

hours, and other expedients. After the first months, most Wacs were fatigued by the constant masculine attention, and found organized parties and mass invitations especially tiring.²⁰

Coupled with the theater's precautions concerning health were, in the early days, numerous protective restrictions which, although not comparable to those in the Southwest Pacific Area, the Wacs found annoying. Wacs could not participate in airplane flights, had bed check even though men did not, could not accept overnight invitations from local families, could not spend the night away from their quarters even in approved service centers, could not date officers, and could not marry.²¹ These restrictions caused a certain number of Wacs to inform the chaplain that they were being "treated as children."²²

Most of these restrictions were therefore quickly abolished as initial misgivings concerning the employment of Wacs subsided. Although bed check was retained as a health safeguard, hours were usually lenient, and Wacs were eventually allowed to stay overnight at the women's service center. Wacs were also soon allowed in aircraft, and at least one technician was placed on regular flying duty for which she received the Legion of Merit and the Air Medal.²³ The restriction on dating officers was not removed until Wacs reached Shanghai, and some difficulty was caused by the fact that Air Forces Wacs were liable to punishment while officers of theater headquarters, which had no such rule, were immune.²⁴

The restriction on marriage, a theater ruling, was the most objectionable to the women. The rule had been designed to prevent the marriage of soldiers to non-citizens, and had been modified just before the Wacs' arrival to permit marriage only

if a soldier was leaving the theater within thirty days. Cases involving pregnancy were considered individually on their merits. At the time of Major Craighill's visit, Wacs still had a pregnancy rate of zero, but WAC commanders considered the system, for obvious reasons, incredibly shortsighted. In April of 1945, after receipt of Major Craighill's recommendations, and after the first Wac achieved marriage by the only theater-approved method, Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Sultan liberalized the policy to permit marriages between two United States citizens after a three-month waiting period. With this one case, the WAC pregnancy rate was only one fourth of one percent, or considerably less than the average. No cases of venereal disease were discovered among any WAC personnel.²⁵

As always, factors of physical surroundings proved less important to the women than that of job satisfaction. Initial job assignment was far from perfect, a condition that General Stratemeyer attributed chiefly to "a failure on the part of officers

²⁰ (1) Rpt cited n. 5. (2) Memo, WAC Stf Dir for all offs, 26 Mar 45. Folder IBT, CBI WAC files.

²¹ Memo, WAC Stf Dir for CO WAC Det, 16 Sep 44, sub: Policies Applicable to WAC Pers. Folder IBT, CBI WAC files.

²² Memo, Stf Chaplain for CG AAF IBT, 10 Jul 45, sub: Morale of Wacs; also Memo, WAC Stf Dir for CG, 15 Jul 45. Folder IBT, CBI WAC files.

²³ WAC citations, 7 Dec 45, Folder Shanghai II, CBI WAC files.

²⁴ Entire lengthy dispute: (1) Ltr, Hq SEAC, 5322 D/U.S. Army Sec, 14 Jul 44. WDWAC 421. (2) Draft of Statement, 23 May 45. Folder IBT; (3) Routing Slip, Comment I, WAC Stf Dir AAF CT to AC, 28 Aug 45, Folder Chungking I; (4) Memo, WAC Stf Dir Hq USFCT for CofS, 25 Jan 46, Folder Theater WAC III; (5) Cir 7, Hq USAF China, 9 May 46, sec 1, Folder Shanghai V. All in CBI WAC files. (6) Interv with Maj Simpson, 23 Jun 47. (7) Boyce Rpt, Tabs: India-Burma, and China. WDWAC 333.1 (1945-46).

²⁵ (1) Memo, Capt Chance, Exec WAC, for Col Hobby, 3 May 45, sub: Marriage Policy. WDWAC 291.1. (2) MS History of India-Burma Theater, 25 Oct 44-23 Jun 45. OCMH.