

especially of women with long monotonous service in the zone of the interior. She reported: "There is a growing feeling among WAC personnel with long Zone of the Interior service on isolated posts that they are being discriminated against" by discharge of overseas Wacs with shorter service. Colonel Boyce therefore recommended "an early press release in order that the questions in the minds of the Wacs, the public, and Congress may be answered." She expressed herself in favor of beginning WAC demobilization in the zone of the interior by dropping the point score from 44 to 30, thus allowing demobilization of women who had enlisted in the Auxiliary's first six months, even if they had had no overseas service.¹⁰

Colonel Boyce's recommendations were not favorably considered by the War Department. On the day following her request, General Henry spoke before the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, giving only the plan for demobilization of men.¹¹ Colonel Boyce at once protested:

... the inadvertent omission of any reference to the lowering of the point score [for women] is particularly unfortunate in view of... my memorandum. It is hoped that an immediate decision will be reached. When the necessary policy decisions are made, this office will prepare a separate War Department release on the future of the WAC, to try to offset the detrimental effect of past silence.¹²

A week later the War Department decided on a drop in the point score. It proved to be a disappointment, since the drop was from 44 to only 41 for enlisted Wacs, instead of to 30. WAC officers' scores were set at 44. This score still prevented the discharge of Wacs in the United States, some 85 percent of the Corps. Since overseas theaters, with most

of the discharge eligibles, were extremely slow about returning Wacs, the result was that almost no women moved toward separation centers.¹³

With this announcement, the Director's Office was all but submerged in a wave of bitter letters from Wacs in the field. Even before she received these protests, Colonel Boyce in September drafted a memorandum pointing out that, when the men's score dropped to 80 points, the WAC score should drop to 33, if the percentage of Wacs allowed to go home was to equal the percentage of men leaving. This memorandum was not sent. In the meantime the War Department had directed that on 1 October the men's score was to fall further, to 60 points, but the Wacs' only to 36, and that in November, when the enlisted men's score fell to 55, the Wacs' would fall only to 34.

Thus, six months after V-E Day, the principle of equal discharge percentages on point scores was abrogated, and no Wacs in the United States, except the handful of enlisted women who had enrolled during the Auxiliary's first two months, were yet eligible for discharge on the basis of points.¹⁴

Slowing of WAC Demobilization

What had actually been repudiated was the plan that the percentages of Wacs

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Gen Henry's mimeographed statement, 28 Aug 45. WDWAC 370.01.

¹² Memo, Dir WAC for Gen Henry. WDWAC 370.01.

¹³ (1) WDBPR Press Releases, 3, 6 Sep 45. (2) Cbl, G-1 overseas commands, 6 Sep 45, by WDGAP 220.8 to TAG. WDWAC 370.01.

¹⁴ (1) Draft (not used) of Memo, Dir WAC for Gen Henry, (Sep 45). WDWAC 370.01. (2) WD Policies on Discharge, par II, 6. (3) WDBPR Press Release, 20 Sep 45.