

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Department of Agriculture
University Farm, St. Paul

Division of Entomology and Economic Zoology

June 5, 1942

To the Alumni in the armed and Related Services:

Dear Alumnus:

There are now a large number of you who are in the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Public Health Service and we are trying to devise some means of not only keeping in touch with you ourselves, but to keep you in touch with your former student associates who are in these services. At the present moment we have a number of letters from various ones of you telling of your experiences and we think that all of you ought to have a chance to know how the other fellow is getting along. We therefore propose that the Division of Entomology and Economic Zoology at University Farm establish itself as a clearing house for letters from all of you. If you will write one letter in here occasionally we will assemble and mimeograph the letters and send a copy to each one of you. Please keep us notified of your address if it is at all possible and we will do our best to see that letters reach you and to help you in any way that we can.

Here goes for the first edition.

Sincerely yours,

Wm A Riley
W. C. Tanguary
Clarence E. Mitchell
Harold H. Shepard
Gustav Swenson
A. A. Grawosky
A. G. Ruggles
A. P. Hudson
Nick Haydel

News Items -

Harold Peters, Donald Denning and Earl Pritchard have finished all of their work for the Ph.D. degree this spring quarter.

Harold Peters, Donald Denning, Page Nicholson and Rodney Dodge reported to the Public Health Service at Atlanta, Georgia for anti-malaria work June 1. We hope to hear from them soon regarding their experiences and prospects.

First News From Denning -

Atlanta, Georgia, June 1 - We leave here tomorrow morning for New Smyrna Beach - will be there thru the next week-end. Will be assigned to a state and will be in a rather permanent location then.

We will work in areas around war work, army camps, etc. no control, running traps, making surveys, determinations, etc. and will work thru the State Board of Health.

Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, North and South Carolina, Florida and New Jersey. Only 17 entomologists will be hired. Our group of 6 was the first bunch. Dodge is due tomorrow, 2 boys from Ames and one from Michigan are here besides we three. They expect us to use our cars on the work."

Allan Peterson, Philip Harden and Earl Pritchard have been asked by the Public Health Service if they will report at Atlanta, Georgia for anti-malaria work on June 16.

Gerhard Kretschmar has been in the Coast Guard Officers Training School at New London, Connecticut for several months and is expected to receive his commission there sometime in June. We hope we may hear from him before long.

Walter A. Connell is with the Medical Detachment, 176th Infantry (Rifle), Fort Myer, Virginia.

Ashley B. Gurney has been commissioned 1st Lieutenant in the Medical Corps and is now at Fort Crowder, Missouri.

The following letters have been received and will give you news regarding the alumni from whom we have heard: -

January 21, 1942. Letter received by Dr. Riley from Tamarath Knigin.

"Many months have passed since my last letter to you. It does not seem possible when I consider how often I think of you or postulate your reactions to this or that particular situation.

"I have so very much to tell you that I do not know just where to begin. I'll start with Trinidad. When I arrived there at the end of July I was greeted with the news that I could not proceed to British Guiana for some time because there was no place for me to live. The B. G. base was at that time a camp of six hundred men and no women (the old problem). As soon as the cable arrived announcing the completion of the woman's barracks I was sent down as the only woman passenger of the slowest ship I ever saw or hope to see. It took three and a half days to come down on the that sea snail and it took my fiance two hours to make the same trip by army bomber.

"While I was in Trinidad I met Dr. Rozeboom who was working in the laboratory at the Engineer Hospital. I went collecting with him a number of times. I remember some places where Anopheles bellator was so thick that the boots and britches I wore were grey with them."

"And now for B. G. Our camp is located on sand and we are surrounded by jungle. Tunga penetrans is one of our worst pests. Of necessity we have all become adept at extracting them - and nice neat holes they leave in ones feet, too. As soon as the wet season came on they almost disappeared and now that it's just about over they are reappearing in considerable numbers. The construction men who had started boasting so loudly that they had become immune to them are sheepishly returning to the hospital to have them removed again. For a period of a week at the height of the rainy season Culicoides were very bad but now they are only occasional. Strangely enough one of the most annoying pests is one that does not bite. It is a small fly about the size of and superficially resembling Drosophila. Although it does not bite I've seen them engorge themselves almost to the point of bursting on suppurations from cuts and sores or on blood that we've had exposed in drops on slides. They hover around so annoyingly that many people have acquired the habit of brushing their hands across their faces and ears and do it without any awareness of it. How funny it seems sometimes to walk into the mess hall and see so many people eating, carrying on their table conversations, and brushing their faces -- all at a once. Any newcomer would imagine that all have a peculiar nervous tic.

