

takes would not have occurred except "for lack of a female advisor in OTCQM prior to the arrival of the first women troops."⁴³

In the next few months, subordinate headquarters employing numbers of Wacs acquired their own WAC staff directors. A directive was published officially authorizing field "visits" by the staff director. The informal collection of a monthly statistical report through "technical channels" was also sanctioned, although only the Air Forces in the theater ever agreed to require this officially.

In spite of these great improvements, the position in G-1 Division did not prove entirely satisfactory to Colonel Wilson, who found that her office's nonconcurrents were often lost in the final G-1 decision and were not apparent to either higher echelons or other staff sections. With the establishment of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, at some distance from the rest of the headquarters, the WAC staff director was not again officially able to see the general whom she was responsible for advising; at this time there were nine intermediaries between them.

On the other hand, the staff director, who had left the United States in WAAC days, retained many operating functions that in the United States were willingly dropped as soon as military status permitted. The staff director's office had powers of assignment and reassignment of Wacs; it approved or disapproved all promotions of WAC officers, even those employed on duties unrelated to the Corps; it requested and suballotted quotas, requisitioned personnel, and took action on requests for the discharge or return to the United States of individuals in the WAC. In general, it performed for G-1 Division all personnel functions relating to women.

Here, as elsewhere in WAC administration, it proved to be difficult to relinquish operating powers until some voice was obtained in the shaping of policy.

It was not to be until after the end of the war, and after Colonel Wilson was replaced as staff director by Lt. Col Mary A. Hallaren, that earlier efforts bore fruit in a directive stating:

Although her office is an adjunct of G-1 Division, the position of the WAC Staff Director is on the same level as the assistant chiefs of staff with respect to all matters pertaining to the WAC. On such matters she is advisor to the Chief of Staff and the chiefs of the general and special staff divisions. . . . Channels of communication between . . . divisions and the WAC Staff Director are direct.

This circular also repeated War Department directives insuring "continuous inspection."⁴⁴ Colonel Hallaren later stated, "From the day this went out, we had no problem; it was a joy to be in the Headquarters."⁴⁵

Housing, Supply, and Clothing

From the first it was clear that administrative arrangements for Wacs in a theater of this type would present no insuperable problem even in the absence of a strong staff planning section. In general, Wacs received exactly the same type of housing that was provided for male administrative troops, which was usually much superior to that provided for troops in the United States. The majority lived in hotels and houses, although a few others had barracks, Nissen huts and, temporarily, tents.

⁴³ Memo, Actg Theater Chief QM to Theater Gen Bd, USFET, 5 Dec 45. ETO Bd Rpt, Vol. III, App. 75.

⁴⁴ Ltr, Hq USFET to all CGs, 8 Aug 45. AG 322.01 GAP-AGO.

⁴⁵ Interv, 14 Mar 50.