

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

WPD
J J B
April 6, 1918.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Gas training.

1. When instruction in gas defence was first undertaken and a gas school established at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, it was the intention to detail line officers to take the course there with a view to their subsequent assignment to divisions as divisional gas officers, and, in charge of the divisional gas schools.

It was, however, not practicable to secure the necessary line officers, so recourse was had to medical officers then available. These medical officers were given a course of instruction at this gas school and then assigned to the various National Army and National Guard divisions.

A number of chemists were given a course of training at the American University in Washington, D. C., and assigned to divisions as chemical advisers to the medical officers in charge of the gas schools. This was in accordance with the provisions of WPD 9967-11 dated October 3, 1917. There were 33 medical officers and 32 chemical advisers so assigned. In addition 12 chemical advisers were by request of General Pershing sent to France.

2. Soon after the arrival here of the British officers, advisers in training in gas warfare, the question came up as to whether or not it would be more advisable that gas officers should belong to the line rather than to the medical corps, as their duties abroad would be distinctly combatant and inasmuch as medical officers were classed as noncombatant.

From the training standpoint it appeared much more desirable to have a line officer rather than a medical officer in direct charge of the division gas school and gas instruction.

These chemical advisers were accordingly recommissioned in the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps (WPD 9967-34, Jan. 21, 1918), with the intention of designating them as chief gas officers of divisions, thus relieving the medical officers.

3. This transfer having been partially effected, it is desirable that orders now issue relieving medical officers from duty as divisional gas officers and detailing these Engineer officers in their stead.

4. Inasmuch, however, as instruction has been given at scattered posts by medical officers detailed for that purpose, as well as at the Medical Training Camps at Fort Riley, Kansas, and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and, as the number of chemists recommissioned in the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps is not sufficient to replace the medical officers at these places, it is not believed that they should all be relieved for the present but rather only those attached to divisions in which there are also chemical advisers.

5. The field training section, Gas Defense Service, should now be put under charge of the Chief of Engineers, who should be made responsible for gas training in the United States and a definite system instituted by which the instruction heretofore conducted by the Medical Department should now be undertaken by the Engineer Corps under the supervision of the Training and Instruction Branch of the General Staff.

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6. Captain James H. Walton, Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps, who has had active charge of the personnel of gas instruction should, it is believed, continue in active charge of the Gas Training Section.

7. The original authorization for the personnel of the Field Training Section provided for---

1 major
8 captains
40 lieutenants (all in the Sanitary Corps)

Upon organization it was deemed advisable to commission the candidates as lieutenants so that those who showed the greatest efficiency might be promoted. Likewise with the officer in charge of the personnel of this section, who was commissioned a captain rather than the major authorized.

A number of these officers are high grade men who have had years of professional training and have held positions of responsibility. It is believed that provision should be made for their promotion. In order to provide for such promotion and for an enlargement of the Field Training Section to take care of growing needs the number of officers authorized for the Engineer Corps in WPD 10017-37, Nov. 24, 1917, as modified by WPD 9967-34, Jan. 31, 1918, should be increased as follows:

3 majors
15 captains
60 lieutenants

The senior major to be the officer in charge of the Gas Training Section; the other 2 majors to assist in the supervision, inspection and coordination of gas training in posts and camps. It is impossible for such supervision to be done efficiently for all contingents by an officer in Washington. The 15 captains to provide promotion for efficiency as stated above. The 60 lieutenants to take care of future needs (and includes those already commissioned).

9. There are 4 officers, chemists, now commissioned, in the Sanitary Corps, belonging to the Field Training Section, Gas Defense Service, who under WPD 9967-34, Jan. 31, 1918, should be recommissioned in the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps, as follows:

Lieutenant Frank W. Bliss
Lieutenant Roy A. Burt
Lieutenant Ernest R. Schierz
Lieutenant Chester M. Scott

10. The following enlisted personnel, Sanitary Corps, should be transferred to the Engineer Reserve Corps in the same grade and assigned to duty in Gas Training Section, Engineer Reserve Corps:

Sergeant W. H. Barbo,	Washington, D. C.
Sergeant Oscar F. Boyd,	Fort Riley, M.O.T.C., Kansas.
Sergeant Arthur D. Ellison,	Camp Travis, Texas.
Sergeant Frank C. Perkins,	Camp Dodge, Iowa.
Sergeant John Pfross,	Ft. Benj. Harrison, M.O.T.C.
Private W. H. Emmons,	Washington, D. C.
Private R. C. Gerber,	Washington, D. C.

11. Because of the large equipment of the Gas Defense School and the amount of detail work connected with it, one sergeant, one corporal and four privates should be attached to each divisional school.

Working under supervision of a commissioned officer, these men will be responsible for the following duties:

- (a) Issuing, disinfecting, and repairing respirators.
- (b) Preparation of toxic and lachrymatory atmospheres in gas chamber.
- (c) Preparation of bombs and smoke mixtures.
- (d) Assisting in construction of trenches, gas-proof dugouts, etc., and keeping them in repair.
- (e) Installation of material for surprise attacks by night.
- (f) Assistance in demonstration of trench duties.
- (g) Keeping records of:
 - Supplies and equipment.
 - Attendance at Gas School.
 - Grades and standard tests.
 - Men passed through gas.
 - Reports from unit gas officers, etc.

