SOME of our soldiers may now lay down their arms. For a long time the War Department has planned for this moment when the defeat of our European enemies would permit partial demobilization. It has come nearly 5 years since the first draftees were inducted into the Army in the autumn of 1940—nearly three and a half years since the Japanese attacked us at Pearl Harbor. Part of our mission is now completed. All who can be spared will be re-enlisted.

The plan for release is based on what the men in the service believed should be the basis of discharge. You yourselves have decided who should be chosen. The needs of the war have determined how many shall be chosen and when. You may be assured that the demobilization plan does not interfere with the best strategy we can devise to finish the war with Japan in the shortest possible time and then to get everyone home.

If you are among those selected for discharge, you have my sincere congratulations and good wishes for a deserved return to the country you have served and saved. If you are among those who must continue the fight, you can count upon everything you need to finish the job as soon and with as few casualties as possible. The gratitude of the nation is with you all. May God bless you wherever you are.

HENRY L. STIMSON
Secretary of War

By YANK's Washington Bureau

ow that the war in Europe is over, everybody is talking about what the War Department calls its Plan for the Readjustment of Personnel. This is the plan that will decide who will move from Europe and other inactive theaters to the war against Japan, who will stay behind for occupation and police duty and who will come home, either to stay for awhile in the U. S. or to get a discharge.

The bare outline of the Plan for the Readjustment of Personnel was announced last September and hasn’t changed much since then. It still calls for enlisted men and women who won’t be needed in the war with Japan to be discharged on an individual basis rather than by organizations. It still calls for eligibility for discharge to be decided on a point score system, with the points totaling in four factors: length of service in the Army, length of service overseas, the number of decorations or bronze service stars and the number of dependent children you have under 18—but you don’t get credit for more than three children.

And it still makes everything in the plan heavily dependent on military necessity. In other words nobody in the Army, no matter how many points he has, will get out unless the Army says that he is not necessary.

As a matter of fact, the only enlisted men in the Army right now who are eligible to get discharged without their commanding officers deciding first whether or not they are essential are men who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor or who are over 42 years old.

The plan still gives no points for age.

Although it has made no fundamental changes in the Plan for the Readjustment of Personnel, the War Department in the past month has thrown a lot more light on some of its details and has revealed some previously secret information on how it is expected to work.

Here are some of the more important facts and figures about the plan that have been revealed:

It has been announced that approximately two million men will be released from the Army during these next 12 months. This two million will include men from the Pacific theaters as well as from Europe. Approximately 1,300,000 of them will be men with high point totals. The rest will be wounded or physically unfit for service or over-age.

Ninety-eight percent of the 1,300,000 men scheduled to be discharged during the coming year will have had overseas service.

Seventy-three percent of the 1,300,000 will be men with combat credit—decorations or bronze service stars on their theater ribbons.

Twenty-six percent of 1,300,000 will be fathers.

In other words 24 percent of the physically fit fathers who are scheduled to be released from the Army during the next year will also be well credited with overseas and combat points. Only 2 percent of the fathers who will be discharged during the coming 12 months will have had no overseas time on their service record. It is a safe bet that in order to get out they will have to have a very long time in service in the U. S. and the maximum number of three children.

The 1,300,000 will not include many Air Forces men. The Air Force will have its own critical score, the term that the War Department is using to describe that very important figure each man's

THE POINT VALUES AND THE CRITICAL SCORE

POINTS. The Army's plan for the re adjustment of enlisted personnel calls for an Adjusted Service Rating Card to be issued to each enlisted man and woman. Point totals will be entered on the card and each one of the following four scores will be given for service performed between Sept. 16, 1940, and May 12, 1945.

1) Service Credit. One point for each month of Army service between Sept. 16, 1940, and May 12, 1945.

2) Overseas Credit. One point for each month served overseas between Sept. 16, 1940, and May 12, 1945.

3) Combat Service. Five points for the first and each additional award of the following for service performed between Sept. 16, 1940, and May 12, 1945:

- Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Purple Heart and Bronze Star Service (battle or campaign participation stars worn on theater ribbon).
- Credit will also be given to Army enlisted personnel who have been awarded the following decorations by the Navy Department: Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Air Medal and Purple Heart Medal.

4) Parenthood Credit. 12 points for each child under 18 years of age born before May 12, 1945, up to a limit of three children.

CRITICAL SCORE. The total of the points earned by the individual enlisted man or woman in the above four categories will be considered a total-point score. The score that the individual must have in order to be eligible for separation from the Army will be known as the Critical Score. The War Department will announce an official Critical Score until approximately six weeks after the re adjustment regulations go in operation. There will be one Critical Score for enlisted men in the Army Service Forces and the Army Ground Forces, another for enlisted men in the Army Air Forces and a third one for enlisted women in the WAC.

