors of supplies sent to England. They are employed in the testing of textiles to determine resistance to mildew and other deteriorating elements, for the betterment of military clothing and equipment. They design work outfits for women employed in farm, home, and factory occupations—outfits stripped of hazardous ties and frills, and provided with comfort and safety.

In aviation there is a woman air-marking specialist and a private flying specialist; and there are many women who are ground-crew instructors and pilots.

Women are occupying positions such as director of personnel, liaison officer, food consultant, director of nutrition, associate administrator, executive assistant, nurse consultant, chief of public information, and chief of press relations.

Let us here pay tribute to the women in those less sensational but nevertheless necessary and important jobs of defense—those thousands of stenographers, typists, and clerks, who are displaying a devotion to duty equal to that of women engaged in work on the more dramatic side of preparedness.

Thus, at the end of the first year of the emergency, we are able to see something of women's participation in the national-defense program on the governmental front. However long the narrative may continue, it is certain that he who writes the final chapter will find in the complete story a record of courage, fortitude, and heroism displayed by women workers in defense who engaged themselves in uncommon duties which they performed faithfully and well.



U. S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION PHOTOS

“Let us here pay tribute to the women in those less sensational . . . jobs of defense . . .”

WHERE MANY WOMEN ARE FOUND IN DEFENSE WORK

IN MAY 1940 the President of the United States declared a limited national emergency because of the chaotic state of world affairs. The military, civilian, and industrial power of the country was summoned to implement a program of preparedness intended to strengthen our armaments, coordinate our internal system of Government, and translate our ability to defend ourselves and our democratic institutions into a never-failing reality.

On June 30, 1940, the Federal rolls revealed that civil employment in the executive branch of the United States Government had reached a total of 1,002,820 individuals. Of this number, 816,610 were men and 186,210 were women.

The United States Civil Service Commission was confronted with the task of recruiting a capable emergency personnel, and then referring that personnel to those defense agencies which were fast gearing themselves to carry out the major projects of the national-defense program.

The Civil Service Commission quickly adjusted its recruiting procedures and regulations to the emergency, and, as a result, during the next 6 months, 116,821 placements increased the Federal roll to a total of 1,119,641 individuals. Of this new total, 892,264 were men and 227,377 were women.

Recruiting gained momentum. By June 30, 1941, 238,509 additional placements brought Federal civil employment to a grand total of 1,358,150 employees—1,091,743 men and 266,407 women.

The greatest employment activity occurred in the War and Navy Departments, where women increased in number by 51,320 and 8,652, respectively, during the 12-month period, making a total of more than 84,000 women employees in

these two major defense agencies alone, of which over 67,000 were occupying jobs in the field service (outside the District of Columbia).

On June 30, 1940, there were 2,844 women civil employees in the Ordnance Department at large outside the District of Columbia. By the end of June 1941 their number had increased to a total of nearly 10,000 women civil employees, of whom more than 6,000, or approximately two-thirds, were employed in Government-operated arsenals of the nation, as follows:

Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, N. J.	2,349
Watervliet Arsenal, Watervliet, N. Y.	185
Watertown Arsenal, Watertown, Mass.	251
Frankford Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa.	3,223
Springfield Armory, Springfield, Mass.	279
Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill.	511
	<hr/>
Total women employees	6,798

On June 30, 1941, 10,792 women were employed in the Selective Service System; 2,670 women were on the rolls of The Panama Canal, the majority of them being employed in the Canal Zone; 1,942 women were employed in the Office for Emergency Management—more than one-half the total number of employees in the entire Office. In the Federal Security Agency, 12,904 women were employed, many of them on tasks concerned with the defense program. In the Civil Service Commission, 4,361 women were employed.

Statistics on women employees in the Federal service have been shown for those agencies primarily concerned with defense activities. Other agencies of the Government which employ large numbers of women workers are the Treasury Department (23,034 women employees), the Post Office Department (24,962), the Department of Agriculture (25,087), the Federal Loan Agency (8,181), the Federal Works Agency (16,263), the Maritime Commission (570), and the Veterans' Administration (14,622). Some of these agencies, too, are

concerned with certain phases of the defense program. The extent to which women are employed in other departments and independent establishments of the Government is shown in the accompanying table (pp. 28 and 29).

