

GENERAL IN DENVER TO OPEN DRIVE FOR COLORADO WAC UNIT

9/24/43
The state of Colorado and the United States army joined forces Friday in what was announced as one of the most intensive recruiting drives ever launched here—a campaign to place about 600 additional Colorado women in Wac uniforms and train them as a unit under their state flag. The campaign was set in motion when Maj. Gen. Frederick E. Uhl, commanding general of the Seventh service command with headquarters in Omaha, Neb., and a contingent of Wac officers arrived here by plane and enlisted the full support of Governor Vivian at a conference in the chief executive's office at the statehouse.

Colorado is the ninth and last state of the Seventh service command to be organized for the new Wac recruiting program by General Uhl and his party in the course of a whirlwind plane tour this week

ARMY NOW SOLD ON HAVING WACS.

9/24/43
The message the general had to give in Denver Friday was that the army, after a period of somewhat skeptical adjustment to having women soldiers in its ranks, "is now completely and wholeheartedly sold on them and urgently needs to increase its Wac forces thruout the country from the present strength

(Turn to Page 7—Col. 1.)

DRIVE FOR COLORADO WAC UNIT

Head of Seventh Service Command Visits Vivian And Gets Pledge of State's Help in Recruitment of Six Hundred Women.

(Continued From Page One.)

of about 70,000 to the point where the women can release from ten to fifteen full divisions of combat troops for action thruout the world."

"I believe this is one of the most important missions I have ever had," General Uhl said at the conference in the governor's office.

"The army wants to at least double the size of its Wac forces.

8,000 MORE WACS WANTED IN COMMAND.

"We have 5,000 Wacs in the Seventh command now and we want at least 8,000 more.

"To accomplish this we must have the most willing and sincere co-operation of the states. We must have an organized campaign in every community. We must get over to our young women who have hesitated about joining the Wacs the idea of the tremendous service they can give to their country.

"When the Wacs first were organized, post commanders looked down their noses and accepted the idea with trepidation. I have made it my business to see how these women perform. Trepidation has changed to interest and interest to enthusiasm as they have pitched in and become really fine soldiers.

"This isn't applesauce. I believe in 'em. I know the job they are doing."

Maj. Mary Bell, director of the Wac, branch of the Seventh command, who headed the contingent of women officers visiting Denver, took up where the general left off to explain to the governor what the army wants the state to do.

MEN ARE SOUGHT TO HANDLE DRIVE.

"We would like to have you name a representative in each Colorado community to handle the drive," she said. "This representative should be a man, we believe, because women are greatly influenced by what men tell them is the right thing to do.

"Our plan is to emphasize the state. The recruits from Colorado would go to the statehouse and receive the state flag. They would then be trained as a unit under that flag with the state emblem on their sleeves and shoulder pads.

"We have faith that the women will come forward when they realize how urgently we need them."

WAC MAY HAVE OFFICE IN ARMORY.

Major Bell then announced she is detailing to Colorado Lieut. Sarah Reed, a member of her staff, to work with the governor and other officials in the drive. It is expected Lieutenant Reed will have an office in the state armory.

The governor agreed to follow these plans as tentatively outlined and delegated the authority to carry them out to Adjt. Gen. Frazer Arnold of the Colorado National guard.

9/24/43
He also announced he will issue a proclamation soon appealing for volunteers.

Major Bell, Lieutenant Reed and Capt. Helen Gardiner, also from the Omaha headquarters, announced the quota of Wac enlistments set for Colorado by Dec. 7 is 595.

Leaving the subject of Wac recruitment, General Uhl talked briefly with reporters about other army subjects. An energetic, forceful man, he did not mince words in supporting the drafting of fathers.

"I know the chief of staff, General Marshall, has studied this problem of the father draft from the bottom up and I have the utmost confidence in what he has found the army needs," he said.

ARMY NEEDS ALL GOOD MEN POSSIBLE.

"We have work to do next year. The greatest campaigns of history are ahead. The army needs all the good manpower it can obtain."

The general sharply attacked congressional critics who contend the army is wasting manpower.

"Let those people show us there is such waste," he said. "I know that in my command there is full utilization of manpower.

"I am an advocate of turning back to civilian life those men who have no talents the army can use but who can be used in essential industries. We are doing just that—releasing both officers and men who can do a better job on the home front."

SERVICE FORCES LACK ATTENTION.

General Uhl declared not enough attention is paid to the army service forces "who perform 90 per cent of the job of running our military machine."

He also flayed the constant references he said he had heard about "the apathetic midwest" and its part in the war.

"We have 30,000 civilian employes in my command," he asserted. "More than 90 per cent of them are expending more than 10 per cent of what they earn in war bonds. Does that look like apathy?"

General Uhl has had his present post two years and four months. He previously was commanding general at Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyoming.