

ance, in view of the WAVES' competition, and wrote: "It should be pressed to the limit."²⁴ In the same bill, it was asked that the confusing WAAC grades, officer and enlisted, be changed to correspond exactly to the Army's, except that general officer grades would not be open to women. Considerable Congressional objection resulted. The House first voted to leave the Director's and assistant directors' pay at the equivalent of major and captain, respectively, on the grounds that "the duties and responsibilities of these officers" did not merit higher pay. After some delay, the pay bill was finally approved intact on 26 October 1942.²⁵

Other piecemeal legislation followed. On 23 July Congresswoman Edith Rogers had introduced a bill to give Waacs the benefits of National Service Life Insurance, but this got nowhere.²⁶ On 8 October Mrs. Rogers introduced a bill to grant Waacs hospitalization and domiciliary care by the Veterans' Administration. Five months later, after numerous vicissitudes, this provision, plus burial benefits, was enacted into law.²⁷ In October, November, and again in January, bills were introduced to give free postage to Waacs, but these also got nowhere.²⁸ In October Mrs. Rogers introduced a bill to place the WAAC in the Army Reserve Corps.²⁹ This was intended to supplant the pay bill and other partial legislation by making pay and everything else equivalent. It did not pass, because General Marshall informally sent word to Congress that he believed the pay bill urgent and did not wish to delay it with a more controversial measure. General White reported:

He [General Marshall] said that at that time the Corps was still in a formative period, we had no units actually organized and functioning with the Army [as distinguished from

the Aircraft Warning Service], and under the circumstances he preferred that we go ahead as we were until we had gone far enough to know just how valuable this Corps was going to be to the Army.³⁰

Introduction of WAC Bill

By the beginning of 1943 General Marshall had changed his mind. He informed the Director:

Although the Corps is still in the formative period of organization, its members have convincingly demonstrated their ability to render a vital military service. The standards of discipline, training, and general efficiency are on the highest level and are a complete reassurance to the officials of the War Department as to the outstanding services which will be rendered by this organization.³¹

In January Mrs. Rogers worked with the Director's Office to draft a bill for Army status. This she introduced on 14 January 1943. The bill very simply stated that women might be enlisted and com-

²⁴ Memo, "G. C. M." to G-1. WDCSA 291.9 (8-31-42), in AG 291.9 (6-2-41).

²⁵ (1) Memo, G-1 through CofS to MPD SOS, 24 May 42. WDGAP 421 WAC, in CofS 291.9 WAAC. (2) Memo, Dir WAAC for Col Abbott, 20 May 42; (3) Ltr, Bur of Budget to SW, 2 Sep 42; (4) Memo, G-1 for CofS, 2 Sep 42; (5) Ltr, SW to Chmn Senate Com on Mil Affairs, 3 Sep 42; (6) S 2751, 77th Cong; (7) Senate Com on Mil Affairs, 77th Cong, 2d sess, *Hearings on S 2751*, 4 Sep 42; (8) Senate Calendar No. 1655, Rpt 1603; (9) HR 7539, 77th Cong, 10 Sep 42; (10) HR Rpt 2475, 21 Sep 42; (11) HR Rpt 2524, 12 Oct 42; (12) PL 761, 77th Cong, 26 Oct 42. All except (1) in AG 291.9 (6-2-41).

²⁶ HR 7435, 77th Cong, 2d sess, 23 Jul 42.

²⁷ (1) HR 7673, 77th Cong, 2d sess, 8 Oct 42. (2) HR 665, 78th Cong, 1st sess, 6 Jan 43. (3) Subcom of Senate Fin Com, 78th Cong, 1st sess, *Hearings on S 230*, 25 Feb-1 Mar 43. (4) HR 1749, 78th Cong, 1st sess. (5) PL 10, 78th Cong, 2d sess, 17 Mar 46.

²⁸ HR 7748 (27 Oct 42) and HR 7812 (24 Nov 42), 77th Cong, 2d sess; HR 844, 78th Cong, 1st sess, 7 Jan 43.

²⁹ HR 7718, 77th Cong, 2d sess, 16 Oct 42.

³⁰ Senate Com on Mil Affairs, 78th Cong, 1st sess, *Hearings on S 495*, 3 Feb 43, p. 4.

³¹ Memo, 16 Dec 42. WDCSA 291.9 WAAC.