

“You’re STAGING FOR THE STATES”

Foreword by Alain S. Batens:

This booklet, a small format (approximately 10 cm x 12 ¾ cm) pocket version, is one of the Army produced information booklets issued by the United States Army in the European Theater of Operations (ETO). This particularly one was distributed to GIs arriving at the Staging Area, Le Havre Port of Embarkation, France, enroute to the Zone of Interior. This 1945 publication distributed by the Transportation Corps, U.S. Army Services Forces, ETO, was intended to further acquaint the personnel with Staging and Port procedure to speed up processing and embarkation for home.

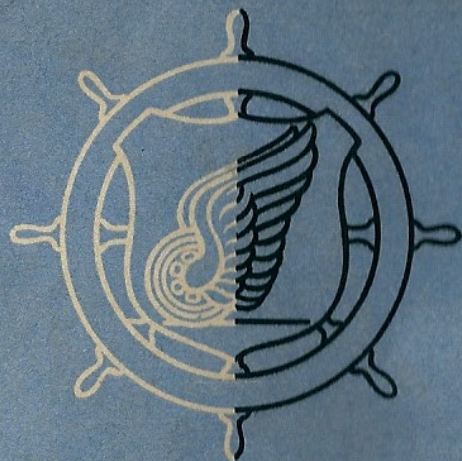
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For clarity and ease of reading, the book has been digitally enhanced and enlarged for the reader’s pleasure. In addition, it has been produced in such a way that it can be read like the original, and so cannot be printed and stapled in its current form.

Many thanks,
The WW2 Medical Research Centre Staff

HEADQUARTERS LE HAVRE PORT OF EMBARKATION

COL. T. J. WEED, COMMANDING



TRANSPORTATION CORPS
UNITED STATES ARMY
SERVICE FORCES

European Theater of Operations

You're **STAGING
FOR THE
STATES**



CONTENTS

	PAGE
1 BEFORE ARRIVAL	2
2 MOVEMENT INTO STAGING AREA	3
3 IN STAGING AREA	4
4 THE ALERT !	8
5 STAGING AREA to SHIP	9
6 LE HAVRE P.O.E. MAP	10
7 ABOARD SHIP	15
8 The 'CIGARETTE' Camps	17



LAST STOP

Enroute to the States

From the Assembly Area, you are to enter a Staging Area of the Le Havre Port of Embarkation. It will be your last stop before embarking for the States. The European phase of the war is over and your mission in the ETO is completed. You're anxious to get home, whether it be for that 30-day furlough, and eventual redeployment to the Pacific, or home for good. We know you want to hit that boat as soon as possible without spending a lot of time in a staging area. If the requirements set forth in ETO-SOP No. 61 ETO-POM-RED have been met, you will be loaded aboard transports as fast as they come in. This booklet is intended to further acquaint you with Staging and Port procedure which in turn will speed up processing and embarkation for home. The data contained in this booklet is based upon present regulations and procedures. Unit Commanders will be informed of changes.

BEFORE ARRIVAL

at staging area

Here are a few things that your unit should accomplish before arrival at the staging area :

Proper crating and marking of MEE. (Minimum Essential Equipment).

Turn in of all excess equipment.

Bring personnel records up to date.

Complete unit readjustment as prescribed in RR 1-1, or under Overseas Movement Orders, when appropriate.

Make out reception station rosters.

The last two requirements are most important as this information is used for advance planning in the States. Delay may mean "no rail equipment available for your trip to the reception station nearest your home". If all of these things have not been completed, the unit commander should immediately do so in order to expedite movement through the staging area and port.



MOVEMENT INTO STAGING AREA

All incoming units will be met at the staging area railhead by a representative of the camp to which the unit is assigned. Guides will conduct units from the railhead to their designated areas within the staging camp.

* * *

IN STAGING AREA

Conference with Unit Commanders

An orientation conference will be held with unit commanders immediately upon arrival at the staging area. At this conference, unit commanders will be given full information about post exchanges, movies and stage shows, athletic fields, religious services, Red Cross, USO and all other activities within the staging area which contribute to the welfare and morale of the soldier.

Required to be Accomplished:

Listed on the following pages are those things which are required to be accomplished at the staging area.

