

BRITISH AIR TRANSPORT AUXILIARY



American Women's Section

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c/o Royal Air Force Ferry Command

MONTREAL, CANADA

As requested I am giving you further details of the Air Transport Auxiliary.

The Air Transport Auxiliary carries out in Great Britain, ferrying duties of all types of military airplanes for the Royal Air Force. Contract for these duties is for eighteen (18) months, and you will be provided with a free passage from your home town to the headquarters of the Air Transport Auxiliary in England and on expiration of your term of service free return passage to your home, together with one hundred dollars (\$100.) out-of-pocket expenses.

In England you may be required to be posted to any of the ferry pools situated throughout the country; but every effort will be made to insure that American women pilots are kept together so far as possible.

In order to fit you for flying these military airplanes you will undergo on arrival in England a conversion course in the Air Transport Auxiliary school. This course will include additional instructions on navigation in the United Kingdom and also technical instructions on propellers, motors, carburetors, etc. The greatest care is exercised to insure that a pilot is competent to fly these airplanes before being posted to a pool.

I propose during the course of the next few weeks to carry out an extended tour of the United States to interview applicants. For my initial interviews I will limit it to women pilots who have three hundred (300) hours or more. When due to arrive in your district, I will notify you beforehand to meet me at a predetermined city, for which journey you will receive free transportation and ten dollars (\$10.) expenses for a night's lodging away from home if necessary. Subject to a satisfactory interview you will then be sent to Montreal for flight and medical tests. During this time you will receive ten dollars (\$10) in Canadian money per day subsistence allowance, this commencing from the time you leave your home town until arrival at headquarters of Air Transport Auxiliary in England. If you fail the tests in Montreal you will be furnished with free transportation home.

The flight test will be carried out on North American trainers, but you will be given an opportunity of familiarizing yourself with this airplane in the company of an instructor before being asked to submit to a flight check.

In England you will receive as remuneration when fully qualified to fly military airplanes on ferry duties an average of four thousand dollars (\$4,000.) per year which will include twenty-five dollars (\$25.) a week payable in United States currency to your bank in the United States. The salary in England is paid in English sterling



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and all emoluments are free of British income tax. The terms of the contract also provide for insurance coverage to two thousand pounds (2,000 L), payable in United States funds at prevailing rate of exchange in the event of fatal accident with pro rata benefits for disablement on flying duties.

On reporting at Air Transport Auxiliary headquarters you will be issued with a complete uniform which will include jacket, skirt, overcoat and cap. In addition, a full set of flying equipment: helmet, goggles, gloves, flying suit, boots, parachute, etc. is issued against your signature and returnable on completion of contract.

The first requirement is for twenty-five (25) pilots only, although this will doubtless be augmented should these women pilots prove satisfactory.

I am particularly anxious to stress that the work is intensely interesting, but it must be recollected that it is being carried out in a country that is at war, and has been at war for two and a half years. The fullest implications of this must be realized, factors such as rationing, blackouts, etc. And the general shortages which are corollary to a country at war will mean a considerable difference in living conditions to those to which you have been accustomed.

The contents of this letter is given to you in confidence and not to be passed along in any interviews or used in any way for publicity purposes.