

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

MEMORANDUM

0071193

DATE: December 14, 1960

TO: Miss Gail Bradshaw
FROM: Dr. Robert A. Conner
SUBJECT: Skin Lesions in American Servicemen from 1954 Fallout

The following statement concerns the lesions of the skin that developed in 28 American service personnel who were exposed to radioactive fallout on Rongerik Island on March 1, 1954. I was in charge of the skin examinations.

1. The skin lesions occurred in 40 percent of the Americans but were very mild, freckle-like, as compared with definite ulceration of the skin that occurred in the Rongelap group.
2. The lesions occurred later in the Americans. The Rongelap group's beta burns developed in two to three weeks after exposure. In the Americans, lesions did not appear until four to five weeks post exposure. The lesions were so mild in the Americans that it was uncertain at first that they were related to fallout exposure.
3. Their lesions were of short duration, clearing up within a week or so and left no residual skin effects. In contrast, the Rongelap people had lesions which took longer to heal and had residual skin scarring and pigment changes.

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326 US ATOMIC ENERGY	
COMMISSION	
RG	
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Box	682 JOB 6586
Folder	MRFA-1 D/C NAVY RESET/REAR ENIWEATK (1970)

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