"Mosquitoes are not too bad and our malaria rate is quite low -- much lower than I had expected. A really fine plan of mosquito control is being executed.

"My fiance and I are working on a filaria survey. We have taken smears at midnight of over eleven hundred natives and have found a very high percentage of them positive. We are now busy with the identification of the microfilariae and with experimenting on stains. We have worked out one stain which is quite good and we are still trying others. We are waiting (not too patiently) for Colonel Fox to send us a dissecting microscope so that we can start working on the vector problem. We are also handicapped by a lack of a good key for Culicines including those of this region. Could you recommend one?

"We have also been identifying Anopheline adults and larvae for the Area Medical Director, Captain Bruce. The Arribalzagia, Stathomyia, and Nyssorhynchus groups are prevalent in this region. I identified one as A. intermedius a short while ago and we sent it to Shannon who is working

in Trinidad for the Rockefeller Foundation. He confirmed it so we have a new record -- a species that has not as yet been reported for any of the Guianas. I think the Captain will make a report on it.

"While, those, in the main, are the sum total of our activities besides doing malaria smears, blood counts, differentials, urine analysis, fecal examinations, dark field examinations for spirochaetes, G. C. smears, Kahn tests, and taking X-Ray pictures."

February 14, 1942 - Letter received by, Dr. Granovsky from Herbert C. Barnett.

"In my last letter to Dr. Riley, I wrote that I would probably leave for Africa in a short time. The night after I wrote that letter I received a telephone call from an officer stationed at the Surgeon General's Office, who was leaving for northwestern India and who asked me if I would care to accompany him. Unfortunately, he was leaving in three days, and I felt that it was too short notice to go. I expect to have a number of these calls coming up during the next few weeks and will have plenty of opportunity for service in the tropics.

"The work here has become increasingly interesting of late and I am rather loath to leave. At present I am back working on mosquito and malaria, from which I had been relieved a few weeks ago because of increased teaching duties. We have just received a number of canaries from Johns Hopkins that are infected with Plasmodium cathemerium, and I am infecting our Culex cultures with this parasite so that we can have infected mosquitoes for our class in dissection. Now my time is somewhat taxed since I have both the malaria-mosquito work and the teaching. Our course in tropical medicine is going to be considerably expanded and unless we have some additional men here I don't see how it's going to be physically possible for me to take care of all the work. However, it's all very interesting work and I'm quite convinced that I am stationed at the best post in the army. For the past few days Dr. Barber of the National Institute of Health has been visiting us. He is a very fine old gentleman and his experience with mosquitoes and malaria is a constant source of amazement to me. Unfortunately I do not know at present where I will be going, but I am almost convinced, that if I did, Dr. Barber would be able to give me the location of every water hole in the country.

"I have been rearing a cockroach that I found in our insectary, which will probably be of some interest to you. It is Supella supellectilium Serv., the brown-banded or tropical roach. So far as I know, there is only one paper on the biology, that being: Gould and Deay, "The Biology of Six Species of Cockroaches which Inhabit Buildings." Purdue Agr. Exp. Sta. Bull. No. 451, Sept. 1940. I think the biology of this cockroach would make a very interesting problem, especially since so little has been done with it, and I would be glad to send you a number of egg capsules if you would care to rear it or have some one work on it. I had planned out a number of experiments with this cockroach but since I will be leaving in a short time, this will be quite impossible. I found it only in our insectary and nowhere else in the building, until recently when I found a single male in our monkey room. How we got our original infestation, I am unable to say, but it had apparently been well established when I first came. I will send some pinned specimens of both sexes to Dr. Mickel, in case we do not have any material in the collection.

"My work with Oncopeltus had to be terminated when I came here because of the lack of facilities for such work. I am also somewhat ashamed to say that the matter of publications has also been the subject of much neglect, just as you predicted it would before I left. However, I will attempt to revise the paper in accordance with the suggestions of your last letter."

