

Derry House, Dourderry, Torpoint, Cornwall.

Dec. 3, '43

Dear Fisher

Thank you for reply. I am back at M.B.A. for a few days to use certain instruments lacking at Met. Office. As my wife could not locate the table of results - no wonder, it was stored away - had to wait for chance to do it.

Men were dosed after breakfast as a rule, at 7:30. Then after 3 hours they emptied bladders. Urine was then retained for 3 hours and vitamin C excreted was estimated chemically NOT the concentration (which varied) but the actual amount, with volume.

As a comparison I give the results for two places. The first had J, & K, from infantry units and L, R.A.M.C. - all in different messes, but in the same country district. The second had M, N, infantry from two units and P, Q, R.A.M.C. (hence two messes)

from the same unit & the same mess, merely P & Q¹²
 for A.R.P. duties etc. It so happened that when P
 had been dosed - before breakfast, they had been
 busy giving patients breakfast - M & N (infantry) came in
 & were dosed. Meanwhile Q, R.A.M.C., slipped out &
 had breakfast & were dosed AFTER FOOD,
 like all the rest of the men everywhere,
 save the R.A.M.C. section P. Same routine was
 observed on subsequent
 days.

Days	J	K	L	M	N.	P.	Q
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	7	2	5	0	1	0	1
3	11	10	22	6	4	4	14
4	4	8	12	12	4	6	5
5	3	2	4	8	2	9	1
> 5a	0	1	5	2	1	1	0
> 5b	0	0	1	1	7	2	0
Casualties	0	2	2	1	1	3	4
Total	25	25	51	30	20	25	25

In the table under Days are shown figures (3)
1-5, meaning the number of daily doses required
to saturate with vitamin C. >5a were men who
showed such a rise after 5 doses (all that were
given) as to lead one to think they wd. be
saturated on 6th day. >5b were men who
might have become saturated with a sixth
dose but most probably wd. require seven or
more. Wrong - in winter series four doses only
were given, so 5 were men nearly saturated on
4th day, probably saturated on 5th, 5a & 5b as above.
In the whole series I did 600 men, 100 at
each station. But I think I have given you
all you require. The question is, what is the
probability that dosing after food is better
than dosing before food - better meaning a
more rapid approach to saturation. I did
another 600 men in early summer

The casualties include men who for some reason (4
(sent on leave, sent away etc etc.) did not complete
the series to saturation.

You see P & Q had 22 and 21 men resp. who
completed the tests. In collecting urine time was
allowed so that P & Q had same period of
retention over same interval after dosing - as
near as one can manage with 100 men. You see
Q showed up considerably better than P - at first
sight. But is it a valid conclusion? Were there
enough men in the test? That you can say.

I expect to be working here till Friday next week, after
that back at Meteorological Office, Stonehouse,

Glos. With kind regards

Yours sincerely

W.R.S. Atkins

The 14. N.P. Q. lot were quartered in a city; J, K, L in
country. In every case the city men were below
the country. The data are of course all confidential
I did test for War Office when Lieut. R.A.M.C.