

29 December 1949

Thomas N. White Group Leader H-1

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T A 33 Special Experiment 28 December 1949

REFERENCE: H-1

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W-3 Group performed a special experiment at T. A. 33 on 28 December 1949 under the direction of Commander James Dare and Lt. Edward Snyder. The experiment was the same as the one mentioned in the memo to you from Carl Buckland dated 14 November 1949.

The experiment was carried on as before except for the following changes:

- 1) A piece was welded on the back of the cylinder for reinforcement.
- 2) A larger charge was used.

We believe this resulted in the shattering of the assembly. Parts of the assembly landed in the basket and others were scattered on the floor in front of the basket. The material used to absorb the impact was set on fire for reasons unknown. A CO₂ fire extinguisher was used to put out the fire.

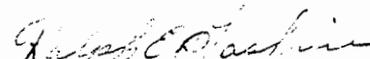
The usual protective clothing was worn with the addition of Scott Air Packs during monitoring operations. Full face fire masks were worn by the W-3 personnel.

While performing monitoring duties, the following range of counts were found; 500 c/m to 20,000+ c/m.

The assembly was shattered into a number of pieces; some of the pieces were highly contaminated and some were clean. The main part of the assembly remained intact and no leaks were found. This was sealed off and used for counting purposes as usual.

As the result of this experiment, future assemblies will not be welded. It is the general belief of all persons concerned, that the welding caused the breakdown of the assembly. Contaminated pieces of the assembly will be disposed of in the usual manner.


Charles D. Blackwell


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cc/ ~~Charles D. Blackwell~~
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