

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

26 BROADWAY

McIVER WOODY, M.D.
ROBERT P. SIM, M.D.
FRANKLIN M. GOODCHILD, M.D.

NEW YORK 4, N. Y.

March 23, 1944.

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

We are forwarding to you enclosed an inquiry from
Capt. Burchell E. Horn of Camp Davis, N.C. We have written that no cases
have come to our knowledge in which the symptoms he describes were caused
by the inhalation of vapors from dilute Ethyl gasoline and that we are re-
ferring his inquiry to you.

Very truly yours,

McIver Woody

McIW:EH
Enc.

KE 0016203

March 14, 1944
Bldg. 1237 Research Section
Camp Davis, N.C.

Medical Department
The Standard Oil Co.

Gentlemen:

I am an Army officer. I am writing to you in regard to a strange malady which has afflicted me and which I believe may have been caused by fumes from ethyl gasoline. Army doctors have not had the specialized training or experience necessary to determine whether or not inhaling gasoline vapor could cause such a malady and it is with the thought that perhaps some of your workmen may have had a similar experience that I turn to you for help.

The accident took place in December 1940. In attempting to siphon gasoline from a tank, I completely filled my lungs with ethyl gasoline vapor because the end of the tube had not reached down to the liquid. The effect was similar to suffocation since all oxygen was exhausted from my lungs and it was necessary to use oxygen to revive me.

Until that time I had never had any illness other than the usual childhood diseases.

Beginning in August 1941, I have experienced recurrent attacks of greater or lesser severity at intervals of a few days to six months. Recently they have been more severe and more frequent and are associated with sharp pains in the center of my chest.

These attacks usually occur at night and cause erratic heart beats sometimes rapid, sometimes very slow and laboring. In general, I feel much the same as I did while passing out from the gas fumes. I feel weak and dizzy but have never fainted. The attacks usually last 15 to 20 minutes and are sometimes associated with violent shaking as if in a chill.

When an attack is over I feel normal and I have no after effects the next day. But, I do have frequent sharp pains of short duration in the middle chest during the day.

Army doctors are at a loss to explain the cause of these attacks. They have given me E.K.G., B.M.R., blood, urine, and X-ray tests, but have found everything normal.

If you have any case histories which parallel in any way my experience, I will be very grateful if you can advise me as to what can be done. I have been overseas, but inasmuch as the attacks started before then it seems illogical to attribute them to battle nerves.

Yours very truly,

Burchell E. Horn (sgd)

Burchell E. Horn
Capt. CAC

KE 0016204