

# Lab Companies Use Chemistry on Field

By J. F. DREA

This is the fifth of a series of articles on the functions of the Chemical Corps. In this article we will discuss the mission and functions of the Chemical Laboratory and the means by which they are accomplished.

The mission of the Chemical Laboratory Company is very complex, varied, and diversified. Its principal work is to collect and identify enemy chemical agents; to devise immediate methods of decontamination and protection of troops, equipment, and terrain against new chemical agents; to determine the adequacy of friendly and enemy protective equipment; to provide miscellaneous technical advice whenever required; to supply an uninterrupted flow of chemical warfare information from the theaters of operation to the Chief Chemical Officer, Washington, D.C.

In addition to the above, it is contemplated that the Chemical

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Corps will be equipped to make analysis of the new types of warfare agents in biological and radiological fields, responsibility for which has been assigned to the Chief Chemical Officer.

During World War II there were seven Chemical Corps laboratory companies in the overseas theaters of operation. The roster of these companies was largely made up of scientists who have had many years of advanced study and practical laboratory experience. Their work called for uninterrupted application, and they were relieved of all duties except those directly concerned with the accomplishment of their companies' missions.