

The precarious state to which the leadership of WAC companies had thus been reduced indicated that, had the war continued, some War Department decision would have been required, either to restore the WAC to the Army ratio of officers, or to give the Office of the Director power to withdraw women specialists from the arms and services over their nonconcurrence, to staff WAC companies.

Just before the end of the war, the General Staff authorized an emergency WAC officer candidate class of 200 for the month of May 1945, with increased classes intended thereafter. None of these officers reached the field in time to benefit the Corps before demobilization began, nor would these small numbers have offered any final solution to the basic dilemma had the war continued.³⁷

Integration of Specialist Officers

Although other officer candidate schools were not yet open to them, the process of integrating women officer specialists into the arms and services had begun in a small way before the end of the war. When the Sanitary Corps requested that certain enlisted women with the necessary scientific training be commissioned and assigned to it, Director Hobby concurred, provided that the women did not count against the WAC officer candidate quota and would, if later found unsatisfactory as laboratory officers, be reclassified by the Sanitary Corps and not returned to the WAC for troop duty. When the Bureau of Public Relations requested that twenty enlisted women with civilian public relations experience be commissioned as public relations officers to fill existing shortages, a special WAC officer candidate class was set up which did not reduce the

regular quota for troop officers. The Medical Department already had authority to commission women directly under its own quotas, and qualified enlisted women were commissioned as hospital dietitians, physiotherapists, or nurses without counting against WAC officer candidate quotas or even, in this case, against the WAC's 1-to-20 ratio.³⁸

In time, Director Hobby departed from her rule against direct commissions insofar as to ask that enlisted women be given equal rights under any Army procurement objectives for commissioning of technical specialists. Thus, when direct commissions in The Adjutant General's Office were offered to enlisted men qualified as clinical psychologists, she asked and obtained an amendment to include equally qualified enlisted women. Finally, in 1945, G-1 Division authorized direct appointment of enlisted women under any suitable authorized procurement objectives for male officers. These, at this date, were very few, chiefly Japanese linguists, acoustic technicians, and similar specialties, for which it was known that only a handful of women would be eligible. All of these women, with the exception of some in the Medical Department, had to be commissioned in the WAC and detailed in The Adjutant General's Department or other service, since the WAC was still not designated an arm or service for female admin-

³⁷ Except as otherwise cited, above section is based on D/F cited n. 15(2).

³⁸ (1) Memo, Dep Dir WAC for Maj McClure, G-1, 26 Aug 44. WDWAC 210.14. (2) WDWAC 352 OCS and WDWAC 352 Special OCS Class, 1944. (3) Memo, Dir MPD ASF for TSG, 27 Jan 44. SPGAM 210 Taylor, Jan F, in WDWAC 210.1. (4) Bound file, SPWA 231.23 Med Dept Dietitians (8 Jan 44) 1944. (5) Memo, Dep Dir WAC for Col Coursey, G-1, 22 Sep 44. WDWAC 220.33. (6) Draft of Memo, SGO for CofS, 8 Apr 44. WDWAC 211.