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Charity Adams Earley, *One Woman's Army*, 1995 (excerpt)

"...There had been so many 'working together in racial harmony' situations which were forbidden and eradicated when confronted with the Army reality of both segregation and discrimination.

"Perhaps this harmony was in part responsible for the "separate but equal" plan proposed by WAC Headquarters and sponsored by the White House. The plan was also attributable in part to the recommendation made to the president by his Negro adviser. The plan was to create a Negro training regiment, parallel to the regular training regiment, in order to provide promotional opportunities for Negro officers.

A meeting of all Negro officers stationed at the TC was called, and the plan was explained. The whole thing sounded very good - at least to the most junior officers.

Lots of questions were asked, but the answers were not very satisfactory to a few of us. I remember that meeting very well for a number of reasons. I had been raised in the southern United States, and I knew that there was no such thing as separate but equal, so I objected to such an organization, pointing out that although it appeared to afford opportunity, there was an extremely low ceiling on where we could go.

The top would be reserved for whites; I had seen it happen too many times. When I asked who the commanding officer of this regiment would be, I was informed that as ranking Negro officer I would have that assignment. My response was that I wanted no part of it and was informed that I had no choice.

> 'I will not command such an outfit.'

> 'Would you disobey a direct order?' I was asked.

> 'I want to make it as a WAC officer and not as a Negro WAC officer. I guess this is the end because I will not be the regimental commander.'

The meeting was over. Each and every officer - including the ones who had been closest to me and those for whom I had done the most, walked out of that assembly without a word to me. I was hurt that none understood that I was thinking of all our futures…"