

4. The above are based on estimates based on available data and it is believed represent an accurate picture of the problem which is before us. It may be true that the figures in the earlier months will prove to be excessive. The reverse for the later months will doubtless also prove true.

5. The residual capacity of the hospitalization overseas will be filled up during the earlier months, and comparatively only a few will be returned. When this residual capacity is filled, the full weight of the evacuation problem must be met.

6. When a man will manifestly never be able to return to the fighting line or render effective service in the rear, it would seem to be of prime military importance to evacuate him to this country as early as practicable.

7. The figures in paragraph 3 take into consideration only those requiring sick-bay or special accommodations, as there will be ample space on return transports to accommodate those not requiring special accommodations.

8. In addition to the matter of comfort and care, the question of safety and protection of sick and wounded becomes a great factor. Transports carrying large numbers of returning invalids, many of them helpless, and with Army names aboard, will undoubtedly be liable to destruction by submarines. The probable loss of ships carrying crippled men must be considered. Nor could this attack by the enemy be held improper. The conditions which would arise, should such a ship loaded with helpless wounded be sunk, can readily be imagined.

9. The transportation of sanitary organizations and medical supplies on hospital ships, it is thought, would not be considered improper, and this method would relieve the transportation service.

10. Under any conditions, the naval transports are not adapted to the care of sick and wounded in any great number.

(Signed) W. L. HARR,
Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Corps.

118 Misc. Dir.

From: The Adjutant General of the Army.

To: The Surgeon General.

Subject: Transportation of sick from abroad.

1. The Secretary of War directs that you confer with the Surgeon General of the Navy with a view to carrying out the recommendations contained in the following telegram from the commanding general, American Expeditionary Forces, and upon completion that you submit to this office report of the results obtained in this conference:

Number 1024, paragraph 1, subparagraph D, with reference to Army-Navy articles of agreement of March 28, 1918, concerning transportation of sick and wounded to home territory, it is absolutely essential, in order to insure an efficient evacuation service and not embarrass Army hospitalization facilities at base ports here, that Army and Navy Departments, through their Surgeon Generals, agree on and communicate to their transport officials the principle that the number and kind of patients to be transported to the United States by the Navy will be a matter determined by me and governed only by the capacity of the ships and ability of the Army Medical Department to furnish such additional medical attendance en route as may be deemed necessary. We are prepared to furnish these attendants as required. It is understood that Navy have issued instructions that not more than five insane cases shall be received on any ship. As this restriction particularly hampers our evacuation problem, I request that it and any other in conflict with the policy above proposed be removed.

(Signed) H. G. LEARNARD,
Adjutant General.

(Encl.)

S. G. O. 721A, patients overseas.

War Dept., S. G. O., June 1, 1918. To the Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D. C.

1. Returned.

2. A conference was had with the Chief of Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy, and the entire matter of transportation of the Army sick and wounded returning from the American Expeditionary Forces gone into.

3. It was considered desirable that the matter be returned by separate indorsement rather than by a conjoined indorsement as pertained in previous conferences.

4. In time of peace, the discharge rate for the Army, due to disease and accident, has been 1.8. It is safe to assume that it will be at least 2 per cent, in the augmented force, in time of war.