

Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia

Title: Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia, 1952-1989

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

Collection number: 4

Size: 4.5 linear feet

Inclusive dates: 1952-1989

Bulk dates: 1958-1977

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. There are 4 boxes of reprints located in Cabinet 28.

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: Ephemera

Series V: AV Materials

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.

Updated 3 October 2013

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 [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: 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
1	Advertisement, 1949	
2	Guest Book, 1953-1989	
3	Briefing Booklet, 1968	
4	Selamat Datang (Welcome), 2 copies, 1968	
5	Berita IMR, 1969	
6	Clippings, 1978, 1982	
7	40 th Anniversary of USAMRU-Malaysia, 1988	
8	Malaria Treatment Record, blank, undated	

Series V: AV Materials, 1961-1989 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 DVD is of a homemade video taken after the closure of the Unit by a former staff member and includes building shots and interviews with former Malaysian employees. The AV materials are arranged chronologically.

Box	Title	Date
1.	Photographs and slides	
a.	Field work in Malaysia, July-November 1961	
b.	Thailand trip, LTC Hinton Baker and CPT Alexander Hubert, December 1961	
c.	Operation BIOT-1 in the North Borneo Territory, April-May 1963	
d.	Carey Island field studies, CPT James Gentry, CPT David Ellison and Charles Needy, April 1964	
e.	Thailand trip, MAJ Garrison Rapmund and CPT Robert Upham, slides, August 1965	

- f. Radio tracking in Subang, Selangor, September 1965
- g. Flood Immunization Campaign in Trengganu, December 1965
- 2. Photographs, slides, negatives
 - a. Field work in Southeast Johore, CPT Alexander Hubert and CPT Robert Upham, slides, April 1966
 - b. Field work in Pinang, G Jerai, and Langkawi, slides, October 1966
 - c. Malaria studies in Kampung Sertik, Pahang, May 1967
 - d. Field work on Pulau Langkawi, July 1967
 - e. Field work on Pulau Langkawi, negatives, July 1967
 - f. MAPS bird netting at Fraser's Hill, slides, September-October 1967
- 3. Photographs and slides
 - a. Field work, 1967?
 - b. Field work in Jason's Bay, Mersing, K. Pahang, Pekau, and Tanjong Batu, 1967?
 - c. Field work, slides, January 1968?
 - d. Field work in Sabah, CPT Alexander Dohany, March-April 1968
 - e. Field work in Sabah, CPT Alexander Dohany, slides, March-April 1968
 - f. Field work in Sabah, CPT Alexander Dohany, slides, December 1968
 - g. Field work in Langkawi and Perak, CPT Alexander Dohany, slides, June 1969
 - h. COL Garrison Rapmund departing and laboratory work in Malaysia, [July 1969]
 - i. Field work in Sabah, CPT Alexander Dohany, slides, September 1969
- 4. Photographs and slides
 - a. CPT Dohany miscellaneous, slides, 1970
 - b. Bukit Lanjan habitats (month 1), slides, October 1971
 - c. Bukit Lanjan habitats (month 3), slides, December 1971
 - d. Ong Wah at Mersing, March 1972
 - e. Lesser Mouse Deer, August 1972
 - f. Unit Christmas party?, 1972?
 - g. Equipment move (Ultracentrifuge), March 1974
 - h. Albert Chin, animal dealer, October 1974
 - i. Laboratory work with mice, January 1975
 - j. Oil Palm trees, Mentakab and Kuala Pilah Hospitals, and Bukit Mendi Health Center, 1976
 - k. Officer's housing in Kuala Lumpur, 1977
 - l. Field work, 1977
- 5. Photographs and negatives
 - a. Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine seminar, negatives, February 1978
 - b. Unit Christmas party, 1978
 - c. Unit Christmas party, negatives, 1978
 - d. Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine seminar, negatives, February 1979
 - e. Skin blister, 1979
 - f. Unit Christmas party, 1979
 - g. Unit Christmas party, negatives, 1979
 - h. Officer's house, negatives, January 1980

- i. Miscellaneous rolls of film, February 1980
- j. CPT and Mrs. Kitchen at Subang Airport, May 1980
- k. Hilton Hotel, May 1980
- l. Dr. Dohany's Luncheon, June 1980
- m. Christmas party, 1980
- n. Chiggers, 1980
- 6. Photographs and slides
 - a. US Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia, 1987 and undated
 - b. 40th Anniversary of USAMRU-Malaysia, 24 February 1988
 - c. US Army Medical Research Unit, Malaysia, slides, undated
 - d. Field work, undated
 - e. Field work, slides, undated
- 7. Cassette Tapes, 40th Anniversary of USAMRU-Malaysia, 3 tapes, 24 February 1988
- 8. DVD, 40 years in Malaysia, 1989 [S]

Related Material

For more information, see the Records of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, Commission on Immunization, 1948-1974; the Records of the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS), 1963-1972; the Records of SMRL-Thailand, 1955-2013; the Records of the WRAIR Overseas Laboratories, 1935-1998; the Records of the WRAIR AV Materials; and the Records of USAMRT-Vietnam, 1963-1973 in the Gorgas Memorial Library.