

more Wacs than had been used in wartime. It was decided that 50,000 Wacs could be used in the Army of Occupation, but that in view of the size of the Corps, only 10,000 would be asked, these to be in addition to the thousands used by the Air Forces in Europe.

Further disagreement with the War Department followed as to the relative needs of the zone of the interior and the Army of Occupation. Theater representatives asked, in conference, "Why is it difficult to get personnel now? What are the Wacs doing over there that they can't be spared to come here as replacements?" To this, War Department spokesmen replied that the administrative load of demobilization would fall on the United States, not the theater, and that "Wacs [in Europe] gripe that there isn't enough work to do—that they would go in the Army of Occupation only for fraternization—they resent it."⁹⁴

The War Department therefore at first refused the request for more WAC personnel, stating:

The average limited service man in the United States has a much lesser degree of intelligence and effectiveness than the average Wac, and it would thus be most difficult to have limited service soldiers take over the jobs which Wacs are now performing.⁹⁵

The General Staff also objected that ex-combat returnees could not be traded for Wacs in the United States because the men had too high grades, were lacking in skills, or were temperamentally unsuited for the work.

Director Hobby did not take sides in the matter, other than to recommend that all or no requests be approved, in order that Wacs not be used in the Army of Occupation except in sufficient numbers to give them a "recognized status" and to make provisions for their health and supply economically justifiable.⁹⁶ Finally, a com-

promise was reached: the War Department refused to exclude the AAF's quota from the requested quota of 10,000, but agreed to raise the theater quota, including Air Forces, from 8,000 to 10,000—thus in effect permitting shipment of 2,000 more women.⁹⁷

Shipments to supply the additional women had already begun when the onset of demobilization intervened. At this time the European theater used its unfilled WAC quota of 10,000 as an excuse for refusing to release women eligible for discharge, saying, "This personnel will necessarily be considered essential if the theater quota has not been reached, and will not be eligible to return to the Zone of the Interior."⁹⁸

As in the Mediterranean theater, male replacements in the same skill and MOS were not considered acceptable. The War Department therefore took a step that would have forced return; it cut the theater quota from 10,000 to 6,000 on the basis of "other needs" elsewhere.⁹⁹ The theater refused to comply; while returning a few women in unwanted skills, it informed the War Department that it had "frozen" the return of WAC stenographers and typists until WAC, and not male, replacements in these skills were received.

This proved a fruitless move, for after the defeat of Japan and the end of WAC

⁹⁴ Min cited n. 55. Also ETO Bd Rpt, Vol. II, App. 7.

⁹⁵ Memo, Secy WDGS for Dir WAC, 12 May 44. WDCSA 424.5 WAC, in CofS 324.5 WAC.

⁹⁶ (1) D/F, G-1 for CofS, 2 Feb 45. WDGAP 320.2 WAC, in CSA 324.5 WAC. (2) Memo, Exec WAC for Dir WAC, 21 Feb 45. WDWAC 201.6.

⁹⁷ ETO Bd Rpt, Vol. I; also D/F, G-1 WD to MPD ASF, 10 Mar 45. WDGAP 320.2 WAC in WDWAC 320.2 ETO. Quota was 200 offs and 10,400 EW.

⁹⁸ Memo, ETO for TAG, 6 May 45. AG 387 RCGA, in WDWAC 320.2 ETO.

⁹⁹ D/F, G-1 Div WDGS to TAG, 7 Jul 45. WDGAP 320.2 WAC (2-2-45), in WDWAC 320.2.