

material and films on disease control be sent to the field, as well as pamphlets and posters. These ideas were all rejected by the War Department for almost another year. Finally, in 1944, permission was granted to show certain Public Health Service and Canadian films especially designed to avoid shocking the public. A carefully rewritten pamphlet was also approved, and finally a second one for women overseas, although, as Major Craighill pointed out, this appeared just as most women were nearing the end of their overseas service. All of these training aids continued to have a moral tone and gave no instruction in prophylaxis.⁶⁰

Director Hobby's chief fear during this period was that, in the hundreds of stations to which Wacs were now assigned, some medical officer would erroneously apply the regulations governing men, and thus supply enemies of the Corps with grounds for stating that Wacs were urged to use contraceptives. The danger was redoubled in that the Medical Department and Military Training Division, like almost all other headquarters agencies, occasionally forgot that all Army Regulations were applicable to the WAC unless otherwise specified, and published directives that made no exceptions for women.

Thus, in April of 1944 the circular on Training in Basic Medical Subjects was already cleared for publication by Military Training Division before Colonel Hobby discovered, from an information copy, that it prescribed instruction in "individual methods of preventing venereal disease" for "all military personnel."⁶¹ To prevent such accidents in the future, Director Hobby secured publication of a War Department circular stating plainly:

It is contrary to War Department policy either to provide instruction in venereal dis-

ease prophylaxis for female personnel of the Army of the United States, or to issue venereal disease prophylaxis materials to such personnel. The provisions of Army Regulations and directives concerning these matters are intended for male personnel only and are not applicable to female personnel.⁶²

The Director also secured publication of a circular stating that WAC unit commanders would give or arrange the periodic instruction in social hygiene that was required by Army Regulations.⁶³

These precautions proved useful, for as late as 1945 an Army Regulation declared that "Commanding Officers will make readily available to all military personnel such venereal disease prophylactic items as are prescribed and furnished by the Surgeon General," and that instructions would include "routine use of prophylactic methods during and following possible exposure."⁶⁴ In such cases it could only be hoped that field authorities were aware of the earlier circular and would not interpret "all military personnel" as including women.

If any danger to women's health resulted from a disease control program based on recruiting considerations rather than medical ones, such danger was not apparent in the rates of infection. In fact, it quickly became clear that among Wacs venereal disease was so rare as to be a neg-

⁶⁰ (1) Pub Health Serv Films: *Fight Syphilis* and *The Magic Bullet*; Canadian film: *For Your Information*; American film: *Our Job to Know*. (2) Pamphlet: *You'd Better Know*, printed by V. D. Education Institute, Raleigh, N. C. (3) WD Pamphlet 35-4, 1945, *For Women Overseas*. AG 461 (3-13-45), in WDWAC 720.

⁶¹ Memo Routing Slip, MTD ASF to Dep Dir WAC, 7 Apr 44, re Draft of Change to Cir 48, 3 Feb 44, with atchd note.

⁶² WD Cir 172, 2 May 44, sec IV.

⁶³ WD Cir 6, 4 Jan 44, amended by WD Cir 163, 26 Apr 44.

⁶⁴ AR 40-210, 25 Apr 45.