Until it computes and announces these official Critical Scores, the War Department has set for the purpose of aiding immediate demobilization a temporary, "interim" Critical Score of 85 points for enlisted men of the Service, Ground and Air Forces and 44 points for enlisted women of the WAC. These interim Critical Scores will be replaced by the official Critical Scores within the next two months.
can be approved by all of the brass in the Army and still not hold until a reviewing authority puts its stamp on it.

The War Department says that the creation of the reviewing authority was designed to accomplish one thing: to protect a "surplus" man from the whims-and-errors of the brass above him. But there is one catch. There is no time limit attached to the channel-bucking routine. Paper work being what it is, it would probably be a good idea for everyone in this spot to keep his optimism at a reasonably controlled level.

The Ground Forces men will have an easier time than Service Forces men in getting out of the Army during the coming year. The Service Forces include many highly skilled specialists who cannot be replaced easily, and the supply job in the Far East will be tough.

Under the new regulation Wacs are permitted to apply for discharges if they are married to discharged soldiers.

A lot of outfits in Europe, principally service units of the Service Forces and Air Forces, will have to shove off for the Pacific in a hurry. As a matter of fact, several of them are already on their way. Naturally these outfits will be unable to compute their point scores until after they have been redeployed. That means that men in these outfits with high scores won't know how they stand until they get settled in their new bases. After they get to their new bases, they will have to wait for qualified replacements.

To take care of such cases, the War Department has authorized these outfits to carry a 10 percent oversize strength in their T/Os. The oversize strength will consist of low-score men who will be trained to replace high-score men on the ASFs.

The War Department points out, however, that this policy of allowing outfits to carry along replacement Wacs may mean that many high-score men in such outfits will be able to get out of the Army fast. There will still be high-score men to be replaced until the war with Japan is over. Here's what is slated to happen to an enlisted man on the ASFs. It is translated from the War Department's tables which is composed of surplus men from other units.

This outfit of surplus men will be shipped back to the States as soon as they are eligible when and as shipping facilities are available.

In the States, he will be screened to decide whether he will be shipped back to Europe or discharged. If he is to be discharged, he is sent to a separation center. If he is to be reassigned, he is sent to a Personnel Reception Station near his home. There he draws pay and whatever clothing he needs and gets a furlough. After the furlough he returns to the Personnel Center where he is either sent to a special training combat unit or a station complement outfit.

If a high-score man is declared surplus by his outfit but wants to remain with it just the same, he can do so. But he can't change his mind a few months later and then get discharged. That's a permanent decision.

Once he turns down the chance of becoming surplus, he turns down all chances of getting out of the Army on points until the end of the war. For the moment there is no guarantee that he will be kept in his outfit until the war is over. He stands just as much risk as anybody else of being reassigned somewhere else. For instance, a man may be in an outfit with a soft job that he likes and he would like to keep for a few more years. If he turns down the chance to become a surplus, he may also get reassigned and lose the job within a few months.

Both men in the States will be screened at the base or post to which they are assigned to determine whether or not they are surplus. If they have been trained and in combat and have high scores, they'll stand as good a chance of getting out as men who are now overseas.

In active theaters like those in Pacific and in China, Burma and India, the plan for returning surplus men won't work. Such a wholesale discharge will be a psychological blow to the war effort during the next year. In active theaters there will be no breaking up of whole units. High-score men in the Pacific will be returned until a qualified replacement is available for their job.

The War Department says that this plan will have a tougher time than it did for enlisted men in getting released from the service because of their specialized training. They, too, will have their own Adjusted Service Rating Cards and will have point scores. Their point scores will be a secondary consideration, however. The real factor to decide whether or not they are to be discharged from the Army is military necessity. Officers with long overseas and combat service will get special breaks.

Enlisted men who are declared surplus may have to sweat out long delays before they get back to the States. First of all there will be plenty of slow paper work involved in transferring them to units composed of surplus men. After their transfer, they will have to wait again until the unit is filled with other surplus men.

Then there will be the shipping problem. They will take second place in shipping priority behind men whose ASFs are dropped from the ASFs in Europe will have to be gathered up and shipped ahead of them and they will have to await the building of special staging areas, too. With the cutting down of the Army and the readjustment of its personnel; all physically fit GIs today in the service find themselves in one of four categories:

1) Those who will be retained in their present commands. They'll probably be assigned to the states in active theaters, men in troops in inactive theaters slated for occupation duty and men in the States probably transferred to other units.

2) Those overseas who will be transferred to another theater.

3) Those in the States about to go overseas.

4) Those men overseas and in the States who will be declared surplus and will be screened to decide whether they are essential or eligible to get honorable discharge.