

An Excerpt From an Article
"U. S. Air-Route Bases in Africa
Give American Tinge to Wilds"

From the New York Herald Tribune

October 11, 1942

Buildings in the camp are of concrete-block construction, screened and with screen porches. Some of the personnel are quartered in tents, but every one sleeps under a mosquito net. Although this camp is in a malarial section and on the edge of a tsetse fly belt, health conditions are good. There is a water purifying system; food is prepared under strict medical supervision, and forty miles of ditches have been dug to drain off water which otherwise would provide breeding places for malaria mosquitoes.

During the day time the personnel wear either shorts or long trousers, shirts and sun helmets. In the evening each man puts on his mosquito boots and long trousers. The mosquito boots are of light leather and reach up over the calves. Mosquitoes in this section are active at night and are said to remain close to the ground, hence the boots. Each man takes his five grains of quinine daily. There is a bottle of quinine tablets on each table in the mess halls, and most seem to prefer to take it with the evening meal.

Englishmen in this country, who look upon an occasional attack of malaria as a matter of course, are surprised at the elaborate health precautions of the Americans. When engineers began work on the route last fall, one out of three men came down with malaria. Now it has been reduced to hardly more than 1 per cent in the periodic check-ups.