It is believed that the personnel of the Gas Training Section should include 70 sergeants, 20 of whom should be sergeants first class. There should also be 70 corporals and 250 privates.

12. A communication should be sent to each division commander informing him in substance as follows:

Upon the relief of the medical officer in charge of gas instruction in your division, gas instruction therein will be placed in charge of the Engineer officer now on duty with the division gas school. This Engineer officer will be designated as the chief gas officer of the division and attached for duty at division headquarters.

A suitable line officer from your division will be detailed monthly to act as assistant to the chief gas officer.

Until further orders the chief gas officer will not accompany the division abroad, in conformity with the direction of the Secretary of War that the Sanitary Corps officers assigned to divisions for gas defense instruction should not be considered as a part of the division to go to France unless specially ordered. Before the division is to depart, orders will be requested of the Chief of Engineers for the disposition of this officer.

At the end of every month the chief gas officer will submit a report in triplicate showing the progress of training, state of supplies, equipment, etc., one copy for record in the division, one copy for the Chief of Engineers, and one copy for the Training and Instruction Branch, War Plans Division, General Staff.

13. The following medical officers should be relieved from duty as divisional gas officers and ordered to report to the division commander for assignment to duty:

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| Lieutenant Francis B. Furman, | Camp Beauregard, La. |
| Lieutenant Friend B. Gilpin, | Camp Bowie, Texas. |
| Lieutenant Asa L. Hickok, | Camp Cody, New Mexico. |
| Lieutenant Fred P. Nevius, | Camp Custer, Michigan. |
| Lieutenant Gibson Smith, | Camp Devens, Mass. |
| Captain John H. Boyce, | Camp Devens, Mass. |
| Major Fred R. Halsey, | Camp Dix, New Jersey. |
| Captain Henry C. Soltman, | Camp Dodge, Iowa. |
| Lieutenant William Bane, | Camp Doniphan, Okla. |
| Lieutenant William S. Long, | Camp Fremont, Calif. |
| Captain Rutherford B. Irons, | Camp Funston, Kansas. |
| Captain Ferdinand L. Benz, | Camp Gordon, Georgia. |
| Captain John H. Sweeney, | Camp Grant, Illinois. |
| Lieutenant Lamber Rosenbaum, | Camp Greene, N. C. |
| Lieutenant H. C. Singleton, | Camp Greene, N. C. |
| Lieutenant Clifford C. Wehn, | Camp Greene, N. C. |
| Lieutenant Lee E. Kelsey, | Camp Greene, N. C. |

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| Lieutenant Arthur F. Kraetse, | Camp Greene, N. C. |
| Captain Leo A. Stone, | Camp Hancock, Georgia. |
| Captain John M. Birnie, | Camp Jackson, S. C. |
| Major Arthur W. Yale, | Camp Kearny, Calif. |
| Lieutenant Theo. S. Green, | Camp Kearny, Calif. |
| Captain Mevin D. Pontius, | Camp Lewis, Washington. |
| Captain Fred F. Sprague, | Camp Logan, Texas. |
| Lieutenant Geo. S. Tillman, | Camp McLellan, Alabama. |
| Major Edgar S. Linthicum, | Camp Meade, Maryland. |
| Captain August A. Gossow, | Camp Pike, Arkansas. |
| Lieutenant Joseph Leidy, | Camp Sevier, S. C. |
| Lieutenant James A. Work, | Camp Shelby, Miss. |
| Lieutenant Oliver O. Alexander, | Camp Sheridan, Alabama. |
| Lieutenant Albert J. Brainard, | Camp Sherman, Ohio. |
| Lieutenant Lester J. Eford, | Camp Taylor, Kentucky. |
| Lieutenant Daniel Grant, | Camp Travis, Texas. |
| Lieutenant Herbert B. Snyder, | Camp Epton, N. Y. |
| Captain Chelsea C. Pratt, | Camp Wheeler, Georgia. |

14. Instruction in gas methods referred to in paragraph 4 above, now is being given at some of the smaller camps and posts as follows under the direction of medical officers. Until suitable chemists can be secured and commissioned in the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps these medical officers should not be relieved:

- Camp Walter R. Taliaferro, Calif.
- Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Del Rio, Texas.
- Douglas, Arizona.
- Eagle Pass, Texas.
- Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.
- Fort Brady, Michigan.
- Fort Crook, Nebraska.
- Fort Douglas, Utah.
- Fort McIntosh, Laredo, Texas.
- Fort Niagara, New York.
- Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.
- Fort Omaha, Nebraska.
- Fort Riley, Kansas.
- Fort Snelling, Minn.
- Hawaiian Department.
- Presidio of San Francisco, Calif.
- Edgewood, Maryland.

15. The Surgeon General (Colonel Miller) concurs.
 The Chief of Engineers (General Winslow) concurs.
 Action is recommended as set forth in the accompanying memorandum for The Adjutant General of the Army.

D W KITCHAN
 Col., Gen. Staff,
 Asstg. Director, W.P.D., A. A. C. of S.

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