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OFFICE OF THE PORT VETERINARIAN  
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION  
1st AVENUE AND 58th STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

H/ar

3 March 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Port Surgeon, NYPE.

1. In compliance with verbal request, the following comments on the proposed transfer of veterinary activities from NYPE to 2d Service Command are submitted:

a. The primary function of the Port Veterinarian is to maintain veterinary meat and dairy hygiene service at the port. He will provide the necessary personnel for the inspection of foods of animal origin purchased by the port, or shipped to and from the port including meats, meat food and dairy products to be used as ship supplies. At NYPE, this function includes inspection of inbound and outbound freight at BAB, Bush Terminal and Staten Island Terminal daily; inspection of subsistence stored in warehouses and freezers at BAB, Bush Terminal and S.I.T.; inspection at pierside of Army cargo for refrigerator ships and of ship stores for USAT and WSA vessels at BAB, Bush & SIT; inspection at receipt and issue for messes at BAB, Bush & SIT. In addition thereto, the Port Veterinarian assigns officers to sanitary inspections of USAT, WSA & BMWT vessels daily with the Inspector General, NYPE. In conjunction with this function, the Port Veterinarian assigns personnel to make shipside inspections of all ship stores laden aboard vessels carrying troops. These inspections are made at BAB, Bush, SIT and other piers.

(1) The activities outlined above are strictly port activities and all problems in connection thereto have been handled by this port in an efficient and expedient manner. The Service Command is not familiar with veterinary problems and technique at the port and transfer of these activities would create additional channels, red tape and decentralization of port veterinary activities.

(2) Quick decisions are required especially in the inspections of USAT, WSA & BMWT vessels and in the shipside inspections. In the past, all decisions have been made by this port in an efficient manner. Integration to the Service Command would be a handicap to efficient and expedient decisions owing to the time involved in presenting all these problems to another channel.

(3) Veterinary functions at the port require prompt shifting of personnel from one assignment to another. Last minute notices of shipside inspections and of incoming freight necessitate having available personnel for these assignments. If subordinated to the Service Command, a delay would be encountered by referring these matters for their action.

2. This office cannot think of a single reason why any Veterinary unit in any of the four staging camps should be transferred to the Service Command. The following reasons for keeping veterinary units under the CG, NYPE, are submitted:

a. Transportation: Inspection of veterinary units in staging areas by Port Veterinarian is accomplished by using space in cars that regularly visit these areas in connection with other activities pertaining to the CG, NYPE. Thus, there is no expense to the government for transportation, whereas, if this inspection is conducted by the Service Command, an additional expense would occur.

b. The veterinary personnel at these staging areas are directly responsible for the inspection of all the meat food products of animal origin fed to troops that are temporarily sojourning there prior to embarkation at this port and said troops are a direct responsibility of the CG, NYPE, until they are unloaded at some overseas point.

c. 90% of the veterinary personnel at staging areas were trained at this port and since the opening of these staging areas, they have functioned efficiently under the direction of the CG, NYPE. Also, the personnel at this port are familiar with the problems of the installations, making possible easy replacement or substitution in the event of sickness, etc.

d. The port has and will have closer supervision over the four installations than the Service Command should have. The Service Command has many posts, camps and stations to supervise and would not be able to have the close supervision that the port has since the port only has these 4 installations.

e. The Port Veterinarian has been the clearing place for all problems which have arisen in the installations and has settled all of these problems for the Station Veterinarians. These problems are of the recurring type and familiarity with these questions helps solve them. The Service Command would be under a great handicap in this respect.

f. The Port Veterinarian has handled all administration pertaining to these installations for several years. The experience acquired during this period has resulted in a high state of efficiency which would be curtailed if these installations were transferred to the Service command owing to unfamiliarity with port activities and the handicap of additional channels.

3. In view of the above, it is the opinion of the Port Veterinarian that veterinary activities at this port could be handled more efficiently under the present arrangement and that the proposed transfer of these activities to the Service Command would be of no advantage to the Army.

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Colonel, VC  
Port Veterinarian