

ances in the various military installations that did not have connecting latrines. As for the required physical training, men received nothing similar to the seersucker exercise dress, yet it appeared undesirable for women to assemble on the drill field in nothing but panties. In this last case, it was luckily noted that Waacs, except for a few women drivers, did not receive the fatigue coveralls that men did; thus, the seersucker dress could be accepted as a non-discriminatory substitute for men's coveralls. On most of the other items, authorization was not made until June and was withdrawn again in a few months.

The Quartermaster General reduced some of the requested allowances to the number authorized for men; the WAAC request for eight shirts was reduced to four. The request for six cotton dresses and six cotton aprons for cooks, and four coveralls for drivers, was reduced by The Quartermaster General to three, three, and two. In requesting two uniform jackets, pre-planners pointed out that men received heavy wool shirts to be worn without a jacket, but that the WAAC's thin cotton shirts were designed for wear with the whole suit, and that "cleanliness, good health, and appearance" required two suit jackets. However, only one jacket was finally authorized, since men got only one.<sup>53</sup>

The Heraldic Section of The Quartermaster General's Office meanwhile had submitted designs for insignia. Designers were initially somewhat at a loss, since insignia usually portrayed the function of the corps concerned and no one knew exactly what the Waacs were to do, except that they would perform several Army jobs. A first attempt produced only a busy-bee-like insect, which Mrs. Hobby pronounced a bug, adding that she had no

desire to be called the Queen Bee.

Designers then hit upon the idea of a head of Pallas Athene, a goddess associated with an impressive variety of womanly virtues and no vices either womanly or godlike. She was the goddess of handicrafts, wise in industries of peace and arts of war, also the goddess of storms and battle, who led through victory to peace and prosperity.<sup>54</sup> Accordingly, the head of Pallas Athene, together with the traditional *U.S.*, was selected for lapel insignia, cut out for officers and on discs for enlisted women.

An eagle for the cap was also designed, less intricate than the Army eagle and later to be familiarly known to Waacs, for reasons closely connected with its appearance, as "the buzzard." Since Army buttons could not be used for an auxiliary corps, the WAAC eagle was also to be imprinted on plastic buttons. Only the insignia of grade required no planning; it was to be the same as the Army's, with a tab lettered *WAAC* sewed under the chevrons.<sup>55</sup>

### *Housing Plans*

Plans for housing were less urgent, since field companies would not be ready for assignment for several months. On the basis of British experience and of her conferences with psychiatrists, Mrs. Hobby

<sup>53</sup> All from: (1) Memo, OQMG for G-1, 3 Jun 42. SPQRR 421. Copy in SPWA 421. (2) Memo, Dir WAAC for OQMG, 5 Jun 42. SPWA 400.34 (3-21-42)(1) sec 1 (1943). (3) Memo, Lt. W. W. Foulkes for Dir WAAC, 20 Jun 42. Same file. (4) Memo, OQMG for USW, 16 Sep 42. Folder, WAC Recruiting, ASF Sp Coll DRB AGO.

<sup>54</sup> Personal ltr, Brig Gen Clarence Weems to *Field Artillery Journal*, January 1943. 1942 WAAC files WA 600.9.

<sup>55</sup> Memo, Dir Mil Pers SOS for G-1, 23 May 42. G-1/15839-10, in SPWA 421 (5-16-42) sec 1.