

[11th 104.]

JANUARY 22, 1918.

1455—4-1

From: Secretary of the Navy.

To: Secretary of War.

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

1. The foregoing correspondence indicates clearly and definitely the present and contemplated resources of the Navy Department for transporting sick and wounded from European ports to the United States, viz, the facilities offered in the 15 transports now in service (see reference (c) of second indorsement of the Surgeon General of the Navy herewith) and any additional transports that may be added, together with the two naval hospital ships, *Mary* and *Albatross*, when the services of the two last named can be spared from naval use. This correspondence also states the desire of the Navy Department to utilize the resources in this respect to the fullest extent for the transportation of the sick and wounded of the Army, having due regard for the handling of the sick and wounded of the naval forces.

2. It is not the Navy Department's intention to increase its facilities for this purpose beyond what has already been indicated.

3. In order that there may be no misunderstanding, the Navy Department wishes to emphasize the fact that it does not and can not assume responsibility for the transportation of the Army sick and wounded beyond what has already been stated and as reiterated in the preceding indorsements of the Surgeon General of the Navy.

4. Should the War Department, after consideration, decide that these facilities are not sufficient for the purpose desired, and desire to provide for vessels for this purpose, the Navy Department will be prepared to supply the personnel for manning such vessels and will gladly undertake their operation.

(Signed) JOSEPHUS DANIELA.

Data relative to the number and kind of patients which will be returned from American Expeditionary Forces and the ship accommodations that will be required.

1. The rate of discharge on surgeon's certificate of disability in 1917 was 13.88 per thousand.

2. That the rate will be at least 20 per thousand in the heavily augmented forces of war time is considered a most conservative estimate.

3. Based on the experience of our Allies we may expect 25 per cent battle casualties, and the commanding general, American Expeditionary Forces, has estimated that 20 per cent of these Casuals will be returned to the United States for further treatment or discharge. Upon these figures, we must expect that one-twelfth of 7 per cent of the total forces there will have to be transported home each month. Based also upon the experience of our Allies at least 50 per cent (including insane and tubercular) of those which are sent will require sick-bay or special accommodations.

	Strength.	Number to be transported.	Number requiring sick bay or special accommodations.	Number which can receive this accommodations on Naval transports.	Excess or deficiency.
1918.					
May.....	25,000	1,250	625	625	+ 000
June.....	60,000	3,000	1,500	1,500	+ 000
July.....	75,000	3,750	1,875	1,875	+ 000
August.....	85,000	4,250	2,125	2,125	+ 000
September.....	95,000	4,750	2,375	2,375	+ 000
October.....	1,050,000	52,500	26,250	26,250	+ 000
November.....	1,150,000	57,500	28,750	28,750	+ 000
December.....	1,250,000	62,500	31,250	31,250	+ 000
1919.					
January.....	1,350,000	67,500	33,750	33,750	+ 000
February.....	1,450,000	72,500	36,250	36,250	+ 000
March.....	1,550,000	77,500	38,750	38,750	+ 000
April.....	1,650,000	82,500	41,250	41,250	+ 000
May.....	1,750,000	87,500	43,750	43,750	+ 000
June.....	1,850,000	92,500	46,250	46,250	+ 000
					- 15,000