4

1 WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARRIVAL AT THE STAGING AREA, a strength breakdown of the unit will be furnished to the Operations Division of the Staging Area for forwarding to the Planning Section, Movements Division, of the Le Havre Port of Embarkation Headquarters. This breakdown is to be used for unit assignment to ship.

2 WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARRIVAL AT THE STAGING AREA, a roster of Officers, Nurses, and Warrant Officers, listed alphabetically by rank and by unit, will be furnished to the Operations Division, Le Havre Port of Embarkation Headquarters. These rosters are to be used for the assignment of first-class accommodations.

3 MEDICAL CHECK.
Prepare immunization rosters for all men needing booster shots. List alphabetically all men in need of delousing.

5

List all personnel having contagious diseases.

4 Embarkation Personnel Rosters (passenger lists), will be completed immediately upon arrival in the staging area. No unit will be considered ready for loading aboard ship until such time as these rosters are forwarded to the Staging Area Operations Division for Reproduction. Corrections will be made on all passenger lists at the gangplank.

5 Baggage must be inspected and shipped in accordance with ETO Circular No. 72, dated 30 May 1945, title, "Shipment of Baggage to U.S. ".

Unit commanders should closely check the following :

Correct tagging of baggage.

Inspection of contents.

Proper Custom's Clearance Certificates.

Certification on captured enemy materiel.

Troops embarking may carry no more than 25 lbs in excess of issued equipment.

Upon call by the Port, 12 copies of the Baggage List with one copy of the Baggage Declaration will be forwarded to "A" Shed, LHPOE, with the hold baggage and in possession of the unit baggage officer.

6 CURRENCY CONVERSION.

Currency conversions for troops will be accomplished in the **Staging Area** from rosters prepared by unit commanders **prior to departure from the Assembly Area**. Partial payments will be made on board ship by the Finance Officer, who was previously appointed by order of the Commanding Officer of the Staging Area.

THE ALERT!

