

Great Way
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if nose fits up
Tonight

It's wonderful how a little Va-tro-nol up each nostril relieves stuffy passages, congestion. Also relieves distress of head colds! Follow directions in folder.
VICKS VA-TRO-NOL

Scientists View Gun That Won Battle Behind the Lines in Italy

By GEORGE KENNEDY.
Brig. Gen. S. Bayne-Jones passed among the members of the National Academy of Sciences at the closing session of their autumn meeting the gun that won the Battle of Southern Italy—the battle behind the lines.
Fascinated, the academicians passed the gun from hand to hand. It weighed no more than two pounds. It was a little longer but not unlike the familiar .45 gun. This gun and others like it loaded

Galicia, Poland and in the villages of the Russian steppe died of typhus. Typhus has been the deadliest of war's diseases. The threat was worse than Marshal Kesselring's panzer divisions or the swarms of bombing Luftwaffe.
Gen. Bayne-Jones, formerly of the Yale Medical School, who is head of the American Typhus Commission as well as the Army's deputy chief of preventive medicine, told the story in detail to a scattered audience yesterday in the theater of the National Museum in Constitution avenue at Tenth street N.W.
Millions Vulnerable.
Southern Italy used to have typhus epidemics occasionally. But there had not been one there in 13 years. The population was not immune. War, human misery, undernourishment, unavoidable uncleanness, crowding and widespread louse infestation, the general said, made Naples teeming millions vulnerable.
Ruling Naples out of bounds for soldiers was no solution of the military problem. Naples was the port of supply and it was necessary to keep the economy of the people behind the lines from complete collapse.
Closing of movie houses could not prevent mass assemblies. German bombers were crowding people into the shelters while the epidemic was at its height.
There were new weapons for the fight. There is a typhus vaccine. But more than 5,000,000 persons live in Southern Italy. The best that could be done was to vaccinate the leaders, the police, the government officials and the workers on the docks.
Spread by Body Louse.
The typhus infection is spread by the body louse. Delousing large populations has been a terrific task heretofore in typhus infected communities. Tents have to be set up for men and women because they have to undress and bathe with medicated soap. Fuel is a problem. The places must be heated and the clothes steamed to kill the lice.
But the DDT gun won the battle—won it in the first round. In December, 1943, there were 92 new cases a day. By January 8, 1944, they were over the hump. The typhus fighters, headed by the American and British military commands, the typhus team of the Rockefeller Foundation and the American typhus commission—joint Army, Navy and United States Public Health Service, took the DDT guns to every typhus home. They powdered every one within and all persons who were "contacts"—even remote contacts.
All they had to do with the DDT gun as Gen. Bayne-Jones demonstrated was to blow a little of the powder down the neck, up the sleeves and under the waist. It does not irritate the skin. And the clothes hold the DDT and continue to kill any new lice arriving on the person for a month. Isolation is no longer considered necessary for typhus victims. It is only necessary to kill the lice on the victim and his contacts and clear the home of louse infestation. Then the disease is no longer catching.
Turned the Tide.
That turned the tide. They went on and deloused 3,500,000 persons. But the rate of incidence had fallen and the disease was no longer epidemic when this great mass delousing occurred. Total number of cases were not much more than 1,000. Only two soldiers of the Allied armies were infected.
DDT, dichloro-diphenyl trichloroethane, was synthesized by Otmaz Zeldier, a young chemistry student in Strasbourg in 1874 just after the capital of Alsace was taken over by the Germans. It has been on the shelf since. A Swiss firm, the Geigy Co., which owned the patents did some work with it to relieve animals from flies before the war. The United States Department of Agriculture increased work on it when the Japanese attack cut off importation of pyrethrum, the extract from Japanese chrysanthemum-like flowers that was the basis of Flit and other insecticides.
The Army experimented with percentages of DDT, which is a poison, in neutral dust, to arrive at mixtures strong enough to kill insects that would not harm soldiers.
New Vi-tas Opened.
It was the cutting off of pyrethrum that led to the adoption of something so much better that it may open continental vistas to habitation such as the highlands of East Africa, one of the pleasantest areas of the world, but hitherto uninhabitable because of the tsetse fly and the deadly sleeping sickness that comes from its bite.
Brig. Gen. James S. Simmons, chief of Army's preventive medicine service, wrote in a paper read at the National Academy meeting:
"It is my belief that DDT gives promise of being one of the greatest contributions ever made to world health."

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