



WOMEN DECONTAMINATION EXPERTS *in the Chemical Warfare Service at Gowen Field, Idaho.*

Edgewood Arsenal, to determine to what extent Waacs might be used in the work of impregnating protective clothing with chemicals, met with "such surprisingly good results that we are about to recommend that some all-WAAC chemical impregnating companies be organized."⁵³ The WAAC staff director, Lt. Helen E. Hart, later stated that her chief contribution to the CWS program at this time was her success, after much pleading, in persuading her commanding general to change the name of this unit, which was finally given the name of WAAC Processing Company, instead of that which the

general had first directed—WAAC Impregnation Company.⁵⁴

Very shortly, CWS inspectors were surprised to find the entire WAAC detachment at Pine Bluff Arsenal plunged into a serious state of low morale by what appeared to male inspectors to be a minor circumstance—the fact that Waacs had not replaced soldiers. As a matter of fact, the shortage of civilian personnel had made it possible to secure a bona fide military allotment for the installation, which

⁵³ Ltr, Col Brooks, CWS, to CO, Huntsville Arsenal, Ala. CWS 324.5 WAC (Apr-Jun 43).

⁵⁴ Interv cited n. 49(3).