

was furnished by CDC when a request was made for such an officer to serve as Medical Officer at Camp Wallace, which was used as a camp for evacuees.

It was immediately apparent that the most imminent danger was the distribution of contamination from broken sewers and other sources by flies which would breed in the exposed food and debris scattered by the explosions. Therefore, the first efforts were directed to the DDT dusting of the blasted dock and industrial areas and then the business section. The dusting of these areas was completed by Sunday, and the activity then was extended into alleys and the residential areas. These activities involved hand, power, and airplane dusting.

Subsequently, there followed DDT dusting of rat runs and harborages; and rat poisoning, restaurant sanitation, mosquito control by the application of larvicide and residual sprays, garbage and waste disposal, and premises inspections to determine water supply and sewage disposal needs and general sanitary conditions. All conditions found were carefully reported and tabulated to serve as a reference for the county health department in carrying out rehabilitation and routine sanitation improvements. It is also to be noted that practically all evacuees at Camp Wallace were dusted with DDT to insure against the presence of body lice and the danger of louse-borne typhus.

The work done by CDC forces, supplementing that done by the county health department, during the first month following the initial explosion included:

Fly Control:

Two hundred and thirty-eight blocks of the city were sprayed with a 5 percent DDT water emulsion. In addition, food and other potential fly breeding media in the devastated area were sprayed biweekly.

Mosquito Control:

All standing water within the area was sprayed with 5 percent DDT in diesel oil. Six thousand premises were treated by residual spray using 20,000 gallons of solution.

Typhus Control:

In addition to the dusting of rat runs and burrows in the devastated area, 155 blocks of Texas City proper were dusted with 10 percent DDT. Four hundred and eighty-five premises were dusted with 540 pounds of DDT.

Food sanitation:

Milk was not a problem, since it was secured from Galveston and all of it was pasteurized. All restaurants were inspected periodically and sanitation established on the basis of the Public Health Service recommended code insofar as equipment would permit. Surveillance over food sanitation at the Camp Wallace Evacuee Center was maintained throughout the period.

The emergency activities were continued through July at a total cost of \$52,631. CDC continued its activities for an additional 3 months, as rehabilitation and promotional health activities. So impressive were the results, particularly with regard to fly and mosquito control, that a popular demand arose for the continuance of the work as a regular function of the county health department. To accomplish this a fund of \$50,000 was secured by subscriptions from industrial and business firms.

This experience is another incident in the history of the Public Health Service of "aid to the disabled" which is dramatically symbolized by the anchor with the fouled chain in the Corps device of the Service. In relation to more recent years it demonstrated how epidemic and disaster aid can serve to awaken the public conscience to the need for more financial support for local health activities which the local health authorities would like to carry out.

Part III.

THE NORTHWEST FLOOD (Columbia River Basin Flood - Spring 1948)

The Northwest or Columbia River Basin flood was the most disastrous in the history of the Northwest and probably the most costly in the history of the United States. The Columbia River and all of its tributaries, which drain 259,000 square miles

of land, were involved. The greater part of the States of Washington and Oregon and nearly the entire State of Idaho were affected, and drainage was contributed by parts of the States of Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and British Columbia.