

why "a number of them have infiltrated into jobs here."⁵¹ Upon investigating, General Dalton was startled to discover that the ASF had 259 Waacs in Washington. He requested explanation of how they got there, since, he said, "General S. still does not want Waacs assigned to ASF activities in Washington."⁵² Actually, all proved to be properly authorized personnel who had been approved by the Chief of Staff from time to time, particularly in G-2, WAC Headquarters, and later as staff directors for the administrative and technical services.⁵³

In spite of all resolutions, Wacs continued to filter into Washington. Almost immediately after his protest, the manpower shortage forced General McNarney to approve an exception for the classified message center of his own office, and for Operations Division of the General Staff. At the same time a request from Military Intelligence Service for Wacs to man its message center was disapproved. Military Intelligence Service persisted, and in September of 1943 the Chief of Staff finally authorized 77 Wacs for this work; a little later it was necessary to add 22 more.⁵⁴

This concession marked the beginning of the end of the policy. In November of 1943, the ban on WAC officers in the ASF in the District was removed, with the precaution that a report of the total be sent to the Deputy Chief of Staff every two months. By May of 1944, a large percentage of the enlisted personnel being brought to Washington was female, for service at the secret Signal Corps installation at Arlington Hall, or with the Air Forces at Bolling Field and the Air Transport Command at Gravelly Point. By August of 1944 there were 2,045 enlisted women in the Military District of Washington alone, and the ceiling was raised to 3,202 to per-

mit more to enter. Just before the end of the war, the last opponent to Wacs in Washington—the Army Ground Forces—yielded to the manpower shortage and asked permission to bring in 55 women for military jobs in Headquarters, AGF.⁵⁵

By this time the War Department's policy had been entirely reversed; not only did it permit Wacs to work in the General Staff in Washington, but it awarded itself top priority. It was directed that War Department needs would be filled from surplus personnel, if possible, but if not, it would receive Wacs regardless of the branch that had been promised them when recruited. If this was inadequate, the Air, Ground, and Service Forces would be called upon to supply Washington's demands from field stations.⁵⁶

Since all General Staff requisitions called for highly qualified personnel, they remained unpopular with field commands, as well as with many of the enlisted women, who preferred the more military atmosphere of an Army post. On the other hand, since allotments often permitted top ratings, the requisitions were more easily

⁵¹ Min, Gen Council, 3 May 43.

⁵² Pencil note, "JND" for Col Wood. SPAP 320.2 WAAC (5-17-43).

⁵³ Memo, Dir MPD ASF for Gen Dalton, 19 Jul 43. SPAP 320.2 WAAC.

⁵⁴ (1) Memo, Secy GS for Gen McNarney, 2 Aug 43. WDCSA 291.9. (2) Memo, G-1 through CofS for G-2, 2 Aug 43. WDGAP 320.2 WAC, in WDCSA 291.9. (3) D/F, G-1 for CofS, 3 Sep 43, WDGAP 320.2 WAC; and later D/F, G-2 for DCofS, 1 Dec 43. MID 320.2, in CofS 291.9 WAC.

⁵⁵ (1) Memo, G-1 for ASF through DCofS, 16 Nov 43. WDGAP 320.2 WAC (10-15-43), in OCS 291.9. (2) Min, Gen Council, 15 May 44. (3) D/F, G-1 for MPD ASF, 14 Aug 44. WDGAP 320.22 WAC. (4) Memo, AGF for Dir WAC, 5 Aug 45. WDWAC 220.8.

⁵⁶ (1) Memo, MDW for DCofS, 14 Mar 44, SPWPM 341 WAC. (2) D/F, DCofS for TAG, 15 Mar 44. WDCSA 324.5 WAC.