

Matijec, Catherine

Hellertown WAC Becomes "Pilot" At Pope Field 2

1943

A Hellertown WAC, Pvt. Catherine Matijec, 135 Linden street, will shortly share the job of "piloting" the jeep-trailer carry-all at Pope Field, Ft. Bragg, N. C., with another WAC, Pvt. Martha J. Jackson of Thomaston, Ga., it was learned today. The two girls will "take over" on Sunday from Army privates C. D. Scoggin and Gordon Russell, releasing them for active service.

The soldiers lay undisputed claim to having driven their unique transportation vehicle and its predecessor enough miles to reach Tokio and back. How far the girls will be able to navigate the gadget used for transportation of field personnel is a matter of conjecture.

The jeep and trailer carry-all has been running 'round and 'round Pope Field Troop Carrier Command air base for almost a year at its never-varying 10-miles-an-hour

crawl covering approximately 85 miles a day. Base motor pool personnel estimate its slow meanderings have caused a 70 per cent reduction in calls for intro-field transportation.

The two-wheel, field-built trailer and its various jeep tow-cars came into use approximately six months ago after a more ingenious but less practical gadget failed. When plans for the carry-all or shuttle were first effected, mechanics here salvaged an old aircraft engine, mounted it on the chassis of an abandoned gun cassion, geared the propeller, and set the hybrid machine on its course. It was mighty impressive and aeronautical but completely shook its heart out in two months.

September 2, 1943