



LT. COL. HELEN H. WOODS (*then Third Officer*).

The four service command directors on the Atlantic seaboard plunged at once into the work of aiding the Aircraft Warning Service units to obtain supplies, warm uniforms, three meals a day, and safer quarters, as well as of providing a legal means for the personnel actions that began to be necessary. Particular difficulty was experienced in persuading non-service command stations to permit such efforts. Some measure of success was eventually obtained. For example, after repeated telephone calls and correspondence had failed to convince the Norfolk Air Defense Wing, Third Officer Jessie P. Rice of the Third Service Command paid a personal visit and reported a "long and pleasant" conversation with the commanding officer, during which he alleged that he had never seen War Department Circular 344, but

agreed to abide by it and WAAC Regulations in the future.⁵⁶

In stations at which units had not yet arrived, service command directors set themselves to prevent the hardships and poor publicity that unpreparedness had brought to the Aircraft Warning Service units. One surviving memorandum on "How to Visit the Field" offered strenuous advice:

1. Visit the commanding officer and explain the WAAC's status.

2. Visit the quartermaster and check with him methods of requisitioning WAAC uniforms and other supplies and equipment peculiar to females; where stocked, and so on.

3. Visit the post engineer and verify safety and proper construction of WAAC barracks, including plumbing, fire escapes, shades, and distance from men's barracks.

4. Visit the post surgeon and arrange for separate sick call and separate wards for women, different medical supplies, and the like.

5. Visit the finance officer and explain how the Auxiliary is paid.

6. Visit the post exchange officer and suggest toilet articles, sanitary supplies and other items to be stocked for women purchasers.

7. Visit the athletic and recreation officer and arrange for recreation suitable for women, and for admission to post theater, service club, and other activities.

8. Visit the provost marshal and discuss the Auxiliary disciplinary system and its wide difference from the Army system, the power of military police over Waacs, and related matters.

⁵⁶ (1) Ltr, Stf Dir 3d SvC to 3d O Betty Bandel, 1 Dec 42. SPWA 319.12. (2) Ltr, Stf Dir 3d SvC to Dir WAAC, 1 Jan 43, sub: Rpt on Trip to Norfolk, Va., 27 Dec 42. Same file.