

C.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SURGEON R. S. SATTERLEE, U. S. ARMY, MEDICAL DIRECTOR, ARMY OF INVASION OF MEXICO, IN REFERENCE TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE TROOPS ON THE ABANDONMENT OF THE COUNTRY BY THE ARMY:*

“MEDICAL DIRECTOR’S OFFICE,
ARMY OF MEXICO.
Mexico, May 25, 1848.

MAJOR :

As I understand it is the intention of the commanding general to embark the troops composing this army at an early day, should the “treaty” between our government and Mexico be ratified, I deem it not inappropriate to offer a few suggestions, that if carried out, it is thought will conduce much to prevent the prevalence of that dreadful disease the “vomito:”

1. That ample and commodious transports are of the utmost importance, and if such a class as can be well ventilated, without the obstruction of bulk-heads between the cabin windows and the hatches, and that great care be taken that the transports are disinfected in every possible way, and also that while they are awaiting the arrival of the troops, they be moored out of the influence of the city of Vera Cruz and the mainland. After the troops are received on board, the greatest possible care should be taken to keep every part of the vessel clean and ventilated, and that the persons and clothing of the men be kept clean. For this purpose they should be often (at least once a day) obliged to come on deck and often wash in the water of the ocean all their persons, and that proper arrangements be made to protect them from the sun while on deck.

2. That in embarking the troops, in passing through the hot and low country, great care should be taken to keep the troops as much from the influence of the sun as possible, and that large fires be made in and around their night encampments, and that the marches be cautiously performed, avoiding as much as possible the heat of the day, also, that in the embarkation of the stores and baggage, the people of the country be employed, (when practicable) and the troops as much as possible exempted from labor.

3. That on no account should the troops enter the city of Vera Cruz, and every effort should be made to confine them strictly in their diet to the provisions furnished by the United States.

4. That shelter at the place of embarkation be prepared to protect the troops from the sun during the operation, and that no more be allowed to pass through the low country at a time than the transports can receive on board.

5. It is thought probable that many of the transports may have stoves on board, which are used in their cabins when they sail in the cold latitudes in winter. When

NOTE.—This paper should have appeared on page 197, but being accidentally omitted is considered of sufficient interest to be placed in the Appendix.

they can be, it is earnestly recommended that these stoves be put up in the hold of the vessels and the smoke led off by pipes and fires made in them, once or twice in the twenty-four hours, which will assist ventilation, as well as serve to keep dry the interior of the transport.

The above suggestions are respectfully offered to your notice and although they by no means embrace all that is necessary, yet if they are any assistance to the commanding general in his arduous duties and responsibilities, my object will be gained.

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. SATTERLEE, *Surg.*, U. S. A.,
Med. Director, Army of Mexico.

To Major L. THOMAS,
Asst. Adj't. Gen., Army of Mexico."