

whether the WAAC with its prisoner-of-war camps was not "suffering by contrast with the WAVES with Smith College, Holyoke, and Hunter?"¹³ The Director therefore appealed to the Services of Supply for any other location, even city hotels, but was offered nothing else except a desert camp below sea level at Tulare, California. The WAAC therefore was obliged to accept the prison camps in order to comply with the directed expansion program.¹⁴

The three scattered branches of this training center, some one hundred miles apart, made administration difficult. The buildings were bare and rough inside and out, located in desolate sandy stockades. Colonel Hoag, who was ordered from Des Moines to be commandant, said: "It was necessary to place the moving-picture theaters of Ruston 'off-limits' until they were cleared of rats and other vermin. . . ." ¹⁵ General Marshall himself was concerned about the situation and, in a personal conference with Colonel Hoag, told him to push Special Services operations at this training center. However, the Eighth Service Command later turned down Colonel Hoag's request for these services on the grounds that it had had no instructions from the Army Service Forces.¹⁶ Director Hobby, upon a later visit to the Fifth WAAC Training Center, said, "I know of no finer example of patriotism by Waacs anywhere than that which was shown by the women who worked and trained successfully at these camps."¹⁷

Expansion of WAAC Training

In accordance with General Staff directives, Brig. Gen. Don C. Faith's WAAC Training Command during the spring months underwent an expansion which

overshadowed previous efforts. On 1 March the Fourth WAAC Training Center was activated at Fort Devens; on 15 March the Fifth WAAC Training Center was activated in the three prisoner-of-war camps, with recruits arriving a bare two weeks later. With these additions the five basic training centers had a capacity of 46,388. This meant that some 7,000 trained women—about 50 companies—could now be sent to the field weekly. There were 53 WAAC companies in the field at the end of February; by July, it was intended that there should be at least 375.¹⁸

In addition to the five basic training centers, several specialist schools were set up to relieve the training command of some of the load of specialist training. Most important of these were seven administrative specialist schools set up at women's colleges in the South and Southwest. These were under the jurisdiction of The Adjutant General, not General Faith, and were commanded by Army officers, with WAAC officers as instructors and company officers. Each had a capacity of about 600, and offered a six-week course designed to turn out trained administrative specialists.¹⁹ Students of The Adjutant General's schools, like men, were given the rank of private first class, although graduates of identical courses at

¹³ Miss B. Eugenia Lies, The Overall WAAC Picture (first draft), 28 Mar 43. SPWA 291.9, in Folder, Planning Serv Notes, WAAC Planning files.

¹⁴ (1) Weekly Rpt, WAAC Hq to CofAdm Serv, 7-13 Feb 43. SPWA 319.12 (1942). (2) WAAC Daily Journal, Vol. I, 5 and 8 Feb 43.

¹⁵ Ltr to Col Catron, 27 Apr 43. SPWA 291.1.

¹⁶ (1) Statement by Comdt, Col Hoag, at mtg cited. (2) Ltrs, Col Hoag to Col Catron, 14 Apr 43, Tab, Ruston, and 3 May 43. SPWA 291.1.

¹⁷ Lecture notes, Lt Col Jess Rice. WAC files, OCMH.

¹⁸ M/R, 1 Mar 43, cited n. 8.

¹⁹ WDBPR Press Release, 3 Mar 43.