

## **Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia**

**Title:** Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia, 1952-1987

**Author/Creator:** United States Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia

**Collection number:** 3

**Size:** 4.5 linear feet

**Bulk dates:** 1958-1977

**Inclusive dates:** 1952-1987

**Repository:** Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910.

**Abstract:** The records include correspondence, reports, AV materials, laboratory data, and ephemera.

**Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on these records.

**Preferred citation:** Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library

**Status:** This collection is processed.

### **Historical note:**

The United States Army Medical Research Unit-Malaysia (USAMRU-Malaysia) began as an informal arrangement between the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board's (AFEB) Commission on Immunization and the British Government. Work began in March 1948 with Drs. Joseph Smadel, Theodore Woodward, Herbert Ley Jr., Robert Traub and Cornelius Philip. They were testing the effects of chloramphenicol for treating and preventing scrub typhus and later typhoid fever. They had been working with British officers and doctors at the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) in Kuala Lumpur. General Order #6, issued 12 June 1953 by the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army, established the Unit, but a formal agreement with either the British Government or later the Federation of Malaysia was never enacted. The Army continued to work closely with the Institute of Medical Research where they studied the etiology of fevers of unknown origin among British soldiers and the local civilian population, and the ecology of arthropod borne viruses. USAMRU-Malaysia also continued working with the AFEB's Commission on Immunization on the Mumps Vaccine Study from 1959 to 1963. Other Special Projects that were attached to USAMRU-Malaysia include the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS) (1963-1970) and the Far East Research Project (FERP) on simian and human malaria done by members of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) (1960-1964). Control of USAMRU-Malaysia was transferred to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research effective 13 June 1973. The Unit was disestablished in 1989.

**Scope and content of the collection:**

The USAMRU-Malaysia records include correspondence, reports, laboratory data, reprints, unpublished reports, protocols and procedures, memorabilia, photographs, slides, and negatives. The bulk of the material is the correspondence. See archivist for list of reprints/articles (many on scrub typhus) collected by USAMRU-Malaysia staff for reference.

**Processing information:**

Processed by: Lara D'Agaro

Processing note: Original order was retained wherever possible. Materials were separated by document type and arranged chronologically. Exact duplicates were removed and discarded. Most metal staples, paper clips and metal binders were removed. All records have been rehoused in acid-free folders. Most of the AV materials had been stored separately from the paper records. Many of the photographs, slides, and negatives were labeled and dated and were able to be matched to correspondence or reports for context, however there were some that could not be identified or dated. The slide descriptions were taken from the plastic boxes that contained them. Detailed lists attached to groups of correspondence and reports are retained in the administrative archives records; please contact the archivist for more information.

Encoded by: N/A

**Arrangement of collection: The collection is organized as 5 series.**

Series I: Correspondence

Series II: Reports

Series III: Laboratory Data

Series IV: AV Materials

Series V: Ephemera

**Detailed description of the collection:****Series I: Correspondence, 1953-1987 (46 folders)**

The bulk of the correspondence is between Unit Directors Robert Traub, Hinton Baker, Joseph Marcarelli, Garrison Rapmund, Charles Webb, and David Huxsoll and the Directors at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Edward Buescher, William Tigertt, Robert J.T. Joy, and Garrison Rapmund; and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Division Directors Geoffrey Edsall and Abram Benenson. USAMRU-Malaysia also conducted the Mumps Vaccine Study under the supervision of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board's Commission on Immunization and there is correspondence regarding such including with Werner Henle. There are some quarterly reports and newsletters mixed in with the correspondence when sent as enclosures. The materials are arranged chronologically.

