

CLEMENT DOUGLAS RAMSDALE (1917-2012)

Clement Douglas Ramsdale, known to his friends as Clem, was born on 23 February 1917 in Selby, North Yorkshire, UK. He attended Sleight Village School, near Whitby from 1922 to 1924, Allerthorpe Village School near Pocklington in 1924, Cawood Village School, near Selby from 1925 to 1929 and Sidmouth Street Elementary School, Hull from 1929 to 1930. In 1930 he went to Riley High School, Hull, gaining his Matriculation in 1933.

After leaving school he worked as a junior clerk in Hull until 1935 when he joined His Majesty's Forces and served in Algeria, Belgium, France, Italy, various Mediterranean Islands, Tunisia and Britain.

On leaving HM Forces in 1946, Clem joined the Control Commission for Administration of the British Occupied Zone of Germany, based in Kirchlengern, Westfalen as an Administrative Officer. He remained in this post for two years before moving to a similar post with the National Health Service, based in Hull, East Yorkshire, where he remained for a further year.

In 1949 Clem married Marie Smith in Brighton and they became the proud parents of four children, the eldest Phillip born in 1950, followed by Sally in 1961 and twins Timothy and Jill in 1962.

It was in 1950 that he started his long association with mosquitoes, gaining employment as a Field Officer with the Malaria Research Institute of the East Africa High Commission, based at Amani, Tanganyika (now Tanzania), with duties in all the High Commission territories.

Returning to Britain in 1953 he entered the Ross Institute at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. From there, in 1956, he became employed by the World Health Organization until his retirement in 1977. He began as a Member of the Malaria Research and Advisory Team in the African Region of WHO, with assignments in Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Dahomey (now Benin), Nigeria, Belgian Congo (now Zaire), Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Swaziland and Togo. In 1959 he became a Project Entomologist with the WHO Malaria Team in Southern Rhodesia (then part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyassaland, now Zimbabwe), and then in 1960 moved to Mozambique for two years as a Project Entomologist with the WHO Malaria Team.

From 1962 to 1966 Clem Ramsdale was an Instructor in Malaria Entomology at the WHO International Malaria Eradication Training Centre located in Lagos, Nigeria. At the end of this time he turned his attention to Europe and North Africa and became an Entomologist with the European Region of WHO, with duties in Algeria, Britain, Denmark, Greece, Holland, Italy, Morocco, Portugal and Turkey, with occasional secondments to research projects in Kenya and Nigeria. He remained in this post until his retirement.

Not one to retire completely, Clem Ramsdale continued to be a Consultant Entomologist. Among his many activities he was a consultant to WHO projects in Algeria, Nigeria and Turkey, to the Ministry of Health in Tripoli, Libya as part of technical support supplied by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and to British industrial and developmental organisations, including assignments in Nepal, Tanzania and the West Indies. He has also advised on mosquito problems faced by British Local Authorities, including his notable work in Hayling Island and the North and East Kent marshes.

Clem has also been a Visiting Lecturer at the International Training Centre for Vector Biology and Control in Baghdad, Iraq and has carried out extensive research work on the biology and ecology of mosquitoes in southern England, the Channel Islands, and countries bordering the Mediterranean. He also carried out external supervision of a number of post-graduate students at the University of East London and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

In recognition of the quality of his scientific work, in 1996 the University of East London awarded Clem an honorary doctorate degree.

Clem was a founder member of the UK Mosquito Association and an assistant editor of the online journal, the European Mosquito Bulletin / Journal of the European Mosquito Control Association.

His publication list is extensive and includes numerous publications in scientific journals and WHO documents plus countless reports for a variety of organisations.

Clem died on 6 June 2012 at the age of 95. I was proud to have known and him and to have worked with him. He will be deeply missed by colleagues, friends and family.

Keith Snow

Publications by Clement Ramsdale include:

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- 1970 Ramsdale C.D. & Fontaine R.E. Ecological investigations of *Anopheles gambiae* and *An. funestus*. I. Dry season studies in villages near Kaduna, Nigeria - 1970. WHO/VBC/70.248 and WHO/Mal/70.735. English only.
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- 1972 Postiglione M., Tabanlı S. & Ramsdale C.D. *Anopheles claviger* in Turkey. *Rivista di Parassitologia* **33**, 219-230.
- 1973 Postiglione M., Tabanlı S. & Ramsdale C.D. The *Anopheles* of Turkey. *Rivista di Parassitologia* **34**, 127-159.
- 1973 Ramsdale C.D. Insecticide resistance in the anophelines of Turkey. *Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress on Tropical Medicine and Malaria, Athens, Greece, 14-21 October, 1973*. Volume 1, invited paper 377, pp. 260-261.
- 1974 Coluzzi M., Sabatini A., Bullini L. & Ramsdale C.D. Nuovi dati sulla distribuzione delle specie del Complesso *mariae* del genere *Aedes*. *Rivista di Parassitologia* **35**, 321-330.
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- 1980 Ramsdale C.D., Herath P. & Davidson G. Recent developments of insecticide resistance in some Turkish anophelines. *Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* **83**, 11-19.
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- 2002 Snow K.R. & Ramsdale C.D. Mosquitoes and tyres. *Biologist* **49**, 49-52.
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