

Committees on Biological Warfare

1941-1948

Following a directive from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson in October 1941 called upon the NAS to form a committee to assess the then- current state of knowledge in the field of biological warfare. The W.B.C. ("War Bureau of Consultants") Committee was thus organized by the NAS in November. Initially charged with investigating the possibility that enemies of the United States could use biological agents to attack human, agricultural, and livestock targets, the Committee issued a comprehensive report of its findings in February 1942. It also recommended that a civilian agency look further into the defensive and offensive aspects of biological warfare. With the establishment of that agency -- the War Research Service (WRS) -- later in 1942, the W.B.C. Committee was disbanded.

In January 1943, the NAS formed a second committee on biological warfare, the ABC Committee, to advise the WRS on its work in locating and developing agents suitable for use in biological warfare. With the disbanding of the WRS in June 1944, the ABC Committee was discontinued. The ABC Committee was followed by the Academy's third biological warfare committee, the DEF Committee, which was organized in September 1944 and finally disbanded in 1948.

(Because their work was so secret, the second and third NAS committees on biological warfare were given names that would be unrevealing. Thus "ABC and "DEF" are not acronyms; they are simply arbitrarily chosen letters that deliberately stood for nothing.)

The WBC Committee Papers contain correspondence, reports, and meeting minutes, and cover the years 1941-1948 for a span of 3 linear feet.

SERIES 1: W.B.C. (WAR BUREAU OF CONSULTANTS) COMMITTEE

This series contains the records of the activities of the NAS-NRC's W.B.C. Committee. Includes correspondence, meeting minutes, background materials, committee members' biographical information, and the W.B.C. Committee's Final Report of February 1942.

- Background Reports
 - BW: 1941
 - BW (League of Nations): 1941
- Beginning of Program: 1941
- Biographical Data: 1941
- Chairman
 - Fred E B 1941-1942
- Contract: 1942
- Expenses: 1941-1942
- History of WBC Committee: 1946(?)
- Meetings
 - Jun 1942
 - Feb 1942
 - Dec 1941
 - Nov 1941
 - Oct 1941

- National Institute of Health: 1941
- National Inventors Council: 1941-1942
- NRC Com - Medical Research (OSRD)
- Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD): 1941-1942
- Organization, Administration, Liaison: 1941-1942
- Organization of Committee: 1941
- Outline of Committee: 1941
- Progress Reports: 1941
- Projects
 - 1942
 - Plants: 1941-1942
 - Rinderpest: 1941-1942
- Proposals
 - Diehl, Lambert, Weiss (Axis Sugar Beet Crop): 1942
- Report
 - Jun 1942
 - Feb 1942
 - Exhibits
 - A (List of Consultants): Feb 1942
 - B (CWS Technical Study 58): Feb 1942
 - C (List of Reports): Feb 1942
 - D (I. Human Disease): Feb 1942
 - (I. Human Diseases: Bacteria, etc.): Feb 1942
 - (I. Human Diseases: Viruses, 1): Feb 1942
 - (I. Human Diseases: Viruses, 2): Feb 1942
 - E (II. Animal Diseases): Feb 1942
 - F (III. Plants, 1): Feb 1942
 - (III. Plants, 2): Feb 1942
 - (III. Plants, Supplement, 1): Feb 1942
 - (III. Plants, Supplement, 2): Feb 1942
 - G (IV. Food, Water; Mass Prod): Feb 1942
 - General: Feb 1942
- Secretary
 - Turner T B: 1941-1942
- Security Clearance: 1942
- U.S.-Canadian Cooperation
 - 1941-1942
 - Grosse Ile: 1942
 - Meeting: Jul 1942
 - Meeting: Jun 1942
- U.S.-U.K. Cooperation: 1942
- General: 1942

SERIES 2: ABC COMMITTEE

This series contains records documenting the activities of the NAS-NRC's ABC Committee. Includes correspondence and meeting minutes.

