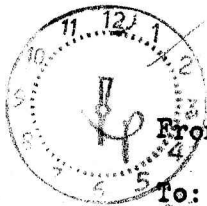


Infirmery
Camp Crane
Allentown, Pa.

3-37

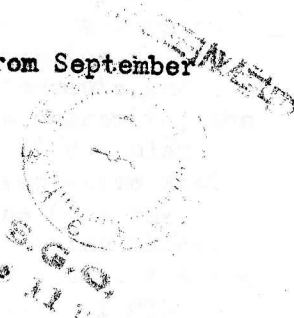
SENT FROM
S. C. O.

November 22, 1918



From: The Surgeon.
To: The Commanding Officer.

Subject: Report of Influenza Epidemic at this Camp from September 26, 1918 to November 4, 1918.



1. A report of the measures adopted by this camp to prevent the spread of influenza among the men of the Command, orders and memorandums issued to control the epidemic, together with tables and charts on its course are herewith submitted.

Dale Martin
Dale Martin,
Major, M.C.

9 Enclosures.

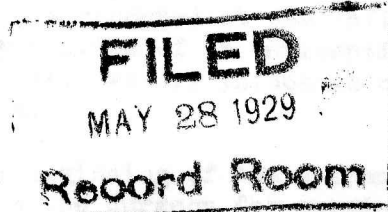
1st Ind.

Hq. Camp Crane, Allentown, Pa., December 9, 1918. To: The Surgeon General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. (thru official channels)

1. Forwarded.

Howard McC. Snyder
Howard McC. Snyder,
Lt. Col. M.C., U.S.A.
Commanding.

AGF/ajt



410 (Camp Crane) 5

REPORT OF MEASURES ADOPTED TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFLUENZA AT
CAMP CRANE, ALLENTOWN, PA.

On September 21, 1918, before any cases of influenza had appeared in this camp, the Commanding Officer issued a memorandum to the Camp Surgeon, the Sanitary Officer and the Camp Quartermaster, calling attention to the prevalence of an epidemic of "Spanish Influenza" in the cantonments and throughout the country (See enclosure No. 1). In compliance therewith, the Camp Surgeon and the Sanitary Officer working together submitted a plan covering the early detection of communicable illnesses, preventative sanitary regulations and the protective value of personal hygiene (See enclosure No. 2). Embodying the suggestions herein contained, three mimeographed forms were issued on September 25, 1918 (See enclosure Nos. 3, 4 and 5). Copies of Form #1 headed "The Early Detection and Treatment of Mild Illnesses Among the Men of Your Command" were distributed among the officers in charge of troops. The other forms were placed on the bulletin boards in the barracks, in the Y.M.C.A., Mess Hall and conspicuous places about camp.

On September 26, 1918 four cases of influenza developed in this camp, three among officers recently arrived from neighboring camps where influenza was known to be present and one in the case of a private who lived at home outside the camp. No cases of influenza had been reported to the local Board of Health from the city of Allentown at this time. The following day, September 27, 1918, quarantine restrictions were placed upon the Camp (See enclosure No. 6).

Because of the small size of the Command at the beginning of the epidemic the men were so distributed that 100 square feet of floor space were allowed for each man. The cubicle was not used. Instead the heads of the cots were placed in the same direction and the shelter-halves so hung that the protecting effects of the cubicle were obtained without interfering to the same extent with ventilation.

In the Mess Hall the men sat on one side of the tables, only. The mess-kits were washed in two changes of water. They were first dipped in a trough containing hot soap suds and then rinsed in water flowing from spigots. The temperature averaging about 140° F. The cooks, bakers, barbers and kitchen police reported at the Infirmary each morning at 9:30 for examination and the application of an antiseptic spray to the nose and throat. Men with symptoms of respiratory infection or with temperatures above normal were placed in isolation.

In the beginning of the epidemic Medical Officers arriving at the Camp were sent to the Surgeon for examination and cultures from the nose and throat. Awaiting the culture returns, they were isolated. Later, owing to the difficulty of recovering the influenza bacillus by culture in known cases of influenza, only those showing symptoms of respiratory infection or having temperatures above normal were isolated. Incoming troops were examined and treated the same except that nose and throat cultures were not made.