March 23, 1942 - Letter received by Dr. Mickel from Harry D. Pratt

"I am the only entomologist with the USPHS here in Puerto Rico and consequently see quite a bit of the island. I have been over much of the eastern two-thirds of the island, including the mountainous interior where roads really do twist and turn, and to some of the nearby islands like Vieques. For the most part my work is survey-work: trying to find what species of malarial mosquitoes are most abundant in a given army or naval reservation, making larval collections and breeding them out, mapping bad breeding places and potential breeding places when the rainy season comes in another month or two, getting together statistics on malaria death rate (it often is 150 or more per 100,000), and all this preliminary sort of work. This past week I have been doing time and cost studies on Paris green dusting schedules to determine how much money will be needed for the control projects in various parts of the island. It is all good experience. Some ideas and methods I can carry over from the Interstate Malaria Survey on the Mississippi. But I find the two months intensive training I had in Florida on mosquitoes, mosquito control, and plants found associated with mosquitoes even more valuable. The Anopheles of course are entirely different, but about half the pest mosquitoes including most of the common species of Aedes and Culex are the same as in Florida.

"I saw Cal Pederson for about 5 days on Vieques. He is doing good control work there in a very malarious district and has good co-workers: Hurlbut (who has done some of the good work on Anopheles walkeri and Lt. Weathersbee who has worked with Boyd in Florida, and worked on his own in South Carolina and Africa with the Rockefeller Foundation.

"I go collecting every Saturday with Dr. Hoffman of the School of Tropical Medicine. Altho he is badly cripple with infantile paralysis, he gets around in the field surprisingly well. We hope to get out a joint paper on the three Anopheles found in Puerto Rico. It is a marvelous opportunity for me to learn much about Puerto Rican mosquitoes (for he has been 15 years on the island), and also considerable about schistosomiasis and Culicoides, on both subjects of which he is considerable of a world's authority.

"Tell Peters I sympathise with him on writing his thesis, and give all the members of the department my best regards."

April 26, 1942 - Letter received by Dr. Haydak from John D. Hitchcock

"Thanks for your letter which was forwarded a number of times before reaching me. I passed my army physical examination in February at Fort Warren in Cheyenne, Wyo., was inducted March 25 at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, and was sent here April 14th for "basic training" in the Medical Training Battalion. Will probably be here about 12 weeks more. Then where no one knows.

"My stay at Leavenworth was rather miserable, but here we have comparatively routine duties and classes, together with considerable freedom in the evenings and on Sundays so it is not too bad. We live six in a tent and our group is made up of fine fellows, including a corporal who has been here since January and "knows the ropes", besides being an exceptionally nice fellow - a college graduate, whose home is in Little Rock, the state capitol about 7 miles from here.

"We get up at 5:30, stand reveille at 6:00, make beds and clean tents before breakfast at 6:30, have calisthenics at 7:15, then have 8 hours of classes or marching drill or hiking with an hour for lunch, then stand retreat at 5:30 and supper after that. Unless we have special duties, like K. P. (kitchen police) or fire guard details, we are free to do as we please after "retreat". There are 4 theatres, several new chapels, a large Service Club, and many recreation and reading rooms and "post exchange" stores at

the camp. There are Signal Corps, Infantry and other Battalions as well as Medical ones here, so this is quite a large camp. The "chow" tastes pretty good, though the "atmosphere" in the mess hall is not particularly appetizing at times.

May 8, 1942. Letter received by Dr. Mickel from Calvin Pederson.

"Life goes on in the same old manner here in Puerto Rico and there is no change in the climatic conditions or the vegetation which would suggest that we are having spring. This is supposed to be the rainy season, but after two weeks of rain during the last half of April it has been bright and clear every day and now we are eating dust again. So far I have found the weather conditions vary so little that at times I think it somewhat monotonous.

"When Dr. H. S. Hurlbut joined us in March, I moved over here to Ensenada and he remained at Vieques. Before I left there I had the self satisfaction of seeing the report of malaria cases in the camp come down to almost nil, and now Hurlbut has had three straight weeks of no cases reported. That has not hurt our popularity any -- but I do think we were rather lucky in getting there at exactly the right moment. As I have said before, conditions were perfect -- the situation could not get much worse and the dry season during Jan. and Feb. helped considerably in reducing the surface water. But don't think we didn't have our troubles and it would be a fair estimate when I say that 95% of them came up when we were trying to get cooperation from the various elements to whom we are responsible. But I guess that is the same old story everywhere.

