

# Skilled Linguist Joins Up With WAAC

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**Marie S. Rodriguez, Hellertown, Believes  
She Can Materially Aid Uncle Sam**

BY RITA KURTZ

She heard that the WAAC needed linguists, she thought that she wasn't doing the most she could for the war effort—so Miss Maria S. Rodriguez, 23, of 1052 Detwiler avs., Hellertown, became a soldier.

"I was told that I could get a Government position doing the same work, or even apply for a commission in the WAAC. But I want to go through the whole training period. There's a lot to get at the bottom of the ladder, and that's where I want to start!" the WAAC said when she was interviewed at her home yesterday.

Miss Rodriguez was sworn into the service March 3 in Allentown. Further investigation on information about the work she has done has postponed her leaving for Army life, she explained.

## SPANISH STENOGR

The Hellertown girl has been a Spanish stenographer two years for Iron Mines Company of Venezuela, a subsidiary of Bethlehem Steel Company. She expects to continue working with the Spanish language while she is with the service.

Her imminent departure is hard on her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Rodriguez, because brother Joseph, youngest in the family, leaves for the Army tomorrow.

"But they approve of my going," she added. "I wanted to take a job when I got out of high school to work in Washington as a linguist, but there were many disadvantages to that idea. Now, my father says that I am in Uncle Sam's care, and he'll take good care of me!"

## WANTS TO GO ACROSS

She's anxious to get overseas duty, with South or Latin America preferred—"because I'd like to learn more about the Spanish language."

WAAC Rodriguez is working and will continue to do so until she is called to service. "I like my work and the persons with whom I work," she explained.

Post-war plans continue along Spanish lines.

"I was told that I could get a lot of money by taking jobs doing my kind of work without going into the Army. I know the importance of money, but there's a lot more to be considered now that I have a chance to give everything I can by



MARIE S. RODRIGUEZ

joining the Army," the service woman explained.

"Besides doing all I can, I'll get excellent training and experience, and adventure—I hope."

## SPANISH IMPORTANT

"Spanish is growing more important, so I don't think it will be difficult for me to find a job such as I want after the war has been won."

A 1939 graduate of Bethlehem High School, Miss Rodriguez attended Bethlehem Business College, and worked at a local silk mill.

"I loved my work there, but I left it to get into something I had wanted to do all my life," she said.

A younger sister, Pauline, had tried three times to join the WAAC, but she'll have to wait two years before she meets age requirements.

"And my sister Dolores will stay home to keep up the morale of home folks and service folks home on furlough," the WAAC laughed.

She won't "Paint The Town Red" before she goes, "because I feel the same now as I did before I joined the service," and she opposed her mother's plan of a farewell party for her, "because I hate good-byes, and it's different from being at somebody else's party."

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