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FORT MONMOUTH SIGNAL LABORATORY  
FORT MONMOUTH, N. J.  
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

HISTORICAL REPORT AND STATISTICS - MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, S.C.L.

Under the Laboratory Administrative Division, the Medical Section was established on April 20, 1942 (Memo #87 - SCGDL) with Headquarters at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. In an attempt to render medical service to all Laboratories under the jurisdiction of the Signal Corps General Development Laboratory, the following additional infirmaries were established:

Eatontown Infirmery - - - - - June 1942.  
Steinbach Infirmery - - - - - July 1942.  
Civilian Training Infirmery - - - - - Aug 1942.  
Camp Coles Infirmery - - - - - Aug 1942.

In January 1943, as a result of the merging of the Signal Corps General Development Laboratory and the Radar Group, additional medical units, the Camp Evans Infirmery and those of areas attached to the Radar Laboratories, were brought under the supervision of the Medical Director, Signal Corps Laboratories.

Since War Department Circular #211, Sec. 3, dated Oct. 8, 1941 placed the Medical Service in all Army-operated industrial plants under the Service Command, in April 1943, the Industrial Medical Division was transferred to the Second Service Command as authorized, to be supervised by the Director, Surgical Division, Post Hospital, Fort Monmouth, N. J. Another infirmery was added at this time located at the Red Bank Standards Agency.

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an attempt to improve the general welfare of civilian employees in Army-operated Industrial Plants and to maintain sanitary and healthful working conditions and to aid the government worker in producing efficiently and to full working capacity, it carried out the following program:

In accordance with War Department policy of medical service to civilian employees of Army-operated Industrial Plants, annual periodic medical examinations of all employees were conducted during the year with a view to helping them improve and maintain health through the discovery and correction of ailments which they may not be aware of, but which later might impair their health seriously. The examination conducted was similar to that of the pre-employment.

Because of the rapid expansion of the Signal Corps Laboratories, and with the approval of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, pre-employment examinations were conducted by the private physicians of the applicants prior to April 1943, making it impossible for the Industrial Medical Division to supervise those examinations properly. Pre-employment examinations were conducted throughout this year with a view to placing the employee in the position to which he or she is best suited. Examinations consisted of complete medical and surgical history, complete physical examination, test of eyesight and hearing, blood pressure reading, blood test for syphilis, X-ray pictures of the chest to detect tuberculosis especially of applicants whose physical examination suggested the possibility to tuberculosis.

During the year, many employees of the Signal Corps Laboratories, conducting research and development work, and sent to various parts of

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the world, were inoculated against cholera, typhoid, and tetanus, thus insuring their health while on travel duty. Those sent to Arctic regions were given thorough physical examinations to determine their fitness for this type of work. In addition, those employees desiring immunization against small pox were vaccinated.

In January 1943, the Medical Department assisted in establishing a Medical Unit at the Vail Dormitories for the purpose of caring for civilian employees temporarily housed there. The infirmary and medical staff provided by the U. S. Public Health Service, were supervised by the Medical Director, and instructions given as to the isolation and treatment of patients with communicable and contagious diseases, the maintenance of sanitary living conditions, etc.

In June 1943, in conjunction with the U. S. Public Health Service, a chest X-ray survey was made of all laboratory employees in order to detect those having evidence of tuberculosis infection, and 11,000 were X-rayed. Positive findings were reported to the local health officials and action taken accordingly.

As part of our educational program, the Security Section and the Sector Air Raid Wardens were instructed by medical personnel in first aid work. First aiders were then assigned to the various sections to exercise their function in the advent of an emergency should a doctor or nurse not be available.

In May 1943, a course in Industrial Nursing was presented at the Monmouth Memorial Hospital by the Rutgers University Extension Division under the direction of Dr. Carlisle and was attended by all nurses of the Signal Corps Laboratories. This course served to better acquaint

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medical personnel with industrial medical problems and their proper solution.

With an aim to insuring the health of the employee, weekly inspections were made of the cafeterias with attention directed to the maintenance of proper sanitary conditions. Food handlers were periodically examined for any indication of disease. Tests were also made weekly of all water supply systems of the Laboratories and any deficiencies noted and corrected.

Supervision was made of plant hygiene, waste disposal, ventilation, lighting, noise and vibration control and housekeeping with a view to the prevention of injuries and illnesses of employees.

The Medical Department has attempted to decrease the number of accidents sustained by employees in the performance of duty by recommending protective measures and cooperating with the safety program. Progress along this line is evidenced by the fact that industrial disability frequency rates are now at a low level.

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