

skilled woman who had previously feared assignment to kitchen duties. A civilian survey revealed that 52 percent of the women questioned, although not planning to join the WAC, said that they might if they could be assured the job of their choice. Of this 52 percent, 50 percent wanted medical, radio, weather, clerical and other technical or mechanical work; only 2 percent wanted to be cooks or orderlies.⁷²

At the time, the proposal had been rejected by Director Hobby, on the grounds that such promises were exceedingly difficult to fulfill; the promised job and even the station itself might have vanished before the recruit reported for duty. Also, such promises would plainly cause ill will among previous recruits who desired to choose another job or station.

A reversal of this decision was shortly proposed by the Army Service Forces. By the end of the All-States Campaign it was apparent that the Army Air Forces was, by means of the branch-assignment promise, getting about two thirds of the monthly take as AAF branch recruits. In addition to these branch recruits, the AAF under the War Department ruling got its original 40 percent of the general service recruits who elected no branch. A somewhat insignificant remainder was left to be divided on the customary basis of 57 percent to the ASF and 3 percent to the AGF.⁷³

General Dalton, speaking for the ASF and AGF, demanded of Colonel Hobby why the AAF was getting more publicity. He was reminded that neither the ASF or the AGF had chosen to participate in branch recruiting when the choice was offered them the previous October, while the AAF now had some 1,500 of its per-

sonnel in the struggle. If anything, the War Department had hindered rather than helped the AAF in its publicity making, for it had forbidden the practice of saying, "Join the Air-WAC," which had occasionally caused the public to believe that a new and superior corps had been set up. The AAF was thenceforth obliged to say, "Join the WAC and Serve with the AAF," although the name Air-Wac was to stick as a title for the recruit herself.⁷⁴

General Dalton therefore secured War Department approval for the publication of a circular giving the AGF and the ASF—but not the AAF—the authority to make the job-and-station promise to WAC recruits. An applicant's choice was limited to stations within the service command in which she applied, since before making the promise it was necessary to determine that housing and a job of the desired type existed at the chosen station. This bit of strategy gave the ASF and the AGF only a momentary advantage, since the AAF within a month secured G-1 Division's authority to make the same promise for air stations within designated air command areas.⁷⁵

Station commanders now had a new and personal incentive to aid in WAC recruiting, since it was largely through their own efforts in the territory around their stations that their personnel needs might be filled. Many stations organized

⁷² (1) Office Memo, "R. S." for Exec WAAC, 18 May 43. Proj 4, WAAC Plng files. (2) Folders 4, 19, 21, 23, 1943 WAAC/WAC Plng files.

⁷³ Weekly Rpt 22, O Dir WAC for ASF, 2-8 Feb 44.

⁷⁴ (1) Memo, Maj Rice for Dir Pers ASF, 15 Nov 43. SPWA 341 sec 1b, in SPAP 341 WAAC (2-26-43). (2) Memo, Col Catron for TAG, 27 Sep 43. SPWA 341 sec 1a.

⁷⁵ (1) WD Cir 286, 296, 298, and 340 (1943). (2) AG Ltr 320.3 (12-28-43) PR-I, 28 Jan 44. SPWA 341 (8-6-43) sec 1a (1943).