

Medical Science Attempting To Conquer Asian Diseases Which Would Decide Military Victory In Another War

Tokyo — (U.P.) — American Army medical scientists are attempting to conquer deadly Asiatic diseases which could decide military victory or defeat in another war.

They are devising ways to fight epidemics—unknown in the United States—which have haunted Asia for centuries.

Diseases lurking in China, Formosa, Indochina, the Philippines, Okinawa, Japan and Korea are being studied.

"These diseases are a serious problem both in peace and war," said Army Medical Corps Col. Joe M. Blumberg, Atlanta, Ga.,

who is directing 102 medical research projects.

Widespread Suffering

"They have caused widespread suffering and economic losses in Asia for centuries. Japanese doctors have learned a great deal about them, and in this command we are working with Japan's top scientists to solve common problems."

Scrub typhus, found only in Asia, knocked out in two weeks 90 per cent of the men in one American regimental combat team on New Guinea in World War II. Twenty per cent of the New Guinea typhus victims

died.

Hemorrhagic fever, a mystery killer about which little is known, attacked 4000 United Nations troops during the Korean war. Ten per cent of its victims died the first year. Improved treatment has reduced the death rate to less than four per cent, but the cause still is unknown.

Sleeping Sickness

Japanese encephalitis, found in most of Asia and sometimes called sleeping sickness, infected 60 per cent of the French Foreign Legionnaires defending Dien Bien Phu in the Indochina

war.

Encephalitis also struck American troops in the darkest days of the Korean war, when they were fighting from a mere toe-hold inside the Pusan perimeter.

Medical scientists led by pathologist Blumberg use ingenious methods to unravel the mysteries of diseases carried to man by insects, snails and birds.

In Northern Japan, they capture migratory birds known to come from Siberia to determine what diseases are prevalent behind the Iron Curtain. Birds sometimes contract man's diseases.

One medical research worker sailed aboard a United States Navy ship from Japan to the Philippines to study the incidence of diarrhea among crewmen after a rest stop at Hong Kong, gateway to Red China.

Scrub typhus, a dreaded Southwest Pacific disease during World War II, is one of the major military medical problems in Asia, Blumberg said. It attacks nearly every organ in the body.

The disease was described in China in the 13th century. Shrines were built in Japan nearly 100 years ago to stop its spread.

But only in 1947, after thousands of American servicemen fell victim to scrub typhus, did doctors come up with an effective treatment with anti-biotic "wonder drugs."

"Scientists can control but not completely prevent scrub typhus. Epidemics swept through U.S. troops training near Japan's famed Mount Fuji in 1948 and 1953, and one maneuver area had to be abandoned.

Scrub typhus, a close relative of America's Rocky Mountain spotted fever, stalks its victims in a dozen Asian nations and is believed to be found along the Yangtze river in China.

"Chinese medical journals," Blumberg said, "contain so much fiction and legend along with the facts that it is difficult to make much sense out of them."

Blumberg's scientists are working closely with Japan's

top typhus experts, including Dr. Takeo Tamiya, president of Japan's Association of Medical Science, and Dr. Masami Kitakawa, chief of the Department of Virus and Rickettsial Diseases at the National Institute of Health.

Blumberg's 406th Medical general laboratory and a smaller detachment studying tropical fevers in Malaya are conducting all the American Army's medical research work in Asia.

Agreement Reached On Coffee Prices
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil — (U.P.) — Agreement on the basic points of an international plan to stabilize coffee prices and markets has been announced by Brazil and Colombia.
Brazil is the world's biggest coffee producer; Columbia ranks second.

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Second Section MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1955 Six Pages

Hurricane Fliers Find Storm Enemy Which Never Gives Up Effort To Destroy

Editor's note: Cdr. E. L. Foster, 39, of Chattanooga, Tenn., is the skipper of the hurricane squadron at the Jacksonville, Fla., Naval Air Station, which has been doing most of the reconnaissance of Hurricane Connie. Foster, after 15½ years in the Navy in which he flew more than 4,000 hours, made his first 10½ hour flight into the eye of a hurricane Monday aboard a Navy Neptune patrol bomber with a crew of 10. In the following dispatch he compares the adventure with World War II combat in the South Pacific.

these crews must operate as a component of a team. Under the circumstances in which we operate, every man aboard has a specific assignment. Unless he is doing the job, the flight cannot be a success.

I'd say the most important men on board were the two navigators, Ens. Jim Morris, and Lt. (J.G.) Dick Wing. If they don't know where we are, our value to the hurricane advisory service is lost.

In the actual flight, most of all, we just got physically tired fighting the controls, trying to keep the wings level and maintain our air speed at about 165 knots (185 m.p.h.).

There is nothing worse than

that bumping around. It is a force over which you have no control.

All of the elements in a storm like Connie are our mortal enemies—the hurricane force winds, the torrential rains, the terrific heat, everything. And unlike combat flight during the war, these enemies never give up.

The only way we can get away from them is to leave the storm. And we have to stay until we are able to give weather central what they ask for.

About the only relief we had came when we went into the calm eye of the hurricane and then turned the plane's jets and shot up to 10,000 feet to take

pictures.

Up there, it was fairly clear and very calm. We could fly around in a 20-mile diameter without feeling a gust, and we were high enough to cool off for a while. Up there we took our pictures.

Blumberg's scientists are working closely with Japan's

By CMDR. E. L. FOSTER, USN
Written For The United Press
Jacksonville, Fla. — (U.P.) — Does this compare with combat? You can say that, brother.

The only difference between a combat mission and going into one of these babies is that in a hurricane your enemy never gives up its efforts to destroy you.

