



TYPHUS IN NAPLES

AMG medical officers control an epidemic with tons of delousing powder and a preventive vaccine

When the Germans retreated from Naples they dismantled the city's water system. Without water the Neapolitans could not wash their clothes or their bodies. As they became progressively more dirty they became better and better hosts for body lice which carry typhus fever. Somehow a few of them did get a chance to take a person suffering from typhus and the epidemic spread. In the crowded slums of the half-destroyed city these typhus-carrying lice spread from one person to another spreading the infection as they went. When the Americans marched in last October they found an epidemic getting under way. But



Naples baby gets delousing while family looks on. Each evening Italian, like the rest of the AMG, receives the preventive lice powder of doctors. Paid on his pay night and supervised by U.S. Army doctors, they receive it through the city's delousing campaign they are told.



U. S. Army doctor, Major V. M. Wheeler of Berkeley, Calif., gives over a little girl who looks as if she were going to cry. Major Wheeler is head of the United Delousing Service which with Italian help, has the job of going around and delousing people in their homes and delousing



Current plan is used to delouse the typhus powder with Italian help. This tent serves to prevent the powder from penetrating the skin. The same tent held a ton of benzene and took care of one building and each AMG bag (shown) contains enough powder to delouse about 100 people.



Rockefeller Foundation worker examines the head of a little girl. Head lice are eggs which can be seen sticking to the individual hairs. Typhus is one of the great epidemic diseases of the world. In 1942 typhus spread through Russia, infecting 1,000,000 and killing some 4,000,000.

after four and a half months medical officers of the AMG had work to do in getting it under control. Knowing that most of the population, after months of German oppression, had neither clean clothes nor clean bodies, U. S. doctors fought the epidemic by delousing 20,000 people a day with a new powder insecticide called DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane). As a further preventive, Naples police officers and doctors were inoculated with an effective new vaccine. This new vaccine, developed by the Rockefeller Research Center while it was at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton, Mont., has kept the typhus death rate of

the U. S. troops stationed in the Naples area at zero. Once a person develops typhus there is not much, aside from good nursing, that can be done for him. The incubation period lasts from eight to 14 days and the first symptoms are hot flashes or headaches and perhaps chills. By the third or fourth day the fever rises to 104° or 105°, a tongue red mark breaks out and usually a swelling of the lymph nodes in the neck. Sometimes victims have vomiting, spinal inflammation. If infection has not become too extensive and there are no complications like bronchitis or pneumonia, fever drops sharply after about two weeks and patient begins to recover.

OFF LIMITS TO U.S. TROOPS
By ORDER OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
METROPOLITAN AREA, P. I. S.



Woman checked as an Italian doctor gives her a dose of the vaccine. Most of the Italian like and appreciate their delousing. This woman, who lives in a little tenement under a roof, is typical of the thousands of people who were made homeless and miserable by the German occupation.



Examined in the hall is child's pneumonia. Typhus is generally caused by the body louse which does not travel about much, but occasionally finds its way into the body and causes the disease. Body lice are the same as the variety which helped America to win World War I.



By left powder through the hair of his small brother. Naples has had to delouse everyone going to and coming from city to prevent spread of epidemic. Typhus, the Rocky Mountain fever, is caused by Rockettia, a microorganism larger than a virus but smaller than bacteria.



Prisoners are vaccinated by Captain Stewart, Second of Transportation Service. Typhus is spread by delousing which requires and allowing Rockettia to multiply. The laboratory method is then applied. Typhus prevention powder like vaccine has used in reported after about six months.