

ences."³⁷ Another station lost 35 percent of its women because the women believed their WAAC commander to be misconducting herself with the station commander, although inspectors could find no proof of this.³⁸ On the other hand, it was found that when companies had good WAAC commanders many enlisted in a body, even though every other outward circumstance was unfavorable.³⁹

Many unsuitable WAC commanders were now relieved and replaced with women of understanding and integrity. Later, unsuitable WAC commanders could not be removed because the new Office of the Director WAC no longer had command power.⁴⁰

When questioned, women gave various reasons for departure. Some of the more frequent excuses tabulated were:

Changed family and home conditions: "Husband now stationed in U.S. and I wish to be with him." "Mother is ill." "Enrolled expecting husband to be drafted, but he was rejected." Almost half of the excuses given fell into this category. Some women sought leave to try to pacify relatives and men friends before giving up all hope of enlisting.

Dissatisfaction with job assignment: "Feel I can do more good in war industry." "I can do more good teaching." "My qualifications are not of as much value to the Army as they are in civilian life." "Do not feel I am doing what I came in to do." "Resent working under civilians."

Emotional or physical difficulties: "Feel physically unfit." "Cannot accustom myself to military life." "Unable to concentrate since my husband reported missing." "My two sons killed in action. It has made me very restless."⁴¹

Impatience with Army errors: Two women,

removed from motor transport school and sent to cooks and bakers school, said, "We expected the Army to be a well-regulated organization that didn't make mistakes." Others took basic training several times, were put in the wrong specialist school, sat six weeks in staging area, and said, "We see by the papers that requests are on file for 600,000 Wacs and here we sit. What's the payoff?"⁴²

Other miscellaneous undesirable conditions: These were analyzed by Colonel Catron as

Overstatements and unfulfillable promises by recruiting officers; inadequate physical examinations and consequent inclusion of too many physically and psycho-neurotically unfit; faulty classification and assignment; . . . some instances of assigning Waacs to jobs of less importance or dignity while civilians are used in the better positions; some cases of delay in having Waacs replace and take over the duties of soldiers and of appointing them to the grades presumably vacated by the men; . . . the public attitude that the war is all but won; the trait of women which, once they have decided to join a cause, demands that they be kept busy and that their abilities be used to the fullest; . . . recent unfavorable publicity and the indica-

³⁷ Memo, 1st O Frances M. Holbrook and 2d O Kathryn D. Neely for Dir Fld Insp Serv, 15 Jul 43, sub: Insp of WAAC Det, ESCTC, Ft Monmouth, N. J. SPWA 314.7 sec 3.

³⁸ Memo, Capt Frances M. Holbrook for Dir Fld Surv Br, 23 Oct 43, sub: Rpt of Investigation at Bergstrom Field, Tex. SPWA 331.1.

³⁹ See Ch. XXXIII, below.

⁴⁰ WAAC Daily Journal, Vol. I, 28 Jul 43.

⁴¹ Reasons in three categories above are from tabulation at Fort Des Moines, copy in Folder, Classification Officers, 1943 WAAC Planning file. See also Memo, Exec WAAC for G-1, 20 Jul 43. SPWA 314.7, (1-7-43)(1) sec 3.

⁴² Examples from Daytona Beach and Fort Des Moines, "Survey on Problems Most Frequently brought to Chaplains and Resident Counsellors," 9 Sep 43. SPWA 231.28.