

sent it informally to AAF staff directors for their assistance in locating answers quickly. Many of these decisions never reached other field authorities; as late as 1946 War Department separation centers were discovered refusing to credit WAAC service for various benefits toward which it was creditable.³³

Army Advisers Depart

The job of advising on Corps well-being under its new regulations now fell to an Office of the Director consisting of twenty officers, all women. The preliminary reduction, in November, had left the office with twenty-five officers, including Colonel Catron as executive and General Faith as head of the Field Survey Branch, but in December Colonel Hobby recommended that the office be still further reduced.³⁴ For service with the WAAC, General Somervell secured for General Faith the award of the Distinguished Service Medal, saying "To him, in large measure, belonged the responsibility of success in the whole program of women's participation in service with the Armed Forces."³⁵ To replace the departing officers Colonel Hobby gave key office positions to women brought in from staff directorships in the field. Major Rice left the recruiting office to become deputy director; Maj. Mary-Agnes Brown, formerly of the Eighth Service Command, was made executive officer. In civil life Major Brown had been an attorney for the Veterans' Administration and past president of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. Maj. Katherine R. Goodwin of the First Service Command became the personnel officer. Major Goodwin's civilian experience had been as head

of business administration in the Hartford, Connecticut, public schools.

Field Needs After Integration

Army commanders simultaneously took over the task of operating the Corps under Army Regulations. One WAC authority noted:

Generals, lieutenants, and sergeants who had long been privately certain that this business of utilizing women as soldiers would be perfectly simple, if the War Department would just let them handle it, now had a chance to prove their point. They went into action with all shades and degrees of concepts, from that which held that all women, in or out of uniform, were ladies who should be shielded from the rough ways of the world, to that which held that all soldiers were soldiers and should be treated alike, whether or not they were women. . . . Even for the many men who did not go to either of these extremes . . . women as soldiers were something new and different and required considerable getting used to.³⁶

In spite of the inestimable advantages of Army status, field commanders faced certain disadvantages in attempting to begin operations under men's regulations, which were still largely unmodified. At Camp Gordon, Georgia, inspectors found that a WAC unit was getting all of men's T/BA equipment, including fifteen water tanks, spare gas tanks, a litter for carrying the wounded from the battlefield, and other property which it was unable to store in the space provided. Elsewhere just

³³ Memo, Dir WAC for TAG, 7 Oct 43; Memo, G-1 for CGASF, 4 Dec 43, WDGAP 243; SPWA 314.7 (1-7-43(1) sec 2. The informal AAF publication is in Policy Book, property of author.

³⁴ Memo, Dir WAC for CG ASF, 29 Dec 43. SPWA 320.2 E.

³⁵ Memo, Gen Somervell for WD Decorations Bd, 15 Jan 44. Personnel Abstracts, WAC files, OCMH.

³⁶ AAF WAC Hist, pp. 17-20.