

Full Text of War Department Demobilization Plan

Washington, Sept. 6.—(AP)—The text of the war department's statement on its plan for demobilizing the army after Germany surrenders:

The army has adopted a plan for the readjustment of military personnel after the defeat of Germany and prior to the defeat of Japan calling for a partial and orderly demobilization from its present peak strength.

When the war against Germany has ended, the military might of the United States will be shifted from the European area to the Pacific area. Military requirements in the European and American areas will be drastically curtailed, while tremendous increases will be essential in the Pacific.

To defeat Japan as quickly as possible, and permanently, the United States will have to assemble, readjust, and streamline its military forces in order to apply the maximum power. Our military requirements to achieve this end, involving men, weapons, equipment, and shipping, have been set forth by the combined chiefs of staff. These requirements are the determining factors of the readjustment and demobilization plan adopted by the war department.

Military necessity decrees that sufficient men suited to the type of warfare being waged in the Pacific must remain in service as long as they are essential. Certain units of the army also, of necessity, will have to be retained in the various theaters where action has ceased in order to fulfill such occupation duties as are necessary. Other elements, no longer needed in the theater in which they are assigned, will be transferred to other areas, reorganized and redesignated to meet current military requirements in the theater, or they will be inactivated.

Within each element of the army thousands of individuals may become surplus to the needs of the theater or major command in which they are serving. But more thousands will be required for further military service.

First priority in this readjustment program will be the trans-

fer of elements from theaters no longer active to the Pacific war zone, or from the United States to the Pacific war zone. All available transportation will be utilized for this tremendous undertaking.

The readjustment and demobilization plan developed by the war department after months of study takes into account all of these variable factors. Briefly, the plan for the return of non-essential soldiers to civilian life will start with the assembly in the United States of men declared surplus to the needs of each overseas theater and to the major commands in the United States. From among these men some will be designated essential, and a substantial number will be designated as non-essential to the new military needs of the army and will be returned to civilian life according to certain priorities.

As an example, the commanding general of the European theater of operations will be informed by the war department of the types and numbers of his units which will be needed in the Pacific, and the types and numbers of his units which will remain as occupation troops, and the types and numbers of his units which are surplus.

The simplest plan of demobilization would have been to return these surplus units to this country and discharge their personnel intact.

Such a method, however, would operate with great unfairness to many individuals who have had long and arduous service but are not assigned to one of the units declared surplus. If only units in Europe were considered, this basis of expediency would work unfairly to units long in the Pacific or at outpost bases in the American theater. It would operate unfairly to men who have seen extended combat service both in Europe and the Pacific and have been returned to this country for reassignment. It would release men only recently assigned as replacements to units long in combat and would discriminate against veterans of many

campaigns in units not selected for return.

Consequently, it was determined that the fairest method to effect partial demobilization would be through the selection of men as individuals, rather than by units, with the selection governed by thoroughly impartial standards.

Standards
For the standards, the war department went to the soldiers themselves. Experts were sent into the field to obtain a cross-section of the sentiments of enlisted men. Thousands of soldiers, both in this country and overseas, were interviewed to learn their views on the kind of selective process they believed should determine the men to be returned first to civilian life. Opinions expressed by the soldiers themselves became the accepted principles of the plan.

As finally worked out, the plan accepted by the war department as best meeting the tests of justice and impartiality, will allow men who have been overseas and men with dependent children to have priority of separation. Ninety per cent of the soldiers interviewed said that that is the way it should be.

As part of the plan adopted, an "adjusted service rating card" will be issued to all enlisted personnel after the defeat of Germany. On this card will be scored the following four factors that will determine priority of separation:

1—Service credit—based upon the total number of months of army service since September 16, 1940.

2—Overseas credit—based upon the number of months served overseas.

3—Combat credit—based upon the first and each additional award to the individual of the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Purple Heart and Bronze Service Stars (battle participation stars).

