

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 10, 1943



MEMORANDUM TO: Major General B. K. Yount

Subject: The writer's employment with the British Air Transport Auxiliary.

1. I was in England in June and July of 1941. Upon my return, I conducted a survey of our women pilots for the Army Air Forces.

2. At the end of October or the first of November, General Arnold telephoned me and asked me if I would organize a group of American women pilots to go to England to fly for the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA). After a conversation with Air Marshal Harris, who was then the Director General of the British Air Commission, it was decided that I undertake this work, which I did.

3. General Arnold stated to me that when, if ever, it was decided to use American women pilots in this country, I would be given the opportunity of organizing them. My contract with the British ATA was drawn up on that basis, and the following is an extract therefrom:

"It has been intimated that you may be requested by the authorities of your Government to organize and supervise training centres for American women pilots. This would synchronise with the general plans for adding to the American women's unit of the ATA in case such trainees are not needed at the time by your own armed services in any affiliated or auxiliary way. Therefore, we would be glad to see you follow up this prospect or program while at the same time organizing and commanding the American women's unit of the ATA. We realize that this would require your presence part time and from time to time in America, and at your request we will endeavor to arrange priority for ocean air travel to meet this situation. You are to have the right to nominate the person who shall be your Deputy, with the approval of C.O., A.T.A.

"In the event that any of the American armed services should decide to organize a women's auxiliary flying unit, we will at your request release you to help organize or to take charge of such unit."

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402 9/9/51

DOD Directive, 5200.30, June 18, 1979

By DJH NARS, Date 4/21/82

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



CONFIDENTIAL



Memo to Gen. Yount Feb. 10, 1943

4. I gave my services to ATA without remuneration, and before asking for leave to come back to this country in September, 1942, I had a period of leave from ATA to do some work for the American Forces in England, at the request of Brigadier General Dunton and Brigadier General Alfred J. Lyon. There was never any doubt, at any time, on the part of the British authorities, that if there was any need for my services with my own Government, it would come first.

5. When General Arnold was in England in 1942, he informed me that he thought the time had about arrived when plans should be started to utilize the American women pilots, and that, as soon as I returned to America (which I informed him would be approximately September) I should come in and see him. In September, simultaneously with my arrival in America, it was announced that 50 qualified women pilots would be used in Air Transport Command; but, I had also been charged with the responsibility of recruiting and training 200 more women to take to England for ATA, if the permission could be obtained for the recruiting and the training could be arranged for. I went to see General Arnold concerning the feasibility of recruiting additional women for ATA, and he informed me that women would now be used here. He desired that I take the job as Director of the Women's Flying Training Program.

6. I have given my full time to this job, and the best efforts that I have to give. I have had no official contact with the British authorities since my return. The only remark that I have made concerning women's being used in England or any other theater of operation was to General Arnold, stating that, if there was a surplus, perhaps it might be desirable to furnish the ATA with additional American women pilots, since we are doing whatever we can to be helpful to the British. This is a question to be decided by the authorities, if it is decided that we have a surplus of women pilots.

7. If there is any question concerning my work with the Army Air Forces, I suggest that General Arnold have an opportunity to clarify my work here, and also my affiliations with the ATA, since he is quite familiar with the entire background.

8. I am not holding down two jobs at once; I am devoting my entire time to the Flying Training Command. My contract with ATA automatically becomes invalid when I am serving my own Government.

9. I presume that my position with the ATA is still open; but I have no intention of taking 200 of our graduates to England to serve with ATA unless I am instructed to do so by the Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

CONFIDENTIAL



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memo to Gen. Yount Feb. 10, 1943.

10. I have no intention of returning to England so long as my services with the Air Forces are mutually satisfactory.

JACQUELINE COCHRAN  
Director of the Women's  
Flying Training Program.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~