

average member as higher than that of the average civilian girl. Nevertheless, a relatively few instances of drunkenness and misconduct had made a proportionately greater impression on local citizens. Since Waacs originally did not have to wear uniforms off duty, local citizens also showed a tendency to consider any drunken woman a disguised Waac, until training center authorities forbade wearing of civilian dress in the Des Moines area.⁶⁵

Near the Fifth Training Center, a Capt. Charles S. wrote a Waac friend that he had heard there were 165 "pregnated" Waacs in one month at Camp Polk, and that before members went out on passes they were required to show that they had contraceptives with them. When asked for proof by Military Intelligence, Captain S. was, agents said, "much chagrined and embarrassed."⁶⁶

In the area around Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, agents reported evidence that rumors had been spread by men who resented WAAC rank or who thought they would be shipped overseas as soon as enough Waacs could be recruited to replace them. Local girls and women had picked up the rumors; one admitted to agents that she had spread stories which were not true but that, "I just get tired of seeing them around." A rumor about 100 pregnancies was traced to the local WCTU. Again, statistics failed to support the charges. Of 14,000 women trained or processed since the training center opened, three had been hospitalized for drunkenness, and eight had venereal disease, which agents described as a "negligible" percentage of cases compared to civilian rates. Hotel owners and the director of the Chamber of Commerce said Waacs conducted themselves better than civilian girls.⁶⁷

Investigation at Daytona Beach

The most extensive training center investigation was conducted at Daytona Beach, where the Second WAAC Training Center and General Faith's headquarters had operated in the midst of a resort city. In January Director Hobby had renewed her attempts to get the women out of the city area, and in March the Services of Supply approved construction of classrooms and one theater but again refused to approve construction of recreational buildings.⁶⁸

As a result, large numbers of recreation-seeking Waacs descended on the city nightly, provoking much civilian resentment and some of the most serious allegations encountered by investigators. At first these objections concerned only the crowding and food consumption by Waacs: one winter resident, who described himself as "a lover of the locality and its facilities as an adorable resort," wrote his senator to denounce WAAC service as "a grand vacation at Government expense . . . the Army group monopolizes our few sizeable restaurants to the detriment of civilians." Investigators found that most such complaints came from about 15 percent of the local residents described as "well-to-do property owners . . . the

⁶⁵ Memo cited n. 26. Also (1) M/R, 10 Jul 43, Summary of Investigation, sub: Origin of Rumors Concerning WAAC. G-2 MID 322.12 (6-11-43). (2) Ltr, Col Hoag to Dir WAAC, 11 Jan 43, sub: Wearing of Uniform. SPWA 300.3 (12-7-43) sec 1 (Cont). (3) WAAC Cir 2, 28 Jan 43. (4) Ltr, WAAC Hq to Tng Cens, 24 Feb 43, sub: Wearing of Uniform. SPWA 300.3.

⁶⁶ Memo cited n. 61(1), 8th SvC sec.

⁶⁷ (1) Memo cited n. 26, Ft Oglethorpe Sec. (2) Ltr, MID 4th SvC to MID (Washington, D. C.), 5 Jul 43, sub: Origin of Rumors Concerning WAAC. G-2 MID 322.12 WAAC (6-11-43).

⁶⁸ Ltr, 2d Tng Cen to Dir WAAC, 8 Jan 43, and Inds. WA 600.1 (7-2-42)(1) sec 2 (1942).