4—Parenthood credit—Which gives credit for each dependent child under 18 years up to a limit of three children.

The value of the point credits will be announced after the cessation of hostilities in Europe. In the meantime, the point values will be kept under continuous study. The total score will be used to select surplus men from the theaters overseas and in the United States. The score also will be used when a certain portion of all these surplus men will be declared nonessential and returned to civilian life.

In all cases, however, the demands of military necessity and the needs of the war against Japan must first be met. Re-

gardless of a man's priority standing, certain types of personnel can never become surplus as long as the war against Japan continues.

As an example of how the plan will work, assume that there are four infantry divisions in the European theater. One is declared surplus. Men in all four divisions are rated according to the priority credit scores. The top fourth is selected and those not essential for retention in service by reason of military necessity are designated as surplus. Men in the surplus division who are marked for retention by reasons of military necessity are then shifted into the active divisions. All of the men designated as surplus are shifted into the surplus divisions, which now will serve as a vehicle for eventually returning them to the United States.

No man in a unit that remains in service can become surplus until a qualified replacement is available. If military necessity should entail the immediate transfer of a unit to the Pacific, there may conceivably be no time to apply the plan to men of that unit before the emergency transfer is made. Consideration will be given these men when they arrive in the new theater.

The active units needed against Japan will be shipped to the Pacific. Those units required for occupation duty in Europe will be sent to their stations, and surplus units will be returned to the United States as quickly as possible.

In the United States, the men of these surplus units will revert to a surplus pool in the army ground forces, army service forces, and army air forces. These surplus pools will include men from all overseas theaters and surplus men from the continental United States.

From these surplus pools the reduction of various types of army personnel will be made. The number to be returned to civilian life as no longer essential to overall army needs will be chosen from among those with the highest priority credit scores.

It is emphasized that the rate of return of surplus men from overseas will depend upon the number of ships available. Thousands of ships will be required to supply the Pacific theater. The Pacific theater will have No. 1 priority. All else must wait. To it will be transported millions of fighting men, millions of tons of landing barges, tanks, planes, guns, ammunition and food, over longer supply lines than those to Europe.

This means that most of the ships and planes that were used to supply the European theater will be needed to supply the Pacific theater. The majority of ships proceeding to Europe will continue on to the Pacific laden with troops and supplies for that distant campaign. Very few will turn around and come back to the United States. The army, therefore, will not be able to return all surplus men to the United States immediately. It may take many months.

While the process of selecting and returning men from the European theater is taking place the plan for readjustment and partial demobilization also will be applied in active theaters, like the southwest Pacific. Individuals in those theaters will be declared surplus to the extent that replacements can be provided. Naturally, since the Pacific will be the only active theater, there will be no surplus units of any type. Military requirements there will demand an increase rather than a decrease in fighting units. Nevertheless, troops in the Pacific area will benefit by the reduction of the army, not as units, but as individuals.

Commanders in the Pacific area will be told the number and types of men who can be replaced. They then will select these men, using the same standards as apply in inactive theaters and in the United States. These men then will be returned to the United States as rapidly as replacements of the same type become available and as the military situation permits.

As an example: Normally, there will be a great flow of men needed to build up and maintain an offensive against Japan, but say that several thousand men, over and above the required number can be shipped to the Pacific each month. Then, a corresponding number of men in the Pacific with the highest priority credit scores can be declared surplus and returned to the United States, where their scores and military necessity will determine whether they are among the personnel no longer essential to the army.

Simultaneously with the selection and return of men in the overseas theaters, the same selective formula will be applied among troops stationed in the continental United States. Troops in the United States, however, will serve as the main reservoir of replacements for the overseas theaters. For in general their priority scores will be lower than the scores of men who have served overseas and

have seen combat duty. Any man who may have been declared nonessential under this plan who wishes to remain in the army, provided he has a satisfactory record, will not be forced out of the army if he can be usefully employed.

