

152-6-b.

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Organization Edgewood Proving Ground

Station Army Chemical Center, Md.

Period of Report 1 May to 31 May 1951

Date of Submission 7 June 1951

CMLEP 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical Report

THRU: Post Historian
Army Chemical Center, Md.

TO: Chief Chemical Officer
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Strength of organization as of last day of month:

Military <u>32</u>	Officer <u>14</u>	Warrant <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	EM <u>18</u>
Civilian <u>37</u>	Graded <u>11</u>	Ungraded <u>26</u>		

2. Commanding Officer:

Lt Col Emory A. Lewis

3. There were no major changes of policy affecting the operation of this activity during the period covered by this report.

4. Major operations conducted:

a. Report on Section VII, Edgewood PrGr Test 8, "Cold Temperature Tests of CmlC Materiel," was submitted for review to higher authority. This test consisted of low temperature tests of flame thrower fuels.

b. Report on Section VI, Edgewood PrGr Test 8, was submitted for review to higher authority. This test consisted of low temperature tests on the M2A1 mechanical smoke generator.

c. Report on Test 14, "Arctic Tests at Fort Churchill, Winter 1950-51," was submitted for review by higher authority. This consisted of tests of miscellaneous Chemical Corps weapons, munitions, and protective items under cold temperature conditions.

CS-154

Encl #5

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c. Plan for Edgewood PrGr Test 28 has been submitted to higher authority for approval. This test consists of materials for the destruction of classified files.

d. Plan for Edgewood PrGr Test 30 has been submitted to higher authority for approval. This test consists of the use of field expedients for air bursts with WP grenades. Preliminary work on fuse-delay time of the grenades has been completed in anticipation of the return of the approved test plan.

e. Mr. Angelo A. Conti, Test Engineer, Weapons and Munitions Division, represented Edgewood PrGr at a conference called by AFF Board No. 3 at Fort Benning, Georgia, on 8 May. The conference, attended by representatives of AFF, Edgewood PrGr, and CmlC Cml & Rad Labs was called to determine the reason why AFF Board No. 3 was obtaining unsatisfactory results in attempting to prepare gelled gels using a 0.75 percent M3 thickener (octal) formulation in accordance with the directive sent to AFF. Tests conducted by the representatives of Edgewood PrGr and CmlC Cml & Rad Labs during the conference indicated variability in the gel behavior of the M3 thickener.

f. A conference was held on 21 May 1951 at the CmlC Research and Engineering Division conference room to discuss the unsatisfactory results of the test of M3 thickener conducted by AFF Board No. 3 at Fort Benning, Georgia. The following agencies were represented:

Res & Eng Div (Res Br, Dev Br, Eng Br)

Chemical Corps Board

CmlC Cml & Rad Labs

Edgewood PrGr

Chemical Corps School

AFF Liaison Officer

Canadian Army Liaison Officer

Inspection Div

The following conclusions were reached:

- (1) The Chemical Corps Board will prepare a letter to AFF Board No. 3, withdrawing M3 thickener from test until additional data have been obtained.

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- (2) Edgewood PrGr and CmlC Cml & Rad Labs will conduct immediately further tests on available stocks of M3 thickener to determine the optimum fuel formulation of this material for use in portable flame throwers. The optimum formulation of M3 thickener will be compared to the optimum formulation of M2 thickener.
 - (3) M3 thickener in stock should be impounded, pending the result of the above test.
 - (4) Canadian Army Liaison Officer will procure Canadian octal for comparison with ours.
 - (5) Guidance from the AFF, as to more detailed military requirements of thickened fuel, should be obtained.
 - (6) The test of production grade octal should be expedited.
 - (7) Consideration should be given to a thorough course in flame thrower and fuel mixing techniques in the Chemical Corps School.
- g. Edgewood PrGr Test 5, Section II, "Test of Combat Boot, Service, Russet," is in progress. Comfort wearing trials have been completed. Analytical work on mustard penetration of leather has been resumed. Further engineering tests are being conducted on boot seams.
- h. Edgewood PrGr Test 10, "Test of Suit, Impermeable, Protective, EIR3, and Related Items," is in progress. Blister gas phase of the test is being delayed, pending construction of test apparatus. The BW phase is nearing completion at Camp Detrick.
- i. Edgewood PrGr Test 17, "Field Test of Bleaching Material (Mathieson)," is nearing completion. Preliminary results indicate that Mathieson bleach is equal to or superior to grade 3 bleach with respect to decontamination and use in the M3A2 decontaminating apparatus. The corrosive action of Mathieson bleach is greater than that of grade 3 bleach.
- j. Edgewood PrGr Test 18, "Hood, Protective, Impermeable, EIOR9," is in progress. BW phase is in progress at Camp Detrick.
- k. Edgewood PrGr Test 22, "Field Test on Decontamination of Structures," is delayed, pending construction of prototype buildings.
- l. Edgewood PrGr Test 23, "Service Test of the M9 Gas Mask Carriers," is in progress. Comparison tests on the combat course at

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Camp Lee, Va., were conducted on the following carriers: C15R1, E18R8, E18R9, E15R11, and E15R13. The E18R9 carrier proved to be the most desirable, although several modifications in design were recommended. Comparison tests on the combat course at Camp Lee were conducted on the E18R10 and the E18R11 carriers. It is probable that the E18R10 will be recommended for standardization and that the E18R11 reinforced be utilized as a substitute.

m. Edgewood PrGr Tests 25, 26, and 27, "Hot Desert Tests of Chemical Corps Materiel, Summer 1951," are planned to be conducted beginning approximately 15 June 1951, pending current accumulation and shipment of materiel to test site.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl *700 copies attached*
Copy Mo Rpt of Activities
5 June 1951

Robert H. Dymond
ROBERT H. DYMOND
Lt Col, CmlC
Executive Officer

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