

PERSONAL NOTES

Extract of a letter from Lt. J. G. Ransford Hemmings U. S. Naval Reserve formerly with the Nassau County Mosquito Extermination Commission. He was on duty in the Mediterranean Area but has recently returned to this country and is now located at Malaria Control Laboratory Hadnot Point, Camp Lejeune, New River, N. C.

"You will no doubt be surprised to know of my being back in the States. I can't explain exactly without running the risk of giving out something restricted so I will just say it was decided our work there no longer required the same number of men and it appeared they could be used more effectively in another place.

Five officers and four men were relieved in October and brought back. Two officers and two men were left to maintain the work along with the Seabees assigned to malaria work at that station. Two of the officers were sent to Bethesda for instruction, one to an air station, while with my outfit I reported to this Marine Corps training base on December 1st after enjoying some leave at home. We have been told there were to be some men added to the team and that after they have had the necessary training here that we can expect to go out again. We are supposed to be in the States six months for a rest and so on but I have already landed in the hospital here with a heavy cold, while over in Africa I believe I was the only man in our division who did not miss a day's duty. The climate surely seemed to agree with me for I weighed 201 when I landed in New York.

We left our base in a large bomber on October 28th and flew south to a point on the west coast of Africa which I won't name. It was real jungle country, I will say, and the temperature was something hard to believe unless one had experienced it. Next day we flew across the Atlantic, crossing the Equator and landing at a point in Brazil. It was hot there too though, not so uncomfortable as in the last place. We left there the next morning and flew along the Mahogany country till we came to the Amazon, landing in the southern mouth. Still hot. In fact this was almost under the Equator. Our stop that night was in Trinidad which I believe to be the most beautiful of all the places we saw. We left there the next morning and after stopping at San Juan, Puerto Rico, reached Bermuda that night. It was there I began to notice a slight cooling of the air. It was a little rough the next morning when we took off and grew cooler all the way to LaGuardia Field. It wasn't such a change as I expected however, somehow. I secured a place on a plane to Boston and was at my wife's home by three the next morning."