In the case of officers, military necessity will determine which ones are nonessential. These will be released as they can be spared. Priority of release for members of the women's army corps will be determined in the same way as for the rest of the army, but treating the corps as a separate group. However, in the case of all female personnel of the army, those whose husbands have already been released will be discharged upon application.

The plan as now adopted will provide some reduction in the army's ground forces and initially considerably less in the service forces and in the air forces.

Following Germany's defeat, the air forces will have to move combat groups and supporting ground units from all over the world to the Pacific area. The nature of the Pacific area dictates that service forces personnel will be needed in great numbers to carry the war to Japan. Long supply lines, scattered bases, jungles, primitive country, all contribute to the importance and necessity for service forces personnel. Therefore, the reduction in its strength will be slow at first.

As replacements become available from the ground forces and from new inductees, the air forces and the service forces will discharge a fair share of men proportionate with the ground forces.

Surplus individuals declared nonessential to the needs of the army will be discharged from the service through separation centers. Five army separation centers are already in operation and additional ones will be set up when the need develops. A total of eighteen in all parts of the country are contemplated. Their wide distribution will enable us to discharge soldiers close to their homes.

The readjustment and demobilization plan applies only to readjustment and demobilization in the period between the defeat of Germany and prior to the defeat of Japan. It sets forth the principles and responsibilities involved during that period. Theater commanders and commanders of all other major commands of the army will put the plan into operation in as simple a manner as possible based on these principles and responsibilities.

The war department has determined that the successful operation of the plan requires that the troops themselves, as well as the public, be kept fully informed.

The size of the military establishment that will be needed after the defeat of Germany has been calculated with the same exactness as the size of the army needed up to now. No soldier will be kept in the military service who is not needed to fulfill these requirements. No soldier will be released who is needed.

Buy More War Bonds and Stamps



Have You Seen Our New CLOTHES
For That Back To School Wardrobe

SWEATERS
Soft wool sweaters of all kinds and all colors. Keep warm this winter by wearing sweaters to school or to work. We still have a few sale sweaters at \$1.00 to \$4.95. All sizes in stock.
\$1.00—\$6.95

DRESSES
Wool Jerseys for school or work that will give you a dressed-up look. A wonderful choice of colors, styles and sizes. Come in now and see them for they are selling fast.
\$8.95—\$9.95

SKIRTS
Everything imaginable in skirts to meet with your approval. Skirts made from that ever-wearing strutter cloth or from 100% wool. A good selection of colors.
\$4.25—\$6.50

BLOUSES
Blouses of all kinds are in our stock and only wait for the asking. See our complete stock of well-made blouses while they are still plentiful on our racks. All colors and sizes.
\$1.59—\$4.95

M. M. DEPT. STORE
PAY LESS AND DRESS BETTER

Be sure it's **PURE CANE SUGAR** insist on 

Putting up peaches?

IN REFINERY-PACKED CONTAINERS

IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO REPAIR THIS FURNACE BEFORE ANOTHER WINTER...



LOANS FOR home repairs

Necessary upkeep on your home is a prime reason for using the loan facilities of this bank. Undue delay in repairing roofs, gutters, furnaces, plumbing and walks may cause serious loss later. Act now. See us for friendly, prompt and confidential loan service.

Medford Branch of the UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK of Portland

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Have a Coca-Cola = Let's go places



... or refreshment joins the family picnic

Whether it's a jaunt in the country or a gathering in a garden, guests are sure to cluster 'round the spot where ice-cold Coca-Cola is served. Have a "Coke" means the party is beginning on a note of good fellowship. And how good Coca-Cola tastes with the simplest food! With a supply of Coca-Cola in the home refrigerator, your friends and neighbors are always sure of the pause that refreshes. It's a symbol of welcome at home and overseas.

BOTTLED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BY
Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Medford

It's natural for popular names to acquire friendly abbreviations. That's why you hear Coca-Cola called "Coke".

© 1944 The C.C. Co.