

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES  
HEADQUARTERS SERVICES OF SUPPLY

EMBARKATION INSTRUCTIONS, { France, January 7, 1919.  
No. 14.

I. 1. Cable advices from the War Department state that the baggage of officers and soldiers returning on Naval Vessels and Army Transports may be examined by the customs authorities in accordance with the procedure outlined in Article 367 of the Customs Regulations, 1915.

2. Article 367 of the Customs Regulations reads as follows:

"Upon the arrival of American naval vessels, the collector will communicate with the commanding officer and arrange a convenient time for the boarding thereof, and the examination and appraisal of articles acquired abroad by the officers and members of the crews which are intended to be landed either immediately or at some future time. At the time agreed upon the collector will detail a deputy collector and as many inspectors and examiners as may be necessary for proper and expeditious examination of the baggage.

"Baggage declarations will not be required to be made, but all persons on such vessels who have acquired articles while abroad which are intended to be landed from such vessels will furnish to the commanding officer a list thereof, which will separately state articles intended for personal use, or as gifts to others, and those intended for sale or purchased on commissions for others. There upon the same procedure will be followed as in the examination of baggage on passenger vessels.

"No examination will be made of the baggage and effects of persons on such vessels other than those so listed and offered for examination, except in unusual cases, and then only after conferring with the commanding officer.

"After the examination of such baggage and the collection of duty thereon is completed, customs supervision of such vessels will be withdrawn, and packages may be landed therefrom without any customs formalities."

3. The Commanding Officer of troops on returning Naval Vessels and Army Transports will designate a responsible officer to procure from each officer and soldier a statement somewhat in the form of an invoice, specifying a description and value of any articles acquired abroad other than uniforms and military equipment. Such articles should be segregated from the general mass of baggage. Upon arrival in the United States the designated officer should present these various lists to the customs officer and indicate where the various packages may be found, if their examination is deemed necessary.

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4. All persons returning to the United States, who have articles that have been purchased abroad, except uniforms and military equipment, should, if practicable, carry such articles in their hand baggage or packs, in order to expedite the customs inspections. If necessary to place the articles in trunks or other receptacles, they should be packed in such manner as to be readily accessible for inspection by the customs officials.

5. The above procedure is applicable only to officers and soldiers traveling on Naval Vessels and Army Transports, and does not apply to Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., or other army workers.

6. When officers or soldiers are traveling individually, the regular baggage declaration will be required.

II. 1. Paragraph 14, Section 1, Embarkation Instructions No. 13, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

An officer of experience will be selected and designated as Commanding Officer, as far as possible in advance of sailing of each troop ship. In all cases, he will be directed to go aboard the ship, with necessary assistants, at least twenty-four hours before the time of sailing in order to familiarize himself with the conditions and orders in connection with the embarkation of troops on his ship. The Commanding Officer will be held strictly responsible for the discipline of all officers and troops on his ship and for proper compliance by them with all regulations. Commanding Officers are directed to notify all officers on board, not belonging to organizations, of the requirements of Section II, Paragraph 2, these instructions. Ships arriving in the United States will be inspected by officers of the Inspector General's Department to ascertain and report on the general conditions, breaches of discipline, and other matters requiring investigation.

2. Paragraph 4 (d), Section IV, Embarkation Instructions No. 13, is rescinded and the following substituted therefor:

All officers returning to the United States, who do not belong to organizations will, upon arrival at Port of Debarkation, report to the Debarkation Officer on the pier for instructions. If no Debarkation Officer is present, they will report to the Office of the Commanding General of the Port of Debarkation. Report will also be made by letter to the Adjutant General, Statistical Division, Washington, D. C., giving date of arrival, authority for the journey, and their addresses. In addition, officers of the United States Marine Corps will report by telegraph to the Major General Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, Washington, D. C. Failure to report as required above will result in disciplinary action being taken.

By command of Major General Harbord:

W. D. CONNOR,  
Chief of Staff.

Official:  
L. H. BASH,  
Adjutant General.