

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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ANTI - MALARIA
JULY 1943

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SUBJECT: -- Anti-Malarial Measures

2012A

12 JUL 43

Distribution List 'B'

1. A recent tour of the L of C by the ADL L of C has indicated that, although there have as yet been few cases of malaria in this Area, an alarmingly high proportion of cases have occurred in other Areas, in one of which there have been as many as 60 cases in one camp during the month of June 43.
2. The report showed that in the units affected malaria precautions were being largely neglected - mosquito nets were not being properly maintained and used, anti-mosquito cream had not been used and the precautions as to clothing after dark were not being observed. Further, many of the men were not taking mepaquine regularly.
3. The GOC L of C is very much disturbed at the position and has directed that the following points be brought to the attention of all commanding officers.
4. The prevention of malaria is primarily dependent on good unit discipline. If the measures laid down in the pamphlet Anti-Malaria Campaign RNAR are enforced, the incidence of malaria will be reduced to a reasonable level. In spite of protective measures, cases of malaria will undoubtedly occur. Because of the protective measures, however, the number of cases will not only be very much smaller, but those that do occur will be very much less severe. It cannot be too strongly impressed on all ranks that, unless we do comply with the orders on the subject, malaria will increase to such alarming proportions that, apart from the suffering of individuals, there may well be very serious repercussions on our operations. By the conscientious carrying out of protective measures, malaria will be kept very low. The fact that there may still be cases of malaria must not be allowed to be taken as an excuse for showing the failure of our measures. Sensible propaganda in this direction will be necessary.
5. The responsibilities of the OC unit are laid down fully in Section IV of the pamphlet, and it is the OC unit's duty to ensure that they are carried out by sub-unit commanders, both officers and NCOs.

(a) Mepaquine will be taken under the supervision of an officer, who will ensure that each man takes the correct quantity.

(b) Mosquito nets will be issued personally to all ranks in the same way as blankets. They will be frequently inspected to see they have no holes, and any holes found mended immediately. The orderly officer, warrant officer or NCO will visit billets, tents and bivouacs every night and ensure that nets are correctly adjusted.

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(c) Disciplinary action will be taken against men who are improperly dressed after sunset.

(d) The use of anti-mosquito cream by ranks on night duty or night operations will be rigidly enforced.

6. Owing to the initial ill effects of Mepacrine on some men, ³⁵⁸ are inclined to stress its ill effects in the presence of other ranks. This must be stopped. In very few cases are men completely intolerant to the taking of Mepacrine and it must be impressed on all ranks that, though in some cases the effects of early doses are unpleasant, these effects will soon cease if Mepacrine is taken regularly.

7. The attention of all commanding officers is drawn to their responsibilities in respect of Anti-Malaria Control Measures as laid down in Section III of the pamphlet.

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8. I am at present more than satisfied with the result of the campaign against malaria in this Area but I wish to impress on all commanding officers that the malaria danger is as great in this Area as in all other Areas in that the slightest relaxation of unit discipline will inevitably result in most serious consequences. The period of greatest danger is now approaching and I call upon all commanding officers for a special effort to see that our good record is maintained.

9. Attention is again directed to Algiers Area Administrative Instruction No. 1, minor amendments to which are circulated with this letter.

10. The following are attached as appendices to this order:-

App "A" - Order by Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell on Malaria.

App "B" - Specimen unit order issued in AFMA Coy orders which can serve as a guide for Unit Comds.

App "C" - Minor amendments to Algiers Area Administration Instruction No. 1.

Brigadier.
Comd. ALGIERS AREA.

APPENDIX "A"

That the highest authorities fully appreciate the importance of the medical aspects of modern warfare is shown in the following recent India Army Order by Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell.

"In theatres where future operations are likely to take place we may well find that disease, and especially malaria, is a more dangerous factor than enemy resistance. We have already had experience of the effects of a bad malarial season in Assam.

We must prepare to meet malaria by training as strict and earnest as against enemy troops; we must be as practised in the use of our weapons against it - the mosquito net, long sleeves and trousers, flit guns - as we are with the rifle; we must study the habits of the mosquito as we

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"We must prepare to meet malaria by training as strict and earnest as against enemy troops; we must be as practised in the use of our weapons against it - the mosquito net, long sleeves and trousers, Flit gun - as we are with the rifle; we must study the habits of the mosquito as we do the tactics of the Japanese; we must know methods of anti-mosquito work - canalization, oiling, etc., as well as how to construct trenches to hold a position".

