OBITUARY

Colonel Stanley Jennings Carpenter
1904–1984

Colonel Stanley J. Carpenter died after an extended illness in Santa Rosa, California, on August 28, 1984.
Colonel Carpenter was born in West Liberty, Kentucky, on December 9, 1904. In 1926, he graduated as Valedictorian from the Hazel Green Academy, a Christian Church High School. He attended Milligan College in Johnson City, Tennessee, as a scholarship student and graduated with a B. S. in Biology in 1930. He obtained a Master's Degree in Zoology and Entomology in 1931 at the University of Tennessee and then returned to Milligan College where he served as an instructor for one year. He pursued graduate studies toward a Doctoral Degree in Entomology at Ohio State University in 1932 and 1933. Following this, he served on the faculty of Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas, and was Head of the Biology Department from 1934–1937. From 1937 to 1941 he was the Entomologist for the Arkansas State Health Department at Little Rock.

In 1941, he received a commission as an officer in the U. S. Army Sanitary Corps. He was immediately called to active duty as the Entomologist at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. Early in 1942, he was sent to the Middle East where he was assigned to mosquito control work in Kuwait, Iraq and Iran.

Late in 1942, he returned to the U.S. as Head of Entomology for the 4th Service Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia. While there he taught Mosquito Identification to classes of Commissioned Army Entomologists from various installations in the 4th Service Command. Most of these officers were sent overseas where they served assignments during World War II in both the European and Pacific Theaters. He left the service at the end of the war and in 1946–47 was an Entomologist for the National Biscuit Company with headquarters in New York City.

He returned to the Service in 1947, and accepted a regular Army Commission as Major, first serving as Entomologist at the 2nd Army Medical Laboratory at Fort Meade, Maryland.

In 1948, he was ordered to the Panama Canal as Entomologist in charge of Malaria Control for the Caribbean Command. Here his regular duty assignment was the Command Officer of a Malarial Survey Unit in charge of more than 100 mosquito control workers in the Canal Zone.

Soon after arriving, a small outbreak of yellow fever occurred near the Canal Zone. This resulted in a detailed study of forest mosquitoes in Panama and Costa Rica. He was joined in this effort by Dr. Pedro Galindo, Pan-American Entomologist and Dr. Harold Trapido, of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory.

In 1951, he returned to the U. S. and was sent to the 9th Service Command Medical Laboratory at Fort Baker, California, where he served a 3-year tour of duty. At the completion of this duty he was sent to Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D. C., an assignment which lasted 2½ years. In January 1957, he was transferred to the Pentagon where he served on a board of field grade officers who reviewed and selected regular Army officers from lists of applicants to Reserve Officers. He was transferred back to the Fort Baker Medical Laboratory in July of 1957, where he remained until his retirement in 1960.

He immediately began part-time work for the California State Health Department where for the next 12 years he was engaged in studies of snowpool Aedes mosquitoes. Most of the work was in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, and resulted in a series of important publications of the biology, ecology and distribution of these species.

During his long and distinguished career, Colonel Carpenter was the author of 80 scientific publications covering mainly various aspects of mosquito science with the greatest emphasis on medically important species, including identification and control. His monograph on the Mosquitoes of North America published in 1955,
with reprint editions in 1974 and 1979, was the first truly authoritative work on these species and has remained an indispensable reference ever since.

In 1981 Colonel Carpenter received the AMCA Medal of Honor. This, the highest award of the American Mosquito Control Association, was given in recognition of his long and distinguished career during which he made many important contributions to our knowledge of tropical and temperate mosquito fauna. In 1984, he was honored by the California Mosquito and Vector Control Association with a Resolution recognizing his many accomplishments.

At the time of his death, Col. Carpenter lived with his wife, Lorelie, in Oakmont, an adult community in Santa Rosa, California. He is also survived by a son, Dr. Stanley Barton Carpenter, Head of the Forestry Department at Oklahoma State University, his wife, Carol Jane, and two grandsons, David and Carl.

Stan Carpenter was a gentleman's gentleman. He was a soft spoken man, but a very effective leader. His fairness and honesty in dealing with people earned him a legion of loyal friends who admired, respected and loved him. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

He received a simple, private, military service at graveside which I am sure would have pleased him greatly for he was a patriotic man who loved and served his country well, but never sought the limelight.

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CORRECTION


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