

# Negro WAAC joins Army to help her country and race

**A** Des Moines girl, Mrs. Natalie Donaldson was actually going home when she left for the WAAC camp in Iowa. Eager to benefit her country and her race, Mrs. Donaldson was overjoyed to discover that she was among the 440 women selected for the Negro contingent.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Natalie taught music in Missouri. But her marriage to Dr. I. T. Donaldson, Field Superintendent for Dental Clinics in New York's Department of Welfare, brought her north. Here Mrs. Donaldson worked as social investigator, but when the war broke out she volunteered services to the USO and First Interceptor Command. When the WAAC was formed, she followed a family fighting tradition—enlisted automatically.

Just five feet tall (WAAC minimum), Natalie dressed her hair in high pompadour fashion the day of her physical exam. "I took no chances on not being accepted," she laughed, "and I just made it—by a hair's breadth!"



**"PORGY" AND "BESS"** (offstage Todd Duncan and Etta Moten) congratulate Mrs. Natalie Donaldson on her WAAC acceptance. Eager to see the show before departing for Des Moines, Natalie attended a performance and was thrilled to be invited backstage to meet cast.



**DENTAL ASSISTANT** to her husband, Dr. Donaldson, Natalie is at his side the night before she reports to Army.



**FAREWELLS** aren't easy. However, this husband and wife may meet again when the doctor is commissioned.

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p. 19