

about there will be approximately 3,833 permanently disabled to be returned to the United States every month. Of this number probably 20 per cent will be strictly hospital cases requiring surgical or medical treatment on the return voyage.

2. The type of cases mentioned in paragraph 4 of the inclosed memorandum, above referred to, are not included in this estimate.

3. It is further understood in this office that the former transport *Saratoga* will not be ready for use as a hospital ship for a number of months. An opinion is requested from you as to whether the Navy, with the hospital ships not available or contemplated, will be able to provide transportation and care for the number of sick and injured who will have to be returned to the United States.

For the Surgeon General:

(Signed) H. P. HUMPHREYS,
Brigadier General, Medical Corps, Acting Surgeon General.

(Answer to 35 inc4.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 13, 1917.

To: Surgeon General of the Army.

Subject: Transportation of sick and wounded of the Army Expeditionary Forces; use of hospital ships of the Navy therefor.

Reference: (a) Letter of November 14, 1917, A. G. O. No. 704.1, S. G. O. No. 571.1 (hospital ships) of Surgeon General, U. S. Army, to Secretary of War.

(b) 1st inclosure thereof of Adjutant General's Office, December 1, 1917, No. 704.1.

(c) Memorandum for Chief of Staff of November 24, 1917, from Chief of Embarkation Service.

(d) 2d inclosure by Surgeon General's Office No. 571.1 (hospital ships) of December 7, 1917, to Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Inclosure: Correspondence forwarded to this office in connection with the above reference.

1. Correspondence with regard to the use of hospital ships of the Navy for the transportation of the American Expeditionary Forces to the United States is returned herewith.

2. Referring to the first inclosure of Adjutant General's Office of December 1, 1917, and to paragraphs two and three of memorandum for Chief of Staff, November 24, 1917, attention is invited to the fact that the *Hosona* and *Saratoga* (*Morg*) were allotted to the Navy for conversion to hospital ships and are now under the cognizance of the Secretary of the Navy. Their accommodations will be required entirely for the care and treatment of the sick and wounded of the naval forces abroad. These ships will operate in conjunction with the fleet and will not be available for Army use, and, further, their accommodations are not considered adequate to meet the demands expected from the naval forces either at home or abroad. It is further considered impracticable for these two vessels to provide under any circumstances transportation for wounded of any forces approximating 3,833 per month as estimated in paragraph 1 (b) of the third inclosure of the Surgeon General's Office.

3. With reference to paragraph 1 (a) and paragraph 3 of the third inclosure of the Surgeon General's Office, you are advised that your office should place no reliance or expectations for service upon these hospital ships, as it must be realized that they will at no time be available for the care or transportation of sick and wounded of the Army, except for an occasional case under special circumstances.

4. The Medical Department of the Navy is making no provision in the way of hospital ships for the accommodation or care of the sick and wounded from the Army, as this is considered a matter entirely within the province of the proper Army authority. It is practicable to receive patients aboard troop transports only to the limit of accommodation as obtained from the commandet cruise log and forwarded to your office December 3, 1917.

(Signed) W. C. BRANTER.