For the enlightenment of those who may question the authenticity of the positive advancement of women into the Federal service in times of emergency, let us see what was happening to female employment in the Government during those stirring days of 1917 and 1918 which have not yet receded from memory.

On November 11, 1918, approximately 917,760 civilians were employed in the executive branch of the Federal Government. While it is not known just how many of these individuals were women, it has been established that in the 2 years of the war period women received nearly 75 percent of the appointments at Washington. In the field branches of the Federal service, the proportion was about one woman to two men.

The startling effect of the great influx of women into the Federal service compelled the Chief Examiner of the United States Civil Service Commission to state in the Commission's 1918 annual report:

The most notable change in Government personnel brought about by the war is in the employment of women. They are everywhere, and offices which formerly insisted on men employees are now acceding to the Commission's recommendation that their examinations be open to women applicants.

Many women remained in the Federal service after the close of the World War, and, today, some of these same women are occupying positions of responsibility. However, with the return of peace, the ranks of Government workers were gradually reduced, the number of women occupying positions decreased accordingly (82,180 women employees on June 30, 1925), and their effect, in force at least, was not to be felt again until the years of the depression (88,856 on June 30, 1930), the period of the ascendancy of the New Deal (120,777 on June 30, 1935), and, finally, at the beginning of the national-defense

CIVIL EMPLOYMENT IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BY SEX

June 1941

Department or independent establishment	Entire service			In the District of Columbia			Outside the District of Columbia		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Office of the President:									
Executive staff	1,173	671	502	899	491	408	274	180	94
Maintenance force	98	75	23	98	75	23			
Executive departments:									
State	7,009	4,685	2,324	1,784	712	1,072	5,225	3,973	1,252
Treasury	65,573	42,539	23,034	20,690	8,950	11,740	44,883	33,589	11,294
War	320,291	250,954	69,337	23,176	11,836	11,340	297,115	239,118	57,997
Justice	21,401	16,481	4,920	6,095	3,681	2,414	15,306	12,800	2,506
Post Office ¹	301,215	276,253	24,962	4,723	3,782	941	296,492	272,471	24,021
Navy	222,862	207,971	14,891	25,527	20,484	5,043	197,335	187,487	9,848
Interior	47,980	39,670	8,310	4,501	2,804	1,697	43,479	36,866	6,613
Agriculture ²	91,146	66,059	25,087	13,209	6,667	6,542	77,937	59,392	18,545
Commerce	23,896	16,186	7,710	13,616	6,775	6,841	10,280	9,411	869
Labor	4,579	2,335	2,244	2,416	930	1,486	2,163	1,405	758
Independent establishments:									
Alley Dwelling Authority	156	102	54	156	102	54			
American Battle Monuments Commission	95	89	6	20	17	3	75	72	3
Bituminous Coal Commission	51	30	21	51	30	21			
Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System	470	267	203	448	245	203	22	22	
Board of Tax Appeals	135	62	73	135	62	73			
Civil Service Commission	6,709	2,348	4,361	4,292	1,485	2,807	2,417	863	1,554
Employees' Compensation Commission	526	242	284	458	215	243	68	27	41
Federal Communications Commission	1,414	966	448	776	400	376	638	566	72
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	2,357	1,386	971	514	253	261	1,843	1,133	710
Federal Loan Agency	18,653	10,472	8,181	5,056	2,669	2,387	13,597	7,803	5,794

