

to cryptographers and other specialists. By June of 1944 the Office of the Chief Signal Officer was still highly discontented with the returns from station-and-job recruiting, which had produced Wacs only to the extent of some 1,100, or about 9 percent of the strength of the Signal Corps instead of the 16 percent that it had been authorized.²¹

Signal Corps Training

With a few exceptions, the Signal Corps did not find it necessary to give specialist training to the women who reported to it. It was stated that "substantial" Signal Corps classes, chiefly for overseas shipment, were conducted at Fort Monmouth and at Camp Crowder, but these were chiefly refresher courses in Army procedure for already-qualified women. For skills scarce or nonexistent in civilian life, such as cryptographer, classes were eventually held at Fort Monmouth. In general it was reported that women could master Signal training without alteration in course content, and presented no problems except in the matter of housing.²²

Only one training difficulty was reported, that concerning the first cryptographic school. In the early months of this course, the officer in charge reported:

The WAC personnel we have received so far are almost without exception woefully uninformed about the personalities, the geography, and the matériel of the war. It is also evident that their intelligence, on the average, is decidedly inferior to the men they are replacing.

He asked that personnel be better selected according to prescribed standards: officer AGCT score (110 or better), wide vocabularies, technical skill, and knowledge of world events, and that they be chosen from among teachers in higher grades, librarians,

ians, editors, authors, and similar occupations. "They are not likely to be found among sales clerks, packers, restaurant employees, machine tool operators, beauty operators, and music teachers."²³

With higher WAC enrollment standards, higher-grade personnel became more readily available. With the virtual cessation of the WAC Officer Candidate School at a time when the Signal Corps Officer Candidate School still received large quotas, it became still easier to get women of officer qualifications but enlisted status. Final reports indicated good results in training female cryptographers, and the instructor at Fort Monmouth reported that the women "far exceeded expectations" and could "hold their own with the best students."²⁴ Some WAC supervisors were of the opinion that cryptography would prove the most important future use for Signal Corps Wacs in occupied areas, since women did not fraternize with enemy nationals to the extent that men did, and were therefore less apt to betray secrets inadvertently.

Signal Corps Jobs

One of the first and most important assignments of Signal Corps Wacs was that in the War Department Signal Center in Washington, called "the world's most im-

²¹ (1) Speech cited n. 15. (2) Quotation from Ltr, TAG for six SvCs, 25 Mar 44. SPX 341 WAC (3-22-44) PR-I. (3) WD Cir 340, 29 Dec 43. (4) Memo, Chief Pers and Tng Serv, OCSigO, for CG ASF, 7 Jun 44. SPMSP 320.2 WAC, in SigC 322 WAC.

²² (1) WDBPR Press Release, Enlistment. (2) R&W Slip, Maj John W. Ramsey, SigC, for Exec OCSigO, 6 Jan 43. SigC 322 WAC.

²³ Memo, Lt Col Matthew G. Jones, SigC, OIC Code Cen, for Capt Louis F. Fuchs, 20 Jan 44. Un-numbered files of Career Management Br, OCSigO.

²⁴ The SigC *Message*, Ft Monmouth, N. J., July 21, 1944, p. 2.