

which could not be provided. Training center reports added:

Some recruits expected to be exempt from kitchen police duties; to be destined for superior assignments; to be entitled to more consideration than other Wacs. Naturally this attitude quickly aroused resentment among other trainees and training center personnel.⁸⁵

Whatever the cause, the War Department soon began to receive numerous allegations that recruiting promises were being violated by training authorities. For the duration of most recruiting campaigns, inspectors were kept busy checking upon cases in which it was alleged that certificates of enlistment had been ignored or destroyed at training centers, recruits classified in unwanted duties or shipped to other than the promised station, or ridiculed for their branch or state armbands. Low morale among branch recruits was reported as so prevalent that a War Department representative was sent to investigate.⁸⁶

Recruiters objected that they had received letters from their recruits to the effect that commitments were being violated and that

. . . it makes the job of recruiting an almost impossible one for those of us who are interested in the future and welfare of the women . . . especially when the responsibility lies on our shoulders for having encouraged them to join.⁸⁷

Through the efforts of various inspectors, a number of cases of erroneous shipment were discovered and corrected. In some cases certificates were still in the possession of recruits, while in others papers had been lost and training centers had not sent for duplicates before disallowing claims. In most cases the numbers of such

shipments were no greater than might have been attributable to error, haste, or ignorance of the significance of certificates. In some cases, women who had not been promised branch assignment had merely taken advantage of the general confusion to assert that they had.⁸⁸

Colonel Strayhorn was of the opinion that training authorities in the ASF had again not co-ordinated matters fully with recruiters on the Washington level, and that there was "failure to properly advise the training center prior to the actual arrival of troops recruited under such recruitment programs of the nature of the program and of the promises made."⁸⁹ Visiting War Department representatives agreed that "the Third WAC Training Center has not been informed of changes in organization and planning for WAC recruiting."⁹⁰

Air Forces Evaluation

A particular problem was posed by the presence in one installation of Air Wacs, Port Wacs, Ground Wacs, and others who arrived complete with factional spirit. Because of its relatively small size, the WAC was forced to train in one installation recruits guaranteed assignment in different branches of the Army, a situation that sel-

⁸⁵ (1) *Ibid*, pp. 58-59. (2) Ltr, Comdt 1st WAC Tng Cen to Dir WAC, 9 Mar 44. SPWA 333.1.

⁸⁶ (1) Memo, Rctg Off for Dir WAC, 3 Mar 44. WDWAC 333.1. (2) Ltr, Gen White, G-1, to Rep. Francis Case, 9 Mar 44. WDWAC 330.14.

⁸⁷ Ltr, Lt Virginia Williams to Dir WAC, 8 Feb 44. SPWA 330.14.

⁸⁸ (1) Files of Air WAC Div, Hq AAF, ACofAS Pers, Recruiting. (2) AAF WAC Hist, p. 70 n. 1. (3) Intervs with AAF WAC Off, and Capt Corene Brooks, AAF Ln Off, during 1946.

⁸⁹ ASF Hist of WAC Tng, pp. 102-03.

⁹⁰ Memo cited n. 80(1).