

	<i>Actual Officer Strength May 1945</i>	<i>Entitled by Army Ratio</i>
General officers	0	20
Colonels	1	129
Lieutenant colonels	16	336
Majors	146	331
Captains	1,024	2,325
First lieutenants	3,646	3,849
Second lieutenants	975	2,483
	5,808	9,973

The absence of top grades was of course due to legislative restrictions; the deficiencies in company grades, and in the two lower field grades, had been of more actual significance in troop administration.

Officer Education

Final tallies on WAC officers showed “unusually high intellectual caliber.”⁴⁶ The educational level of WAC officers slightly surpassed that of male officers.⁴⁷

	<i>Percent</i>	
<i>Educational Level</i>	<i>WAC Officers</i>	<i>Male Officers</i>
Grammar school	.26	1.5
1, 2, 3 years high school	4.01	12.0
High school graduate	27.84	22.2
1, 2, 3 years college	26.98	26.2
College graduate	26.23	21.7
Postgraduate	14.68	16.4

Army observers considered the high educational level of WAC officers to be “even more remarkable in that they were not chosen as specialists, [while] the male officers included all the professional workers who came into the Army as specialists, such as physicians, engineers, lawyers, teachers, and chaplains.”⁴⁸

Possibly even more surprising was the fact that, while the Army had a high percentage of success in finding officers who rose from the ranks to develop into accept-

able WAC staff directors, the Navy reported less satisfaction with directly commissioned women serving in the comparable position of Women’s Reserve Representative in naval districts. It noted the “unsatisfactory quality of the officers placed in these billets in some districts in the early haste of organization.”⁴⁹

Warrant Officers

For some time there existed a question as to whether or not Wacs might be appointed warrant officers if they held posts such as band leader, which, for a man, carried the grade. The WAC legislation did not mention the matter, but the Judge Advocate General ruled that appointment of women was illegal because the law did not specify that it was legal. Within a few months the question was brought to the War Department’s attention by the North African, European and China-Burma-India theaters, which wished to appoint to that grade women who were filling warrant officer jobs. At this time the Judge Advocate General was overruled. G-1 Division held that such appointment was legal under the general authority to admit women to full Army status, and the Chief of Staff upheld this opinion. However, by the end of the war only 42 women had been reported in this grade.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ Menninger, *Psychiatry in a Troubled World*. This and subsequent quotations used with the permission of The Macmillan Company, the publisher.

⁴⁷ D/F, P&A Contl Gp, WD, for HD WDSS, 14 Mar 46. WDGAP 314.7 WAC, in Folder, Statistics, WAC files, OCMH. Only available comparisons are of summer, 1944.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ WAVES Hist, p. 132ff.

⁵⁰ Memo, G-1 for CofS, 26 Jan 44. OCS 324.5 WAC. Approved by DCofS, 29 Jan 44. Also ETO Bd Rpt, pp. 25, 46. See Table 2, Appendix A.