

AMDM-PVT

File M.

May 21st, 1920.

SECOND ENDORSEMENT.

From: Rear-Admiral A. E. D. McCormick (MC), U.S. Navy.  
To: Commandant, Twelfth Naval District.  
DIRECT.

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

Reference: (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 re reference (b) above.  
(d) Dist. Commandant's letter of May 5, 1920,  
No. 8628-MI-20, to Medical Officer in Command,  
Naval Hospital, Mare Island, Cal.  
(e) 1st End of Medical Officer in Command, Naval  
Hospital, M.I. No. E-57 dated May 11, 1920.

1. The records of the Training Camp, San Francisco, and  
Training Camp and Hospital at Mare Island have been examined  
as requested in Commandant's letter 7515-E-20, of May 12, 1920,  
attached hereto. The health of the camps alone and not of the  
entire stations was considered as it was the purpose to deter-  
mine the effect of the different climatic conditions upon raw  
recruits. A period of sixteen months extending from January  
1, 1919 to April 30, 1920 was taken. During this period the  
average monthly complements for the two stations was as follows:  
San Francisco, 1812; Mare Island, 1886.

2. The plan for obtaining data for comparative morbidity  
statistics had to be given up as it was found that the Medical  
Officer at the Training Station at San Francisco considered the  
station a unit and all patients were admitted to sick quarters  
as from the station and there was nothing to indicate on the  
record whether the admission was from the camp or receiving  
ship. It is advisable that some method be adopted to indicate  
from which separate unit the patient was received, such as the  
initials "MS" or "RS" on the admission card. The data was also  
rendered unreliable for comparison on account of different pro-  
cedures being pursued at the two stations, for instance, at the  
Mare Island Camp there was a ward attached to the dispensary  
in which mild cases were retained for treatment. Here 465  
were treated and 2368 transferred to the Naval Hospital. At  
Yerba Buena all cases were transferred to sick quarters where,  
according to the statement of the Medical Officer, no record  
was kept of mild cases. This practice permitted a good deal of  
latitude in the judgment of the medical officer in charge of

the case as appeared from different admission rates of such a disease as tonsillitis, almost nil at Yerba Buena for one period examined. This practice of not admitting all cases to the sick list for record is contrary to regulations. Another procedure which was found to differ and which influenced admission rates was the matter of invaliding from the service. At Mare Island, the number for the period was 46, at Yerba Buena 454. There seems to have been a different type of recruits at the two stations.

3. In regard to mortality from disease it was found that there had been 27 deaths at Mare Island and 58 debited to Yerba Buena, including 34 which occurred at the sick quarters, and 21 at the Naval Hospital, Mare Island. From this 21 deaths there may be subtracted 3 as having acquired a fatal disease while a patient in the hospital, for instance: "A.A.C." (AS) admitted January 7, 1920 from Yerba Buena with mumps; diagnosis changed January 20 to measles; changed again same date to pneumonia; changed January 27th to scarlet fever, on which date he died. The result is a total of 55 deaths debited to Yerba Buena. Of the total number of deaths debited to Yerba Buena, 76% were pulmonary cases as were 59% of the deaths from Mare Island. These percentages are given as diseases of the lungs are more directly attributed to climatic influences than diseases of other organs.

4. A factor which is thought to have influenced the fatal termination of certain cases of pneumonia was the transfer while ill to the Naval Hospital, Mare Island. This transfer by ambulance boat necessitates considerable exposure which is very detrimental in such cases. I am of opinion that cases of influenza and pneumonia should not be transferred from Yerba Buena to the Naval Hospital, Mare Island.

5. It will be readily seen from the above record that the camp at Mare Island is more healthful than that at Yerba Buena for those who have not become acclimated.

6. A table illustrating the comparative mortality by percentages of the two stations is submitted.

A.M.D. McCORMICK.

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COMPARISON OF MORTALITY OF MEN UNDER TRAINING AND  
THOSE IN DETENTION (16 MONTH PERIOD).

	MARE ISLAND TRG. CAMP.		SAN FRANCISCO TRG. STATION.	
	NUMBER.	ANN. RATE per 1000.	NUMBER.	ANN. RATE per 1000.
Average complement.	1888		1812	
		---0---		
Total deaths from dis- ease, all causes,	27	10.7	55	22.7
Deaths for disease on station,	0	---	34	14.0
Total deaths from pul- monary conditions,	16	6.5	42	51.5
Deaths from pulmonary conditions on station,	0	---	26	10.7
Deaths from all causes, men transferred to the hospital at Mare Id.,	27	10.7	21	8.6
Deaths from pulmonary causes of men trans- ferred to the hospital at Mare Island,	16	6.5	16	6.6

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The annual death rate from pulmonary conditions alone, on the station at San Francisco, during the period under consideration was as great as that for all cases at Mare Island in which illness among recruits terminated fatally.