HELPFUL HINTS FOR PERSONNEL ORDERED TO
THE EUROPEAN COMMAND IN 1951

1. If you are planning to come to EUCOM undoubtedly you are wondering just what you should bring with you from the United States to make your stay here more comfortable. If you have a family, you especially will want to know the procedure to be followed to effect travel of your dependents to this command, the kind of quarters you will occupy with your dependents when they arrive in the European Command, and what items of furniture will or will not be available to you at that time.

2. Travel of Dependents to the European Command. All US armed forces officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel of Grades E-5, E-6 and E-7 are eligible to apply for transportation and quarters of their dependents, provided that they are scheduled to remain in the European Command at least one year from the date of arrival of their dependents. Owing to the critical family housing shortage, dependents are not permitted to proceed to the European Command with their sponsors. Upon arrival at assigned stations, sponsors may submit application for dependents' Travel Authorizations. Approval of an application is contingent upon the availability of family quarters and is granted only when commanders concerned can insure that permanent family quarters will be available upon arrival of dependents in the command (approximately 60 days after authorization).

3. Family Housing in France. Sponsors who proceed to France on a permanent change of station basis can expect to be separated from their dependents for periods ranging from three months to one year. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to make arrangements for family quarters on the French economy. Such accommodations are not readily available; it requires diligent searching to find them. A recent survey of permanent housing in one area indicated that only 10 per cent of the military personnel with dependents were able to acquire adequate family type quarters. In all cases, the cost was excessive, particularly the cost of maintenance, heating, utilities, and general upkeep. Furnishings are scanty. Living in hotels is very expensive. Only limited US government medical facilities are available in certain areas where US forces are located, although expansion may be expected as required by changing conditions in that country. There is one US Army commissary in operation, with tentative plans for one or more additional stores under way. At best, they will be limited in number, widely dispersed, and will contain only a restricted variety of stock. Travel for a distance of 55 miles (110 miles round trip) may be necessary to make commissary purchases. Don't expect fo find Stateside heating and sanitation standards. Coal is expensive (approximately $35.00 a ton), and few houses have control heating. Most houses require the use of space heaters in each room. For the most part, bathroom facilities are antiquated, but passable. Public transportation is nonexistent between some housing areas and duty stations. Many personnel who live 25 miles or more from their duty stations must rely on their automobiles for transportation. Travel by private automobile is an expensive proposition. Specific details relative to living

conditions should be determined by sponsors after their arrival in France and their dependents informed.

4. Family Housing in Germany. a. Availability. Current available housing, plus planned construction, will provide only approximately 70 per cent of the estimated family housing requirement. For this reason, sponsors who proceed to Germany on a permanent change of station basis can expect to be separated from their dependents for periods ranging from two months to one year or more. Family housing in Germany consists mainly of leased German houses or apartments and newly constructed apartments of American design. Housing areas in which American families are quartered have been established throughout the US areas of responsibility in Germany. Private houses and apartments are equipped with adequate sanitary facilities, electricity, and either central or space heating. Houses are classified into six housing groups and are assigned, by grade, within each housing group, based on the initial date of application of the individual for assignment of quarters, with consideration given to the size of the family, wherever possible.

b. Furniture and Equipment. Each room will be equipped, as far as possible, with the necessary items of basic furniture, which include lamps, rugs, curtains, draperies, and wool blankets. Kitchen equipment will include an electrical or mechanical regrigerator, electric or gas stove, chinaware, glassware, and plated silverware. It is not advisable to ship fragile or expensive items of furniture and equipment from the United States to Germany. Basic items always can be used. Table, bath, and bed linens are not issued to families. Small rugs, (although issued, often are in short supply) and electrical appliances, such as toasters, washing machines, electric irons, heaters, mixers, waffle irons, radios, and phonographs can be used to advantage. If you own an electric roaster, it would be wise to bring it, as German ovens are very small. Card tables will be useful, as they are not avialable. A normal supply of kitchen utensils also should be brought from the States. If you wish, you might bring vases, pcitures, lamps, knick-knacks, sterling or other silverware, glasses, and china to augment that which is issued. Furniture and equipment for babies are provided at dependents' housing centers but are not available for issue in permanent quarters; therefore, baby cribs, basinettes, diaper cans, bottles, sterilizers, etc. should be brought from the States.

