



MEDICINE

Yellow Fever Vaccination Of Army Extends Procedure

Was Started in February Last Year Among Troops
Stationed in Caribbean Area; Now Given Whole Army

ANTI-yellow fever vaccination of the entire American Army, announced by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, is an extension of vaccination started a year ago and follows established Army medical custom of beginning such a procedure in only part of the troops, according to information from the office of the Surgeon General.

When vaccinations against typhoid fever were first started in the Army, only 20% of the troops were vaccinated during the first year. The following year 30% were vaccinated, but not until the third year was vaccination extended to the entire Army. The same custom was followed in toxoid inoculations to protect the men against tetanus (lockjaw) infection in wounds.

Vaccinations against yellow fever were started in the middle of February, 1941, among troops stationed in the Caribbean area who might be exposed to the disease, and among the G.H.Q. air force. Vaccination of the entire Army against yellow fever was contemplated at that time, but because the United States was not then at war, it was not considered necessary to do the much bigger

job of vaccinating all men and officers.

The outbreak of war, which meant that troops might have to be sent anywhere on short notice, without time for vaccinations if they were destined to go to yellow fever regions, led to the decision to vaccinate the entire Army as part of the general plan to protect it as far as possible against any disease that might be encountered anywhere.

In accordance with this plan, vaccinations against plague, cholera and typhus fever, although not as certainly protective as the yellow fever vaccinations, have already been ordered for any troops likely to be sent to regions where those diseases are prevalent.

The yellow fever vaccination order is a further indication of the highly efficient planning and preparation of the medical branch of the Army which was responsible for remarkable life-saving achievements in the Pearl Harbor attack. It marks another first for the American Army which is not only the first to be completely vaccinated against yellow fever but was the first Army in the world in which vaccination against typhoid fever was compulsory.

Yellow fever at present exists in South America and Africa, but because of extensive plane travel these days, there is danger of its spreading swiftly to India and the South Sea Islands. To fight this danger, quarantine supervision of plane travellers and disinfection of planes from yellow fever areas, to destroy any yellow-fever-carrying mosquitoes that might have stowed away on the planes, is practiced. Under war conditions, however, such measures might break down, allowing the spread of yellow fever to regions now free of it.

The Army is not taking any chances on having the men caught unprotected against it anywhere.

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POPULATION

WPA Guidebooks Help Search for Birth Records

IF YOU need a copy of your birth certificate for military service or a job in a war industry, you may find help in the Guide to Public Vital Statistics for your state, published by the Works Projects Administration.

These guides have been published for 21 states and the remaining state guides are scheduled for completion by April 1.

The Guides to Vital Statistics show where the birth records are listed in each county, city or town of a particular state, and the fee charged for the service.

When official public records of a birth are missing, church records which give dates of births and baptisms may be required. WPA is also publishing Guides to Church Vital Statistics to supplement the Guides to Public Vital Statistics. They list pertinent records of churches, giving names of churches, mailing addresses, dates of records and types of records kept. Church guides for the States of Washington, New Jersey and Wisconsin are published and work is now being rushed for a majority of the other states.

Copies of the guides containing birth certificate information published by the WPA are being distributed to State Departments of Health, Vital Statistics Bureaus, the Bureau of Census and to the libraries of the War and Navy Departments. They can be had by industries, recruiting officers, Selective Service boards and other official agencies by writing the WPA administrator of a particular State, or to the Washington Headquarters of the Historical Records Survey of the WPA.

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