

help prepare for the arrival of the enlisted women two months later.

Upon her arrival, the staff director was assigned to the senior American administrative headquarters, USAFFE. No WAC personnel was assigned to General Headquarters, an operational Allied headquarters, except for two of the directly commissioned officers. The staff director was not delegated the customary responsibility²⁰ for the WAC program. This was instead placed upon G-1 Division, USAFFE, headed by Col. Harry H. Baird. Subsequently, G-1 Division noted:

The G-1 Section originally was charged with the handling of WAC personnel due to: (a) Their newness in the theater; (b) The fact that they were covered by a special allotment of overhead grades and ratings by the War Department; (c) The fact that it was necessary to keep in complete touch with the strength of the WAC Corps and the utilization of members during the period of arrival in the theater.²¹

Most of the duties assumed by G-1 were merely the normal staff duties now commonly performed by similar commands in the United States; however, it also held responsibility for policy matters. It believed that, so far as possible, enlisted men's policies should be applicable to the WAC. Colonel Baird recalled later that, "As far as the theater was concerned, there was no 'WAC program' except for an evident required publicity program."²² There existed some belief that WAC advisers' experience and training were not always adequate to cope with the conditions that existed in the area. Colonel Baird later noted:

Almost every one in top positions in GHQ, USAFFE, and SOS had served a generation in the Regular Army, as well as having seen service in World War I. For them to have formed very definite ideas on staff procedure, command, and military custom—which was

the situation—was natural and logical. The Wacs lacked the background of military custom and they had little understanding of the possible far-reaching and serious effects of an action or decision.

The staff director's office was set up as the WAC Section of the Special Staff and, in the months before the Wacs' arrival, was called on chiefly to attend conferences and for public and social duties. In the matter of public relations, Colonel Brown was given a free hand and was encouraged by USAFFE to take all necessary steps to establish good will prior to WAC arrival. In the following weeks the staff director received calls from heads of the Australian Women's Auxiliary Service, YWCA, and Red Cross, and other officials. She attended theatrical performances, the Australian Arts and Crafts exhibit, a memorial mass, a WAAF ceremony. She went to receptions, gave luncheons, made formal calls at Admiralty House, Government House, and the American consulate. She broadcast radio programs, met visiting celebrities, and was photographed with koala bears. As a result, before the arrival of the first shipment in May, public attitude was believed to be definitely more favorable.²³

²⁰ All WAAC and WAC Regulations without exception required every commanding general employing WAC personnel to employ also, on his staff, a WAC staff director who would be responsible for continuous inspection and for advising him on the welfare of the women. WD Cir 462 (1944) was latest wartime statement.

²¹ Check sheet, G-1 USAFFE for CofS USAFFE through WAC Sec, 11 Apr 45, Tab 6 to WAC Draft AFPAC Reply.

²² All of Col Baird's statements from Memo, Col Baird for HD SSUSA, 29 Jul 48.

²³ Monthly Historical Reports, WAC Staff Section, USAFFE, for Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep 44, Incl in Ltr, WAC Stf Dir USAFFE to Dir WAC. WDWAC 319.1 SWPA (1944); also in Folder, Monthly Historical Rpts, WAC Sec USAFFE, at Kansas City Records Center. These reports hereafter cited as WAC Sec USAFFE Hist Rpt, by month.