

elderly conservative type."⁶⁹ Another civilian criticism alleged that WAAC messes wasted food so that their garbage cans were filled to overflowing while Florida civilians went hungry under the administration's food rationing system. Instead, investigators found that the disposable garbage rate in WAAC messes was only half that of the Army rate; the local garbage collector, when interviewed, stated that what he found in WAAC garbage cans was far less than that from "civilian sources."⁷⁰

Rumors nevertheless grew more vicious. It was said that WAAC trainees drank too much; that they picked up men in streets and bars; that they were registered with men in every hotel and auto court, or had sexual relations under trees and bushes in public parks; that there was a nearby military hospital filled to overflowing with maternity and venereal disease cases. Finally, it was seriously stated that Waacs were touring in groups seizing and raping sailors and Coast Guardsmen.⁷¹

No evidence to support such statements could be found by military intelligence operatives, or by independent investigations by the Fourth Service Command, or by Colonel Clark of WAAC Headquarters.⁷² The alleged government maternity home was nonexistent; only 18 pregnancies had been discovered, 16 of them among married women; inspectors could get locally only hearsay and gossip but "no single piece of correspondence which would indicate any tangible item."⁷³ Although the center had almost 10,000 trainees, the military police report for a typical Saturday night revealed a total of only 11 delinquencies:

- 2 kissing and embracing in public
- 1 no hat on
- 2 injured in auto accident

- 1 without identification card
- 1 walking with officer on street
- 2 found intoxicated
- 1 AWOL returned
- 1 "retrieved from Halifax River in an intoxicated condition"

11 Total

This was accounted a remarkable record in view of the fact that, among the thousands of women at the Second Training Center in this first week of May, 1943, many were the mental, moral, physical, and psychological problems that had been accepted in such large numbers before the restoration of recruiting standards. However, it was admitted that rumors would naturally spread through the local civilians if even one Waac out of 10,000 had to be retrieved from the Halifax River every Saturday night.⁷⁴

The inspectors and the local authorities

⁶⁹ (1) Ltr, Mr. Fred Huntress to Senator Claude Pepper, 3 Mar 43; (2) Memo, Gen Grunert for Dir WAAC, 23 Mar 43. Folder, Daytona Beach, Dir Adm Serv ASF Sp Coll DRB AGO.

⁷⁰ For civilian complaints: (1) Memos cited n. 61. (2) File of Dir Adm Serv, with investigations, cited n. 72.

⁷¹ Memos cited n. 61.

⁷² (1) For MID investigation, see Memos cited n. 61. (2) For Col Clark's, see Memo, Col Clark, Chief Opns Div WAAC Hq, for Dir WAAC, 27 May 43. SPWA 319.1. For others, see (3) Ltr, Mr. Harry Hopkins to Brig Gen Frederick H. Osborn, 1 Mar 43; (4) Memo, Dir WAAC for TIG, 13 Mar 43, incl Ltrs from Senator Pepper and Gen White, SPWA 330.14 (3-8-43)E; (5) Memo, Exec 2d WAAC Tng Cen for Comdt, 13 Mar 43; (6) Memo, Gen Faith for Dir WAAC, 18 Mar 43, SPWA 250.1; (7) TWX, Gen Grunert to DCofAdm Serv ASF, 19 Mar 43, WA-212-119-Govt Z; (8) Memo, DCofAdm Serv for Dir Reqmts Div ASF, 20 Mar 43, with approval by Reqmts Div, 23 Mar 43, SPAAS 353.8; (9) Memo, CofAdm Serv ASF for Dir WAAC, 23 Mar 43; (10) Various Ltrs from White House, Congress, citizens, *et al.*, atchd to above. Folder, Daytona Beach, Dir Adm Serv ASF Sp Coll DRB AGO.

⁷³ Rpt, CIC 4th SvC to MIS, 19 Jul 43, sub: Origin of Rumors. G-2 MID 322.12 WAAC.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*