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Dr. Thomas L. Shipman
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Dear Tom,

This seems like a better way to get news to you. Last letter was written by me on Saturday, then it was Monday before I could get written and cleared and off to you.

The past week since the shot Monday has been relatively quiet. There was only nominal contamination on Bikini Atoll, for reasons which I'm sure you have heard. We had traces of fall-out both here and on Bikini the morning of the 23rd. It was pegged here as between 0300 and 0500, seems to have come during showers and lasted only a few minutes. The maximum reading was of the order of 0.5 mr/hr. Beta plus gamma on surfaces. The Eberline air monitors are in shape and running now. On the 24th and 25th we picked up several peaks. The maximum intensity occurred at 1930 the 24th, lasting approximately 10 minutes, and peaking at 5000 d/m/ft.

We are still having some difficulties with the permanent film badges. Those worn six weeks are showing what looks like water marks. Apparently the cellulose acetate is sufficiently permeable the water vapor is getting through. Then it condenses during the night and does produce some spots. Approximately one percent of a relatively small sample checked are badly spotted to the point that they cannot be truly read with either the Shlaer or Ansco densitometers. However, any reading made will err on the safe side. We are presently trying coatings of crylon and ceresin wax, at Si's suggestion, to see if we can keep the water vapor out. We are also trying a tumbling experiment to determine whether shaking of the packet inside the plastic can wear the paper at the packet edges enough to cause light leaks. We are having some flashing along the edges, not enough to affect the area of the badge we normally read. I have a feeling the edge leaks are caused more by the water vapor, loosening the glue holding the packet together. We'll see.

That's about all the news. We are almost to the state of dual capability and are hoping for weather which will allow us to fire both barrels.

Stopi and Vay Shelton promoted a trip to Ponape yesterday, due back today. I understand Bradbury and Carson Mark were also in the party.

Yours truly,