- Appointments: Oct-Nov 1942
- Chairman
 - Clark W Mansfield: 1942-1944
- End of Committee: 1944
- Meetings
 - Jun 1944
 - Nov 1943
 - Feb 1943
- Reclassification Authority
 - Secretary of War: 1943-1944
- Security Clearance: 1942-1943
- Subcommittee
 - Meetings: 1943
 - Report: Review of WRS Research: May 1944
- WRS Representative
 - Fred E B

SERIES 3: CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICES

This series contains the records of the U.S. Army Chemical Warfare Service's activities in relation to the NAS-NRC committees on biological warfare. Contains material on Chemical Warfare Service projects pertaining to biological warfare, and on the establishment of the Camp Detrick research facility.

- Camp Detrick
 - Films for School: 1942-1944
 - Memos (Supplies, Equipment, Personnel): 1943
 - Special Projects
 - Disinfectants & Germicides: 1945
 - Special Projects Division: 1943-1945
- Chief: 1942-1944
- Conferences with War Research Service
 - BW Problems: Dec 1943
 - Personnel Procurement: Aug 1943
 - Steering Group: Aug 1943
- Protective Clothing for BW: 1944
- Protective Masks: 1943

SERIES 4: WAR RESEARCH SERVICE

This series contains the records of the biological warfare research activities of the civilian Federal Security Agency's War Research Service (WRS). Includes correspondence, conference and meeting minutes, personnel reports, and progress reports of WRS projects. Also includes the "Historical Report of the War Research Service" of 1944.

- Beginning of Program: 1942-1943
- BWRC Panel Meeting
 - Sept 1942
- Carnegie Institution of Washington: 1942-1943
- Conferences

- Agents, Immunization, & Munitions: Jun-Oct 1943
 - BW as Related to Plants: Dec 1942
 - Rice Problem: 1943
 - "X," "AU": Jan-Feb 1944
- "Historical Report of War Research Service": 1944
- Meetings
 - New York City: Jul 1943
 - Surgeon General's Meeting on Defense: Jan 1944
- OSS and BW Agents: 1943-1945
- Panels
 - 1942-1943
 - Conferences (Munitions): Sept 1943
 - Meetings
 - Oct 1942
 - Glanders: Mar 1944
 - Mass Cultures: Dec 1942
 - Tularemia: Sept 1943
- Personnel Reports: 1943-1944
- Projects
 - Interim Progress Reports on "LO": 1943
 - Interim Progress Reports on "MN": 1943
 - Interim Progress Reports on "US": 1943
 - Listing: 1944
 - "W": 1943
- Reorganization: 1944
- Reports & Memos
 - Marquand J P: 1943-1944
- U.S.-Canadian Cooperation: 1942-1944
- U.S.-U.K. Cooperation: 1942-1944

SERIES 5: DEF COMMITTEE

This series contains the records of the activities of the NAS-NRC's DEF Committee. Includes correspondence, contracts, meeting minutes, and materials on research projects. Also includes the [1945 Merck Report](#) to the Secretary of War, "Biological Warfare."

- Advisory Committee on Biological Warfare: 1946-1948
- Beginning: 1944
- Chairman
 - Pepper O H Perry: 1944-1945
- Continuation: 1945-1946
- Contracts: 1945-1947
- Executive Committee
 - Meetings: Feb 1945
- Joint Security Control: 1944-1948
- Meetings
 - Jun 1945
 - Oct 1944

- Report & Follow-up: Jun 1946
- Member
 - Fred E B: 1944-1945
- Merck Report to Secretary of War
 - "Biological Warfare": 1945
- Office of Scientific Research & Development (OSRD): 1944-1945
- Panels
 - Plant Diseases: Dec 1944
- Peacetime Utilization of Camp Detrick Facilities: 1945-1946
- Projects
 - "LN": Suggestions by Outside Research Workers: 1945
 - "LN": General: 1944-1945
 - "N": Meetings: 1944-1945
- Research Papers
 - Review for Permission to Publish: 1944-1945
- Subcommittee on Human Disease
 - Meeting Minutes: Draft: Apr 1945
- Vice Chairman
 - Clark W M: 1944
- General: 1944-1947

SERIES 6: NAME FILES

This series contains correspondence files for individuals involved in the work of the NAS-NRC committees on biological warfare.

