



### **Colonel Irene O. Galloway**

Colonel Irene O. Galloway was born September 1, 1908, in Carroll County, Iowa. She attended Boyles Business College in Omaha, Nebraska and joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in July 1942. She was commissioned upon graduation from WAAC Officer Candidate School Class #2 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on September 12, 1942.

Her initial assignments during World War II were at the WAC Headquarters at the Pentagon, Headquarters for Army Services Forces, and with the G-1 Career Management Group. In 1948, she was assigned as WAC Staff Advisor to the European Command for four years with headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany.

In November 1952, she was selected to replace the commander of the WAC Training Center at Fort Lee. Colonel Galloway reported to Fort Lee on 24 November 1952 and within two weeks was notified she had been selected to be the new WAC Director. On 3 January 1953, in the office of Secretary of the Army Frank Pace, she was sworn in as the fourth Director of the WAC and promoted Colonel. At the time of her appointment as director, Colonel Galloway had served 10 years in the Women's Army Corps.

Her tenure as WAC Director from January 1953 to 2 January 1957 was a time of sound accomplishment and earned her the respect and affection of the Women of the Corps. Enlistment gains exceeded losses; three-year enlistments surpassed two-year enlistments; and the reenlistment rate was higher than in 1953. These improvements were, in part, a result of increased military pay and reenlistment bonuses, the Army's new management system for enlisted personnel, adding enlistment options and improving job satisfaction for the WACs, and the establishment of a new WAC training facility in Fort

McClellan, Alabama in December 1954. The WAC Center provided the receiving, processing, and training operations for all female officers and enlisted personnel entering the U.S. Army.

Colonel Galloway retired in November 1961 after a tour of duty in the Office of Special Assistance to the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs but was recalled to active duty a few months later to serve on the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Her military awards include: The Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

She died in 1963 and is buried in Carroll County, Iowa.