Federal Power Commission	814	598	216	561	390	171	253	208	45
Federal Security Agency	31, 872	18, 968	12, 904	9, 774	4, 978	4, 796	22, 098	13, 990	8, 108
Federal Trade Commission	685	436	249	593	371	222	92	65	27
Federal Works Agency	39, 020	22, 757	16, 263	13, 011	8, 906	4, 105	26, 009	13, 851	12, 158
General Accounting Office	5, 461	3, 439	2, 022	5, 461	3, 439	2, 022			
Government Printing Office	7, 119	5, 712	1, 407	7, 119	5, 712	1, 407			
Interstate Commerce Commission	2, 799	1, 955	844	2, 003	1, 350	653	796	605	191
Maritime Commission	2, 157	1, 587	570	1, 261	774	487	896	813	83
Maritime Labor Board	28	13	15	25	10	15	3	3	
Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission	33	32	1	2	1	1	31	31	
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics	1, 245	1, 072	173	90	48	42	1, 155	1, 024	131
National Archives	422	263	159	410	255	155	12	8	4
National Capital Park and Planning Commission	30	25	5	30	25	5			
National Labor Relations Board	882	493	389	420	243	177	462	250	212
National Mediation Board	73	38	35				73	38	35
New York World's Fair Commission	3	2	1				3	2	1
Office for Emergency Management	3, 691	1, 749	1, 942	3, 457	1, 608	1, 849	234	141	93
Panama Canal	36, 425	33, 755	2, 670	184	164	20	36, 241	33, 591	2, 650
Railroad Retirement Board	2, 213	1, 242	971	1, 594	805	789	619	437	182
Securities and Exchange Commission	1, 678	1, 106	572	1, 304	841	463	374	265	109
Selective Service System	16, 593	5, 801	10, 792	389	102	287	16, 204	5, 699	10, 505
Smithsonian Institution	869	671	198	869	671	198			
Special Counsel for the United States	3	1	2				3	1	2
Tariff Commission	292	177	115	283	169	114	9	8	1
Tennessee Valley Authority	23, 006	21, 682	1, 324	10	4	6	22, 996	21, 678	1, 318
Veterans' Administration	42, 948	28, 326	14, 622	6, 417	2, 602	3, 815	36, 531	25, 724	10, 807
Total	1, 358, 150	1, 091, 743	266, 407	183, 907	106, 133	77, 774	1, 174, 243	985, 610	188, 633

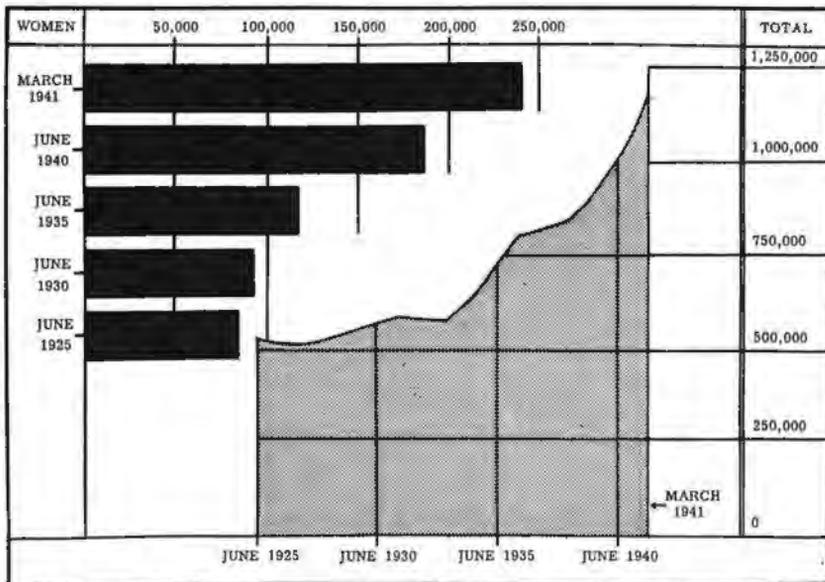
¹ Exclusive of 611 temporary employees in substitute grades in the District of Columbia and 13,355 outside the District of Columbia.

² Includes employees hired under special letters of authorization.

program when they joined the signal march to total preparedness (186,210 on June 30, 1940).

Thus, in retrospect, do we catch a glimpse of the infiltration of women into the Government in times of national stress.

**WOMEN CIVIL EMPLOYEES AND TOTAL CIVIL EMPLOYEES
IN THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
AND INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHMENTS**



U. S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION CHART

“ . . . they joined the signal march to total preparedness . . . ”

SOME WOMEN OCCUPYING IMPORTANT DEFENSE JOBS

SINCE the first days of the national-defense program women have been occupied in important defense activities. A review of the educational background and wide experience of these women would present an interesting and colorful story in itself. Hundreds of examples might be cited. The few cases which follow illustrate the nature of the duties being performed by some of the daughters of Uncle Sam who occupy key positions in the Nation's effort to prepare:

MARY ANDERSON, Chief of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor. Charged with formulating standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment. This mandate applies equally to the defense industries.

