

and assign, as they saw fit, the women already promised a branch, job, or station.⁴¹

The AAF concurred in dropping the station-job system, always troublesome, but refused to allow the 1,500 members of its recruiting teams to continue unless branch recruiting also continued. In late August of 1944, letters therefore went out directing the end of station-and-job recruiting on 1 November.⁴²

The next step was intended to be the reduction of recruiting to a maintenance basis immediately following the defeat of Germany—which, it was prematurely expected, would take place by the end of the year. Plans made in late October called for the strength of the Corps to be frozen at the end of 1944, recruiting thereafter to be limited to 500 or 700 women a month in essential skills to make up attrition. This reduction would, in The Adjutant General's opinion, make possible a simultaneous 65 percent reduction in facilities and 77 percent in personnel.⁴³

In pursuance of this plan, letters went out to all service commands on 20 December 1944, virtually ending active WAC recruiting. Effective 1 January, each service command was directed to reduce its service to 20 officers and 41 enlisted personnel. Each command had a quota of only 68 each month, the women to get a choice only of the major branch of service, not job or station.⁴⁴

Unhappily for this plan, and for the relief to which recruiters were looking forward, the Battle of the Bulge made this directive obsolete even before it was sent out. In the first days of the new year, the relief orders were rescinded and recruiters learned of the General Hospital Campaign with its system of recruitment for specific installations.⁴⁵

In every way the General Hospital

Campaign, which occupied the first four months of 1945, made the fullest use of the technical knowledge evolved by the Recruiting Service, and avoided the pitfalls revealed by past experience. The original directive plainly stated that, while women could be promised initial assignment to a unit, the recruiter must make clear the meaning "initial" and also that the members might be trained as either technicians or medical clerks, according to the needs of the service. To prevent misunderstandings and later disputes as to what had been promised, it was specified that a qualification certificate be completed in quadruplicate: the original to be placed in the service record, a duplicate to go to training center classification officers, the third copy to the woman herself, and the fourth to the service command file.⁴⁶

So thorough did the WAC recruiting organization eventually become that, in the last days of its operation, it appeared doubtful whether any eligible prospect or avenue of approach in the entire nation was ignored. In fact, the Director received a congressman's complaint that recruiting literature had been sent to a former constituent, although the lady had died the previous year at the age of 95.⁴⁷

After almost three years of continuous

⁴¹ Memo, MPD ASF for Dir Pers ASF, 27 Apr 44. SPGAP 341 Gen (4-19-44)-69, in SPAP 341 WAAC (2-26-43).

⁴² D/F, G-1 for TAG, 29 Aug 44. WDGAP 341 WAC, in WDWAC 341. Published in AG Ltr to SvCs, 31 Aug 44. SGPR-I-A 341 WAC (8-29-44).

⁴³ Memo, G-1 for ASF, 26 Oct 44, with inds and M/R through 8 Dec 44. SPAP 341 WAC (11-6-44).

⁴⁴ Ltr, TAG to all SvCs, 20 Dec 44. SPXPR-I WAC (12-20-44) in SPAP 341 WAAC.

⁴⁵ Ltr, TAG for All SvCs, 13 Jan 45. AGPR-I 341 WAC, in WDWAC 341.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*; also Ltr, TAG for all SvCs, 23 Jan 45. Same file.

⁴⁷ D/F, Dir WAC to TAG, 16 Jan 45, incl ltr to Rep. Paul W. Shafer. WDWAC 341.