

nical inspector's office. At Douglas Army Airfield, the women were assigned to aircraft maintenance, the flight line, and laboratory work; one also served as photographer in the post public relations office. In the Air Service Command at Fresno, two women served in map and editing work in the war room.

Other duties noted at different stations were those of teletype operators, motion picture projectionists, parachute packers, drivers, cooks, chaplains' assistants, and librarians.³² The commanding officer of Fort Huachuca wrote, "These young women are showing marked ability in taking over essential jobs. . . . The performance of the Wacs has been very satisfactory in every respect."³³ The commanding officer of Douglas Army Airfield stated, "I've found them cooperative at all times, and their enthusiasm, industry, attention to duty and conduct make them a real asset to this post." "In several cases," Colonel Bandel reported later, "their efficiency and spirit were highly praised by airbase commanders."³⁴

Negro WAC officers served not only as troop officers and instructors but in operational jobs, a number also being graduates of the Army's Quartermaster School at Camp Lee.

With the higher enrollment standards, recruiters experienced increased success in obtaining qualified women. A survey of skills in 1944 showed that about one fourth of Negro recruits had clerical and professional skills, as against one half of white recruits. In addition, about 30 percent of the Negro recruits, as compared to 34 percent of the whites, had experience in skilled or unskilled trades.³⁵ Although thus not as good as the WAC average, the Negro Wacs appeared to be considerably superior in skills to the average for Negro

civilian women workers in the United States. Here, more than 64 percent of civilian women were reported to be in service occupations, as against only 35 percent of Negro Wacs with this background.³⁶

In employing higher skill and aptitude standards, recruiters were never able to reach the desired goal of 10 percent of the Corps' strength.³⁷ The peak strength of Negro WAC troops was reached early in 1945 and totaled approximately 4,000 or about 4 percent of the Corps.³⁸ These women were assigned to some twenty stations in the Army Service Forces and ten stations in the Army Air Forces. The Army Ground Forces employed no Negro Wacs,

³² (1) R&R, Air WAC Off to PRO, 26 Sep 43. AAF 291.2. (2) *Mason City, Globe-Gazette*, Iowa, January 16, 1945. (3) Atlanta, Ga., *Daily World*, February 15, 1945. (4) Story, "Locator Wacs," by Mary F. Green in undated, unmarked clipping. Folder, Negroes—Field Installations, WDBPR files. (5) *Kansas City Call*, January 26, 1945. (6) Study, Facts About Negro Women in the WAC. Folder, Negroes—Field Installations, WDBPR files. (7) *Detroit Chronicle*, November 25, 1944.

³³ (1) File, Ft Huachuca, SPWA 291.21. (2) Extract from Army Fact Sheet, Women in Uniform, 10 May 43, Radio Br BPR. Folder, Negroes—Facts, WDBPR files.

³⁴ (1) WFTC News Release, undated. Folder Negroes—AAF, WDBPR files. (2) WAC AAF Hist, pp. 14, 40.

³⁵ Study made by SGO (incidental to determining factors in health record) of 22,000 accepted applicants, Oct 43–Mar 44. SGO Med Stat Div.

³⁶ Janet M. Hooks, *Women's Occupations Through Seven Decades*, U.S. Dept of Labor, Women's Bureau Bull 218, pp. 143–44. The 64 percent applies to "non-white" women and does not include charwomen, and the like, who were apparently included in the WAC's 35 percent.

³⁷ See breakdowns of rejection rates by race, printed by Stat Analysis Br Med Stat Div SGO, Feb–Mar 43, and Med Rejections, Nov 42–Dec 44. Med Stat Div SGO.

³⁸ (1) As of 31 Mar 45. See also Memo, Dir WAC for G-1, 14 Mar 45. Folder, Material, 10 Apr 45, for Cong Appropriations Mtg for Year 1945–46, Tab 7. (2) Memo, Dir WAC for G-1, 14 Mar 45. Hobby files.