All you can see in the front or to the sides is a solid sheet of rain and gray darkness. And if you have time to look down—we were flying as low as 300 feet—you see that Atlantic Ocean reaching up for you, and it seems about to swallow you up.

I don't think anyone with me spent much time being scared. But, I kept thinking of what I'd do in an emergency, like if one of my engines conked out. And I didn't have too much time to think about that.

My hands were full, just trying to hold on to the controls until my co-pilot could spell me. It was as rough and uncomfortable as anything I've ever flown through.

When I had a chance to look down, it would look like the wind was picking up that whole damned ocean and trying to send it up to us.

Has Veteran Crew

Right here, though, I'd like to emphasize that I've got pretty much of a veteran crew. Those boys know what they're doing.

My co-pilot, Lt. (J.G.) Rocky Farrel, of Kansas City, Mo., is typical of the young fellows we get from the training command.

He is perfectly capable of taking the crew out alone and doing the job right now. He has been in the outfit for about two years and has between 1,600 and 1,700 flying hours.

I'd like to stress the requirement that every man on one of

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That
By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — What's new?

The hot humid days in Washington recently have provided government workers with what could be called a "daily double." The G-workers don't get cut loose unless thermometer hits a certain mark; but the catcher is the humidity that has hit another figure. The standard for go home is 95 hot, 55 humid. The odds against that combination are almost prohibitive. It runs down the line—heat first, humidity second. Like 96-52; 97-49; down to 100-38. A lot of government offices have thermometers, but how does a government worker tell a humidity when he sees one?

Perhaps the telephone operators in the Capitol building were the most enthusiastic in their farewells to the adjourned Congress.

The more than 70 girls work the year around, but when the talkative senators and represen-

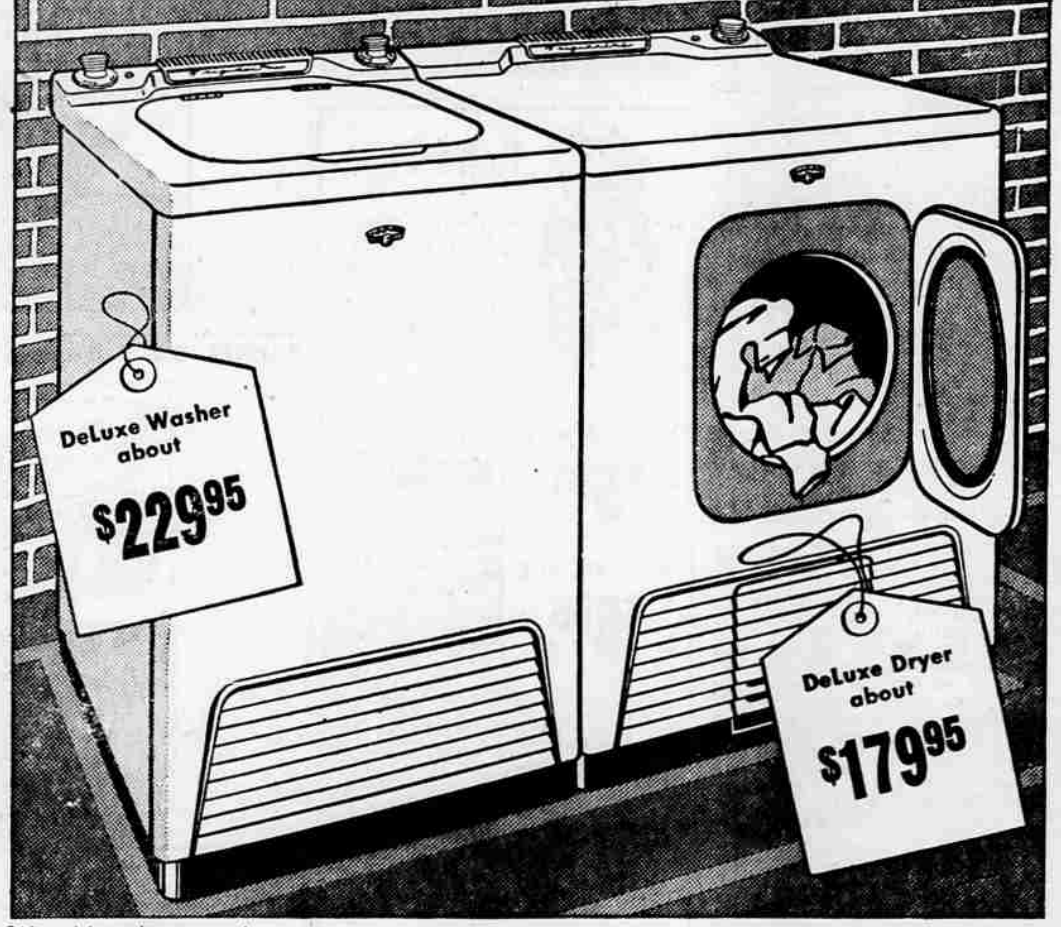
tatives are out of town they at least have time for a coffee break. During a session, 57,000 calls a day are the average, according to chief operator Miss Nena Thomas. The girls work around the clock whether Congress is sitting or fishing.

Lady Congresswoman Edith Green, the Democrat from Oregon, has invented a fictitious clown she likes to call Cong. Blipsk of Lower Slobovia. She quotes the phony law-giver, thusly: "Best way to handle the Salk vaccine problem is to give each home a monkey and do-it-yourself kit."

The American Federation of Labor would like us to know that a single worker has been guaranteed an annual wage. This fellow, according to national headquarters here, works for Local 466 as a projectionist for the motion picture operators. His job is in an outdoor drive-in theater in Astoria, Ore. He is according to an agreement, to get \$90 a week for the best weeks of the year and \$85 a week for the balance of the year. He is to work six days a week for seven months and three days a week for the rest of the time.

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