

women were exposed to the view of the War Department; second, to recruiters, who were exposed to the public; third, to the Fourth and Eighth Service Command areas, which were exposed to the hottest summers; all others followed in order of receipt. The winter dress was issued, in the last winter of the war, to all commands.⁵⁰

In addition to authorizing such new items, General Marshall also directed that the mismatched winter uniforms be replaced by those of authorized shade already in warehouses, and that Wacs be supplied new uniforms from the same source and no longer issued secondhand outer garments. The Quartermaster General welcomed this move, stating that the Army Service Forces policy of hoarding new uniforms had been "a shortsighted view . . . detrimental to the further recruitment of members."

The approval of the last of these changes in May of 1944 left the WAC uniform program in a state satisfactory to Director Hobby, except for specialized work garments that were to be added at a later date. The WAC now had a wardrobe comparable in neat appearance to those of the other women's services.

The WAC's service uniform remained, with a few modifications, where General Marshall had left it at this time. Even the many improvements did not make the public universally happy or silence all of the self-appointed critics. Enlisted women, who had seemed unanimously opposed to the stiff WAC cap, now in some cases perversely mourned its loss, saying, "I loved those peaked hats"; "They looked so much more military"; "Could you please reconsider your order?"⁵¹

After the appearance of the new items authorized by the Chief of Staff, Congress

also was heard from with a "Complaint that Soldiers Receive Less Clothing than Wacs."⁵² In reply, the War Department stated its final WAC clothing policy: "As a result of two and a half years experience with women personnel in the Armed Services, the Army has found that just as in civilian life women require more clothes than men."⁵³ The "more" was not, however, prohibitive in cost, amounting finally to only about five dollars a year per person, which would have been about \$500,000 for peak WAC strength, less than one fourth the amount women saved the Army by eating less.⁵⁴

In quantity of issue, G-1 Division noted that there were only two real differences, the chief being that Wacs got off-duty dresses, unlike men but like the nurses and all other women's services. The other difference was in the number of pairs of shoes in the initial issue, where men got two and women three, in order to provide different heel heights for service and field. In this case, G-1 noted that the Army actually had five types of men's shoes, which were issued as needed for special operations and climates, as against the WAC's two types, service and field, for all uses.

The Overcoat

The overcoat for enlisted women never offered any great problem after the issue of both overcoat and utility coat was restored. That of the officers was a different

⁵⁰ (1) Memo, OQMG for Dir WAC, 4 Sep 44. SPQRD 420, in WDWAC 421. (2) Ltr, Canadian Joint Stf to Exec WAC, 11 May 44. WDWAC 421.

⁵¹ Ltrs, EW in fld to Dir WAC, esp 20 Jan 45 and 9 Feb 45. WDWAC 421.

⁵² D/F, G-1 to Leg and Ln Div, 2 Oct 44. WDGAP 421, in WDWAC 421.

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ See Chart, p. 751, below.