

3. In a letter of June 7 this office submitted a tabulation showing the available bed capacity on troop transports, as reported by naval officials. This is considered insufficient to meet the requirements, and the transports not adapted to the care of sick and wounded in any great number.

4. If further criticism is to be avoided, some more adequate arrangements to care for the sick and wounded returning from France must be made. This office considers it an imperative necessity, in view of what may be expected in the very near future, as a result of recent activities, that the four ambulance ships now contracted for be completed without delay, and that at least six additional ships be contracted for, to be delivered between now and July 1, 1918. This office received the basic plans of the ships that are to be converted on July 23, and is now engaged in preparing suggestions as to alterations in the plans needed to meet our requirements.

(Signed) W. C. GORGAS,
Surgeon General, U. S. Army.

August 13, 1918.

From: The Surgeon General of the Army.

To: The Adjutant General, U. S. Army.

Subject: Hospital ships.

1. With reference to request from this office that ambulance ships be provided for this office for the use of troops returning from overseas (1st ind., June 1, 1918, and 2d ind., July 26, 1918, S. G. O. 721.6).

2. Under the articles of agreement between the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, the Navy is charged with the care of Army sick returning from France.

3. Under these conditions, the various requests that hospital or ambulance ships be provided for the use of this department are withdrawn.

(Signed) W. C. GORGAS,
Surgeon General, U. S. Army.