

factor. They are of course almost exclusively the domestic species and consist largely of *Culex Pipiens* and *Aedes Aegypti*, the latter first appearing here this year in outdoor locations on June 8, rather earlier than usual. As a point of interest, our heaviest percentage of breeding in units inspected occurred in the fast disappearing but still worrisome watering troughs and these were followed by basements and then the garden fish ponds.

No, we cannot blame the layman for assuming that we and the mosquitoes have gone on a vacation during the drought. We have spent a good deal of effort in associating water and mosquitoes in his mind and it is not his fault that he does not know how to look for water that he cannot see. Perhaps for our own vindication and self-preservation we should carry our publicity a little further and get the rest of the story out in the open where it can save our reputation as well as lighten our task. We are working on that now.

PERRY W. RUTH, Chief,
Bureau of Mosquito Control,
Department of Public Works.

DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION COMMISSION

At the request of the County Commissioners of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Sanitary Engineer (R) Russell W. Gies of the United States Public Health Service, Office of Malaria Control in War areas, has been assigned as Acting Executive Officer of the Delaware County Mosquito Extermination Commission, as well as Director of Mosquito Control work in the City of Philadelphia. Major Gies has been assisting the City of Philadelphia since the beginning of the 1943 mosquito breeding season, working with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the Philadelphia Department of Public Works at the request of the Mayor of Philadelphia. His Philadelphia address is Room 616 City Hall Annex, and his Delaware County address is the Court House, Media, Pa.

The Philadelphia-Delaware County area covers the second largest War Industrial area in the United States with a total population of two and one-half million people. The large War Industries have had a considerable reduction in their War production output in past years on account of the excessive number of mosquitoes and it was to help in reducing the number of mosquitoes below the point at which they would adversely affect War production, that this co-operative effort between the Federal Government and the local authorities was undertaken. In addition, considerable numbers of Army and Navy personnel are being returned to Philadelphia for treatment from the tropics many of whom are malaria carriers. The Armed services are cooperating with the mosquito control work under Major Gies' direction by furnishing personnel to assist the inspection personnel of the City of Philadelphia and Delaware County in locating mosquito breeding areas, especially in the vicinity of the service Hospitals in the area. This co-operative effort is also providing an opportunity for field training of the Army and Navy personnel assigned for this co-operative work. The Malaria Control offices of the Philadelphia Naval Hospital especially are taking great interest in the work being carried on under the direct orders of the Commanding Officer of the Naval Hospital.

A number of unusual conditions in the Philadelphia-Delaware County area, which will be described more in detail in a later issue of Mosquito News, have contributed toward the large number of mosquitoes in this area. The work which is being carried on is beginning to get good results from most of the area, but considerably better results will be obtained as additional equipment and manpower is made available for doing this work. In Philadelphia Dr. Rufus Reeves, Director of Public Health, is taking much

interest in the work being done, which is handled through the Division of Housing and Sanitation, chief of which is Mr. Herbert M. Packer. The Department of Public Works, under Director John Neeson operates through the Highway Bureau through the Meadowbanks Division of the Highway Bureau under the direction of Mr. William Doherty, Principal Assistant Engineer of the Highway Bureau. In Delaware County, Mr. Clarence L. Conner, Chairman of the County Commissioners, is providing some prison labor due to the labor shortage for spraying and ditching. A co-operative Committee, representing the top management of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, Baldwin Locomotive Works, Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Company and General Steel Castings Company has provided a great deal of help in carrying on the program. Dr. Robert M. Stabler, Assistant Executive Officers and Entomologist in Delaware County, is working on a full time basis during the summer and part time during the rest of the year while he is teaching at the University of Pennsylvania as Professor of Parasitology.

From MAJOR RUSSELL W. GIES.

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A LETTER FROM NEW GUINEA

From Lieutenant Walter Abramitis to Major Russell W. Gies

24 June 1944
New Guinea
APO No. 713, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco.
ASN 0521028

Dear Major Gies:

It has been a long time between letters; however, now that we are more static, I thought I would write you.

By this time I have visited a number of places in New Guinea and at last look forward to staying longer. Packing and unpacking, waiting and travel is a hardship with plenty of rough living and poor food. People that try "C" rations once proclaim its goodness, but a steady diet of it proves otherwise. I'm still not used to eating hash, stew and beans for breakfast! Yet, I've had to eat it on many occasions. "C" rations, bully beef, dehydrated vegetables and canned fruit are the staples here. Whenever we get "fresh" meat or vegetables it is a rare treat. Dietitians who claim dehydrated foods will have a prominent place in the "food for tomorrow" are speaking through their hats -- only the destitute will even consider it.

Many erroneous ideas of the tropics have been disseminated by novels, articles and even explorers — Perhaps it is a jealousy to keep it sounding uninhabitable, mystic, etc. I have found the tropical climate very agreeable. The hot days are easily offset by the pleasantly cool nights that require a blanket or two to keep warm. When it rains it becomes cool also. We have about 190 inches of rain a year so that we do get rain. Much of it falls at night so that by morning it is nearly dry. Wild animals are not near as frequent in the jungles as one is led to believe. In four months, I've only come across two pythons, one 11 feet and the other 8 feet, wild pigs are common, birds rather abundant. However, many times I've tramped the jungles without running across anything significant.

Our present setup is almost ideal. We have wooden floors in our tents and a well constructed and screened-in laboratory in which to perform our work. Literature on Culicines has been scarce and for sometime not able to identify anything other than Anophelines. Fortunately the Aussies have helped us tremendously by giving us a Culicine larval key — it is a very good one at that.