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| Folder | Title  | Date |
|--------|--|------|
| 1      | Correspondence, 1953   |      |
| 2      | Correspondence, 1954   |      |
| 3      | Correspondence, 1955   |      |
| 4      | Correspondence, 1956   |      |
| 5      | Correspondence, 1957   |      |
| 6      | Correspondence, January-June 1958                              |      |
| 7      | Correspondence, July-December 1958                             |      |
| 8      | Correspondence, January-June 1959                              |      |
| 9      | Correspondence, July-December 1959                             |      |
| 10     | Correspondence, Newsletter No. 82 with inclosures, August 1959 |      |
| 11     | Correspondence, January-June 1960                              |      |
| 12     | Correspondence, July-December 1960                             |      |
| 13     | Correspondence, January-June 1961                              |      |
| 14     | Correspondence, July-December 1961                             |      |
| 15     | Correspondence, January-June 1962                              |      |
| 16     | Correspondence, July-December 1962                             |      |
| 17     | Correspondence, January-June 1963                              |      |
| 18     | Correspondence, July-December 1963                             |      |
| 19     | Correspondence, January-June 1964                              |      |
| 20     | Correspondence, July-December 1964                             |      |
| 21     | Correspondence, January-June 1965                              |      |
| 22     | Correspondence, July-December 1965                             |      |
| 23     | Correspondence, January-September 1966                         |      |
| 24     | Correspondence, August-December 1967                           |      |
| 25     | Correspondence, January-June 1968                              |      |
| 26     | Correspondence, July-December 1968                             |      |
| 27     | Correspondence, January-June 1969                              |      |
| 28     | Correspondence, July 1969-April 1970                           |      |
| 29     | Correspondence, April 1971, February-December 1972             |      |
| 30     | Correspondence, January-June 1973                              |      |
| 31     | Correspondence, July-December 1973                             |      |
| 32     | Correspondence, January-June 1974                              |      |
| 33     | Correspondence, July-December 1974                             |      |
| 34     | Correspondence, January-June 1975                              |      |
| 35     | Correspondence, July-December 1975                             |      |
| 36     | Correspondence, January-June 1976                              |      |
| 37     | Correspondence, July-December 1976                             |      |
| 38     | Correspondence, January-June 1977                              |      |
| 39     | Correspondence, July-December 1977                             |      |
| 40     | Correspondence, January-September 1978                         |      |

- 41 Correspondence, October-December 1978
- 42 Correspondence, February-June 1979
- 43 Correspondence, September-December 1979
- 44 Correspondence, January-June 1980
- 45 Correspondence, July-December 1980
- 46 Correspondence, October 1981, May 1987

**Series II: Reports, 1953-1984 and undated (14 folders)**

This series includes reports. The materials are arranged chronologically. This series includes the Institute of Medical Research's Medical Circular no.29.

| Folder | Title   | Date |
|--------|---|------|
| 1      | Institute of Medical Research-Medical Circular, 1953  |      |
| 2      | Institute of Medical Research-Five Year Development Plan (1967-1971), 1967  |      |
| 3      | Personnel at Kuala Lumpur 1948-1973, 1974   |      |
| 4      | Research protocol, Single Dose Doxycycline Therapy for Scrub Typhus, 1976   |      |
| 5      | Historical Preservation of Data Pertaining to the USAMRU-M Colonies of <i>Rickettsia Tsutsugamushi</i> Infected <i>Leptotrombidium (L.) Fletcheri</i> and <i>Leptotrombidium (L.) Arenicola</i> , 1984 [drawer S11] |      |
| 6      | United States Army Medical Research Unit Data File, Chapters I-IV, undated  |      |
| 7      | United States Army Medical Research Unit Data File, Chapters V-VII, undated   |      |
| 8      | United States Army Medical Research Unit Data File, Chapters VIIIa, VIIIc, undated  |      |
| 9      | United States Army Medical Research Unit Data File, Chapter VIII d, undated   |      |
| 10     | United States Army Medical Research Unit Data File, Chapter VIII e, undated   |      |
| 11     | United States Army Medical Research Unit Data File, Chapter VIII f, undated   |      |
| 12     | United States Army Medical Research Unit Data File, Chapters VIIIg-VIIIh, 1953-1958   |      |
| 13     | United States Army Medical Research Unit Data File, Chapters IX-XI, 1955-1959   |      |
| 14     | USAMRU-M product descriptions, undated  |      |

**Series III: Laboratory Data, 1952-1961 and undated (13 folders)**

This series includes laboratory data. The materials are arranged chronologically.

| Folder | Title  | Date |
|--------|--|------|
| 1      | Malaya Sera File, not Seaport Estate, 1952-1953            |      |
| 2      | Malaya Chia Agent, not Seaport Estate, 1954                |      |
| 3      | Malayan PUO studies, 1954-1955                             |      |
| 4      | Malayan Mosquito Viruses, Japanese Encephalitis, 1954-1956 |      |
| 5      | Malayan Mosquito Viruses, Descriptive Materials, 1954-1957 |      |
| 6      | Malayan Sera, Series I, 1955                               |      |
| 7      | Malayan Mosquito Viruses, 1955-1961                        |      |

- 8 Miscellaneous neutrophils, 1956-1957
- 9 Summaries IDNS Malayan Viruses, 1956-1957 and undated
- 10 Singapore Encephalitis, 1957
- 11 Isolated Viruses, 1957-1959
- 12 Malayan Virus Summaries, 1958
- 13 Laboratory Serum File, 1958-1959

