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[illegible] of their work was care of dependents.

III Dispensaries Associated with Industrial Establishments

Dispensaries associated with industrial establishments were [illegible] than routine problems, for industrial hazards [illegible] work load. Most important of such establishments were [illegible] yards whose medical officer came directly under the commanding officer of the yard in the chain of command and whose medical department was a separate division in the yard organization. Although the ranking medical officer has been referred to as the Yard Medical Officer and even the Senior Medical Officer, his official title was the Medical Officer despite the fact that he had other medical officers working under him. The accompanying chart from the Boston Navy Yard illustrated the typical Navy yard's medical department organization.

Ordinary medical care of naval personnel and emergency care of civilian personnel went on, but increasing emphasis was placed on industrial hygiene. Special wartime complications in industrial establishments from the increased turnover of labor, the employment of inexperienced, handicapped, and [illegible] persons. The normal cooperation between the medical department and the safety officer was implemented in 1940 by the establishment of an industrial hygiene section within the medical department. The medical officer, Portsmouth (N.H.) Navy Yard,

U.S. Navy Medical Department History, Dispensaries Associated with Industrial Establishments (c. 1947)
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Industrial hygiene is a relatively new and important [illegible] preventive medicine. We are largely in the dark [illegible] what other activities are doing and accomplishing [illegible] this line. A clearing house for information would [illegible] value, something, for example, analagous to the [illegible] News Letter.----Officers and men trained in this [illegible] should be kept at it.[6]

[illegible] consensus of opinion among the yards that the training of [illegible] in safety measures was one of the most important ways of [illegible] accidents.

[illegible] hazards were a major difficulty and injuries resulting [illegible] arms and foreign objects hitting the eye were numerous. [illegible] with (N.H.) Yard discovered that few employees were [illegible] full use of their safety goggles, because they did not fit, [illegible] portable, were broken and never repaired, or were im-[illegible]. In combating this situation, a goggle cart, which [illegible] to give daily service, proved invaluable. This moving [illegible] for systematic inspection and spot repair of [illegible] trained and competent attendant accompanied the cart [illegible], to see that the proper type was stocked and [illegible] check the installations and upkeep of safety goggle [illegible] wheels. A complete round of all the shops was [illegible] five months. Over a ten month period 18,420 goggles were [illegible] reconditioned.[7]

[illegible] Naval Dispensary, Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N.H., Historical [illegible] Sanitary Report for 1943

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Puget Sound Navy Yard worked out an eye survey program for civil employees to eliminate mistakes, injuries, and discomfort. A well equipped van, able to give 14 tests, traveled to the various shops to screen men for eye defects. Men who were color blind were given work in which color vision was not important. Refractions, when indicated, were performed in the industrial dispensary and safety glasses were furnished to personnel at low cost to themselves.[8]

The Charleston Navy Yard found eye-flash burns a major problem until all workers in exposed areas were supplied with special glasses. The protective-glass program reduced the incidence of such injuries from 110 per month to 10 per month.[9]

Other industrial hazards were metal fumes, lead poisoning, carbon-monoxide, tetryl, mercury, chromium, silica, cyanide and various solvents. All possible protective devices and equipment were in use and the safety program included periodic examinations of personnel working with such materials. Other industrial activities used much the same procedure because of the toxicity of various agents. The Naval Ammunition Depot, at Crane, Indiana, in addition to pre-employment examinations, continued Webster tests on urine, hemoglobin check-ups, blood tests and consultation service.[10] The

8. Puget Sound Navy Yard, Washington, Historical Supplement to Fourth Quarterly Sanitary Report.

9. United States Navy Yard, Charleston, South Carolina, Historical Supplement to Fourth Quarterly Sanitary Report.

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Naval Ammunition Depot, St. Juliens Creek, Portsmouth, Virginia, [illegible] dermatitis resulting from a hand sifting operation in handling ammonium-picrate (explosive D powder). This was eliminated following the adoption of a mechanized modern sifting house suggested by the medical officer.[11]

The average Navy yard, although concentrating on industrial hygiene, had such a manifold program as yard sanitation, industrial hygiene, X-ray, tuberculosis control, eye survey for civil employees, manufacture of dog tags, immunization, physical examinations, dental processing, and venereal disease control.

The impact of war upon a Navy yard may be seen by comparing the statistics of 7 December 1941 with those of 7 December 1944 at Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia:

7 December 1941 —

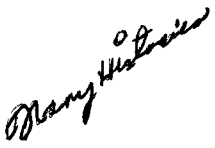
Physical plant
- A 2-room Labor Board examining section.
- An 8-bed sick bay at Marine Barracks
- Main dispensary.

Personnel
- 5 medical officers
- 4 dental officers
- 1 Hospital Corps officer
- 1 nurse
- 45 hospital corpsmen

Personnel to be served
- 1,036 service
- 21,572 civilian

11. U. S. Naval Ammunition Depot, St. Julien's Creek, Portsmouth, Va., Historical Supplement to Fourth Quarterly Sanitary Report.

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