



BRIG. GEN. DON C. FAITH *shortly after his promotion and assignment to command the WAAC Training Command.*

the allotted grades of female leaders as the Corps expanded would not be obligatory.³⁶

Shipment of the First Post Headquarters Companies

For some time disgruntled station commanders had complained about the repeated postponement of arrival dates originally given them for WAAC post headquarters companies. Many, ignorant of the fact that all available Waacs had gone to staff the Daytona Beach training center, began to repeat the rumor that the Corps was a failure and would never materialize in the field. One WAAC service command director noted, "I spent most of my time apologizing to my General for the peculiar behavior of WAAC Headquarters."³⁷

The necessity for staffing the Third

WAAC Training Center with cadre again set back the shipment schedule of post headquarters companies. By Christmas of 1942 only two Army stations had received their promised shipment—Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and Fort Huachuca, Arizona.³⁸ These units went out well equipped with winter uniforms at the expense of those remaining in training centers, in compliance with the Director's ban on shipment in civilian clothing. They were also more fortunate than the pioneer Aircraft Warning Service companies, in that careful preparations had been made for them by the WAAC service command directors.

The women as a whole were consumed with eagerness to reach genuine Army stations, and both morale and discipline were good. Mrs. Woods noted later, "In spite of the difficulties topside, the spirit of the women was remarkable, especially the fervor with which they accepted all sorts of unexplained difficulties. There sprang up among them an unexcelled *esprit de corps*."³⁹

The arrival of the first Waacs at Fort Sam Houston on 17 December was described by a WAAC spectator, who wrote:

The consensus of opinion at Fort Sam Houston was that it would be unfair and unwise to parade a company upon the day of its arrival by troop train. In fact the remark was made: "They will not make a good impression while disheveled." You would have been

³⁶ (1) Memo, ACofS Pers Div SOS for CofAdm Serv, 23 Jan 43, SPAP 322.5 WAAC (1-18-43), ref to Memo, CofAdm Serv for Gen Dalton, 13 Jan 43; (2) Memo, Dir WAAC for MPD SOS, 14 Jan 43, and Inds, SPWA 210. All in ASF Sp Coll DRB AGO.

³⁷ Intervs with Stf Dirs, 1st and 3d SvCs.

³⁸ Date of shipment given as 2 Dec 42 for Ft Huachuca units, in MS Hist of 1st WAAC Tng Cen; WDBPR Press Release, 19 Dec 43, gives 15 Dec as date of shipment and 17 Dec as date of arrival.

³⁹ Interv with Mrs. Woods, 9 Oct 48.