MARY I. BARBER, Food Consultant to the Secretary of War. Assigned to the Subsistence Branch of the Quartermaster Corps. Advises Army on how to serve four million meals a day. Lent to the Government by the Kellogg Company of Battle Creek, Mich., where she is director of home economics. Also serves on the Advisory Board, Press Relations Department, Quartermaster Corps.

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE, Director, Office of Negro Affairs, National Youth Administration. Responsible for projects created for the purpose of training Negro youths for integration into defense activities.

KATHERINE C. BLACKBURN, Assistant Director, Office of Government Reports, Executive Office of the President. Assists in the direction of the Division of Press Intelligence, which provides Government officials with a clipping service and concise reports on current comment concerning defense and public affairs; the Division of Field Operations, which acts as a clearing house for information on Federal agencies; and the U. S. Information Service, which answers thousands of queries annually from the general public.

PAULINE BAKER CHAMBERS, Nurse Consultant, Office of Production Management. Charged with the responsibility of placement of women workers coming to Washington in proper living quarters; advises on health, recreation, and money matters. Makes it possible for incoming women employees to arrange quarters in advance.

HARRIETT ELLIOTT, Associate Administrator, Office of Price Administration, Office for Emergency Management. Responsible for the protection of the consumer and consumer needs.

MAY THOMPSON EVANS, Special Assistant to the Director, Division of State and Local Cooperation, Office for Emergency Management. Advises with Governors, defense council officials, civic and professional organizations, and heads of established volunteer service bureaus on integrating the activities of women into State and local defense councils. Establishes procedures through which civilian volunteers may contribute their services to the defense program.¹

KATHERINE A. FREDERIC, Acting Chief, Reports and Studies, Division of State and Local Cooperation, Office for Emergency Management. Responsible for the preparation of reports, publications, special studies, articles, and other material issued by the Division in official bulletins. Gathers, and makes available, information on the operation of State and local defense councils; also information on defense developments which concern State and local government.¹

BESS GOODYKOONTZ, Assistant Commissioner of Education, Office of Education, Federal Security Agency. In charge of a series of 27 publications on education and defense which show what the schools of the country can do and are doing in relation to the national-defense program.

ALICE HAGER, Chief of Public Information, Civil Aeronautics Board. Responsible for dissemination of public information on air activities, including information for the press. Issues safety bulletins. Interprets, for the public, analyses on air accidents with the object of showing what flyers should or should not do in order to avoid accidents.

OVETA CULP HOBBY, Expert Consultant to the Secretary of War. The Army's first woman editor. Directs the section of the Bureau of Public Relations of the War Department which translates life in the army in terms of interest to mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts.

¹ The functions of the Division of State and Local Cooperation have been transferred to the Office of Civilian Defense.

LYTLE HULL (the former Mrs. Vincent Astor), Vice Chairman, Defense Savings Committee, Treasury Department, State of New York. In charge of all women's activities to promote the sale of Defense Bonds and Stamps throughout the State.

FLORENCE S. KERR, Assistant Commissioner, Work Projects Administration, Federal Works Agency. Directs community-service projects pertaining to the defense program. Conducts occupational training projects through which thousands of workers are prepared for employment in defense industries.

HENRIETTA S. KLOTZ, Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury. As private secretary to the Secretary of the Treasury, handles a large number of confidential matters relating to phases of the defense program.

THELMA McKELVEY, Special Assistant, Labor Supply Branch, Labor Division, Office of Production Management. Develops programs for the training and increased employment of women in defense industries, particularly in those occupations where there are labor shortages, and in those industries which have not traditionally employed women.

HELEN MITCHELL, Director of Nutrition, Office of the Coordinator of Health, Welfare and Related Defense Activities. In charge of Nation-wide educational program to encourage better use of food on hand, and to raise the morale of the country by increasing physical fitness of citizens.

BLANCHE NOYES, Air Marking Specialist, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Department of Commerce. Pilot. In charge of air-marking program which aids air navigation through the proper marking of localities, particularly in those parts of the country where Air Corps flying schools are engaged in the training of pilots.

RUTH O'BRIEN, Chief, Division of Textiles and Clothing, Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture. With governmental ban on silk imports, cotton stockings designed under her direction assume new importance in the national-defense program. Provides War and Navy Departments with methods of mildew-proofing cotton fabrics used in tents, tarpaulins and sandbags.

