

healthy men, would become bed cases, the utmost limit was asked for in the way of beds in the sick bay of the ship, and as a result it is believed that the following conservative accommodations for Army sick and wounded exist on 18 of the Navy transports already in service at the low average of one trip a month for each vessel. As certain additional ships are rapidly being converted into transports, these totals will be considerably increased:

Bed cases.....	1,000
Surgical cases able to walk.....	2,700
Inanes.....	150
Tubercular cases.....	350
Requiring no special attention.....	5,500

7. Considering the naval needs as vital, it is strongly recommended that the three Navy hospital ships, *Albatross*, *Albatross*, and *Albatross*, be considered as not available for Army use, except for individual casual cases and in those instances when joint operations of the main fleet and Army take place.

8. (a) The use of transports in lieu of hospital ships as a means of transporting helpless sick and wounded involves the certain risk of enemy attack without consideration for the character of the personnel on board, and for this reason is most inadvisable, and the loss of life to be expected should, unfortunately, one of these vessels be sunk, will be attended with bitter criticism from the families and friends of those lost.

(b) The Bureau, in the event of a decision to use returning Navy transports for bringing back sick and wounded of the Army and Navy, not contingent on the ordinary casualties to be expected from the complement of the ship, desires definite instructions to this effect.

(c) As it is understood from the sixth and seventh indentments that the suggestion of the Surgeon General of the Army can not be granted, that certain ships be converted into hospital ships for Army use, even though possibly by using them on the outgoing trip for transportation of Medical Department personnel and the large quantities of medical supplies required abroad, the net result would be no loss in tonnage for other purposes, it would appear that the only available accommodations at this time are the sick bay and ordinary berthing spaces on the transports.

(d) The designation of Navy transports, or Navy hospital ships for that matter, for transporting Army sick and wounded will place an unexpected responsibility upon the Medical Department of the Navy, a new departure, in fact, from what hitherto has been the custom both at home and abroad. Such a decision coming nearly a year after the breaking off of diplomatic relations and 10 months after the declaration of war, places upon the Navy, at a late date, the responsibility for possible lack of preparation in personnel, equipment, supplies, and proper hospital arrangements to meet the needs of additional thousands of men.

(e) The offer of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery to furnish medical and surgical supplies to Army contingents in transit on Navy transports did not contemplate sick and wounded other than troops in transit, and it may be necessary for the Army Medical Department to meet deficiencies in Navy medical supplies should the Navy appropriation fail to be increased to meet the additional expenditure.

(f) It is considered that the facilities of the Medical Department of the Navy are sufficient to provide for the proper care of patients on Navy transports provided:

(1) That the Army Medical Department assume care of patients at the points of embarkation until delivery of cases is accomplished to the senior medical officer of the ship.

(2) That bed cases be received only to the capacity of the sick bay of such vessel, reserving sufficient beds for Navy cases and the crew, and that other types of cases be not in excess of the number determined upon by the senior surgeon approved by the commander cruiser force.

(3) That the Army Medical Department be prepared to supply, if necessary, Medical Department personnel to aid in the care and organization of the possibly large contingent of walking cases.

(4) That the Army Medical Department assume immediate responsibility, including transportation from ship to Army hospital, of all Army cases transferred from the vessel at the port of disembarkation in the United States.

(5) All sick and wounded cases, while in transit on the ship, to be under the general supervision of the senior naval medical officer.

9. Detailed definite instructions will be compiled upon receipt of decision from department as to whether or not hospital ships or transports will be used.

(Signed) W. C. BRANTON.