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Eniwetok, M.I.  
23 May, 1956 404357

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Dear Dr. Shipman:

As of this date I have a little more information to report to you than in the last letter. Sorry this one has been so long in "whelping", but I thought I'd best wait until the big boy was out of the way so that I could let you know how we made out. I'll admit that this is just another way of saying that I was rather lazy, for I should have kept you posted after Lacrosse.

So far we have been very lucky. I don't know whether or not I should stand up and take a bow for providing such excellent rad-safe or just hide my head in the coral sands and hope that nothing drastic happens in the future. On Lacrosse we dirtied up things quite a bit, but the critical construction areas on the south and central portions of Runit were free and open. This made H & N very, very happy. The northern portions of the atoll were such that we've had to kept strict rad-safe control, but our check point system has worked excellently; so far the only violators have been two H & N cooks delivering lunch to a work party.

The camps on Ursula and Gene were lost; for how long I don't know at the present time. I put it that way for the reason that I left for Bikini at noon on Lacrosse day and just got back here this afternoon. I've not paid too close attention to the details of this end. That I've left up to more than anyone else. I believe that work here at those particular islands is being supported from either house boats or directly from Elmer. The main thing, of course, is the fact that work is progressing; rad-safe has not been pestered or cursed about delays.

The big one at Bikini the other day was not too much of a surprise to us. I think we all expected to see very little of the atoll declared a "radex" area. I must admit that it was a little astounding to make that pre-entry survey and keep reading "zero". This made things quite simple for us, for we just closed up shop and stopped operating before we really got into the swing of things. I'm

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convinced that my basic planning was correct, considering the many questionable facets of this operation. I must be careful now that I don't release too many too soon and put myself in a bind as a result.

That's about all that I have to offer at the present time. Please give my regards to all those there in the office. I'll try and add more after we get a couple more of the events out of the way.

Sincerely yours

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quite sure that you have received most of the important information concerning Cherokee by this time, so there is little that I can add. Suffice it to say that the total dosage accumulated by all of us was zero. Let's hope that the gods grant us the same immunity in the future. (However, I'm not counting on it.)

Getting back to Lacrosse for a moment, we got through that with only one out-of-the-ordinary incident. left in the chopper with the survey party at H plus on half hour, and as a result they got caught. We had hot people and hot aircraft when they got back. scrubbed his hands for forty five minutes and couldn't get them down low enough to be read on a MX-5. At that point he said "To hell with it" and stopped scrubbing. and the aircraft crews were about the same. Security badges, film badges, shoes, everything was so fouled up that we had one heck of a time cleaning up the mess. However, no one got badly burned. recorded 1.5 R, and got about 1.3 each, and the aircrew members got anywhere from 1.2 to 1.9. We were, as I said earlier, quite lucky.

I received your last letter on the 18th, presented a copy to on the 19th. Might I say that he was properly chagrined. I believe that by this time he has broken the ice. How much of what I have said here is duplication I do not know. I hope I haven't repeated a lot of information that he has already passed on.

One thing I think you might be interested in is the success of our check point system up to the present. We have been very pleased with the way it has been working. We have educated people rather rapidly at this end, and it has paid off. Your suggestions about working the entire beach were certainly correct, and we have profited by those recommendations. I only hope they work as well at the other atoll as they (the check points) have worked here.

Incidentally, we now find that we have too many people, so we are getting ready to surplus an undetermined number. I don't feel bad about that at all; I'd much rather be caught with a surplus than a shortage. I am firmly