

"that a determined inquiry be made at once to ascertain why certain articles are, and have been, habitually lacking over a period of months, and that steps be taken to remedy this deficiency."²⁰

In reply to Colonel Clark's report, The Quartermaster General stated that WAAC supply had been "expedited in every manner"; "contractors are well ahead"; "this office, in supervising and directing the procurement of WAAC clothing through the procuring depot, has taken every action possible to eliminate delinquencies on current contracts."²¹ This view was supported by General Madison Pearson, Deputy Chief of Administrative Services, SOS, who wrote, "The report of action taken by The Quartermaster General indicates that everything possible is being done to expedite the manufacture and shipment of clothing."²²

Finally, representatives of WAAC Headquarters, in a meeting at OQMG, secured promise of makeshift action to supply the Fourth Training Center. A sufficient quantity of Civilian Conservation Corps spruce-green mackinaws were made available; trainees were issued Army officers' serge shirts in lieu of winter jackets; and 20,000 more off-shade skirts were procured, also shoes and raincoats. The Fifth Training Center, at Camps Ruston and Polk in Louisiana and Monticello in Arkansas, could fortunately get along with summer khaki. The Quartermaster General, said a WAAC representative, was "most sympathetic and cooperative."

The Quartermaster General now decided that the matter of supplying the WAAC warranted the full-time specialized attention of one officer, and a WAAC officer was assigned to his office to work on the problem. Such an assignment had not been possible previously because of Gen-

eral Somervell's order that no WAAC officers would be assigned to any office within his headquarters other than that of the Director WAAC.²³

If the supply of uniforms to training centers was insufficient, that to field stations was virtually nonexistent. Army supply officers at these stations often were uncertain what the WAAC supply channel was or what depots stocked WAAC clothing, and they had no copies of the WAAC T/BA, T/E, and T/O, which were apparently not available at training centers or in the field. Even if requisitions were properly submitted, it took over a month to get them filled from the two depots—Kansas City and Atlanta—that stocked WAAC uniforms. Sometimes the requisitions were never filled, and the wait for shoes was often two or three months. As late as 15 March a service command which had administered WAAC units for seven months was told that there was still no schedule set up for maintenance allowances for Waacs at posts, camps, and stations, and that none could be set up until sufficient quantities of clothing were available for new recruits.²⁴

Appearance of the Uniform

In addition to exaggerating shortages, the expansion program had permanently

²⁰ Memo, Chief, Opns Serv WAAC, for Exec WAAC, 6 Mar 43. SPWA 421 (11-20-42) 1942.

²¹ Memo, QMG for WAAC Hq, 10 Mar 43. SPWA 421 (1942).

²² Memo, DCofAdm Serv for Dir WAAC, 13 Mar 43. Same file.

²³ Memo, Chief, Opns Serv WAAC for Dir WAAC, 23 Mar 43. WA 421 (1942). For Somervell order, see pp. 94-95, above.

²⁴ (1) Ltr, OQMG to field, 23 Sep 42. SPQX 420. (2) Ltr, 8 Dec 42, sub: same. SPWA 421 (5-16-42) sec 1. (3) Memo, 1st Tng Cen for WAAC Hq, 29 Oct 42. SPWA 421. (4) Ltr, 1st SvC to Dir WAAC, 15 Mar 43. SPWA 400.34 (3-21-42)(1) sec 3.