

like the men's. She noted that men had both dress and garrison caps and that "The wearing of a garrison-type cap has been found necessary for many jobs to which WAC personnel are now assigned," the number of which "has been increased to 239 different jobs." Wacs, she said, had also been sent overseas where cleaning and blocking facilities for the dress cap were not available. Although the Director addressed her request to G-1 Division of the General Staff, as an Army-wide matter, it was disapproved by Requirements Division, ASF, on the grounds that there was a large supply of dress caps on hand.³⁸

Although such surplus stocks of caps and uniforms were allegedly on hand in sufficient quantities to make changes impossible, in actual practice, the Director noted, there had been little improvement in supply. Stations reported not only that they were unable to obtain maintenance stocks and replacements for salvaged items, but that women continued to be shipped by training centers without complete clothing issue, and sent to cold climates without either caps or coats.³⁹

Station commanders and inspectors in the field repeatedly protested to the Director the state to which the appearance of the WAC uniform had been reduced, in this second winter of the Corps' existence, by the failure to take action against existing defects. Inspector General reports noted that the clothing of Wacs in units inspected was of poor quality cloth, secondhand, and showing signs of much wear even when first issued, and that "Such clothing does not conform to AR 850-126 [for men] which states 'correctly fitted smart uniforms are a basic factor in the creation and maintenance of morale.'" The report of one service command caustically recommended that each Wac get

"at least one complete outfit of outer garments suitable for appearance in public."⁴⁰

Early in 1944 members of Congress began publicly to criticize the WAC uniform. One senator informed the press in a widely quoted interview that the uniform was responsible for the lag in enlistments and that "a woman need not look like a man to make a good soldier."⁴¹ There was no doubt that the public sided with the criticizing congressmen. A Gallup poll in January of 1944 asked, "Which uniform worn by women in the Armed Services do you like the best?" and received replies:⁴²

	Percent		
	All replies	Men only	Women only
Waves or Spars best	49	40	57
Marines best	26	28	24
WAC best	15	17	13
Undecided	10	15	6

Soon after the Director's move to G-1 Division, she was charged by the Meek Report with responsibility for failure to improve the uniform. In reply, the Director presented General Marshall with a list of her previous recommendations to the

³⁸ The preceding discussion is based on: (1) Memo, OQMG for G-4, 5 Jan 44. SPRMD 421.1, in SPWA 421 (5-16-42) sec 2 (1942). (2) Tab I of Memo, Dir WAC for CofS, 21 Mar 44. WDGAP 341, in WDWAC 341. (3) Memo, Dir WAC for Dir Mat ASF, 16 Nov 43, and Inds. SPWA 421. (4) Memo, Dir WAC for G-1 through CG ASF, 18 Feb 44, with comment, Dir Reqmts Div ASF for Dir MPD ASF, 1 Mar 44, and Ind, Dir Pers ASF to Dir WAC, 8 Mar 44. WDWAC 421.

³⁹ (1) AGO Memo W635-22-43, 10 Sep 43, changed by WD Cir 239, 30 Sep 43. (2) Memo, OQMG for Dir WAC, 6 Jan 44. SPQXK 420, in WDWAC 421. (3) Ltr, Hq Montana R&I Dist to CG 9th SvC, 22 Jan 44, with Inds. SPWA 400.34.

⁴⁰ Ltr, Asst SC IGD to CG 8th SvC, 8 Dec 43, sub: Action Ltr IGD . . . with Inds. SPLVI 333.1, in SPWA 421 (5-16-43) sec (1942).

⁴¹ Sen. Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado, in newspapers 3-7 Jan 44, from Press Release, 2 Jan 44.

⁴² As reported in newspapers, January 29, 1944.