

LAMBRECHTS, MARTHINUS CHRISTOFFEL (March 20, 1912, Makwassie, South Africa – September 10, 1992, Bloemfontein, South Africa). *Veterinarian; state veterinarian*. Son of Willem Lambrechts and Anna Francina (neé Barnard) Lambrechts. Married Joan Booker, August 5, 1939.

EDUCATION : University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science, 1936: BVSc.

CAREER : 1937–1953, state veterinarian at Allerton, Lusikisiki, Umtata and Vryheid; 1953–1959, senior state veterinarian in Pretoria in charge of control of and field research on bovine tuberculosis; 1959–1960, Assistant Director, Northern Cape; 1960–1972, Deputy Director of Veterinary Field Services; in 1962(?) the post was upgraded to that of Director of Veterinary Services.

CONTRIBUTIONS : Played a key role in the eradication of the devastating tick borne disease, East Coast fever, from South Africa. Was closely involved with experiments that proved that wild ruminants were carriers of FMD. This resulted in a policy of extensive game-fencing of National Parks and game reserves and the creation of a barrier zone of stock farms around them (“red line”) which were subject to regular inspection and permits for movement of livestock. Did extensive research in collaboration with the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute (OVRI) on false positive TB reactors to the skin test with bovine tuberculin, showing that non-tubercular acid-fast bacterial lesions in the skin of especially the legs of cattle (“skin lesions”) were responsible. Lambrechts was instrumental in establishing an effective network of regional veterinary diagnostic laboratories in South Africa. He succeeded in raising the status of the Division of Veterinary Services to that of a directorate, thus placing it on par with the OVRI. As skilled diplomat, he forged good ties with veterinary authorities of southern African countries, *inter alia* via SARCCUS (Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilisation of Soil) and active participation in OIE (Office International des Epizooties) meetings in Europe.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS: Awarded the following: 1969, Medal for Dedicated Service to Africa of the Royal African Society; 1980, Gold Medal of the South African Veterinary Association.

WRITINGS: No published reference available. MC Lambrechts *et. al*, 1956. Observations on the transmission of foot-and-mouth disease to game and controlled transmission of the disease from game to cattle and *vice versa* by means of contact. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, 27, 133-137; MC Lambrechts, 1956. Aspects of tuberculin testing in cattle. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, 27, 225-243; MC Lambrechts, 1957. Some observations on the Stormont test. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, 28, 169-174.

REFERENCES/OBITUARIES: Anon., 1992.(VETNEWS) In Memoriam: “Marthinus Christoffel Lambrechts 20 Maart 1912 – 10 September 1992” (in Afrikaans).

T W Naudé