

NAVY NAMES FIRST WOMAN E.D.O.

Lt. White Receives Designation For Electronics Instruction Work

Meet Lieut. Ruth Carolyn White, USNR, the Navy's first woman officer ever to be designated as an Engineering Duty Officer. Now on active duty with the Bureau of Ships, she is responsible for civilian training of electronics workers in BuShips field activities.

Born in Bisbee, Arizona, Lieutenant White originally intended to become a doctor, and she had studied medicine for three years. However, she decided that her interests lay in another field. In 1932 she was graduated from the University of California with a B. A. degree in mathematics as an actuary, with secondary training in economics and physics. She then received a Master's degree in education together with additional mathematical study. Included in her graduate work were such studies as differential and integral calculus, the theory of equations, and the theory of finite differences in astronomy. She studied actuarial science, probability and mathematical finance. On finishing her scholastic training, Lt. White returned to Arizona where she taught in Bisbee. She instructed crippled high school boys at home, and worked with the Junior Red Cross, 4-H clubs, YWCA and Little Theater groups there. Today, as a lieutenant in the Navy, Carolyn White is still teaching -- in the complicated and rapidly advancing field of electronics.

Radar at Harvard, MIT

Lt. White was commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve



PRESENTLY ON DUTY at the Bureau, Lieutenant White is responsible for the training of electronics mechanics in field activities.

in October, 1943, after attending midshipman school at Northampton, Mass. At this time she intended to become a navigational instructor, but shortly after receiving her commission, she was assigned to the Navy's Radar School at Harvard University. She then received Navy training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Following her MIT training,

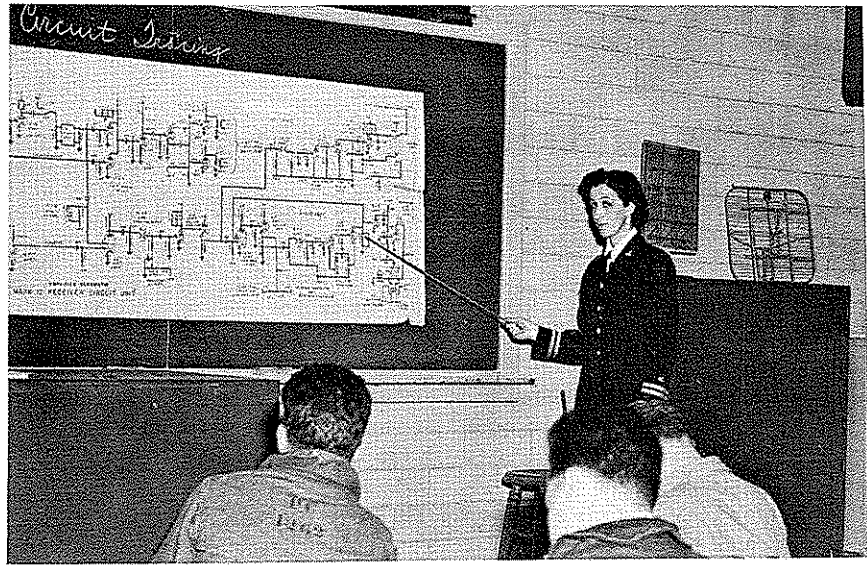
she took over duties at the Radar School of Philadelphia Naval Shipyard as a subordinate to the Radio Material Officer, Capt. W. H. Beltz, USN, (now on duty with the Bureau of Ships as Assistant Chief of the Bureau for Electronics). At that time, the teaching staff of the Radar School included only two women-Lieutenant White and Ens. Charlotte Potter. The students at the Radar

School were obviously not expecting feminine instructors. Lieutenant White's first class, composed of Coast Guardsmen, showed unmistakable amazement at their first meeting, but their delight with their woman-instructor found new expression on the second day the class was held, when Lieutenant White discovered the room completely decorated with apples, bananas and fruit of all kinds.

Electronics at Philadelphia Yards

At the conclusion of World War II, Lieutenant White stayed on at the Radar School, and eventually directed the entire school. She conducted some of the first orientation courses held by the Shipyard Commander for the Electronics Shop 67, organized in 1948. During her tour of duty at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Lieutenant White trained reserve and regular fleet personnel, both officers and enlisted, as well as civilian workers. Moreover, as Assistant Officer in Charge of Electronics, she was responsible for the installation and maintenance at the shipyard of electronics equipment worth approximately \$750,000. Twenty-two different kinds of radar were included in the equipment for which she was responsible. Planning for future electronics needs at the school was also an important part of Lieutenant White's duties. Administratively, she was responsible for training instructors for the Electronics Shop and for adapting suitable courses for the fleet.

In 1950, she was transferred to the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard, Correspondence Course Center, where she was section head for electronics. After serving a nine-months tour of duty there, she was transferred to the Bureau of Ships. Since she entered on duty at the Bureau, Lieutenant White has worked with George Koenig, Head of the Bureau's Training Branch for Field Activities, on the idea



SUBMARINERS GETTING the word on electronics from LT. Carolyn White at the Radar School, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. She served as Assistant Officer in Charge of the School from September, 1944 until February, 1950.

of "package" training for electronic workers in the field. This movable "package" contains material which is designed to train electronics mechanics in all phases of the field and is doubly beneficial, since workers in all field activities receive standardized training. In addition to the visual displays which are included in the package, instruction books for teachers and students are also available.

E. D. Designation Was No Mistake

At present Lieutenant White's suggestion that a new job description be written up for civilian electronics mechanics is under consideration. Her work is in close cooperation with the Field Engineering, E & O Liaison and Training Section of Electronics (Code 992), for specialized training on new equipments.

Aside from professional duties, Lieutenant White was active in college debating, and recently became a member of the District Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. She would like to be a radio "ham" operator, but so far her busy schedule hasn't allowed

her time to do it.

Asked how she felt about receiving her E. D. designation, Lieutenant White said:

"I couldn't imagine what it was all about at first. Several times before I had been mixed up with men officers because of my work in the radar field, and I just thought that the E. D. designation was another mistake."

But it was no mistake, as many electronically-trained officers, enlisted men, and civilian workers will gratefully testify.