

TANK TRACTOR AND TRAILER DIVISION

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ARMED FORCES ATTACHEE
TO AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE
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RBJ/HBD

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1919

CONFIDENTIAL

From: 1st Lt. H. H. Jackson, Ord. Dept., Ordnance Observer.

To: Col. L. B. Moody, Ord. Dept., U.S.A., Tank, Tractor
& Trolley Div.

Subject: Report on First Transcontinental Motor Convoy.

1. INTRODUCTORY

Pursuant to travel orders MP-79 (OMR 210.482/106), dated July 3, 1919, the writer reported as Ordnance Observer to the Expeditionary Commander, Transcontinental Motor Convoy at Camp Meigs, Washington, D.C., 8 a.m. July 7, 1919, and accompanied this truck train the entire distance from Washington, D.C. to San Francisco, Cal.

The Convoy departed from Camp Meigs at 8:30 Monday morning, July 7, 1919, proceeding to The Ellipse in Potowmack Park, opposite the south front of the White House, where the First Milestone was dedicated by the National Highways Association in the presence of the Secretary of War, the Chief of Staff, general officers of the Army, and several senators and congressmen. Following his acceptance of the First Milestone on behalf of the President of the United States, Mr. Baker formally directed the Convoy to proceed overland to San Francisco, California, via the Lincoln Highway.

2. OBJECTS

The four purposes of the trip were as follows:

a) The War Department's contribution to the Good Roads movement for the purpose of encouraging the construction of through-route and transcontinental highways as a military and economic asset.

b) The procurement of recruits for the enlisted personnel of the Motor Transport Corps, or any other branch of the U. S. Army, young men to be enlisted with the train as candidates for the Mechanical Training Schools opened under the direction of the Motor Transport Corps.