

A Year of Women

Lost in history: Women in War

Fact #3: Elizabeth Hoisington, of Sackets Harbor, became the first female General in the United States Army in 1970, three years after Congress authorized the promotion of women to General status.

Teaching Points

1. The role of Women's Army Corps (WACs) and how they supported the overall war effort during World War II.
2. Discuss the career ladder that one must follow in order to reach the rank of General.
3. Discuss the importance and the role of women today in the military.

NY Learning Standard(s)

ELA 1, 4; SS 1,4

Discussion Questions

- 1a. What were the specific job duties of women in the Women's Army Corps? How did this differ from men's duties in the military?
- 1b. What were some successes that Elizabeth Hoisington had in her military career to become a General? Why did Hoisington retire after being a General for only one year?
- 2a. What are the specific ranks in the Army? Describe the difference in ranks as compared with that of a General.
- 2b. Would General Hoisington's role in 1970 be different from today's role as a General? Are women today allowed in combat? Should they be?
- 3a. Eleanor Roosevelt was a very popular First Lady, yet some believed she was too outspoken for a woman. How does she compare with other women in politics in their views and causes for social reform?
- 3b. Why weren't women given the opportunity to rise to General status until 1970?

Activity Extensions

1. **Interviewing a Primary Source:** Contact the Sackets Harbor Village and Town of Hounsfield Historians. Set up an interview to discuss General Hoisington's life. After the interview, write a biographical report that clearly depicts the life and rise of General Elizabeth Hoisington.
2. **Debate:** Prepare a debate for social studies class that clearly states the arguments for and against women in combat.
3. **Field Trip:** Take a field trip to the Sackets Harbor Battlefield Historic Site and to the former Army post, Madison Barracks.