"There has been little or no malaria here at Ensenada, well that is, among the people who live in camp. But when they picked this place for a naval reservation I don't see how they could have succeeded in picking a more likely malaria incubator. Nearly the whole area was breeding anophelines and the incidence of malaria amongst the native population was rather high. I believe that the quick removal of some of the nearest native squatters, and the fact that no camp was maintained for the native workers inside the base boundaries, had a lot to do with keeping it from getting a start. Most of our control here has been devoted to constructing drainage ditches and clearing bad areas.

"There was some talk a week or so ago that I would go to Trinidad soon. Hurlbut has been waiting for a call to St. Lucia and Antigua for a month or so. I don't know if this will mean that others will come in here to take our places or not. I hate to keep picking up my bags and moving all the time, but I do want to see as much new country as possible -- so here's hoping that I will be sent down sometime this summer.

"So far we have not been shelled or bombed, however, all the sinkings have made themselves felt with the falling off in our food supplies during the last week. Don't misunderstand me, we have plenty of food, but the quality has been so excellent up to this date that any little substitution makes many think that we are in for a hard summer."

May 10, 1942 - Letter received by Dr. Riley from Cpl. Edwin Dery.

"I have been finally attached to a Military Post which by no means is permanent. I completed my studies at Fort Belvoir after which I was transferred to Plattsburg Barracks.

"I reached this station on April 22 at which time, to my amazement I was put to work in an office. My battalion which is a water supply unit was just activated April 18. When I arrived here there were only 36 officers and men and the result was a lack of personnel. Finding out that I could type, file, and do other miscellaneous office work, the officer in command

appointed me battalion file clerk.

"My work is variable but more or less routine. This coming week, I am to get two more men to help me with the work. I am in charge of all mimeographing which amounts to a good deal. I file all battalion orders, correspondence and literature. I handle all official documents coming in and going out. I have been working many hours each day because the battalion is just in the process of organization. We are to get 400 newly inducted men which we must first train then teach water purification. When this program is completed we may be sent across.

"This camp is very small, being similar to Fort Snelling, It is situated on the shores of Lake Champlain just 65 miles south of Montreal and only 20 miles from the Canadian Border. There are snow-capped mountains on all sides."

May 13, 1942 - Letter received by Dr. Riley from Richard Daggy.

"Things certainly move fast in the Navy, or as I probably should say - the Marines! I no more than reported here to find that we are shoving off in a few days. Exactly when and where are military secrets I can't divulge. (I don't want to seem to smug - I don't know myself! Neither do any of the M.D.'s, but we do know we're going soon.) Perhaps by the time you receive this, we'll be well on our way - somewhere!

"I'm still a little breathless and not a little bewildered. The bewilderment is beginning to disappear - although it's still hard to realize that I've been here only a little over 24 hours.

"I had assumed, when first assigned here that I probably would be placed in the malaria control unit for training and then later sent with some group or to some post at a later date. Imagine my surprise to find myself with the Fleet Marine Force (M. M. F.) etc. (as above) and to be told that we're shoving off soon! Even the officers to whom I reported were surprised (so you can imagine the extent of mine!). I am with the First Medical Battalion and the only entomologist with the outfit.

"From what I can gather here, I'm lucky to be in such a crack outfit. Its special personnel (with the exception of the writer!) is supposed to be especially fine. They seem well equipped and evidently when they move, a large force goes with them.

"Living conditions, at least as far as the officers are concerned, seem very pleasant here. We have individual tents with wooden floors and a comfortable cot - no mosquito nets being necessary as yet. Excellent lavatory facilities are available in a nearby building. Meals are served cafeteria style in an officers mess and these have been excellent so far. So excellent that I'm beginning to worry about weight, (I'll bet Dr. Mickel chuckles at this!) again. Dieting and hiking over salt marshes brought me down to 190 lbs. for my last physical exam. (202 at Christmas time), but I'll have to use will power now - especially with Cafeteria style! !

"The nightly Marine band concert has just begun and can be heard all over the camp. Every evening, just after dark, movies are shown on a huge outdoor screen. A lot of other recreational privileges are given the enlisted men but so far I haven't had time to explore them all. Will walk down to the P. O. and be back in time for the first show!"

Additional news regarding Richard Daggy

Mrs. Daggy called the Entomology Office on June 2 stating that she had just received a letter from Richard, dated May 24 somewhere on the High Seas. Richard would like to hear from any of the boys. His address will be found on the last sheet of this News Letter.

