

unanimously blamed the location and the lack of recreational facilities. The area was described as the week-end mecca of soldiers and sailors from surrounding military and naval stations. An Army investigator observed, "From Saturday noon until midnight Sunday, Daytona Beach takes on an atmosphere of a large coeducational institution at which the home team has just won an important football game."⁷⁵ One officer reported, "It was a crazy idea to try to set up a Military Training Center in a place like this where the girls live in hotels and are surrounded by a carnival atmosphere."⁷⁶

The Fourth Service Command inspector general recommended more recreation facilities so that trainees would not need to roam the city at night. The military intelligence operative agreed: "It is the opinion of this officer that recreational facilities are inadequate."⁷⁷ Ninety percent of the women had, he said, stayed in their quarters and suffered low morale, while only about 10 percent were seen in the city, but this 10 percent totaled a thousand women. General Grunert, who investigated in person, immediately telegraphed his office:

RECREATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO WAAC TRAINING CENTER HERE AT DAYTONA BEACH ARE SO GROSSLY INADEQUATE AS TO MAKE IT NECESSARY TO RECONSIDER THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING TWO SERVICE CLUBS. . . . PRESENT USE OF INADEQUATE CIVILIAN FACILITIES HAS RESULTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO RESULT IN COMPLAINTS AND RUMORS AS TO DRINKING AND IMMORALITY AND DEPLETION OF CIVILIAN FOOD SUPPLY. . . . TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH COMMANDING GENERAL ARMY SERVICE FORCES AT ONCE FOR EARLY ACTION.⁷⁸

Now, belatedly, Requirements Division, ASF, reversed its earlier disapprovals and approved Director Hobby's four-month-old recommendation for two service clubs,

but the time required to bring them into operation was considerable, and in any event the damage was irretrievable.⁷⁹

In addition, inspectors blamed some rumors at Daytona Beach on the conduct of female dischargees who remained about town "conducting a campaign against the WAAC."⁸⁰ General Faith noted that, in the weeks before recruiting standards were restored, about one half of 1 percent of the women sent him had previous records which warranted their immediate discharge, and that in addition another 4 percent were guilty of "unseemly conduct . . . specifically, drinking, boisterousness, and petting in public parks and on benches." The remaining 95 percent he believed to be of exemplary conduct and discipline, a good statistical average for any civilian community. General Faith stated, "I am convinced that faulty recruiting is the primary cause of the conditions described."⁸¹

No matter how promptly such women were discharged, civilian gossip had opportunity to multiply their numbers and to confuse the conduct of dischargees with that of trainees. WAAC military police attempted to take uniforms from dischargees who were wearing them for a purpose other than the official one of return to the place of enlistment, but in one such case a woman discharged for neurosis promptly ran screaming into the street disrobed, causing even worse public comment.

⁷⁵ Memo, Asst IG 4th SvC for CG 4th SvC, 9 May 43, atchd as Exhibit B to Rpt cited n. 73.

⁷⁶ Post Engr, in Rpt cited n. 73.

⁷⁷ Rpt cited n. 73.

⁷⁸ TWX cited n. 72(7).

⁷⁹ Memos cited n. 72(8) and 72(9).

⁸⁰ WAAC Cir 11, 1 Oct 42, and correspondence in SPWA 420 (8-25-42), 1942. Army Regulations shortly superseded this circular.

⁸¹ Memo cited n. 72(6).