

writing the prohibition of association, since the wives and daughters of many Army officers were enlisted women; such Army officers would thus be placed in the embarrassing position of violating a written regulation instead of merely a custom of the service.⁷⁰

In January of 1944, just before her move to G-1, Director Hobby again petitioned the Army Service Forces to permit off-duty association, adding:

Since most of the youth of the country is in uniform . . . they are faced with the problem of dislocation by the very process of their service. Every indication tends toward the realization that there should be no more restrictions on those in uniform than are essential to their military mission. . . . As long as this is a war-time Army, every allowance should be made for a normal social life as far as it is compatible with any stated regulations and policies governing the efficient operations of all branches of the service. In this respect it must be recognized that this is a people's army rather than a regular peacetime army, and traditions temporarily waived accordingly.⁷¹

The Army Service Forces nonconcurred in these views and General Dalton made the suggestion "that WAC personnel at Training Centers be apprised that literal observance of pertinent Army custom is recognized as being impracticable under wartime conditions with respect to non-official or private social functions."⁷² G-1 Division, War Department General Staff, concurred in General Dalton's suggestion.⁷³ Colonel Hobby refused to make any such suggestion to training center authorities, who had at a previous meeting already stated that WAC training centers would not teach enlisted women anything that they would discover to be untrue when they reached their stations in the field.⁷⁴ Instead, she indorsed the papers back, submitting as new evidence

the WAVES policy, which stated in writing:

The custom of the Service requires great circumspection in social relationships in order to avoid any compromising of their relative military positions. However, the commanding officer of the WAVES has ruled that officers and enlisted personnel of opposite sexes may attend social functions together so long as they conduct themselves in accordance with the general rules of conduct applicable to ladies and gentlemen in any social or nonmilitary situation.⁷⁵

However, the Army Service Forces refused to let this new request reach G-1 Division, on the grounds that the War Department had already disapproved its substance.⁷⁶

It was almost four months before Director Hobby returned to the project, this time from the vantage point of her new office in G-1 Division. To avoid the danger of loss of discipline if enlisted women dated officers on the same post—in which case they had shown some tendency to give orders to their WAC commander instead of vice versa—the Director proposed that permission for off-duty association be limited to personnel not assigned on the same installation. In the Army chain of command, almost any officer at a given station might be regarded as the supervisor of any enlisted woman, whether or not she worked in his office. The Director therefore proposed that the Army policy be worded:

Army officers and enlisted personnel assigned on the same post, camp, or station will

⁷⁰ Min, Gen Council, 7 Feb 44.

⁷¹ Memo cited n. 69.

⁷² *Ibid.*, 1st Ind, Dir Pers ASF to G-1, 15 Jan 44.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, D/F, G-1 to Dir WAC, 26 Jan 44.

⁷⁴ Min cited n. 17.

⁷⁵ (1) D/F, Dir WAC to G-1, 5 Feb 44; (2) Bupers Info Bull, Jan 43. SPWA 335.11 (12-24-43).

⁷⁶ *Ibid.* D/F, CG ASF to Dir WAC, 9 Feb 44.