

[10 incl.]

War Department, A. G. O., December 1, 1917 (through the Chief of Embarkation Service to the Surgeon General).

1. Attention is invited to memorandum from Chief of Embarkation Service, dated November 24, 1917, inclosed herewith. The Secretary of War directs the use of the transports *Saratoga* and *Albatross*, which are to be fitted up as hospital ships, be for the present for the transportation of sick and wounded who are not able to be transported on regular transports returning from abroad.

2. Officers and enlisted men, convalescent, or those who are run down, and it is desired to return home, should be accommodated on regular transports returning from France.

3. If it should later develop that the accommodations on the *Saratoga* and *Albatross* are not sufficient for transporting the sick and wounded who should be transported thereon, the question should again be brought to the attention of this office.

4. Copy of letter from the Secretary of War to the Secretary of State, requesting that information regarding the policy of the German Government relating to the sinking of hospital ships be obtained, is attached hereto.

By order of the Secretary of War:

(Signed) J. R. WILSON,  
Adjutant General.

2 incls.

NOVEMBER 24, 1917.

Memorandum for: Chief of Staff.

Subject: Transportation of sick and wounded of the American Expeditionary Forces.

1. As a general proposition, there is only one sure way of transporting the sick and injured with safety from abroad, and that is by regular hospital ships, plainly marked and generally known as such vessels. No matter to what extent our transports might be camouflaged or especially marked to indicate having aboard sick and injured, they would be subject, undoubtedly, to attack by submarines.

2. The Navy Department at present time is equipping as hospital ships the former transports *Saratoga* and *Albatross*. It is believed that these two vessels will be sufficient for the transportation of sick and wounded who are not able to be transported on regular transports returning from abroad.

3. The use of these vessels for that purpose is contemplated by the Navy and agreeable to them.

4. Officers and enlisted men, convalescent, or those who are run down and it is desired to return home, should be accommodated, in the opinion of this office, on regular transports returning from France.

5. Action is therefore recommended in accordance with the foregoing.

(Signed) GEORGE D. BROWN,  
Brigadier General, National Army, Chief of Embarkation Service.

[24 incl.]

Office of the Chief of Embarkation Service, Washington, D. C., December 8, 1917. To the Surgeon General of the Army.

(Signed) W. C. K.

[24 incl.]

S. G. O. 371.1 Hosp. Ships.

War Dept., S. G. O., December 7, 1917. To Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy.

1. (a) It is deemed necessary to have an exact understanding as to what extent the hospital ships of the Navy will be available for transportation of the permanently disabled of the American Expeditionary Forces of the United States.

(b) According to paragraph 3 of the inclosed memorandum from the Chief of Embarkation Service to the Chief of Staff it is contemplated that those permanently disabled can be returned by the Navy on their hospital ships. It is estimated in this office that with a force of 1,000,000