

sible that were usually not applied to male aides.

Limitations on Further WAC Commissions

Almost all other War Department directives on WAC officers concerned the numbers and skills needed properly to administer enlisted personnel.⁷ Soon after the conversion, Director Hobby recommended to the War Department that the WAC ratio of officers to enlisted be the same as that of the Army, or about 1 to 11. The WAAC ratio had been somewhat lower, 1 to 14, in view of the fact that officers of the Auxiliary had not been eligible for other than troop duty. After discussion, General White of G-1 Division agreed to issue the necessary directives to set the ratio of 1 to 11.⁸

A nonconcurrence to the proposed action was offered by ASF's Military Personnel Division. In view of the current overstrength of male officers, Military Personnel Division proposed that the WAC officer-enlisted ratio be set at 1 to 20, stating:

It is believed that the ratio of 1 to 20 will provide adequate numbers of officers for all known needs. It will not provide officers for wholesale replacement of AUS [male] officers in installations in which either AUS or WAC officers could be utilized. Until the present overstrength of AUS officers is absorbed, it is not believed advantageous to commission, train, and utilize large numbers of WAC officers in positions which these AUS officers can fill.⁹

To bring the Corps down to this ratio, ASF proposed that the WAC officer candidate school be cut to the lowest possible amount that would permit its continued operation—100 every 3 months. These proposals were approved by the War De-

partment, and the Director's Office was so advised.¹⁰

This move was not satisfactory to the Office of the Director, particularly since the output of male officer candidate schools for troop duty was not similarly curtailed in spite of the overstrength of male officers.¹¹ Also, WAVES recruiters still continued able to offer 250 monthly commissions to prospects, although the WAVES already had a higher proportion of officers than the WAC.¹²

A short time later, the War Department Manpower Board recommended that the WAC officer candidate school be entirely suspended. Director Hobby objected, pointing out, "Such action would be demoralizing to morale within the Corps and would be a serious deterrent to recruiting."¹³ The Army Service Forces agreed that "the effect of such action on recruiting would not only result in a decrease in the number of women recruited but also in the caliber of women recruited."¹⁴ At ASF's recommendation, the WAC officer candidate school was

⁷ Minor exceptions: (1) Limited Service: Memo, Dir WAC for G-1, 11 Feb 44. SPWA 220.4. (2) Request by Name: Personal ltr, Dir WAC to Maj Gen Carter B. Magruder, G-4 USFET, 10 Jan 46. WDWAC 210.31. (3) Age Requirements: Memo, Dir WAC for CG ASF, 17 Sep 43, re AG Memo W605-35-43, 4 Sep 43. SPWA 210.31.

⁸ Draft of Memo, Dir WAC for G-1, 6 Aug 43, with pencil note. SPWA 314.7 sec 4. See Table 10, Appendix A.

⁹ Memo, Gen Reynolds, MPD ASF, for G-1, 1 Oct 43. SPGAS 320.2 WAC (9-29-43), in SPAP 320.2.

¹⁰ Memo, MPD ASF for TAG, 20 Oct 43. SPGAP 320.2 WAC (9-29-43), in SPAP 320.2. See M/R. OCS was lengthened from 8 to 12 weeks.

¹¹ ASF Hist of OCT, Fig. 7. OCMH.

¹² Memo, Dir Pers ASF for G-1, 8 Apr 44. SPAP 352 WAC.

¹³ Memo, Dir Contl Div ASF for Dir WAC, 9 Feb 44, Incl, Bd Rpt, 12 Jan 44. SPWA 319.1.

¹⁴ Memo, MPD ASF for CofS ASF, 25 Feb 44. SPAP 210.3 WAC.