HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 39

14 January 1945

MEMORANDUM:

TO : United States Army Personnel Repatriated from German Custody.

1. It is with distinct pleasure that we welcome you on the start of your voyage to the United States. This memorandum has been prepared for you to give information regarding your voyage home, the arrangements made for your reception and some of the facilities available to you during the trip.

2. You will board the SS GRIPSHOLM at Marseille for the journey. You may remain at the port for several days before sailing, while other groups arrive to join you. Your ship will then proceed direct to New York, taking approximately 12 days for the trip.

3. The War Department is notifying the next of kin of each of you, and arrangements are being made for visits by your relatives shortly after your arrival in the United States.

4. Mail and cables.

a. V-mail forms are on the train. On arrival at Marseille, letters on these will be collected, processed by the censor as quickly as possible, and forwarded immediately. Letters written on the ship before sailing will also be sent to the United States by priority air mail.

b. EFM fixed text message blanks will be available on the GRIPSHOLM. Each of you may send one EFM message free, and as many more as you desire at $0.60 each. In preparing the blank, all that you have to do is to print clearly the name and address of the person to whom you desire to send the message; select three of the fixed text messages and indicate the ones selected by number, in the order you wish them to appear, on the line marked "TEXT", and print your name in the space marked for name of sender. No sender's APO is necessary. On the message you desire to send free, write in the space marked "stamp of payment", the word "Free". These messages will be held 72 hours before dispatch to insure that official notification of your return may reach your family first.

c. On air mail or V-mail, your return address should show your name and rank and the following:

Attention: Port Postal Officer
Embarkation Army Post Office
New York 17, New York.

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d. You are not permitted to give your name, or to transmit any messages to the United States through any representatives of the Press or Radio. This is necessary so that your family may learn of your release through official channels and not through a newspaper or radio item. If any press or radio respresentative is permitted to interview you, the only statements you are authorized to make are ones concerning clothing, food, recreational, educational or religious facilities provided for you while in Germany.

5. Each of you may, if you desire, draw against your account up to $50.00 prior to your departure from Marseille, and an additional $25.00 on the voyage before reaching New York.

6. Clothing will be issued to enlisted men as needed, and will be available for sale to officers. A supply of insignia, chevrons, ribbons of various decorations, including the Purple Heart, and service ribbons with proper bronze combat stars will be on the ship. There is also a supply of overseas service bars, to be worn on the left sleeve - one bar for each 6 months of overseas service since 7 December 1941.

7. Upon reaching New York, you will be given detailed information concerning your future disposition. Representatives of the HALLORAN General Hospital will be on hand, who will endeavor to secure immediate responses to any questions you may have regarding your status.

8. Soon after your arrival in New York, you will be transferred to a hospital of your choice. If your physical condition permits, you will be granted 30 days leave at that hospital, with the opportunity for an additional 30 days upon your individual request for it.

9. Some of you may have close relatives or business or financial interests in the United Kingdom, because of which it would be a hardship on you if you returned to the United States without stopping in England. It is hoped that arrangements can be made for this. Each case will be decided on its own merits. If any questions arise that will delay the decision, you have the choice of remaining in France until it is settled.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

J. C. MAULDING,
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.