

RED TAPE KEEPS 2,700 WARRIORS FROM FREEDOM

British Americans Arriving on Mauretania Sent to Camps on Technicality.

HUNDREDS NEW YORKERS

Treatment of Men Who Fought From Ypres to Palestine Arouses Resentment.

The maddest lot of soldiers who ever sojourned temporarily at the Land of the Free were herded yesterday into debarcation camps.

Instead they were bottled up all night on the liner and until mid-afternoon yesterday, when 2,700 were transferred to Camp Mills and sent to Camp Merritt.

They also have to go through the sanitization process. But it was said last night that these formalities would not take long and that all the puzzled veterans will be turned loose today with money to pay their fares to their home towns.

Worse Than German Treatment. "Even the Germans would treat a British officer with more consideration than this," Lieut. Alexander Gordon of the Scotch Guards, formerly of Company F of the old Seventh New York Regiment.

"Never in my whole experience overseas did I have any such treatment as this," Lieut. Maximilian J. I. Page of the Fourth British Hussars, formerly of Troop C, Squadron A; home, Manhattan Club.

"I was 58 years old and they wouldn't let me into any branch of the American service, but I finally got into the Royal Engineers. Now they won't even let me get off the boat to telephone my family, who are waiting for me in New York."

Sergeant John Kane, an actor of 300 West Forty-ninth street, machine gunner in the war, was another complainant.

It seemed that all the way over the 700 men hailing from New York or nearby towns had believed that there would be no formalities on this side.

The American citizens in the company said that the British authorities had given each of them a repatriation certificate and that in some cases these were not honored when the Mauretania docked.

About 100 who were discharged from American cantonments for physical disability and then were able to meet the lower British standards toward the end of the war were allowed to land because they had their American discharge papers in their pockets.

The immigration authorities held the Cunard company responsible for every man on board and subject to a possible fine of \$10 for each non-manifested passenger.

Anthony Cammett, United States Commissioner of Immigration, said in Washington last night that all the officers and men of the British service who

"A cable to this effect was shown to me," the purser added. "It came from the United States. I did not look at the signature, as I took the British officer's word that everything was all right. If I had known that the immigration authorities would require passenger manifests for these men I should not have sailed on the Mauretania, as it was physically impossible to complete such a task during the voyage."

Officers Saw Cable Message. Lieut. H. L. Whitelaw of Chicago, who served with the Royal Air Force eighteen months, and Capt. R. W. Meiklejohn of Paradise Island, Kistinnec, Fla., who was with the British Hussars throughout the war, said that they, too, saw the cable message.

Deputy Commissioner Uhl told THE SUN that he knew of no such message, or of any understanding having been reached suspending the usual regulations. He conceded that possibly Washington might have sent such a cable and omitted telling him about it, but he was inclined to think that the purser was mistaken as to what the message really said.

"These men who came on the Mauretania," said Mr. Uhl, "have been discharged from the British army. Some are American citizens, some have lived in America but not acquired citizenship; some are from Canada, and some from the British West Indies. They are seeking admission to this country. Each has to establish his identity and place of former residence. This would be easy if the Mauretania had brought a manifest list. The failure of the steamship company to provide such a list is responsible for the whole difficulty. To expedite the gathering of the necessary information we have sent plenty of immigration inspectors to Camp Mills and Camp Merritt."

"Then if you had let these soldiers land and go their ways you would have been violating the law yourself?" was asked.

"Exactly," Mr. Uhl replied.

Some of the heated remarks heard on the Mauretania were aimed at the officers of the port of embarkation but apparently this was the wrong target. Major-General Shanks, commanding the port, said that Lieut. Colonel Thwaites in charge of the British provost marshal's office here, asked him to take care of the men when they were landed as the British have no house room for

Discharges Are in Dispute. Both Gen. Shanks and Brig.-Gen. McManus said they understood that the soldiers had not been discharged from service while on the other side. Mr. Uhl said he was very sure they had been. At the British Provost Marshal's office it was said that they probably were not discharged, as each man still had twenty-eight days leave on full pay coming to him. That's all we had to do with it."

At Camp Mills last night Major John Henne, United States liaison officer, said that all the soldiers had been mustered out in England except a group of commissioned and non-commissioned officers who had them in charge. These officers were on twenty-eight days leave from their commands. Uncertainty as to exact military status of the men was not the least of the day's perplexities. Another was the fact that Americans who enlisted in any of the allied armies before we entered the war, as many of these men did, lost their American citizenship and can only be repatriated by the United States courts. Still another was the former American residence of some of the soldiers who were really aliens.

Among the 2,700 were dozens of officers and many more from the British army because they were beyond the American age limit, who said that although they had passports and other documents establishing their identity they were kept aboard in the vessel just like the rest.

