

WAC supplement to the pamphlet was hastily published, but this did not reach the field until 1946, when more than half of the Corps had already been separated.⁴⁷

At the same time, it was discovered that instructions to separation centers had neglected to provide for entry concerning Auxiliary service anywhere on the standard discharge records, and former members of the WAAC experienced difficulty in securing credit for this service when seeking employment. This deficiency was discovered by Colonel Rice in the midst of her own separation. When informed that no official proof could be given her of her fifteen months' WAAC service, she returned to G-1 Division, wrote and processed a corrective circular, and came back, bearing a certified copy, to complete her discharge. Five necessary special notations for women were discovered to be missing. Again, it was not possible to remedy these omissions in time to assist many women.⁴⁸

Women returning from overseas appeared especially in need of some preparation for what awaited them. Wacs from the European and Mediterranean theaters were reportedly startled by the attitude of the civilian population toward Wacs, and by the accommodations offered troops in the United States, which were far less favorable than those overseas. Colonel Boyce's office therefore devised a plan whereby trained WAC convoy officers met and accompanied each returning group, and gently broke the news about life in the United States.⁴⁹

In spite of minor difficulties, confusion, and lack of counseling, most Wacs, like the men, had little trouble in surviving the brief passage through separation centers. All Wacs reverted to inactive status, since Congress had authorized Reserve status

only for men and Navy women. Colonel Boyce's office considered a survey of these WAC veterans, such as had been made for men, in order to discover how the separation process might be improved, but she was informed by Information and Education Division, which now had only a small staff, that such a plan for women would encounter "resistance," and at any rate survey results would be too late to assist the Army in processing women.⁵⁰

Veterans' Administration Policy

To evaluate further the results of the demobilization process, the Veterans' Administration in May of 1946 undertook a WAC survey as a part of its survey of male veterans. As expected, it was found that women experienced much the same readjustment difficulties as enlisted men, plus a number of their own. Women were found to be taking jobs more slowly and in smaller proportionate numbers than men. Although 89 percent had been working before enlistment, only about half were found, three or four months after discharge, to be employed. The remainder were housewives, students, job-seekers, or "just resting." Even when they took a job,

⁴⁷ (1) TWX, TAG to all SvCs, SPGAT, 11 Sep 45, re TWX to same, 7 Sep 45. WDWAC 370.01, and WAC 370.01. (2) Memo, G-1 for Chairman, WD Printing Bd, 14 Dec 45, sub: WD Pamphlet 21-4a, Dec 45, WAC Supplement to *Going Back to Civilian Life*. WDWAC 300.6. (3) D/F, G-1 to TAG, 20 Dec 45. WDWAC 461.

⁴⁸ Observed by author. Also D/F, G-1 to TAG, 12 Dec 45. WDGAP 220.8 WAC, in WDWAC 220.8.

⁴⁹ (1) WD Memo 600-45, 23 Aug 45. WDWAC 320. (2) D/F, G-1 to CG ASF, 24 Oct 45. WDWAC 210.31. (3) Memo, Convoy Offs to Stf Dir NYPOE, 29 Dec 45. WDWAC 319.1. (4) Memo, Dep Dir for Dir WAC, 4 Jan 46. WDWAC 319.1.

⁵⁰ (1) Memo, Maj Alice Knight for Dir WAC, 14 Dec 45, with incls; (2) M/R, Col Davis, 19 Dec 45. WDWAC 292.