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25 July 1956

H-6-TU-7-38

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NO. 1 OF 5 COPIES, SERIES A

Dr. Thomas L. Shipman
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
P. O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico

Dear Dr. Shipman

I guess I'd better give you a brief resume of the fall-out situation here before someone gets at you in the wrong manner. This has already happened, apparently, as a result of a TWX that was sent to NYOO, then passed on to General Starbird.

We got caught by fall-out here at Eniwetok starting approximately 1500 hours on 21 July. The stuff came down from Bikini; the Tewa shot was the culprit. As best as I can determine, the wind structure, good to excellent for firing, collapsed right after the shot was fired and the stuff came rolling in to Eniwetok. The rate of deposition was rather rapid, I would say. I'm enclosing a graph with this letter that gives you a fairly good idea as to the rate of fall-out and the build up of the "mr/hr" background.

Fortunately, no one got "shook up". Primary interest centered in getting off Huron, which we did. Perhaps we should have been jarred a bit, for we did not fully appreciate the impact on the roll-up operations until Monday morning, at which time the H & N people started sweating over the many, many people they would have to evacuate to Bikini (of all places) to get them out of the hot area for a few days. Since CJTF-7 and company had departed to the ZI by then I simply took the matter up with Bill Ogle, who sent a TWX off to CJTF-7 at Honolulu requesting an increase in the MFE to 7 roentgens for the duration of the operational period. That request was granted, so no real slow-down of the roll-up was felt. H & N shipped about 50-60 people to Bikini, but they are rapidly returning them to Eniwetok.

Just my luck, I guess. I patted myself on the back a couple of days too soon. Prior to 1500 hours on the 21st, we had approximately 25 people out of the entire Task Force who had technical over-exposures for the entire operation. 48 hours later we had somewhere around 600 or more with the over-exposure. Such is life.

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(Person authorizing change in classification and date)
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The situation is well in hand. departs today, so he will probably give you the word on this before this letter gets to you. He should have most of the details. I wanted to get this off to you as I'm quite sure by this time that you have heard about the incident, must be curious as to what happened.

and I will depart PFG approximately 16 August.

GLJ:deb

1 Incl
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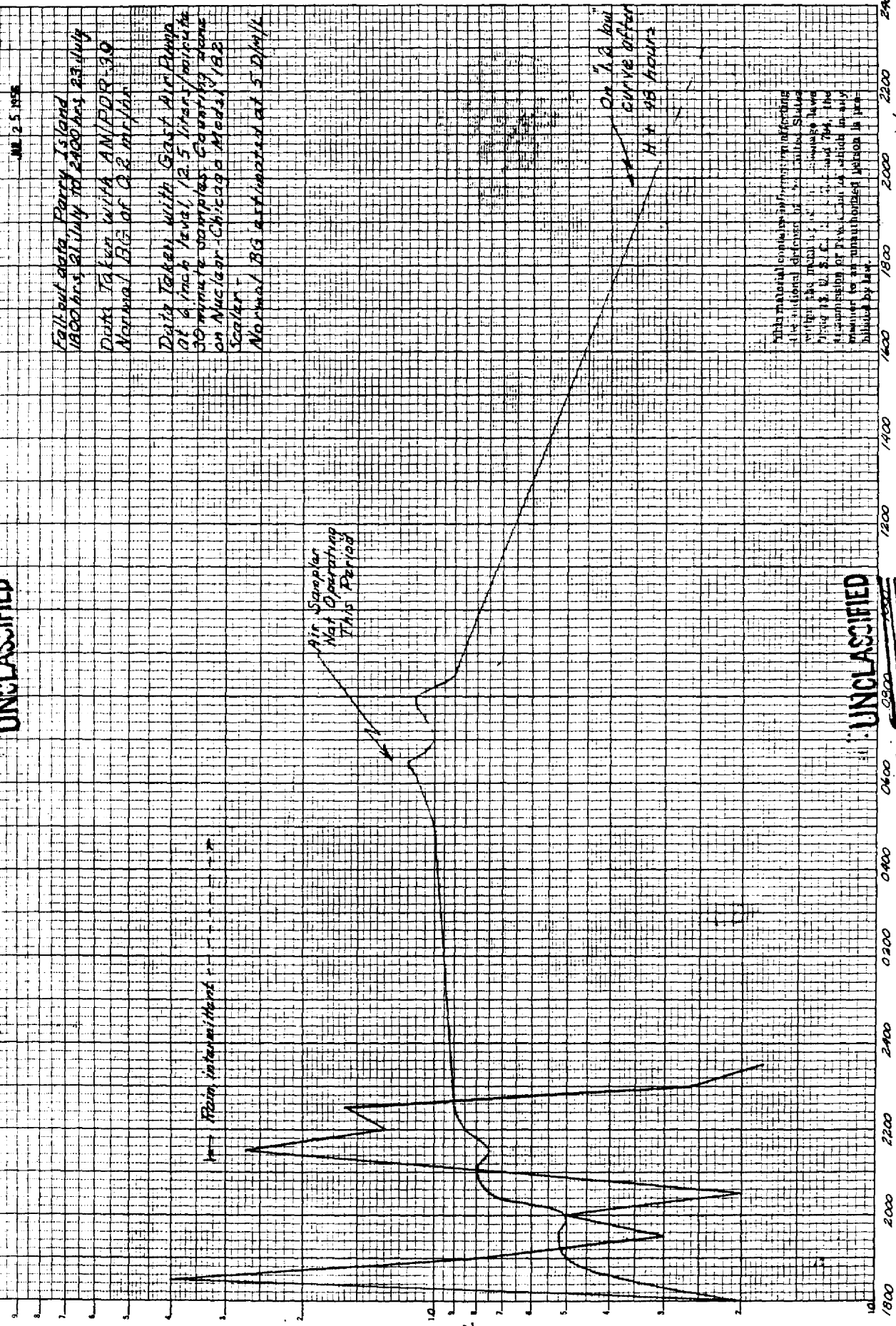
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Fall-out data, Party Island
 1800 hrs 21 July to 2400 hrs 23 July
 Data Taken with AM/PDR-30
 Normal BG of 0.2 m²/hr
 Data Taken with Geost Air Pump
 at 4 inch level, 12.5 liter, for 10
 30 minute samples. Covering areas
 on Nuclear Chicago field, VBB
 Scaler
 Normal BG established at 5 D/m²/hr

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 the national defense of the United States
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D/M/L
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 mm/hr

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21 July

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