- "A" Miscellaneous: 1942-1943
- Adams, Roger: 1942-1945
- Auchter, Dr. Eugene C.: 1941-1943
- "B" Miscellaneous: 1942-1944
- Baldwin, Dr. I.L.: 1942-1944
- Barker, Col. M.E.: 1941-1942
- Barrows, Albert L.: 1941-1942
- Bayne-Jones, Dr. Stanhope: 1941-1942
- Brandly, Dr. Carl A.: 1942-1944
- Brockett, Paul: 1942
- "C" Miscellaneous: 1941-1945
- Clark, W. Mansfield: 1941-1942
- Defandorf, Lt. Col. James H.: 1941-1944
- Dubos, Rene J.: 1942-1944
- Dyer, Rolla E.: 1942-1944
- Dykstra, Clarence A.: 1942-1943
- "F" Miscellaneous: 1944
- Feldman, Dr. William H.: 1943

- Fildes, P.: 1942-1944
- Fred, E.B.: 1942-1943
 - Memoranda (Black Book): 1942-1944
- Goodner, Dr. Kenneth: 1943
- Goodpasture, Ernest W.: 1942
- "H" Miscellaneous: 1944-1945
- Hagan, William Arthur: 1942-1943
- Harrison, Ross G.: 1942
- Haskins, C.P. & Cooper, F.S.: 1942-1943
- Henderson, Dr. D.W.: 1942-1944
- Herrick, Dr. H.T.: 1943
- Jewett, Frank B.: 1941-1943
 - Black Book #3: 1943-1944
 - Black Book: 1942-1943
- Kendrick, Dr. J.B.: 1942
- Kraus, Dr. E.J.: 1943
- Kunkel, Louis O.: 1941-1943
- Langlykke, Dr. Asger: 1943
- Leach, J.G.: 1943
- "M" Miscellaneous: 1943-1944
- McCoy, Prof. Elizabeth F.: 1942-1945
- Martin, Dr. William H.: 1942-1944
- Merck, Mr. George W.: 1942-1944
- Meyer, Dr. Karl F.: 1942-1945
- Mueller, J. Howard: 1942-1944
- "N" Miscellaneous: 1944
- "R" Miscellaneous: 1942-1943
- Reyniers, Dr. James A.: 1942-1943
- Rivers, Dr. Thomas M.: 1942-1944
- Rogers, James Grafton: 1942
- Rogers, Dr. L.A.: 1942
- "S" Miscellaneous: 1942-1944
- Sarles, Dr. William B.: 1942-1945
- Schoening, Dr. Harry W.: 1943
- Sherman, James M.: 1941-1942
- Shope, Dr. Richard E.: 1942-1943
- Simmons, Col. James S.: 1942

- Sommer, Dr. Hermann: 1942
 - Spoehr, Dr. H.A.: 1942-1943
 - Stakman, E.C.: 1941-1943
 - Stephenson, Capt. Charles S.: 1944
 - Stone, Dr. J.F.S.: 1944
 - Switzer, Mary E.: 1942-1944
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- Taliaferro, Dr. W.H.: 1941-1942
 - Thompson, Lt. Col. A.T.: 1943
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- Waksman, Selman A.: 1944
 - Watson, Dr. Dennis W.: 1942-1944
 - Weiss, Freeman: 1942-1943
 - Wilson, Dr. P.W.: 1943-1944
 - Winternitz, Milton: 1942
 - Wolman, Abel: 1942