Reporters talked with soldiers who lived no further from the Hoboken pier than Tenth avenue, Manhattan, and who had expected to have supper with their families on Monday night. A sergeant from Tuckahoe, N. Y., said that while he was fighting in France his eldest daughter died of influenza and his wife was now seriously ill. Some of the comments heard were:

"I was 58 years old and they wouldn't let me into any branch of the American service, but I finally got into the Royal Engineers. Now they won't even let me get off the boat to telephone my family, who are waiting for me in New York."

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Troopships Due Today 77TH WILL RETURN WITHIN SHORT TIME

War Department Notified of Assignment of Division to Early Convoy.

BIG PARADE URGED HERE Major-Gen. O'Ryan Issues a Statement Favoring March by Drafted Men.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Practically the entire Seventy-seventh (New York National Army) Division has been assigned to early convoy, Gen. Pershing to-day notified the War Department.

The following organizations of the Seventy-seventh were included in today's announcement: Division Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 153d and 154th Infantry Brigade Headquarters, 302d, 304th, 307th and 308th Infantry Regiments, 304th, 305th and 306th Machine Gun Battalions, 152d Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters, 304th, 305th and 306th Field Artillery Regiments, 302d Engineers, 302d Engineer Train, 302d Ammunition Train, 302d Field Signal Battalion, 302d Train Headquarters, 302d Sanitary Train, 302d Mobile Ordnance Repair Shop, Seventy-seventh Military Police Company, Salvage Company No. 18, and Sale Commissary Unit No. 207.

The following additional units were announced to-day as assigned to early return: Aero Squadrons 26, 359, 641, 642, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

arrived on the Mauretania, including Americans, would be treated as aliens until their identity was established. He added:

"As the ship sailed from England without a manifest list the immigration authorities have no way of telling whether the soldiers ever lived in this country or not. I understand that besides the Americans there were many who lived in England, the West Indies before entering the British army. Of course those men will have to be treated as ordinary immigrants. The Americans will be released as soon as their identity is proved. I am unable to say whether or not the Cunard company would be subject to a fine. That is a judicial matter which could not be decided without litigation."

As men from the steamship company were cooperating with the immigration inspectors and Col. Thwaites in questioning the men at Camp Mills and Merritt last night and when they get through they will have the equivalent of the sacred manifest list. It is not justly borne that the Cunard company is in any danger of a fine. At Camp Mills it was said that there was no reason for any one to get excited, as the soldiers would have to go to camp and be "declassified" no matter how many manifests the Mauretania carried.

ENGINEERS RUFFLED BY DELAY Send Tart Message to Baker to Order 11th Regiment Home.

The ruffled feelings of the Association of Eleventh Engineers, the auxiliary of a regiment now in France, were given expression yesterday in a tart cablegram sent to Secretary Baker aboard the Levantian requesting him to terminate immediately the "prolonged discrimination" exercised against the regiment and order its prompt return to this side.

Robert Lynn Cox, a vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, treasurer of the association, said that on six different occasions since February 16 the name of the vessel on which the men would sail had been given to the association, which had been informed later that their departure had again been postponed.

It is desired particularly to have the regiment here for the Victory Loan, and an indignation meeting will be held at the Engineers Society Building Sunday evening to make further protest against delays in embarkation.

A waiting policy to see if Secretary of War Baker will order the parade of the Seventy-seventh Division was adopted yesterday by the executive committee of the Home Auxiliary associations of the division.

The Rev. Dr. William T. Manning, rector of Trinity Church, and chairman of the association, which had a mass meeting will be called to protest against the War Department's attitude if Secretary Baker does not issue the order within a reasonable time. In the meantime the different associations, of which there are twelve, will hold individual meetings to air their views.

The 306th Field Artillery Auxiliary will meet Tuesday night in the Engineers' Building, 39 West Thirty-ninth street; the 302d Ammunition Train, Saturday night, in the same place, and the 304th Field Artillery, Sunday night at the De Witt Clinton High School.

Dr. Manning said that the families and friends of the division's members had got slight encouragement from Secretary Baker and that he believed the Secretary would use his influence in favor of the parade, as he had promised. Cleveland H. Dodge and Stephen Olin said they favored waiting to see what Mr. Baker would do. A motion to that effect, drafted by Mr. Olin, was adopted. It carried the proviso that if the Secretary of War did not order the parade a mass meeting of all of the auxiliaries and the public must be called by the committee as soon as it deems fit. A definite time of waiting was not fixed, but Mr. Manning said exactly what he thought to be a proper time before calling the mass meeting.

Major-Gen. John F. O'Ryan, former commander of the Twenty-seventh Division, issued a statement in favor of the Seventy-seventh Division parading as did the Twenty-seventh. He pointed out that no distinction should be made between the drafted men and the National Guard soldiers of which his division was at first composed. He said:

"The Twenty-seventh Division has had the honor of parading in New York city and we all of us would like to see the same privilege accorded the Seventy-seventh Division. We stand ready to help in any way we can—by use of armories, or any other facilities we may have."

