

be essentially civilian in nature. The experience of WAC training centers, where Wacs necessarily composed most of the staff of the post signal office, indicated that Wacs could if necessary perform most of the Signal duties on an Army post. The question as to whether all or any of such jobs required military status was a technical one for higher authorities, but from the WAC viewpoint either all-WAC or all-civilian offices were preferable to mixed ones, which spotlighted differences in pay and privileges.<sup>31</sup>

#### *Officer Employment*

Employment of officers was in general seldom as efficient as that of enlisted women. Both in the United States and overseas the Signal Corps showed a propensity for assigning women officers to secretarial and similar duties scarcely requiring an officer's training. Eventually three WAC officers were allowed to attend the G-2 school, with the promise that if all graduated in the top 10 percent more Wacs would be accepted; all did. Several WAC officers also attended the three-month Advanced Radio Communications School at Arlington Hall and the Signal Corps Supply School at Camp Holabird.<sup>32</sup>

#### *Signal Corps Jobs Overseas*

Extensive employment of Signal Corps Wacs, both officer and enlisted, was made in all overseas theaters, although not to the extent that the Signal Corps desired, Brig. Gen. Jerry V. Matejka, the new head of Signal Corps personnel, complained:

Substantial requirements for Wacs on Signal Corps duty have existed in the various theaters, yet the furnishing of WAC personnel has been either retarded or abandoned

because of apparent lack of the same co-ordination of interested agencies in the War Department as is applied to furnishing enlisted men as fillers and replacements.<sup>33</sup>

Some measure of the difficulty appeared due to the Signal Corps' own reluctance to part with Wacs on its stations in the United States. Thus, when requests from the European theater for a WAC signal service battalion of approximately 550 Wacs were approved by Operations Division, War Department General Staff, the Army Service Forces protested that male personnel should be sent in order to avoid disrupting the work of field stations using trained Wacs on key jobs. On Operations Division's insistence the unit was authorized for activation in the theater, but with the requirement that 200 of the Wacs be supplied by the theater.<sup>34</sup> Even when trained radio operators were found malassigned as clerks on Signal Corps installations in the United States, the Chief Signal Officer refused to release them for radio work overseas.<sup>35</sup> General Matejka further remarked that "use in overhead installations has been disrupted by the withdrawal of WAC personnel for overseas."<sup>36</sup>

In spite of the alleged difficulty of getting Signal-trained women for overseas duty, most overseas theaters by the end of the war had acquired relatively large

<sup>31</sup> (1) *The McClellan Cycle*, April 13, 1945, "SigC Job Big One on Post." (2) Press Release, 2d WAC Tng Cen, 1 Jul 43.

<sup>32</sup> (1) See overseas chapters. (2) Intervi cited n. 4. (3) Memo, Chief Pers and Tng Serv OCSigO for CSigO, 23 Sep 44. SPMSP 320.2 WAC, in SigC 322 WAC.

<sup>33</sup> Memo cited n. 21(4).

<sup>34</sup> Memo, Exec, G-1 Div for G-1, 12 Oct 44; Memo, "H.E.K." for Maj Gen Stephen C. Henry, G-1, 18 Oct 44. WD G-1 322 WAC.

<sup>35</sup> Memo, CofT for CG ASF, 30 Sep 44, SPTPM 220.3 WAC; with 2d Ind from CSigO and 3d from MPD ASF, SPGAC 210.3 WAC.

<sup>36</sup> Memo cited n. 21(4).