

stated that an extremely low state of morale existed and that the health record was poor: 20 percent were on sick call daily, 50 percent suffered from eye strain, and approximately 8 percent had already been evacuated due to tropical diseases and psychoneurosis.⁹² After the unit was returned to the United States, the postwar theater staff director wrote, "In any future planning, I definitely oppose the use of women in censoring male correspondence."⁹³

A few other defects marred the WAC job-assignment program, of a type which in less active theaters had caused more serious difficulty than was reported in the Pacific. In some units, women, especially stenographers, were not always kept busy enough to suit them. Inspectors reported of the FEASC detachment that "the largest percentage of complaints from this group involved job utilization . . . complaints were registered in regard to the limited amount of work actually being performed."⁹⁴

Nevertheless, women were apparently more fortunate than men in this respect, for a FEASC management control survey reported the job utilization of enlisted women to be better than that of enlisted men in the same offices.⁹⁵ On the other hand, highly skilled women technicians were more subject to malassignment than men, for the environment greatly limited the extent to which women could be scattered about, and WAC radio operators, photographic technicians, drivers and mechanics usually had to be retrained to other skills.

In almost all commands, job promotion was slow and skilled workers did not receive the ratings that the War Department, in allotting Wacs to the theater, had provided. This spread of grades and rat-

ings would have been generally appropriate for the MOS numbers held by the women, but after a few months these were not reserved for the Wacs but made available to the men, according to the system of integration favored by WAC advisers in the United States. Any other course, according to Colonel Ginsburgh, "would have caused much ill-feeling among the men."⁹⁶ Grades received by Wacs were below the theater average for men in skilled jobs; they were also somewhat lower than those received by Wacs in Europe and Italy. On the other hand, they were higher than those of male labor battalions and unskilled service troops in the theater, and even a single stripe on a woman's sleeve provoked so much caustic comment from unrated men that Colonel Ginsburgh recommended that, in the future, women in the Army be given no grades. WAC officers' promotions were likewise slower than in other theaters, about half never being promoted in the theater.⁹⁷

Because theater policies differed, awards and decorations were given less frequently than in other theaters. Although Pacific Wacs had moved more rapidly and lived longer under field conditions than those in Europe, they received only about one fourth as many Bronze Stars. In some cases there existed some feeling that

⁹² Material atchd to Ltr, WAC Stf Dir AFPAC to Dep Dir WAC, 8 Nov 45. Hobby files.

⁹³ Personal ltr, Lt Col Mera Galloway, WAC Stf Dir AFPAC, to Dir WAC, 28 Dec 45. WDWAC 320.

⁹⁴ Memo, WAC Stf Dir FEAF for CG FEAF. WDWAC 319.1 Pacific.

⁹⁵ Hist Rpt, May 45. Folder II, WAC Det FEASC.

⁹⁶ WAC Draft AFPAC Reply. Confirmed by Interv cited n. 50(1).

⁹⁷ (1) AFPAC Reply, both versions. (2) STM-30, Strength of the Army, Jul 45, p. 41. (3) Morale Evaluation Rpt on Women's Servs, AFPAC, Jul 45, incl in Ltr, Actg Stf Dir AFPAC to Dir WAC, 11 Aug 45. WAC C1 files.