"Certainly the men of the Seventy-seventh Division from New York city have the same desire to parade in their home city that the Twenty-seventh Division had, and their families and friends and the people in general feel that they have the right to see them. It is the only recompense the soldier has for his service, and the same may be said of the families in relation to their sacrifices."

The refusal of the War Department to permit the parade may be considered as discrimination against the drafted men, and that would be most unfortunate.

"After the armistice we received in the Twenty-seventh Division our first replacements, 4,000 in number, and they were of course all drafted men. Our men received them on an absolute equality, although they had seen no fighting. They were very happy with us and were soon welded into the division machine, and never was there any distinction made between one class of men and another."

SCARSDALE CLUB BURNS. Governors Plan to Erect Temporary Buildings at Once.

A fire started in the kitchen of the Scarsdale Golf and Country Club early yesterday morning, destroying the main building and the recently completed locker houses.

A meeting of the board of governors of the club was held in the afternoon, at which arrangements were completed for the immediate construction of temporary buildings. Machinery was put in motion looking to the erection of a new clubhouse.

The fire spread rapidly and despite the efforts of the White Plains and Scarsdale fire departments practically all the contents of the building were destroyed, including the club records and personal belongings of the members.

GREAT WELCOME IS PLANNED FOR FLEET

No Naval Parade, However, Says Mayor's Committee.

There will not be a naval parade when the fleet rides at anchor in the Hudson from April 15 to 30, it was announced by the Mayor's Committee on Welcome to Homecoming Troops, yesterday. However, there will be a great parade of the returned sailors in midsummer, the committee believes, and it probably will be reviewed here by President Wilson.

When the fleet arrives the committee plans to have Acting Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt and Admiral William S. Sims, with members of the Mayor's committee, go down the bay and welcome it.

There are 103 vessels and 30,000 sailors in the fleet. The men will be brought ashore for entertainment. Special landings and a fleet of small craft have been arranged for visitors to go aboard the ships. Every minute of the fleet's stay has been arranged for, thus precluding any possibility of a general parade, the committee's statement said.

The fleet's visit will be an entirely formal one, Major Randolph Coyle, U. S. M. C., said. He is in charge of the advance arrangements. He invites all welcoming organizations and entertaining associations to cooperate with him to make the sailors' visit a happy holiday, the first real one since the United States entered the war. The fleet has recently been maneuvering in Cuban waters. Major Coyle's offices are at 9 East Fortieth street. Telephone, Vanderbilt 3420.

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Important Notice to the Public! Cimone Galleries 157-159 East 32d St. Between Lexington & Third Aves. NEW YORK CITY ESTABLISHED 1878 The Almone Manufacturing Company, for 41 years Makers and Importers of the Highest Class Period Furniture and Furnishings, Italian Garden Marbles and Terra Cottas Have, on account of their Shops being contracted for to full capacity for a long period on special High Grade cabinet work, decided to discontinue entirely carrying Stock and will close out through the Almone Galleries, at their Wholesale Show Rooms, their entire collection Amounting to \$373,473.00 For - - - \$162,150.00 Inventory as of April 5th, 1919 AN INSTANCE—A 9 Piece Mahogany Inlay-Selected Panel Chamber Suite Was \$1,640.00. NOW \$575.00. The Almone Manufacturing Company will stand back of every sale made, and purchasers may be so assured. All prior notices to the trade are hereby withdrawn. An unusual opportunity is afforded to Dealers, Decorators and Architects. Goods purchased at this sale are not subject to return or exchange. No articles sent on approval. Out-of-town purchases carefully packed at cost. TERMS OF SALE—NET CASH SALE NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Cimone Galleries 157-159 East 32d St., New York City

Important Announcement Black & White and Town Taxis, Inc. regrets that the strike of its drivers has caused so much inconvenience to its many patrons. The strike has now happily terminated to the satisfaction of the Company, and the cabs are again in operation. Town Taxis Division (de luxe service) City Ordinance Rates Phone PLAZA 6200 Black and White Division (popular service) Ten cents first quarter mile Ten cents each quarter mile thereafter Ten cents each four minutes waiting time Phone COLUMBUS 5000 Only pay what is on the meter: the Company accepts full responsibility for all meters out of order. Drivers are not authorized to make flat rates: they must be made through the office. If the driver demands more than the amount on the meter, and you pay same, get a receipt from driver and mail to Company. Help and cooperate with the Company and its drivers to run a clean taxi service. Look for monogram on door, the sign of organized responsibility and efficiency. Head Office 227 East 64th Street NEW YORK CITY

INFORMATION for Friends and Relatives of Wounded or Sick SOLDIERS and MARINES Phone Number—Murray Hill 10450. Twenty-four hours must elapse after a man is disembarked at this port before information is available. CASUALTY BUREAU 20 East 68th Street NEW YORK COUNTY CHAPTER, AMERICAN RED CROSS.

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