**Series IV: AV Materials, 1961-1987 and undated (6 boxes)**

This series contains photographs, slides, and negatives taken between 1961 and 1987. Many of the photographs are of field work. There is a group of 80 black and white photos taken by Ahmad b. Nani during the Flood Immunization Campaign of December 1965 in Trengganu. In addition there are slides of field work taken by CPT Alexander L. Dohany in 1968. The slide titles were removed from the plastic cases that held them and titles taken from boxes when available. The AV materials are arranged chronologically by media type.

| Box | Title  | Date          |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 1.  | Photographs  |               |
| a.  | Field work in Malaysia,  | 1961          |
| b.  | CPT James Gentry conducting field work in Sabah, Malaysia,                                   | April 1963    |
| c.  | CPT James Gentry, CPT David Ellison and Charles Needy conducting field work on Carey Island, | April 1964    |
| d.  | Radio tracking in Subang, Selangor,  | 1965          |
| e.  | Flood Immunization Campaign in Trengganu,  | December 1965 |
| 2.  | Photographs  |               |
| a.  | Field work in Kampung Sertik , Pahang,   | May 1967      |
| b.  | Field work on Pulau Langkawi,  | July 1967     |
| c.  | CPT Alexander Dohany radio tracking in Subang, Selangor,                                     | 1967?         |
| d.  | Field work in Malaysia,  | 1967?         |
| e.  | Field work in Jason's Bay, Mersing, K. Pahang, Pekau, and Tanjong Batu,                      | 1967?         |
| 3.  | Photographs  |               |
| a.  | CPT Alexander Dohany in Sabah,   | [April 1968]  |
| b.  | COL Garrison Rapmund departing and laboratory work in Malaysia,                              | [1969]        |
| c.  | Lesser Mouse Deer,   | August 1972   |
| d.  | Field work,  | 1972-1973     |
| e.  | Equipment move,  | 1974          |
| f.  | Monkey supplies facilities,  | October 1974  |
| g.  | Laboratory work with mice,   | June 1975     |
| h.  | Officer's housing,   | 1977          |
| i.  | Field work,  | 1977          |
| j.  | Unit Christmas party,  | 1978          |
| k.  | Skin blister,  | 1979          |

- l. Unit Christmas party, 1979
- m. Chiggers, 1980
- n. Staff photo, 1987
- 4. Photographs
  - a. Commanders Rapmund, Webb, Huxsoll, and Groves, undated
  - b. US Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia, undated
- 5. Negatives
  - a. Field work on Pulau Langkawi, July 1967
  - b. Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine seminar, February 1978
  - c. Christmas party, 1978
  - d. Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine seminar, February 1979
  - e. Christmas party, 1979
  - f. Officer's house, January 1980
  - g. Miscellaneous rolls of film, February 1980
  - h. CPT and Mrs. Kitchen at Subang Airport, May 1980
  - i. Hilton Hotel, May 1980
  - j. Dr. Dohany's Luncheon, June 1980
  - k. Christmas party, 1980
  - l. Field work, undated
- 6. Slides
  - a. East Coast S & N-Mersing and other east coast collection sites, April 1966
  - b. Field work in Pinang, G Jerai, and Langkawi, October 1966
  - c. MAPS Bird netting at Fraser's Hill, 1967 or 1968
  - d. Field work in Pinang, G Jerai, and Langkawi, 1968?
  - e. CPT Dohany's Sabah trip, April 1968
  - f. CPT Dohany's Sabah trip, December 1968
  - g. CPT Dohany conducting field work in Langkawi and Perak, June 1969
  - h. CPT Dohany's Sabah trip, September 1969
  - i. CPT Dohany misc., 1970
  - j. Bukit Lanjan habitats (month 1), October 1971
  - k. Bukit Lanjan habitats (month 3), December 1971
  - l. US Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia, 1971-1972 and undated
  - m. Field work, undated

**Series V: Ephemera, 1953-1989 (7 folders)**

This series includes a briefing booklet and a book of Welcome, written by the American Association of Malaysia, that were given to a new employee of the unit prior to their arrival and the guest book for the unit that has entries from its entire span of 1953 to 1989. The materials are arranged chronologically.

| Folder | Title | Date |
|--------|-------|------|
|--------|-------|------|

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- 1 Advertisement, 1949
- 2 Guest Book, 1953-1989
- 3 Briefing Booklet, 1968
- 4 Selamat Datang (Welcome), 2 copies, 1968
- 5 Berita IMR, 1969
- 6 Clipping, 1982
- 7 Malaria Treatment Record, blank, undated

**Related Material**

For more information, see the Records of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, 1948-1974; the Records of the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS), 1963-1972; the Records of SEATO-Bangkok, 1958-1982; the Records of USAMRT-Vietnam, 1963-1973 in the Gorgas Memorial Library.