At the same time it must be emphasized that the most potent weapon against malaria is suppressive mepracrine. Provided mepracrine is conscientiously and regularly taken by all troops as prescribed in the War Office pamphlet "Malaria, 1943", page 2, the disease is not likely to develop.

It is the duty of those in authority to ensure that the tablets of mepracrine are taken on the correct days of the week. This measure should take first place in the fight to prevent decimation of our troops by malaria in hyperendemic areas.

APPENDIX BANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN

1. It has been laid down as an ORDER that, to enable the body to be protected against the germs of Malaria carried by the mosquito, Atebrin (Mepacrine) tablets MUST be taken in certain prescribed doses.
2. The original dose consisted of 2 tablets at a time twice a week, but this has been altered to ONE tablet per man FOUR days a week.
3. At all times manpower is of vital importance and no method that will avoid its dissipation can be overlooked.
4. Malaria is a disease which spreads very rapidly, and every infected soldier is a potential danger to those around him.
5. Atebrin (Mepacrine) has a very powerful preventive effect and in all but a few exceptional cases will give complete protection against malaria IF TAKEN REGULARLY. Bodily intolerance to the drug can be overcome with perseverance and determination, and the smaller but more frequent doses prescribed produce the regularity of intake to the body which gives it the desired protection.
6. ALL ranks are, therefore, reminded that in conformity with G.O. 13/234/43 one tablet of Atebrin (Mepacrine) per man WILL BE TAKEN on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays of each week on a full stomach and with plenty of fluid.
Tablets will, therefore, be issued and taken by CRs at the tea meal on those days.
7. There is a very small number of individuals (not more than 1%) who suffer a constant and severe reaction to the medicine. For such individuals, Medical Officers are authorised to issue a certificate of Atebrin Intolerance which should be endorsed in A5439 or A364. Such a certificate will, however, only be given after exhaustive trial having been made by the individual concerned under supervision of the certifying Medical Officer.
- Any soldier who, is not exempted as indicated above, disobeys this order endangers his own health and is a menace to his comrades and, moreover, is liable to disciplinary action.
8. It is the duty and responsibility of all ranks to keep themselves fighting fit. Malaria will reduce an army to impotence but the taking of Atebrin (Mepacrine) REGULARLY will prevent such a disaster.

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C. ALL ranks are, therefore, reminded that in conformity with GRO 48/234/43 one tablet of Atebrin (Mepacrine) per man WILL BE TAKEN on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays of each week on a full stomach and with plenty of fluid.

Tablets will, therefore, be issued and taken by ORs at the tea meal on those days.

7. There is a very small number of individuals (not more than 1%) who suffer a constant and severe reaction to the medicine. For such individuals, Medical Officers are authorised to issue a certificate of Atebrin Intolerance which should be endorsed in ARU59 or AR64. Such a certificate will, however, only be given after exhaustive trial having been made by the individual concerned under supervision of the certifying Medical Officer.

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APPENDIX "C"

Delete paras 11 and 12 of Admin. Instruction No. 1 and substitute the following:-

11. General supervision of anti-malarial work in the area will be carried out by 11th Malaria Survey Unit, U.S. Army and 14 Ed. Hygiene Section. The former unit will be responsible for areas adjacent to American units and the latter for areas in the vicinity of British units. Complete co-ordination of work will be ensured by conferences of the Os. C twice weekly. In addition a British Anti-Malaria Officer has been appointed and is attached to 14 Ed. Hygiene Section. The location and telephone number of this section is Ecole de Deux Moulins, St. NUGEME. Tel. Algiers 27338.

12. Malarial Control Detachment 2655, U.S. Army is working in collaboration with 11th Malaria Survey Unit and 30 Malaria Control Unit is attached to 14 Ed. Hygiene Section. Each of these units controls the work of 6 anti-malarial Native Labour Sections in the area. 30 Malarial Control Unit will work under the direction of the Anti-Malaria Officer who is responsible to O.C. 14 Ed. Hygiene Section.

Para 17. Delete GRO No 104/43 and subs route GRO No 291/43.

Para 22. Delete from the words "the app to" to end of para and substitute the words "app "E" to the Pamphlet Anti-Malaria Campaign. ENAF - Amended and Revised Edition".

Para 25. Delete the words "and on the Model Order given in the Supplement to the Pamphlet Anti-Malarial Campaign in ENAF".

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