

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Jane Hall, AD
FROM : H. W. Russ, W-3
SUBJECT: Unrecovered Projectile
SYMBOL : W-3

DATE: July 10, 1962

On June 4, 1962, a modified Army M-103 projectile which was fired from the 8-inch gun at TA-33 failed to enter the recovery berm and most of the projectile and contents have not been found.

This projectile contained approximately 30 kg of D-38 parts (classified Confidential and Secret) plus two Co⁶⁰ sources (for locating purposes) with strengths of about 3 millicuries each.

Due to a number of circumstances in connection with the firing, it is believed that this projectile disintegrated while still in the barrel of the gun and left the muzzle as a large number of fragments, some of which started brush fires in the canyons to the left and right of the line of firing. The S-Site Fire Department extinguished these fires.

Ten people, including two health monitors, carried out a five-day search for the projectile. Search parties were equipped with portable beta-gamma detectors and walky-talkies. The search parties were directed by radio from the firing point. The search was conducted in the Ancho and Rio Grande canyons as far as the Rio. The projectile front end plate was the only fragment found below the canyon rims (1), (2). A few other fragments, including one small piece of tuballoy, were found in the vicinity of the recovery berm.

The recovered fragments are shown in the attached photograph. The tuballoy fragment is indicated by the Number "1".

With the concurrence of Group H-1 and W-Division Office, the search was terminated at the end of the fifth day (June 8).

The unrecovered tuballoy will be reported as expended (lost) in a test.

HWR:bh

H. W. Russ
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cc: G. R. Champion, ADP-SF (2)
D. Meyer, H-1
P. Belcher, ADCS
K. Corn, AEC Security
M. F. Roy, W-DO
W-3 File

- (1) It was found below the location of one of the brush fires.
- (2) Two fine Indian pots and a rattlesnake were found in the depths of the canyons.

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