

Women In War



Processing of mail, Leyte, Philippines, ca. 1945.



Funeral services for WAAC Gladys Marson, Algiers, North Africa, 1943.



Motor Transport Course, Fort Des Moines, Iowa, 1942.

World War II

While the Army was slow to officially accept women into its ranks, the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 accelerated already ongoing and heated discussions in Congress concerning the ability of women to serve in the Armed Forces. The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was established the following year in response to a manpower shortage. With the rallying cry of "Free a Man to Fight" the call went

out to American women asking them to join up and help the war cause. Initially, only four career fields were open to women, but their utilization expanded exponentially as their efficiency, skills and dedication were recognized by the Army. They served in every non-combatant military occupational specialty and were assigned to all theaters of operation.