Dear Albert:-

Since John has just left with Capt. Havens for an unstated period of inquiry in Sicily on infectious hepatitis I took the liberty of opening your air mail of October 20 to him on the possibility that something might need answering. It will of course be called to his attention immediately on his return, the date of which is anybody's guess at present.

I was interested in your remarks on the strains of W.E.E. I might mention that since you are looking for strains, we sent at least to Bitterroot strains to Dr. Sahai of the Bureau of Animal Industry in Washington, where they may still be going and know that you can pick up strains from my friend Dr. L. R. Varter of the Nevada Agricultural Experimental Station, Reno, and probably also from Dr. Madsen, Veterinarian of the Utah Agr. Experimental Station, Logan. Harald Cox might still have material of the Bitterroot strains. I was always suspicious of certain of the strains with which I was trying to obtain mosquito transmission at Hamilton. They seem to be unadaptable to arthropod transfer and very unsatisfactory.

Congratulations on getting the Sicilian S.F. strains established so nicely. Your difficulties with the virus corroborates our own failure with 0.3 cc in each of 2 volunteers; after a 6 day wait, however, we reinjected with Pool #2 in order to obtain donors as quickly as possible for the mosquito studies.

You will be interested to know further that we got lots of Sandflies, Culex pipiens and Aedes aegypti fed on both these donors and they are under
test at present - (we had to use the unsatisfactory weak strains of *aegypti* since those supposed to be on the way from A.M.S. have never arrived) - At present we have 8 volunteers under observation. One donor has proved positive by feeding of *Papataci* after 6 and 9 days extrinsic incubation. This volunteer came down 8 or 5 days after exposure and had a typical 3½ day fever. We fed more Sandflies on him for freezing to bring back for the experiments I have previously outlined. The other control volunteer has not to date come down and I fed a part of his sandflies on myself on the 15th day for a possible double check. This is annoying but invalidates only a part of our mosquito tests. The only suspicious reaction to date was in a volunteer bitten by *pipiens* 4 days previously. This patient had a sudden low rise of temperature for 1 day with a concurrent leucopenia and some other suspicious clinical symptoms. Blood was taken but I waited to feed sandflies to see what the next mornings' temperature would be. The patient returned to normal and has remained so.

We have your cable on the donors of Pool 1, and I have checked all of those still available locally. No further illness has occurred in *[redacted]*. *[redacted]* left for North Africa in August but we are trying to follow up on him. *[redacted]* reported to the 63rd Dispensary October 24 to 27 with what they call Fibroatitis but has had no other definite complaints. No report on the *[redacted]* men as yet. *[redacted]* will be the hardest to find.

I am not sure of the best way to freeze infected sandflies for transport home but I am dividing the Lots and lyophylizing a part.
John and I have discussed this at some length and decided against making suspensions of any of them on this side.

My wife was especially grateful for your note and the package. She has remarked on how nice everyone has been from the Army in the East. Incidentally Colonel Plots paid Hamilton a visit and was over for dinner.

We are in process of checking equipment for transfer of a portion to the Typhus Commission, as John has no doubt informed you. Rest assured I will check the non-expendable items charged to you and me.

Cheerio and "Abbassian'yu"!

Very sincerely yours,

Cornelius B. Philip

C.S. I'm freezing the pipiens and aegypti remaining alive after 18-day tests, just in case we might find some use for them. It occurs to me they might retain the virus in bodies, as do certain species of mosquitos, adapted to feeding on animals, which do not transmit by bite.
HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

P.S. A conference in Col. Billens's office, John, Beul Fox, Snyder and Col. Sewell also present, had object of disposition of property, etc. I'm checking to see that non expend prop. charged to you and me will be properly signed for. No doubt John has or will write you details on this.

Also discussed was a comm. for Woldwasser as well as his and Dworkind's transfer to the Typhus Comm. Col. Sewell pointed out there was a vacancy for a Lt. in the Src on the fall of the 35/41 troop. Beul Fox jumped on that immediately and said that would make his appointment easy and quick ("maybe 15 days").

This OK with Col. van Vleck who's endorsing John's letter of recommendation & B.J. However, Col. Parker says he'll look into a new application in any event, so this is being
done, the hitch on paper is that he's applying for a bacteriological job on paper, the immediate transfer to Typhus Command is, of course, not showing. It is from the back standpoint might not be considered sufficient for this specific opening, and throw a hitch into arrangements. The next time you are in Wash. it might help to mention the circumstances to B.J. or Major Trench, or whoever, although his application might be longer getting to Wash. than we anticipate. It carries the OK of everyone concerned out here.

Don't let Col. Russell get his side tracked up his artificial war work! (this is facetious, not a serious remark).

All friends are asking for you, Boy. I know how you felt at being approached for getting back to good old USA and a glass of milk.

Phil.