

ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT

Although the Ordnance Department took over all motor transportation from the Quartermaster Corps on August 1, {1942} the actual change-over did not take place until August 6, when letterheads, collar ornaments for officers and signatures were changed.

Early in August the importance of the State Fair Grounds as storage point became so important action was taken to

bring about the transfer of a full military police company to guard the vehicles.

ALL TIME NEW HIGH

During the week of August 8, Fort Wayne shipped nearly 2,000,000 pounds of parts and supplies to establish an all time high for the depot. These summer months saw the post cooperating in the nationwide salvage drive,

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giving up all its historic old cannon and salute guns to the cause, some of them dating back to pre-Civil War days.

In the same period the practice of holding retreat on main Parade Ground each Tuesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. with all units participating, was begun.

Also early in August the transfer of D and C Blats to the Navy so affected the total carrying capacity of the available boats that a new plan was decided. Under this system, vehicles bound for points in the New York area were loaded on the decks of grain and ore carrying freighters. Each vessel, it was found, could carry between 70 and 90 vehicles without interfering with the transfer of grain and ore to the east.

NEW PROBLEMS ARISE

September opened with the problem incident to the departure of civilian personnel for high paid jobs in the industry, although efforts were being made to balance the two wage scales. Despite these efforts the departures increased.

On September 1 the last of the vehicles kept on the parade ground were moved to the Fair Grounds and on the same day construction of a temporary addition to Building 90 was begun.

NEW MOTOR REPAIR SHOP

The new motor repair shop to be used as quarters for the Post Motor Transport Garage was completed September 4 and the former fireproof garage was turned over to the storage of tires, heretofore piled in the open.

Col. Clarence E. Jones, Ordnance Department, left Fort Wayne September 15 to take command of the Lordstown

Motor Supply Depot, Warren, Ohio, and was succeeded by Major Elmer J. Jantz, as the post executive officer. Capt. F. C. Hood, Ordnance Department, assumed Major Jantz's old duties as assistant to the chief of the supply division.

RED CROSS ADDED

The Red Cross Motor Crops came into being on September 17 when one of their representatives called on the commanding officer to request permission for 30 of their qualified drivers to work with Army driver and mechanics at the Vehicle Preparation Unit.

Later, the unit took an increasingly active part in the conveying of Army vehicles from manufacturers to the State Fair Grounds. The Transportation Division, following the establishment of the 13 Ordnance Districts, moved from the Buhl Building back to Fort Wayne where it took up the more restricted task of issuing bills of lading for vehicles shipped from the War Department Motor Pool at the State Fair Grounds. The districts assumed charge of the original shipment of vehicles and parts from the manufacturers.

On September 21 the National Parts Distribution Division of the National Motor Transport moved from Fort Wayne to the Union Guardian Building. When it came from Washington in June, 1942, it brought along 3,000 requisitions – when it left Fort Wayne it had none.