

This site uses cookies to provide you with a better experience. For information on our cookie policy, please visit [this page](#). By continuing to use the site or closing this banner, you are agreeing to our terms of use.



Have library access? [Log in through your library](#)



[Advanced Search](#) [Browse](#) [Tools](#)

[Log in](#) | [Register](#)

[About](#) [Support](#) [Log in](#) | [Register](#)



JOURNAL ARTICLE

# An Outbreak of Common Colds at an Antarctic Base after Seventeen Weeks of Complete Isolation

T. R. Allen, A. F. Bradburne, E. J. Stott, C. S. Goodwin and D. A. J. Tyrrell

The Journal of Hygiene

Vol. 71, No. 4 (Dec., 1973), pp. 657-667 (11 pages)

Published By: Cambridge University Press

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3862013>

[Cite this Item](#)

**Read and download**

[Log in through your school or library](#)

**Alternate access options**

[For independent researchers](#)



Abstract

Six of 12 men wintering at an isolated Antarctic base sequentially developed symptoms and signs of a common cold after 17 weeks of complete isolation. Examination of specimens taken from the men in relation to the outbreak has not revealed a causative agent.

## Publisher Information

Cambridge University Press ([www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)) is the publishing division of the University of Cambridge, one of the world's leading research institutions and winner of 81 Nobel Prizes. Cambridge University Press is committed by its charter to disseminate knowledge as widely as possible across the globe. It publishes over 2,500 books a year for distribution in more than 200 countries. Cambridge Journals publishes over 250 peer-reviewed academic journals across a wide range of subject areas, in print and online. Many of these journals are the leading academic publications in their fields and together they form one of the most valuable and comprehensive bodies of research available today. For more information, visit <http://journals.cambridge.org>.

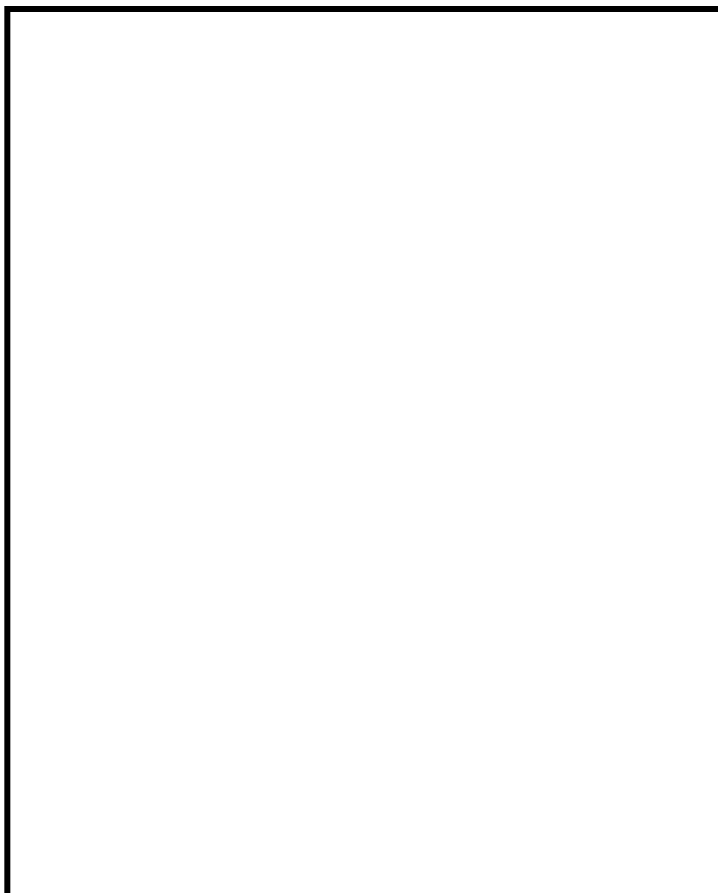
## Rights & Usage

**This item is part of a JSTOR Collection.**

For terms and use, please refer to our [Terms and Conditions](#)

The Journal of Hygiene © 1973 [Cambridge University Press](#)

[Request Permissions](#)



**An outbreak of common colds at an Antarctic base after  
seventeen weeks of complete isolation**

By T. R. ALLEN

*Medical Officer, British Antarctic Survey*

AND A. F. BRADBURNE, E. J. STOTT, C. S. GOODWIN  
AND D. A. J. TYRRELL

*Clinical Research Centre, Harrow, England*

(Received 28 February 1973)

SUMMARY

Six of 12 men wintering at an isolated Antarctic base sequentially developed symptoms and signs of a common cold after 17 weeks of complete isolation. Examination of specimens taken from the men in relation to the outbreak has not revealed a causative agent.

INTRODUCTION

It has commonly been believed that on small Antarctic bases, isolated for many months, upper respiratory infections die out during the first few weeks of isolation and that the men are virtually symptom-free for the rest of the isolation period. With the arrival of the relief ship or aircraft, outbreaks of respiratory disease have been noted to occur (Taylor, 1960; Siple, 1960; Hedblom, 1961; Cameron & Moore, 1968; Holmes, Allen, Bradburne & Stott, 1971). This has tended to follow the pattern seen in other isolated communities (Paul & Freese, 1933; Shibli, Gooch, Lewis & Tyrrell, 1971).

Several studies of upper respiratory disease in men at isolated Antarctic stations have been undertaken. Sera obtained from the McMurdo Sound wintering party of 1958 were tested for the presence of antibodies to a number of respiratory viruses, but not including rhinoviruses, and showed no evidence of infection with any of the viral antigens tested (Chanock, R. M., quoted by Cameron & Moore, 1968). A systematic study of monthly serum specimens collected from the members of the South African National Antarctic Expeditions in 1961-62 showed no evidence of new virus infection (J. H. S. Gear, quoted by Cameron & Moore, 1968). In their 1968 study of the epidemiology of respiratory infections at Mawson, an Australian Antarctic Research Expedition station, Cameron & Moore (1968) made observations on infective diseases during the period of isolation, and found no diagnostic rises in antibody titre against influenza viruses A and B, mumps, adenovirus, herpes simplex and ornithosis. All attempts at virus isolation from throat, nose and faeces swabs were unsuccessful.

The apparent absence of respiratory infections for long periods during isolation in Antarctica has provided opportunity for basic epidemiological study, and

[View Preview](#)

## Explore JSTOR

By Subject

Get

About JSTOR

JSTOR

For Librarians

By Title

Access

Mission and

Labs

By

Support

History

JSTOR

For Publishers

Collections

LibGuides

What's in JSTOR

Daily

By

Research

Get JSTOR

Careers

Publisher

Basics

JSTOR is part of [ITHAKA](#), a not-for-profit organization helping the academic community use digital technologies to preserve

[Advanced Search](#)

[Data for Research](#)

[News](#)

[Webinars](#)

[Contact Us](#)

the scholarly record and to advance research and teaching in sustainable ways.

©2000-2021 ITHAKA. All Rights Reserved. JSTOR®, the JSTOR logo, JPASS®, Artstor®, Reveal Digital™ and ITHAKA® are registered trademarks of ITHAKA.

[Terms & Conditions of Use](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Cookie Policy](#)

**Select Language**

[Accessibility](#)