

the appearance of the uniform, although many were unfortunately too late to reach the field in the one remaining year before the end of the war in Europe.

In the matter of public relations, the Director asked General Marshall to direct the formation of a co-ordinating board, which would not only initiate and direct an Army-wide constructive informational campaign, but would comment on the possible public relations effect of decisions concerning the WAC before the decisions were released. General Somervell stated, when asked to comment, that such a board was not necessary.²⁹ Colonel Hobby replied that General Somervell's attitude was "not in accord with fact or experience," and that "The present situation has been unfortunate and it can reasonably be expected that a continuation of uncontrolled and uncoordinated activity on the part of literally hundreds of issuing agencies will continue to be unsatisfactory. . . ." ³⁰

General Marshall, who had supposed that such a board already existed, overrode objections and directed General Surles of the Bureau of Public Relations to set up the co-ordinating group, saying, "I have personally taken every opportunity to support the WAC. . . . It is necessary that a central agency of the War Department be charged with the problem of keeping the public informed of matters concerning the WAC and of controlling the issuance of such information." ³¹

Colonel Hobby also took this opportunity to secure the Chief of Staff's approval of several lesser projects which had previously been rejected at lower levels. One concerned equal provision for the WAC in the Army's demobilization plans, which were already being drawn up, and in which planners had made no provision for women. General Marshall approved the

greater part of what she asked, which was to be of considerable importance at a later period.³² Another proposal was for the centralization of recruiting control in the hands of specialists in The Adjutant General's Office, similar to that just approved in Public Relations. These and other recommended reforms in the Recruiting Service were all approved by General Marshall, with far-reaching later effects.³³

The Director also concurred in one of the suggestions made in the Meek Report, the establishment of a civilian advisory committee composed of prominent women in each service command, modeled on the group that she had established in the Women's Interests Section of the Bureau of Public Relations, when she had organized that office in prewar days. This recommendation, providing for both local and national committees, was also approved. General Somervell concurred, provided that he be allowed to choose the prominent woman to head the national committee.³⁴

Within a few weeks, by General Marshall's action, there were six WAC lieutenant colonels. In April, a WAC officer was also assigned as commandant of the Third WAC Training Center.³⁵

In a final comment on the Meek Report, General Somervell sent the Chief of Staff another study recommending that key WAC officers be replaced by promi-

²⁹ Memo cited n. 26(1).

³⁰ Memo, Dir WAC for CofS, 4 Apr 44. WDGAP 341 (4-4-44), and in WAC Gp, WDBPR, under "Organization of the WAC Group."

³¹ Memo, CofS for Gen Surles, 11 Apr 44. WAC Gp, WDBPR, and in CofS 324.5 WAC.

³² Memo cited n. 12(2), Tab J.

³³ Memo, Dir WAC to CofS, 10 Apr 44, with CofS approval, 11 Apr 44. CofS 324.5 WAC.

³⁴ (1) Memo cited n. 12(2), Tab H. (2) Memo cited n. 26(1). (3) Memo, CofS for CG ASF, 11 Apr 44. CofS 324.5 WAC.

³⁵ Memo, ASF for TAG, 13 Mar 44. SPGAG 210.3 WAC (3-13-44)-129.