

clothing and equipment. This recommendation was approved by the Services of Supply's Chief of Staff, General Styer, in ignorance of the fact that the women were already at Des Moines.¹⁵

Upon Director Hobby's return from England in mid-November and her threatened resignation, General Styer shortly reversed this policy and directed The Quartermaster General to get 2,000 winter uniforms to Des Moines at once and 1,000 a week thereafter, regardless of his twelve months' notice. General Styer's immediate subordinate, the assistant chief of staff for operations—Maj. Gen. LeRoy Lutes—then directed The Quartermaster General to procure at once 2,500 wool-lined trousers, 2,500 wool shirts, and 2,000 pairs of gloves for WAAC motor transport personnel. General Lutes' immediate subordinate, the director of Requirements Division—Brig. Gen. Walter A. Wood, Jr.—also directed the Quartermaster Corps to procure 17,700 wool caps and wool gloves and 2,574 more overshoes, and to take action to standardize necessary articles for winter wear.¹⁶

To achieve this increase without diverting standard material from men's uniforms, the Philadelphia Depot was obliged to gather up various odd lots of different colored woolen materials which were then in the depot, and to have them redyed to the enlisted shade. These inevitably came out in a wide range of nonstandard colors. One branch of OQMG directed that some skirts, some jackets, and some caps be made in each shade, so that a woman might receive a complete matching outfit even if she did not match her neighbors. Since this would have caused administrative difficulty for the depot, another branch of OQMG canceled this order without the knowledge of the branch that

had issued it. As a result, skirts and jackets were of different shades and it was impossible to match them. Observed a Quartermaster historian: "The most grotesque combination was that of the chocolate-brown barathea and the mustard shade olive-drab."¹⁷ From the viewpoint of the Recruiting Service, these uniforms were worse than the shortages, but they were at least warm.

To avoid such hasty procurement in the future, The Quartermaster General again recommended that his office be given twelve months' notice on any further increases, saying:

Experience indicates that it has required approximately twelve months from the initiation of procurement of cloth required for WAAC uniforms until the finished article is ready for issue.

WAAC Headquarters again professed its helplessness to give such notice:

Since the passage of the bill creating the WAAC, four (4) distinct expansion plans have been ordered by higher authority. In each instance the plan was ordered into operation immediately, and The Quartermaster General was given the proposed figures without delay.

Accordingly, the Services of Supply was forced in December of 1942 to give The Quartermaster General procurement authorization in advance of the General Staff decision on the Corps' future size, stating that the clothing could be used for main-

¹⁵ Memo, CofS SOS for CofAdm Serv, 19 Nov 42. SPEX, SPWA 421 (11-19-42).

¹⁶ (1) Interv with Lt Col Helen Woods, 9 Oct 48. (2) Weekly Rpt, WAAC Hq to CofAdm Serv, 15-21 Nov 42. SPWA 319.12 (11-9-42) sec 1. (3) Memo, ACofS Opns SOS for QMG, 27 Nov 42. SPDDQ 420 Clothing, in SPWA 421 (11-27-42). (4) 1st Ind, Reqmts Div SOS (Gen Wood) to QMG, 3 Dec 42. SPRMD 421 (11-26-42), in WA 400.34.

¹⁷ Risch, *Wardrobe for Women of the Army*, p. 51, ns. 95, 97.