

WAF, and women Marines, was rejected. Instead, the draft legislation provided for a separate corps with separate grades, as in Auxiliary days. A separate promotion list was provided, on the ground that WAC officers "could not be transferred into the other Arms and Services."⁹⁸ Women officers were limited to one temporary colonel and no more than 10 percent lieutenant colonels, as against 14 percent lieutenant colonels and 8 percent colonels for men.⁹⁹ Because of these low ranks, weeks more of delay resulted as special retirement rules and predicted attrition schedules were worked out.¹⁰⁰

In another reversal of wartime policy, direct commissions were authorized for civilian women, since no ROTC training was authorized for women. In still another reversal, the age limit for enlistment was dropped to 18 years, a move that Director Hobby had several times rejected as dangerous.¹⁰¹

In the spring of 1947, Deputy Director Hallaren stated, "We felt that if we do not get it [legislation] in this session, we might as well quit; women interested in planning a career will give up and go home."¹⁰² By March, the legislation was at last believed satisfactory to the War Department and ready for introduction into Congress. At this time Colonel Boyce, who had been hospitalized since late January, elected to leave the Army and the Acting Director and former Deputy, Colonel Hallaren, assumed office on 5 May 1947 as the third Director WAC.¹⁰³

Congressional Action

On 15 April 1947, the WAC Integration Act of 1947 was introduced in Congress, and eventually was approved unanimously on the Senate floor. Everything

appeared favorable to a speedy passage. Endorsements had been received from almost all important women's groups, and a Gallup poll disclosed that a majority of the American public—a majority of men as well as of women—also favored peacetime status.¹⁰⁴ General Eisenhower in 1946 took the step that General Marshall had taken two years before, and wrote personally to field commanders to request their support.¹⁰⁵ These measures proved inadequate to prevent another year's delay.¹⁰⁶ During this time there ensued an attack from the same source that in wartime had crippled WAC recruiting: Army men and veterans, articles in soldier magazines, and letters to the editor.¹⁰⁷

Representative Margaret Chase Smith said that she had been told that the opposition stemmed from "off-the-record statements" made to Armed Services Committee members by "duly authorized

⁹⁸ Notes by author at Mtg, O Dir WAC, 10 Dec 46, Col Hallaren presiding for Dir WAC, Gen Dahlquist for Army.

⁹⁹ Min, Stf Mtg, O Dir WAC, 10 Jan 46, Col Boyce presiding. WAC file OCMH.

¹⁰⁰ (1) Memo, Maj Herbert for Col Boyce, 16 Sep 46, WDWAC 320.2. (2) Notes by author, Conf at O Dir WAC, Col Hallaren presiding, 27 Nov 46.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.* For final form, see PL 625 (1948).

¹⁰² Notes by author, Stf Mtg, O Dir WAC, 28 Feb 47.

¹⁰³ Min cited n. 83. Also Ltr, CofS to Col Boyce, 14 Mar 47. OCMH.

¹⁰⁴ (1) Letters and Resolutions dated from January through June 1947, and read into *Congressional Record* by Representative Edith N. Rogers on 21 April 1948, pp. 4813-14. Also notes by author, Stf Mtg, 31 Jan 47, Col Hallaren presiding. (2) Gallup Poll, 21 Aug 47, in *Washington Post* for August 22, 1947.

¹⁰⁵ Personal ltr, CofS to CGs Army Areas, 23 Jul 46; replies, 29 and 31 Jul and 1 Aug 46. WDGPA 342.06 WAC (7-17-46), G-1 files.

¹⁰⁶ Personnel Newsletter 9, 1 Sep 47. WAC files, OCMH.

¹⁰⁷ *Washington Post*, July 15, 1947, March 11, 1948, and many others; *Salute*, August 1947, "Thirty-year Girls."