PATRICIA O'MALLEY, Chief, Press Relations, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Department of Commerce. In charge of preparation and distribution of information to the press and radio, and the dissemination of material for feature articles, on aviation.

PHOEBE A. OMLIE, Senior Private Flying Specialist, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Department of Commerce. Has completed 11,000-

mile journey over country arranging for immediate expansion of classes for airport "ground servicement" to forestall possible shortage of efficient ground men to meet increased demand which will be brought about by expanded aviation programs.

GRACE A. PARKHURST, Assistant to the Chief, Purchase Division, Procurement Division, Treasury Department. Engaged in buying defense materials in connection with the activities under the Lease-Lend Act.

CLARICE SCOTT, Clothing Specialist, Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture. Designs work outfits for women employed in farm, home, and factory occupations—outfits stripped of hazardous ties and frills, and provided with comfort and safety.

RUTH H. SHIPLEY, Chief, Passport Division, Department of State. Considers and approves passports for persons going to areas where new defense bases are being constructed. Facilitates the travel of all persons concerned with Lease-Lend Act aid to the British Isles and China.

LOUISE STANLEY, Chief, Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture. Directs Nation-wide studies on what farm, city, and village families are eating in order to cooperate with other defense agencies in the national drive toward better nutrition. Member committee established to advise British in the selection of food under the Lease-Lend Act.

HAZEL STIEBELING, Food Economist, Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture. Answers the question "Are we well fed?" by analyzing diets of typical families; plans how to spend food money in order to get the best returns in nutrition.

RUTH VAN DEMAN, Chief, Information Division, Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture. Interprets the Bureau's research by means of bulletin, radio, picture, and graph as an aid in applying the findings of science to the maintenance or improvement of morale and ways of living.

MARY N. WINSLOW, Advisor for Civic Projects, Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Office for Emergency Management. Works with women's organizations in connection with Latin-American activities. United States representative on the Inter-American Commission of Women.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN DEFENSE

CERTAIN industries were designated by the Government as "defense industries" at the time of the declaration of the limited national emergency in 1940. These industries included: Aircraft (manufacturing, maintenance, repair); machine tools; shipbuilding (manufacturing, maintenance, repair); automotive (manufacturing, maintenance, repair); electrical; forging; boiler and heavy steel plate; foundry; light manufacturing; sheet-metal; woodworking; chemicals; ammunition; ordnance (light and heavy).

For the present emergency the Government has found it necessary to make every effort to draw from the reservoirs of peace-time labor, eligible workers with specific skills to enter those industries designated as vital to defense. In many cases there has been a woeful shortage of such eligibles. The policy has prevailed, therefore, of forecasting the need for skilled labor, and training in advance the workers necessary to fill the gaps when they occur in the ranks of (1) the defense industries, and (2) the defense establishments of the Federal Government.

Women who are especially interested in securing Federal defense employment should appraise their individual abilities and should then acquire the necessary training and prepare to make their services available to the Government in the event that positions for which they are qualified are vacated by men, or are created as the preparedness program grows.

Because of their temperament, their patience, their nimble fingers, and the adaptability of their hands to the finest work, women are best qualified to perform the duties of those jobs in defense which require the elements of dexterity, care and speed in their accomplishment. These jobs include: Aircraft workers;

machine operators; assemblers and bench workers; inspectors; welders; sheet-metal workers (fuselage and wing construction of airplanes); coil winders; optical grinders and polishers; power sewing machine operators; tool-room attendants.

Adequate preliminary training in various skills has been provided by the Government for the mobilization, training, and placement of workers in defense industries. The United States Employment Service, the United States Civil Service Commission, the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship, the United States Office of Education, the National Youth Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps coordinate their training programs in this important activity.

From many sections of the country vocational schools and institutions report the enrollment of women in training courses for automobile mechanics, airplane mechanics, airplane-parts inspectors, draftsmen, engineers, blueprint readers, industrial chemists, machine-shop workers, and radio operators.

Schools, colleges, and universities are offering defense training courses in first aid, diet and canteen work, map making, emergency rationing, home economics, engineering, aerial photography, research, and social work.

Organizations, such as the American Red Cross and the American Library Association, are conducting defense training courses in subjects pertinent to their activities.