5. Bachelor Type Quarters. If you are an unmarried or unaccompanied officer or civilian, in nearly all posts, you will either be assigned to a room or will share an apartment. In a few areas, bachelors are assigned two in a room in hotels. (All billets, family or bachelor type, are equipped with adequate sanitary facilities, electricity, and either central or space heating). The necessary furniture, to include bed linens, is provided for bachelor type quarters, but the individual may have to supply his or her own linens, other than bed linen.

6. Electric Current. Electric current in the European Command is 220 volts AC and DC and 110 volts AC. Transformers and reducers which will permit you to use Stateside electrical appliances in houses wired for 200 volts may be purchased in post exchanges or in German stores. German current differs from that commonly found in the United States

in that it is 50 cycles, rather than 60. This adversely affects electric clocks and phonographs. Clocks consistently lose time and, therefore, will be of little use. Phonographs, on the other hand, play satisfactorily, although the tone is slightly distorted. For slight cost, phonographs can be adjusted to the lower cycle.

7. Health. In spite of the fact that certain communicable diseases are more prevalent in Europe than in the United States, the health of American families stationed here has not been affected adversely. The unavoidable congestion of ship-board living is a potential hazard, insofar as it facilitates transmission of the communicable diseases of childhood. It is important, therefore, that all required immunizations be accomplished prior to embarkation and that re-immunizations or "booster shots" are received at specific intervals after arrival.

8. Automobiles. One item that is first on the "must" list, particularly for a family, is an automobile. Train, bus, and taxi service is quite good, but your car will be a source of great utility and pleasure to you in Europe. Gasoline and oil are available at numerous American service stations throughout the American Zone. (See par. 11).

9. Normally, automobiles may be purchased in the European Command, if you prefer to wait until you arrive on this side of the ocean to buy your car. Also, under normal conditions, the European Exchange System will be able to order an American car for you, although probably you will have to wait several months for delivery. In addition, American cars can be purchased through private agencies in Germany or nearby countries; however, they are more expensive than in the United States, because of transportation charges. Curtailment of the automobile output in the Zone of Interior would affect adversely their availability here. Under normal conditions, automobiles of foreign makes — the Italian Fiat; the British Austin and Morris; the French Renault, Peugeot and Citroen; and others are available to you over here through private agencies either in Germany or in neighboring countries.

10. Spare parts for American automobiles may be purchased through the European Exchange System. The fast-moving items are available, and the others can be ordered.

11. Transportation. The following hints are offered in connection with your personal transportation and that of your automobile, baggage, and household goods to Europe:

a. Automobiles. When you deliver your automobile to Brooklyn Army Base, New York Port of Embarkation, for shipment overseas, it will be necessary for you to present one copy of the orders authorizing your travel to Europe. Some people have found that rust-proofing outside chromium is unnecessary. Six insurance companies are authorized to sell automobile insurance in the US areas of responsibility in Germany to occupation personnel whose vehicles are registered within this command. They are reputable organizations and are licensed to do business by this headquarters. Claims are payable in dollar instruments. All companies have offices in the major cities throughout the US areas of responsibility

in Germany and at the New York Port of Embarkation. Premiums are comparable to those in the States for like coverage. Each company offers the following coverage: bodily injury liability; property damage liability; comprehensive; collision or upset; fire; theft; and windstorm.

b. Motor Vehicle Standards. Motor vehicle safety standards for registration in the US areas of responsibility in Germany conform to the strictest standards required at home. It would be well to have your vehicle thoroughly checked before shipment.