Influenza cases were sent to the Allentown Hospital Annex, designed for contagious cases, and later to the Main building when the Annex was filled. Doubtful cases in which a diagnosis could not at once be made were put in an observation barracks in the camp and in charge of Medical Officers. The men were separated by canvas screens and sheets and were messed from a trailer kitchen placed near the building. Upon confirmation of the diagnosis of influenza, these cases were then sent to the Allentown Hospital. Convalescents from the hospital, after four days of normal temperature, in the uncomplicated influenzas were returned to the same observation barracks and there left six days longer or until free from symptoms. At no time did the sick have less than 100 square feet of floor space per man either in the hospital or in the observation barracks. Protecting screens were about each bed and all attendants, Medical Officers, nurses and orderlies wore masks while with the sick. The used masks were frequently washed and sterilized.

The relatively high proportion of cases among the officers (See chart #1) is due, probably, to the fact that many came here from camps where the disease prevailed or from the surrounding towns where they were sent to assist the local physicians in treating the epidemic. Many entered the camp ill. Two members of the Hospital staff contracted influenza, one by coming in contact with a case before the nature of the illness was recognized and one while at Fort McHenry, Md. where he had gone in charge of a patient.

Troops arriving during the epidemic frequently had men among them ill. Within twenty-four hours of the arrival of one group of 50 men from Rose Polytechnical School of Indiana, 26 men were reported sick with influenza.

The clinical features in the epidemic presented no marked variations from those observed in this epidemic in other parts of the country. It is felt, however, that the bacteriological findings being at variance with those of most observers, present some features of interest. (See Enclosure No. 7).

Percentages of influenzas, pneumonias, empyemas and deaths as follows:

- (a) Mean strength of Command during epidemic.....2171
- (b) Total Influenzas...348 or.....16% (of command)
- (c) Total Pneumonias... 51 or.....14.6%(of Influenzas)
- (d) Total Deaths..... 12 or.....23% (of Pneumonias)
- (e) Total Empyemas..... 3 or..... 6% (of Pneumonias)

Encl. 1.

Camp Crane,
Allentown, Pa.

September 21, 1918

Memo. To the Camp Surgeon, Sanitary Officer and the Quartermaster:

In view of the reported prevalence in various cantonments of so-called "Spanish Influenza" or grippe, it behooves us to institute and enforce every proper and reasonable precaution, having in view the prevention if possible, of the introduction of this disease within this camp.

The Commanding Officer has little faith in the transmission of this infection by means of the air, but he does believe most strongly in transmission by contact. Contact may occur by means of clothing, handkerchiefs, eating and drinking utensils, and especially from fine particles of saliva or secretion disseminated in the immediate vicinity of an infected person by coughing and sneezing. There must be also taken into serious consideration the question of infection being conveyed by means of dust where the secretion, having lodged on floors or elsewhere, becomes dry and is blown about.

In view of the above as outlined the three named officers will submit a plan for the approval of the Commanding Officer with the subject of prevention in mind, and should, as is quite probable the case, isolated infections occur in camp, institute without delay such restrictive measures as will be practical.

In addition to the proper cleansing of all eating and drinking utensils; prohibiting the use of towels by more than one person, the abolition of all common drinking cups, and the necessity for thorough and continuous oiling of floors to prevent dust within the barracks and other buildings, a constantly maintained watch of ventilation (especially at night), and the spreading out of the men (which can be easily accomplished at the present time due to the limited number of men in camp) should all be considered.

The Surgeon will bear in mind the necessity for early observation of all so-called colds, especially where there is evidence of marked prostration and sudden elevation of temperature, and a mimeographed sheet of instructions given to all of these patients, advising them of the great risk of sneezing and coughing in the presence of others without protecting the mouth and nose with handkerchief.

Special attention will be paid to all men engaged in the preparation and serving of food.

As an additional precaution a receptacle will be placed in the entrance halls of all barracks wherein there will be constantly maintained a solution of some of the cresols or other approved germicides, in which those suffering from colds will be instructed to soak their handkerchiefs previous to washing, the necessary warning in the way of poison signs, etc., to be

placed thereon.

The above suggestions are offered for consideration, and you will make such additions thereto as in your judgement will prove effective.

Richard Slee
Lieut. Col. M.C.U.S.A.
Commanding.

s.

- _____ Copy to Major Martin
- _____ Copy to Major Shute
- _____ Copy to Capt. Bramble.
- _____ Copy to file.