Industries engaged in the manufacture, maintenance, and repair of aircraft, automotive parts, light and heavy ordnance, machine tools, and many other industries, conduct within industry training courses in those techniques common to their operations.

The insistent demand for skilled workers in Government arsenals, navy yards, and similar establishments caused the United States Civil Service Commission to adopt the policy of holding "continuously open" examinations for the skilled trades. Applicants who have the necessary experience and training are immediately assigned to duty; on-the-job training courses are offered which provide employees ample opportunity to learn higher-grade work. An open competitive examina-

tion was recently announced in the vicinity of one of the navy yards for the purpose of securing women trainees to fill the position of minor inspector of naval ordnance material.

Within the last 2 years many women have obtained appointment in the Federal civil service through the Junior Professional Assistant examination held by the Civil Service Commission each year. Among the optional subjects which have been included in the examination are economics, engineering, pharmacy, statistics, textile technology, bacteriology, meteorology, writing and editing, and chemistry.

The most popular examinations in which women compete are those given for the purpose of securing nurses, clerks, stenographers, and typists.

The best way to find out what defense jobs are available, and what the qualifications are, is to contact the United States Civil Service representative in the nearest first- or second-class post office, or visit the nearest office of the State Employment Service.

Many women already have gone from these training courses to vital defense industries. Many others have competed in civil-service examinations and have qualified for jobs in Government-operated defense establishments.

During the first year of the national-defense program the employment horizon widened, revealing a variety of new jobs occupied by women in the Federal service. From the valuable reserve of skilled labor created by the coordinated training agencies of the Government, the in-service training courses of industries, and the training activities of the schools and colleges of the country, thousands of skilled women workers will yet emerge and enter new jobs in Federal defense establishments. Thus, in the months to come, women will further expand the scope of their employment over the entire field of defense labor.

A guide to the variety of Government positions which women are filling in defense activities at the present time may be found in the table on the following page.

THE ABC OF FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS WHICH WOMEN ARE OCCUPYING

Administrator (associate).	Interpreter.
Air marking specialist.	Laboratory technician.
Aircraft fabric worker.	Laborer.
Airplane painter.	Laundry helper.
Architect.	Leather and canvas goods worker.
Arsenal learner.	Liaison officer.
Astronomer.	Librarian.
Buyer of material.	Machine operator.
Cartographic engineer.	Manufacturer of army clothing.
Clerk.	Matron.
Cryptanalyst.	Mess attendant.
Cryptologist.	Messenger.
Customs collector.	Meteorologist (observer).
Dental hygienist.	Nurse.
Designer of military insignia.	Nutrition specialist.
Dietitian.	Parachute worker.
Draftswoman.	Personnel director.
Dress research specialist.	Pharmacologist.
Economist.	Pilot.
Elevator operator.	Powder bag maker.
Engineer.	Precision lens and plate maker.
Explosives operator.	Press relations officer.
Field specialist on food.	Purchasing officer.
Flying specialist.	Receptionist.
Fuze worker.	Section chief.
Gas mask inspector.	Sewing machine operator.
Ground service training director.	Social worker.
Home economist.	Stenographer.
Hospital attendant.	Storekeeper.
Illustrator.	Supervisor.
Immigration inspector.	Surgeon's assistant.
Information specialist.	Telephone operator.
Inspector of—	Toxicologist.
Engineering material.	Translator.
Munitions.	Typist.
Ordnance.	Writer.
Textiles.	

FORWARD TOGETHER

THE WIDE participation of women in the national defense program necessitates no new philosophy in the field of labor. Rather, it exemplifies anew the wisdom of the old philosophy—equal compensation for equal work irrespective of sex—freshly clothed with strength and vitality.

The extended activity of women in the present emergency will clearly prove the need to apply their labor *at all times* in order that the products of their minds, their ingenuity and their talents may be readily utilized in those periods when the nation faces *any* emergency.

The successful performance of women in those jobs which are rare to their sex will reveal that men and women have moved forward together on this occasion, and together they have proved that women's work *in all occupations* is not a menace to the zeal of man, but, in fact, a means whereby he has gone on to greater accomplishments.

The work of women in the great cooperative effort of the Nation to arm will win for them new laurels in the field of labor, and it will be said of them, "They contributed largely to the national security."

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