



This listing was compiled from the documents contained in the WASP collections.

WASP Timeline:

1937 July – Amelia Earhart disappears over the Pacific Ocean.

1938 September 23 – Jacqueline Cochran wins first place in the Transcontinental Bendix Air Race.

1939 June – The Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) is established by the US government. The program is provided pilot training across the country and allowed for one woman to be trained for every ten men.

September 1 – Germany invades Poland.

September 3 – France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.

1940 September 28 – Jackie Cochran writes to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt suggesting the establishment of a women's flying division of the Army Air Forces whereby women could perform jobs releasing men to fly combat.

1941 June – Jackie Cochran becomes the first woman to ferry a bomber across the Atlantic.

June – Women are banned from participating in the Civilian Pilot Training Program.

December 7 – Japan attacks the US fleet at Pearl Harbor.

1942 March – Jackie Cochran takes 25 American women pilots to Britain to fly with the British Air Transport Auxiliary.

September – Following a proposal submitted by pilot Nancy Harkness Love to the Ferry Command of the Army Air Forces, the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, or WAFS, is established. Twenty-five of America's top women pilots will begin ferrying aircraft throughout the US.

September 15 – Jackie Cochran establishes the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) under General Henry "Hap" Arnold, chief of the Army Air Forces.

- November 17** – The first class of 28 recruits from the Women’s Flying Training Detachment reports to Houston, Texas, municipal airport.
- November** – The WAFS fly their first mission, taking Piper Cubs from Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, to Mitchell Field, New York.
- 1943 February 6** – The WFTD increases its goal for the number of women pilots to graduate that year from 396 to 750.
- February 21** – Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, welcomes its first class of women pilots.
- February** – The WFTD school in Houston, Texas, closes.
- August 5** – The Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) merge with Jackie Cochran’s training program to form the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).
- September 30** – Representative John Costello of California introduces the WASP militarization bill.
- December 17** – The WASP wings are made available in time for the graduation of Class 43-W-8.
- 1944 February** – The WASP are finally issued the Santiago Blue uniform.
- March 24** – Senators Joseph Hill, of Alabama, and Harold Burton, of Ohio, submit a resolution calling for the appointment of female pilots and aviation cadets for the Army Air Forces.
- May 29** – Time magazine runs an article entitled “Unnecessary and Undesirable” calling the WASP experiment expensive and claims men could have been trained more quickly.
- June** – The Congressional bid for WASP militarization fails. It was the first time during World War II that legislation supported by the Army Air Forces was voted down.
- July** – Rumors begin circulating in the press that the WASP program is about to be disbanded.
- October 1** – General Hap Arnold issues a memorandum to WASP Director Jackie Cochran stating that because of the changing war situation the WASP would “soon become pilot material in excess of needs.”

- October** – The WASP receive notification from WASP Director Jackie Cochran and General Hap Arnold that their unit would be disbanded in December.
- November 1** – Brigadier General Bob Nowland writes a memo describing the hardships that will be caused by deactivating the WASP program.
- December 7** – General Hap Arnold addresses the final graduating class of WASP.
- December 20** – The WASP program is official disbanded.
- 1977 October 19** – The Senate votes unanimously to grant WASP veterans' recognition.
- November 3** – The House votes to give the WASP veteran status.
- November 23** – President Jimmy Carter signs a bill into law “Officially declaring the Women Airforce Service Pilots as having served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of laws administered by the Veterans Administration.”
- 1979 March 8** – The Department of the Air Force authorizes official discharges for the WASP.
- May** – The Air Force issues the first honorable discharges for women serving in the WASP during the Second World War.