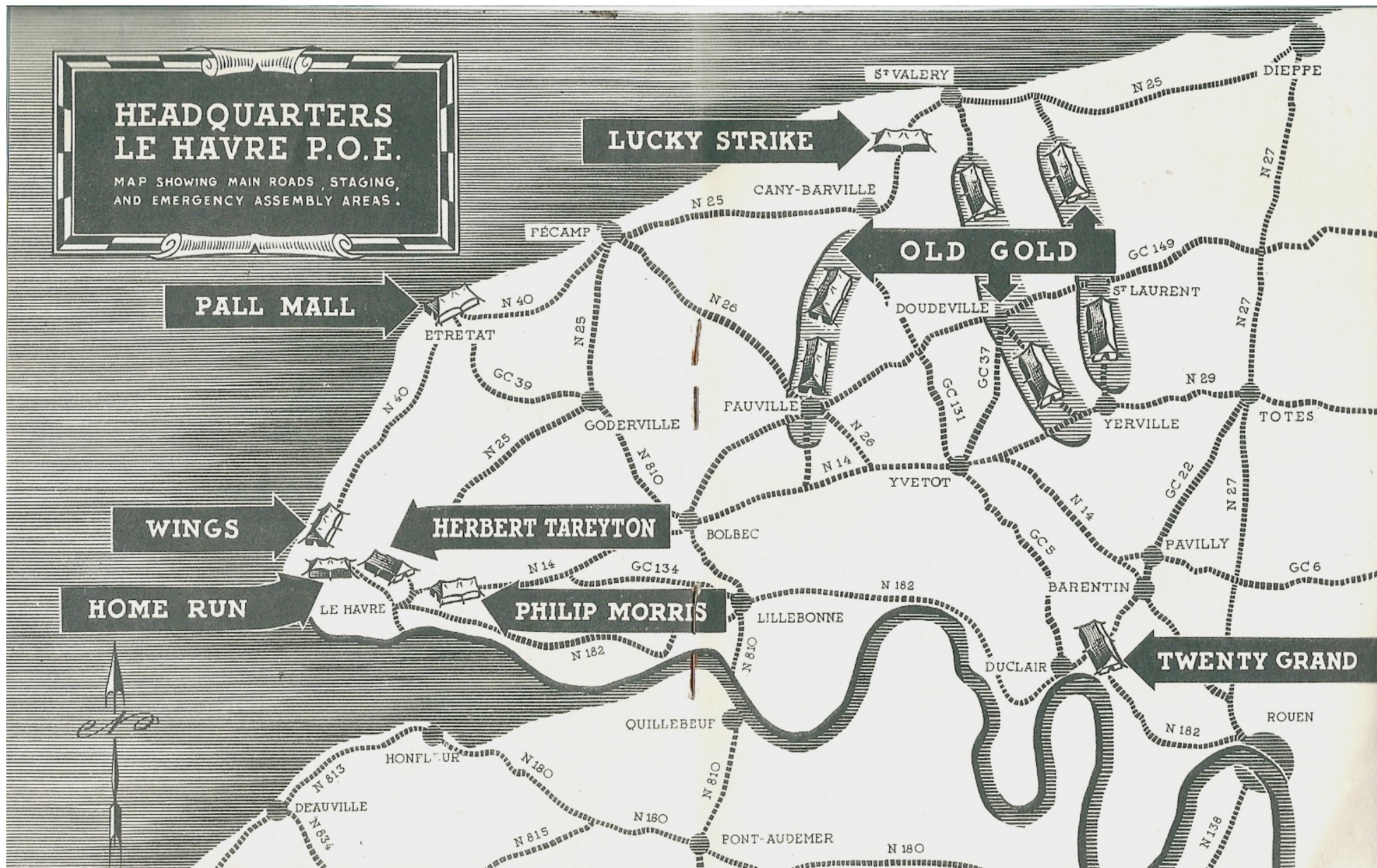


Under normal procedure units will be alerted 72 hours prior to departure from the staging area. After the alert is received, no personnel will be permitted to leave the immediate vicinity of their area.

... DURING THE ALERT AN INSPECTION OF BAGGAGE WILL BE HELD BY UNIT COMMANDERS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT NO EXPLOSIVES OR INFLAMMABLES OF ANY TYPE ARE BEING CARRIED ABOARD SHIP... AFTER THIS INSPECTION NO FURTHER ACCESS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BAGGAGE...

From STAGING AREA to SHIP

After the alert, the camp operations staff will inform unit commanders as to the exact hour at which the unit will form and the exact location. Guides will be furnished to conduct the units from the Staging Area to proper TCRP, (Traffic Control Regulating Point), at which point the troop clearance officer will act as a guide to the shipside. The troop clearance officer will maintain supervision of the unit to arrange personnel according to the passenger list order.



The Boarding Staff will call the roll at the foot of the gangplank by calling the last name of each individual. The individual will answer with his first name and middle initial. Individuals who are missing from the Passenger List will be red-lined and their records withdrawn and returned to the Staging Area.

NO PERSONNEL WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO ASHORE AFTER EMBARKATION.

Before boarding ship troops will be served coffee and donuts by American Red Cross workers. The Red Cross distributes over 400,000 donuts and 200,000 cups of coffee daily to troops within the Le Havre and Assembly Area commands.

Captured enemy materiel

Troops returning to the States on Redeployment or for discharge may carry with them captured enemy weapons, binoculars, cameras, or other souvenirs, provided that they have obtained the proper certification for those items and provided that they are not carrying an excess of 25 lbs over and above normal equipment. Live ammunition for captured enemy weapons will not be carried aboard ship.

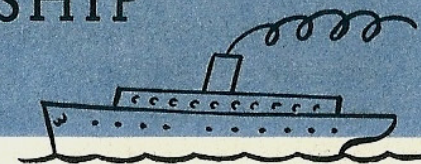
PETS *and* MASCOTS



During the course of your stay in the European Theater of Operations, many units and individuals have acquired pets and mascots.

In most cases a bond has grown between these animals or birds and their masters. Consequently, troops would like to take their pets back to the States with them. While this naturally human feeling is understood, there are certain sound reasons why the War Department has expressly forbidden the passage of pets or mascots back to the U.S. Letter AG 721.5, emanating from the office of the Chief Surgeon, ETOUSA, quotes change 2 AR 55-485, dated 7 January 1945. "The carrying of pets or mascots on United States Army transports or vessels wholly allocated to the War Department is not permissible."

ABOARD SHIP



To expedite redeployment of troops to the Pacific and the return of others to the United States, we have resorted to over-berthing on some ships. This may necessitate that only two hot meals a day will be served on the home trip. However, K-rations have been placed aboard ship and can be drawn if the two hot meals, in the opinion of the individual, are insufficient.



