

## Mosquitoes In Bomb Craters

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"You see the bomb craters of last winter and early spring would hardly be likely to contribute to mosquito breeding the following summer. For one thing the food content of the water would be practically nil, except, for perhaps the species Culex pipiens. But now the craters have held water for about a year and, presumably, many of them will be rich in the food essential to larvae. I have a large number of craters under observation but at the moment the effect of the very cold weather of the previous months has prevented eggs hatching and those species which hibernate as fertilized adults have not yet ventured from their resting places.

"What I am expecting to find is that, providing a species is indigenous in an area, their numbers will increase according to the additionally breeding grounds available. For example, in thickly wooded country in the south of England, the species Aedes (Schlerotatus) cantans is very common and I have never found larvae in ponds in open country. Therefore, where bomb craters have been made in woods, extra breeding space is available and last summer this species will probably have made good use of them, but as the eggs of the previous summer do not hatch until the following spring, we shall not know the results until about the end of March or early in April. Conversely, where bomb craters have appeared in open country, on heaths and commons, we may expect an increase of such species as annulipes and other species of similar habits. But I will certainly write to you again and give you any information I am able to collect.

"You see, during last winter's fairly heavy raids, Jerry used to come over with the intention of hitting something worth while but from what I saw of it, once he was pursued, or if old iron got too close to his tail to be comfortable, he used to drop his bombs and turn about. I saw this happen on many occasions, especially around London. Sometimes when the A. A. barrage on the outskirts of London was particularly severe, they would attempt to find an opening, fail, retreat, try again, fail and then give it up, drop their stuff and make off. We were so convinced of this that often we would take cover when we heard planes hovering overhead for any length of time and ignore those which were passing overhead. It was on such occasions that the countryside became riddled with craters."

(Contributed by Harold F. Gray, Eng'r.  
Alameda Co. Mosquito Abatement Dist.  
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