c. Registration of Motor Vehicles (privately owned). Every owner of a motor vehicle operated on the public highways will apply at the registrar or his agent for registration of his vehicle. The application will be made on a form provided by the registrar. No vehicle will be registered unless it is covered by liability insurance. The applicant is required to submit satisfactory proof of ownership with the application for registration. No motor vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer may be operated unless EUCOM registration plates are displayed thereon. No person will drive a motor vehicle unless he is the holder of a valid operator's permit. Both operator permits and vehicle registrations are issued by local registrars located in the Office of the Provost Marshal at the following places: Frankfurt, Berlin, Bremerhaven, Nurnberg, Fritzlar, Heidelberg, Munich, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, Bamberg, Wurzburg, Wetzlar, Regensburg, and Augsburg.

d. Safeguarding Automobiles. Many Americans in Germany have no garage facilities for the parking of privately owned automobiles; however, in all military residential areas, fenced-in enclosures are available for parking. The enclosures are guarded 24 hours a day by armed guards. The safeguarding of automobiles primarily is the responsibility of each individual owner.

e. Hand Baggage. As you will not have access to your trunks and other baggage carried in the hold of the ship until you reach your final destination in Europe, you should carry sufficient clothing and other articles in your hand baggage to last you until you reach your final destination. Most military stations in Germany are at least an overnight rail journey from the Bremerhaven Port of Embarkation.

f. Hold Baggage. Your baggage carried in the hold of the ship, and which accompanies you on the ship, will be checked from Bremerhaven to your final destination in Europe either on the train on which you travel from the port or on a later train which will follow you to your destination within 24 hours. If your hold baggage (trunks and other baggage to be carried in the hold of the ship) does not accompany you to the New York Port of Embarkation, or arrives after your departure from the United States, you may expect some delay in receiving it at your destination in Europe.

g. Household Goods. Your household goods should reach your final destination in Europe within four to eight weeks after they are received by the New York Port of Embarkation for shipment to Europe.

h. Final Destination Address. If any baggage, household goods, or automobiles have been shipped for you, as soon as you arrive at your final destination in the European Command, ask the billeting officer for EC Form 55-17 (Notification of Permanent Station Address) and EC Form 22 (Notification of Military Post Address). Execute these forms, showing the address to which shipment of baggage or household goods is to be forwarded or the address at which notification of arrival of your automobile will reach you, and return the completed forms to the billeting officer for forwarding.

i. Travel Orders. While you will be advised in separate instructions as to the documents, vaccination, and inoculations required before proceeding to Germany, you are reminded that you must have in your possession, and readily available when you reach Bremerhaven, two copies of the travel orders which are issued to you in the United States, providing for your transportation to Bremerhaven, Germany. These orders are necessary, in order to prevent any delay in your travel from Bremerhaven to your destination in Europe.

12. Currency. Immediately upon arrival at your port of debarkation in Europe, all US currency must be converted into Military Payment Certificates which are valid at all US military installations. Identification and signature are required when purchases with the larger denomination Military Payment Certificates are made. This is necessary for detection of any void or counterfeit currency. Adequate Military Payment Certificates may be converted to Deutsche Marks to care for your need for such currency while en route to your new station. If you are accustomed to provide yourself with ready cash by drawing on a Stateside checking account, you may wish to consider converting a portion of these available funds to Travelers Checks or Postal Money Orders, because some delay and difficulty may be experienced in cashing personal checks while in Germany. It is general practice, where possible, to retain a Stateside checking account and, in addition, to initiate a checking account in Germany. Chase National Bank and American Express service the occupation forces in Germany.

13. Hunting Fishing, and Carrying of Firearms. Game of several types is present in Germany and those interested in hunting and fishing may secure licenses from local HICOG authorities for a small fee. As in many sections of the United States, and for security reasons, the owning and carrying of firearms in Germany is controlled stringently. Permission to own and/or carry a firearm may be obtained by applying to the Provost Marshal of the military community in which you will be stationed. Normally, this permission is granted. Firearms brought into Germany or acquired while in Germany must be registered. Registration is accomplished by the Provost Marshal. Many types of excellent sporting weapons are available for purchase in Germany, Belgium, France, and other neighboring countries, as well as in the post exchanges. Suitable ammunition is available as well. Persons engaged in hunting activities are required to have personal liability and property damage insurance. This insurance coverage may be obtained at a nominal fee from American, English, and German insurance organizations operating in the US areas of responsibility in Germany.

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