May 21, 1942 - Letter received by Dr. Riley from Albert Buzicky

"Upon leaving Fort Snelling I was put in charge of our group en route to Camp. Of course the mere fact that there were only two of us should not have detracted from the honor. Our entry into Camp Barkeley was accompanied by a severe dust storm which drove sand into our eyes, nose, ears, mouth and all our belongings. After leaving our beautiful Minnesota spring my reaction to the country can be imagined. However, the dust was settled last Monday by a 4 hour torrential downpour that all but floated off the camp. We have been wallowing in mud since. In spite of these little shortcomings I like it here quite well.

"We live in pyramidal tents having wooden floor and walls with screen sides. Each tent is heated with a stove burning natural gas of which there seems to be a great amount in Texas.

"There is one captain and 4 lieutenants in the officer personnel of our company - all very fine men. The cadre is composed of about 12 corporals and 2 sergeants. The M.R.T.C. trains medical soldiers and to any one of college grade the classwork is very simple but seems quite hard for some. It seems to me that any one with a biological background stands a very good chance of getting a good place in some branch of the Medical Corps. I see a multiplicity of possible openings ahead in this corps - especially in teaching these M.R.T.C. courses as the doctors and dentists now teaching are urgently needed on war fronts. We are a non-tactical unit and receive no training with any arms - which in my case I sincerely regret. When I have more time later I will write more concerning our training."

News regarding Dr. William Jellison and Frank Fisk

"Calcutta - (AP) - Fifteen doctors and scientists of the United States Public Health Service mission who directed malaria control and sanitation for approximately 200,000 workers on the Yunnan-Burma railway have escaped from territory overrun by the Japanese and are awaiting reassignment in India.

"The mission headed by Lt. Col. V. H. Hass of Memphis, Tenn., had been working since October on the southernmost 300 miles of the 700-mile route which was to link Kunming with Lashio to speed defense supplies to China.

"The fall of Rangoon prevented the delivery of rails which were to be laid this fall. The first 300 miles were to be constructed with American lend-lease aid, the remainder financed by the Chinese government, partly from donations of Chinese in the United States.

"Dr. William Jellison of Hamilton, Montana and Harry A. Johnson sanitary engineer of Memphis, saved \$5,000 worth of microscopes and other, scientific apparatus when they left Yun Hsien and made a cross-country trek by mule, horse, and train.

"At Kunming, eleven American employes of the Central Aviation Manufacturing Co.'s plant at Loiwing, arrived safely. Buzz Shoemaker, Texas Oil Co., employe was the only American reported as probably captured by the Japanese in Northern Burma."

Addresses

Pvt. Herbert C. Barnett, Army Medical Center, Department of Parasitology, Army Medical School, Washington, D. C.

Pvt. Albert W. Buzicky, Co. B. 55th Btn., M.R.T.C. (Plt. 2), Camp Barkeley, Texas.

Pvt. Walter A. Connell, Medical Detachment, 176th Infantry (Rifle,) Fort Myer, Virginia.

Ensign Richard H. Daggy, U. S. Marine Corps Unit 195, C/o Post Master, San Francisco, Calif.

Dr. Donald Denning, C/o Dr. L. L. Williams, 605 Volunteer Building, Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Rodney H. Dodge, C/o Dr. L. L. Williams, 605 Volunteer Building, Atlanta, Georgia.

Cpl. Edwin Dery, H. & S. Co., 401st Engr. Bn. (WS), Plattsburg Barracks, N. Y. U. S. Army.

1st Lieutenant Ashley Gurney, Medical Corps, Fort Crowder, Missouri.

Pvt. John D. Hitchcock, Company B, 103d Med. Tng. Bn., 2nd Platoon, U. S. Army, Camp Robinson, Arkansas.

Miss Tamarath Knigin, U. S. Engineer Hospital, A. P. O. 803, In transit for A. P. O. 807, Trinidad, B. W. I.

Pvt. Gerhard Kretzschmar, U. S. Coast Guard Academy, Reserve Officers' Training Course, New London, Conn.

Mr. H. Page Nicholson, C/o Dr. L. L. Williams, 605 Volunteer Building, Atlanta, Georgia.

Ensign Calvin Pederson, Ensenada Honda, Puerto Rico.

Dr. Harold T. Peters, C/o Dr. L. L. Williams, 605 Volunteer Building, Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Harry D. Pratt, U. S. Public Health Service, District No. 6, San Juan, Puerto Rico.