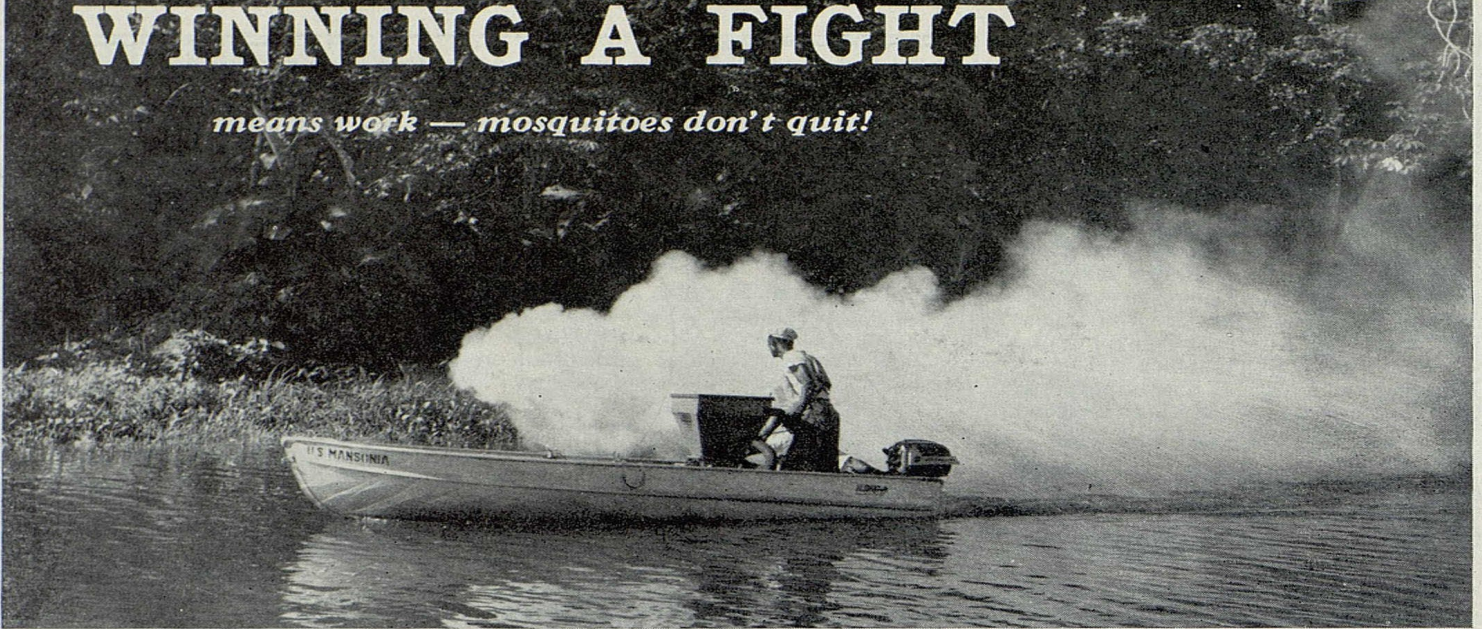


WINNING A FIGHT

means work — mosquitoes don't quit!



After a year's intensive fight, the incidence rate for malaria in the Canal Zone has dropped back to figures which had come to be regarded as normal in the postwar period when rates were the lowest ever known in this area.

The one-year period of intensified malaria eradication and mosquito control ended in September. It was instituted after an upsurge of malaria in June 1957 which occurred, coincidentally, with a scourge of mosquitoes in residential areas, particularly on the Atlantic side.

During the three-month period of July through September of this year there were only eight malaria cases reported in the Zone, less than the number in any one month of the comparable quarter of the preceding year. The effectiveness of the Health Bureau's campaign has also shown up at the various survey stations where mosquitoes are trapped and identified. At the Atlantic-side survey station, no malaria-carrying mosquitoes were taken during July and August and only one in September.

The full effects of this intensified program have now begun to appear in statistical form. The Health Bureau's record for the number of malaria cases in the four months just after the rate showed such a rapid rise and those for comparative months this year are:

	1957		1958	
	Total*	C. Z.	Total*	C. Z.
June	47	23	36	12
July	29	9	22	2
August	60	19	10	2
September	54	16	21	4
Total	190	67	89	20

* All employees and families living within and outside the Canal Zone.

The sudden upturn in the malaria rate in June of last year occurred after the lowest malaria rate in the 50-year history of the Canal Zone, and only a short time after no malaria cases were reported for a full month for the first and only time since the construction of the Canal was begun in 1904. The flare-up very effectively demonstrated the need for constant and intensive efforts to keep malaria

rates low in the tropics and for provision of the funds needed for such work.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, Governor Potter gave his full backing to a program of malaria eradication and mosquito control recommended by Col. Charles O. Bruce, Health Director.

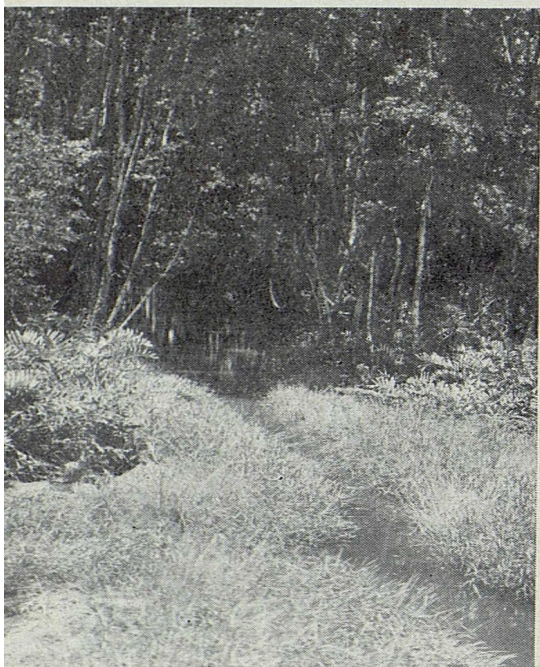
The intensified program was conducted on a broad scale and many phases were not generally known. Some highlights of the program are:

Development of a "Master plan report for eradication of malaria and control of mosquitoes in the Canal Zone;" employment of additional personnel, including an entomologist, an additional sanitation inspector, and some 85 temporary laborers in various categories; reestablishment of 10 mosquito survey stations; restoration or cleaning of 234 miles of mosquito control drains, most of which were in the swampy areas on the Atlantic side; re-spraying of all rural dwellings and other selected buildings with a residual insecticide, dieldrin; continuance of blood surveys for parasite carriers among rural dwellers and groups of employees; free hospitalization of all malaria cases as a public health measure; free distribution of anti-malaria drugs; improvement of drainage in the practically closed East Diversion on the Atlantic side by the Dredging Division's specially constructed suction dredge *Mandinga*; topographic surveys by the Engineering Division for drainage improvement; bimonthly aerial spraying through assistance of the U. S. Army; and acquisition of much additional equipment and supplies of newest approved insecticides.

Among the equipment placed in service were six aluminum boats for river and lake survey work; three outboard motors; power dusters and power sprayers; spray pumps; and laboratory microscopes.

The fundamentals of the malaria eradication and mosquito-control program conducted by the Health Bureau during the past year are no different from those employed back in 1906 when President Roosevelt visited the Canal Zone.

Some of the fundamentals and prospects for the future were outlined by the Health Bureau in its summary of results



Above: This ditch is choked with weeds. Below: This ditch has been cleaned out.

