

## HEADQUARTERS

CONFIDENTIAL.TWELFTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
San Francisco, Cal

May 12, 1920.

From: Commandant,  
To : Rear-Admiral A.M.D. McCormick (MC) U.S. Navy, Medical  
Inspector, Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco, Cal.  
Via : Commandant, U.S. Navy Yard, Mare Island, California.

SUBJECT : Comparative morbidity and mortality between the training  
camps at Mare Island and Yerba Buena Island.

- References :
- (a) Table prepared by Captain Charles N. Fiske, (MC), U.S. Navy, while Medical Aide at these Headquarters.
  - (b) Letter of Comdt., N.T.S., No. 20L-818, of April 22, 1920.
  - (c) Memo of Captain Fiske, RB reference (b) above.
  - (d) Dist. Commandant's letter of May 5, 1920, No. 8628-MA-20, to Medical Officer in Command, Naval Hospital, Mare Island, Cal.
  - (e) 1st Ind. of Medical Officer in Command, Naval Hospital, M.I., No. P-57, dated May 11, 1920.

Inclosures: (5) Copies of above references.

1. Reference (a) was prepared by direction of the District Commandant, and seemed to indicate a very serious difference in the death rate between the training activities at Mare Island and Yerba Buena Island.

2. If this difference exists, it would seem desirable to concentrate the training of recruits at Mare Island, in order to save the lives of the young men who are not acclimated. At a conference to consider this question, the Commandant of the Naval Training Station at San Francisco thought he had discovered some inaccuracies in the data used in the preparation of reference (a), and he was given an opportunity to submit the letter of April 22, 1920, reference (b). In order to clear up the supposed inaccuracies, the District Commandant addressed a letter, reference (d), to the Commanding Officer of the Naval Hospital, Mare Island, which brought forth his reply, reference (e). The Commandant at the Training Station, San Francisco, has gone into details as to specific cases, and, since the same thing has not been done with reference to Mare Island, a just comparison is very difficult.

3. It is requested that you confer with the Commanding Officers and Medical Officers at Mare Island and Yerba Buena, and examine the records, with a view to ascertaining whether there is a sufficiently serious difference in the mortality of the two places to justify the District Commandant recommending to the Bureau of Navigation that the Department's policy in regard to the training at the two stations be modified. It is desired that this examination cover a period of one year or more, during which the training activities have existed at

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May 12, 1920.

15-H-20 JLJ-E

Comparative morbidity and mortality - Mare Island, Yerba Buena.

Mare Island. Numerous reports concerning the health conditions at Yerba Buena Island are on record, indicating that it is not a desirable place for a training camp, but, until recently there has been no alternative in this vicinity. During the world war, however, a training camp was constructed at Mare Island, which is now available in case the Department deems it advisable to concentrate training of recruits at that place.

4. Commandants and Commanding Officers are hereby directed to furnish you with every facility for making such an investigation as you may deem advisable under the circumstances.

s. J. L. Jayne

CC to Comdt., N.T.S., S.F.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT  
14 May 1920.

ELB Ws

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CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commandant, Mare Island  
To : Rear-Admiral A. M. D. McCormick (MC), U.S. Navy, Medical  
Inspector, Twelfth Naval District,

1. Forwarded.