The sale of issue items of food to troops is absolutely prohibited aboard transports. You can get all you need to eat at the regular messes and if, in your opinion, you are not getting enough and you desire more by drawing K-rations, you may then eat to your heart's content.

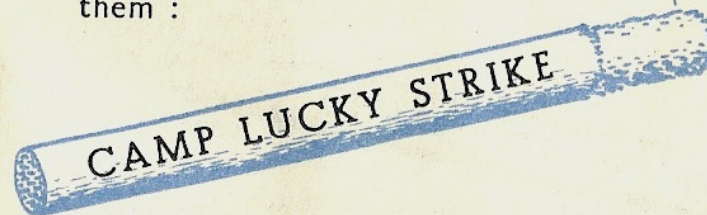
It is realized that over-berthing will cause some inconveniences, but sufficient life rafts, life boats, and life preservers are aboard for everyone in case they are required.

We ask you to overlook these inconveniences in order that redeployment may be speeded up and the early return home of those that follow you assured.

* * *

THE " CIGARETTE " CAMPS

There are three Assembly and five Staging Areas serving the Le Havre Port of Embarkation, with a total capacity of 161,000 troops. The three large Assembly areas are operated by the 89th Infantry Division for Chanor Base Section. The Staging Areas are directly under the command of the port. These camps are named after popular brands of cigarettes and are commonly known as the "cigarette" camps. Following is a list of pertinent information about them :

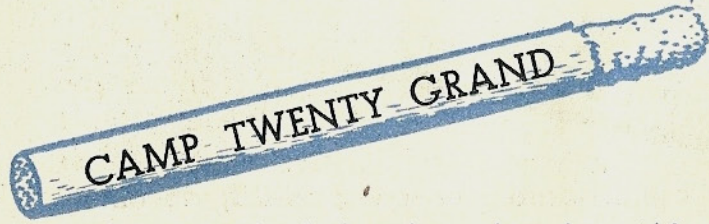


This camp, located on route N-25, 45 miles from Le Havre, was in operation during the European war, receiving troops debarking at Le Havre and sending them forward to the front. Lucky Strike, in the final stages of the war became the RAMP camp. It has a total camp capacity of 58,000 troops.



CAMP OLD GOLD

Like Lucky Strike, Camp Old Gold is one of the three large Assembly Areas which were in operation during the war and which are now processing full divisions on Redeployment. Old Gold has its headquarters at Yvetot, 32 miles east of Le Havre on route N-14. It has a total camp capacity of 35,000 troops.



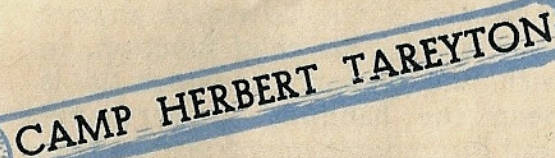
CAMP TWENTY GRAND

The third of the three big Assembly Areas, Camp Twenty Grand, has the same function as the others. It is located on route 182, near Duclair, 43 miles east of Le Havre. Twenty Grand has a total camp capacity of 20,000 troops.



CAMP PHILIP MORRIS

This camp is the largest of the staging areas and has just recently been completed. Camp Philip Morris is 6 miles east of Le Havre near Gaineville on route N-14. It has a total camp capacity of 35,000.



CAMP HERBERT TAREYTON

Located in the Forest of Montgeon at the northern fringe of Le Havre, Camp Herbert Tareyton has been staging critical score men as well as men being redeployed to other theaters via the States. This staging area has a total camp capacity of 16,400 troops.

CAMP PALL MALL

Third largest of the staging areas, Camp Pall Mall has been the leave center for thousands of men going to the UK on recreational passes. This is a port function in addition to the handling of troops redeploying to the States. Pall Mall has its headquarters at Etretat, 22 miles north of Le Havre on route N-40. It has a total camp capacity of 7,700 troops.

CAMP WINGS

This camp is located at the Le Havre airport north of the city, and its chief function, in cooperation with the airport at which it is located, has been the handling of personnel whose orders call for redeployment via the UK. CampWings has a total camp capacity of 2,250.

CAMP HOME RUN

During the war in Europe this camp processed troops going on rotation leaves to the States. Home Run is now a staging area for troops being redeployed, handling chiefly the advanced detachments of redeploying divisions, casualties and individuals. It has a total camp capacity of 2,000.

THIS BOOKLET WAS PREPARED BY
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