

The Charleroi Mail, Sept. 4, 1942, Charleroi, PA

Today's Profile

By United Press

Thousands of American women are doing duty in the assembly line in aircraft factories. But did you know that some also are taking part in the "brainy" work, helping design Uncle Sam's planes?

In Washington the Navy Department has two women engineers in its bureau of aeronautics. Miss Maude Elsa Gardner is a "veteran" of the last war, and is proud to help her country win this one. Miss Marion W. Bond, a "post World War baby," already has got her wings and is learning rapidly to become an aeronautical engineer.

Of slight build and reticent about her achievements, Miss Gardner gives credit for her success in her profession to her colleagues. "I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for the help and guidance of men prominent in my profession," she said.

Our Allies, the British, started her out on the engineering path in the last war. While she worked for British ministry of munitions in the United States, they taught her a new highly accurate system of gauging. After a brief "stretch" with the Army as inspector of airplanes she was released to introduce the British gauging system in a torpedo plant at the request of the Navy.

Since then she has handled other man-sized jobs. In 1936 she took over as editor of the Army Air Corps' "Technical Data Digest" at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. At the time Army officers demurred on the delicate matter of whether or not a woman could do the job. She stuck with it five years, editing and condensing about 600 scientific articles a month. They were written in technical French, German and Italian as well as English.

Since March, 1941, Miss Gardner has been with the Navy. A "desk sailor," she said her work is mostly reading—"I don't push a slide rule any longer."

Two interesting documents on the walls of her apartment attract the attention of visitors. One is a letter of commendation from Lt. Gen. H.H. Arnold, chief of the U.S. Army Air Forces. The other recognizes her years of study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Pratt Institute, New York University and St. Lawrence University, in that it is a certificate of membership in the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, to which she was admitted in 1938. She also is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers.

Her protégé is a graduate of the University of Maryland and a pilot trained under the CAA program. She has been doing "technical work in line with airplane designing and structures" in the bureau of aeronautics.