



MAJ. WESTRAY BATTLE BOYCE, WAAC Staff Director, North African Theater, reads orders replacing enlisted men of the adjutant general's office with enlisted women, Algiers, North Africa.

Finally, responsible commanders in the theater were stirred to action by the report that a large number of Waacs did not intend to enlist in the WAC. At this, General Eisenhower cabled a request for "a highly competent senior WAAC officer to be sent to this theater without delay."¹⁵ Director Hobby promptly complied with the request and sent a theater WAAC staff director, Maj. Westray Boyce, previously staff director of the Fourth Service Command. Major Boyce, according to General Hughes' account, "arrived to find the girls in a state of mind which required

immediate and drastic action. This she took."¹⁶ The previous company officers and key cadre were returned to the United States in a body, since it appeared impossible to place individual responsibility or to restore the women's lost confidence; all later proved successful in a variety of duties in the United States. A request was cabled for "competent, experienced" company officers to fly to the theater.¹⁷

¹⁵ Cbl cited n. 13.

¹⁶ Ltr, Gen Hughes to Col Hobby, 1 Jan 44. SPWA 320.2 sec 9.

¹⁷ Cbls W7186, 12 Aug 43, and W8669, 30 Aug 43. SPWA 320.2 sec 5.