

REPRINTED FROM A MICROFILMED COPY OF THE PROGRAM NOTES  
FOR THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF WASP--1943

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE  
ELLINGTON FIELD, TEXAS

Graduation Ceremony, First Graduating Class:  
Womens Flying Training Program for the Army Air Forces.

2:30 - Band Concert

LT. LUMPKIN

(2:35) Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This occasion sets forth a new milestone in the wartime aviation program of America. Since that fateful day at Pearl harbor, the women of our land have been training themselves in every conceivable line of war work in order to put an additional shoulder to the wheels of war. In order that their men may meet the enemy on the field of battle, they have taken their places in every kind of work...from washing army dishes to shouldering the heavy responsibility of administrative work. Now they join forces in a new field...that of ferrying planes on the home front in order that additional flyers may be released for combat duty.

Today we witness the first graduation of women pilots especially trained for army work. These twenty-three graduates comprise the first class of the Women's Flying Training Program for the Army Air Forces.

These twenty-three women who will leave this platform today with their new and specially designed silver wings make up a unique group...there will never be another group just like them...for they presented themselves to Uncle Sam as trained and experienced fliers. Most of them belong to the famous 99'ers. They came into this service desiring to contribute their own previous training and background to the special training offered them.

They average age is about 26 years...their average flying time is well over 400 hours...they make up the first class of hundreds of women fliers who have been enrolled to supplant many of our flying men here on the home front.

In keeping with the times, these women fliers have

their own song especially written for them. Walt Disney has designed a special insignia for them, too... a "spritish' little flying girl whose name is Fifinella.

Among those attending this ceremony today are some of the undergraduates of the women's Flying Training Program...They're here to wish their flying sisters Godspeed in their new adventure following work well done.

BAND MARCH

CEREMONY PROCEDURE: AS BAND PLAYS, UNDERGRADS MARCH FROM NORTH END OF RAMP TO SPEAKER'S STAND TO DO DRILL ROUTINE...THEN TAKE SEATS

P.A. SYSTEM

Fade down Band mike.

LT. LUMPKIN

Those undergraduate fellow fliers are now approaching the speaker's stand from the north side of the ramp...Upon arriving before the stand, they will perform a drill routine arranged in honor of the occasion.

P.A. SYSTEM

Up with Band mic

Procedure: Girls March

BAND

UPON COMPLETION OF SEATING OF UNDERGRADS...PLAY FANFARE FOR GRADUATING PILOTS TO ASSEMBLE AND MARCH TO STAND.

LT. LUMPKIN

Our vision moves now to the twelve planes facing the stand. In them are the members of this first graduating class. They will dismount from their planes...assemble...and march front and center...to the tune of their special song...The Ferry Girls Song...Titles "Go Ahead", played by the Ellington Field Band under the direction of Capt. Robert Soderberg.

BAND	<p><u>WHEN GRADUATES COME TO HALT BEFORE STAND</u></p> <p><u>PLAY GENERAL'S HONOR'S</u></p> <p><u>PROCEDURE: GRADUATES WILL BE SEATED</u></p>
LT. LUMPKIN	We will be led in the invocation by Chaplain A.S. Peterson of Ellington Field...Chaplain Peterson.
CHAP. PETERSON	_____
LT. LUMPKIN	It is now a privilege and pleasure to introduce Col. Walter H. Reid, Commanding Officer at Ellington Field and host to this unique occasion...Col. Reid.
COL. REID	<p>As a ;soldier and flier who recognizes the great need for all the highly trained airmen in our various theatres of war, I am honored and extremely pleased to have this first graduation of the Women's Flying Training Program held at Ellington Field. I wish them every success in their noble undertaking to relieve more of our fighting airmen for combat duty. It is their distinct privilege, not to live up to, but to create the precedents by which their fellow fliers to come will conduct themselves.</p> <p>It is my honor and privilege to introduce a man who truly knows the potential value of the contribution these young women have to make toward the winning of this war...He will speak to them now...Major General Gerald C. Brant, Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, Gulf Coast Training Center at Randolph Field...General Brant.</p>
GEN. BRANT	( SPEECH )

COL. REID	The guiding hand of the Women's Flying Training Program is a well-known and internationally famous flier. She was one of the first women to pilot a bomber across the Atlantic. This afternoon, after months of hard work, she stands before this first graduating class to address them...Miss Jacqueline Cochran.
MISS COCHRAN	(SPEECH)
COL. REID	It is now my pleasure to present Major W. H. Farmer, Commanding the women's Flying Training Program at the Municipal Airport in Houston, Texas. He will now present each candidate to General Brant and to Miss Cochran for their diploma and wings, respectively...Major Farmer...
	<u>PROCEDURE: GRADS MARCH UP AS NAME IS CALLED</u>
<u>BAND</u>	<u>AS LAST GIRL RECEIVES WINGS BAND PLAYS SONG OF ARMY AIR CORPS THROUGH ONCE</u>
LT. LUMPKIN	In honor of this first graduating class of the women's Flying Training Program, the Navigator and Bombardier Wings of the Air Forces Preflight School at Ellington Field will pass in review.
<u>BAND</u>	<u>MARCH FOR PARADE</u>
	<u>PROCEDURE: ON COMPLETION OF PARADE BAND WILL BRING CEREMONY TO CLOSE WITH - - -</u> <u>STAR SPANGLED BANNER</u>