

air command directors,³⁶ and all of the Army Ground Forces staff directors in field commands.³⁷ All wartime staff directors of overseas theaters also left, even including such strong advocates of a permanent Corps as Colonel Wilson, who left to be married, and Colonel Brown, who returned to the Veterans' Administration.³⁸ After Colonel Bandel, two more Air WAC Officers left in rapid succession;³⁹ and after Colonel Davis, two more AGF WAC Officers elected discharge.⁴⁰ The ASF WAC Officer's only assistant left with her when the Service Forces closed.⁴¹ The only Wac to have been a training center commandant, Colonel Strayhorn, likewise departed. All former officers of Colonel Hobby's staff elected discharge.

Colonel Boyce's office—like most other General Staff sections—was now entirely staffed with officers from the European and Mediterranean theaters. For her new deputy she chose Lt. Col. Mary A. Hallaren, former staff director of the Air Forces in Europe, in civilian life a teacher and lecturer for women's groups, and a strong advocate of a peacetime WAC.

Separation Procedure

While some 20,000 members of the Women's Army Corps were held in service by the frozen discharge criteria, the other 80,000 were in the process of leaving it. A year before, the commitment had been secured that women would be separated at only five of the many separation centers for men, to permit the assignment of specialists in women's medical and vocational problems. With the beginning of demobilization, women began to be processed through these five centers—Fort Dix, Fort Bragg, Camp Beale, Fort

Sheridan, and Fort Sam Houston. Fort Des Moines was added at a later date.⁴²

Although these centers had a year's advance warning, the idea of adequate facilities for women and of skilled processing teams never was brought to fruition at all of them. War Department inspectors early discovered that medical teams examining women lacked gynecological specialists; a woman doctor was shortly ordered to each of the five centers, to be responsible for detecting gynecological disorders requiring treatment.⁴³

At Camp Beale, physical surroundings were found to be undesirable and only a few women a day could be processed, with others waiting indefinitely.⁴⁴ At Fort Dix, barracks were overcrowded and unsanitary. Some correction was undertaken, but a full year later hundreds of Wacs at Fort Dix still had to wait over a week for sepa-

³⁶ *Remaining:* Hague (CFTC), Kersey (2d AF).

Discharged: Freeman (TC and Air WAC), Woods (WFTC and Dep Dir), Phillips (EFTC), Stryker (TTC), Hardesty (WTTC and Air WAC), Johnson (CTTC), Lea (ETTC), May (ATC; recalled 1946); Gilbert (1st AF), Watson (2d AF), McCauley (3d AF—died); Clague (recalled 1948), Marshall (4th AF); Elrod (Mat C—recalled 1948), Kennedy (ASC), Kerr (TCC), Guild (PGC; recalled 1947), Sweet, McKay (AFTAC), Morris (PDC), Barth (AACS; recalled 1948), Pease (WW), Ludwigsen (Hq AAF).

³⁷ Melin, Riley.

³⁸ *Remaining:* none.

Leaving: ETO: Wilson. SWPA: Brown. MTO: Coleman (Colonel Boyce, first MTO Stf Dir, remained until May 1947). ME: Dyer. CBI: Clague (returned to RA, 1948).

³⁹ Lt Col Mary Freeman, Maj Elizabeth Hardesty.

⁴⁰ Maj Louise Neilson, Maj Geneva McQuatters.

⁴¹ Maj Margaret Perry.

⁴² (1) Min, Conf, 17 Jun 44. WDGAP 354.1 (1945–46). (2) Memo, G-1 for MPD ASF, 6 Sep 45. WDWAC 354.1. (3) Memo, SGO for Dir WAC, 6 Jul 44. WDWAC 220.8.

⁴³ D/F, G-1 to CG ASF, 19 Jun 45. WDGAP 321.02, in WDWAC 720.

⁴⁴ Memo, Dir WAC for G-1, 14 Jul 45. WDWAC 220.8.