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XXIX

UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY

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HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]

MARKING: _____

FILE NUMBER 0194

PART XXIX

[REDACTED]

TITLE *RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY*

GRAPPLE - TRIALS

GENERIC: *GRAPPLE*

PERIOD: 1958

FOR REVIEW: 1983

**THIS FILE MUST BE RETURNED TO
HISTORICAL ARCHIVES WITHOUT DELAY**

IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES
MAY PAPERS BE REMOVED
FROM THIS FILE

22/10

873

To: Task Force Commander, HQ Grapple.

RADIOLOGICAL STATE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

1. As the result of work carried out during 1959, the radiological state of Christmas Island is now as follows.

(a) Surface Activity

The remaining activity, which is confined mainly to the aircraft decontamination pad in the airfield DC area, is below the maximum permissible level laid down in Radiological Safety Regulations for Christmas Island (July 1958).

(b) Underground Activity

Radioactive material is buried in two areas:-

(i) The burial ground between Buildings B31 and B32 in the airfield DC area.

(ii) The sumps adjacent to the aircraft decontamination pad in the airfield DC area. These sumps have been filled with uncrushed coral, the lids have been nailed on and covered with 3 inches of sand which has been sealed by tar spray.

2. In both the areas noted in 1(b), the active material is at a depth of approximately 6 feet and the radiation dose rate at the surface is not significantly above the natural background. Both areas are marked by signs and wire.

3. No restrictions are necessary from the Health Physics point of view on any part of the Island so long as the buried active material remains undisturbed.

19th October, 1959

Copies to:

Internal

External

The Base Commander, Royal Air Force, Christmas Island.

[Redacted]

Radiological Condition of Christmas Island 15th. January 1959.

1. There is no change in the controlled areas as previously notified.
2. The Steam Generator referred to in the last report has now been cleared and returned to the Officer Commanding Technical Wing. I understand that no further equipment is required to be taken from the area

[Redacted]

J.O.C.
15th. January 1959.

c.c. [Redacted]

SSHP,	"	"
SSIT, - H.S.C.	"	"
SIHP,	"	"

[Redacted]

30/12

To:- The Base Commander, Royal Air Force, Christmas Island.

[Redacted]

Radiological Condition of Christmas Island 15th, December 1958.

1. General.

The controlled areas as previously reported remain controlled. In all cases the degree of hazard has reduced considerably. Monthly decontamination of the six Mark 3 Ducts in the Airfield DC Area will continue until such time as it is possible to store them with the clean ducts in the Active Handling Flight Duct Compound.

2. Equipment.

A request has been made for the release of a Steam Generator from the Airfield DC Area. This generator has been decontaminated as far as possible, without complete stripping, but still presents a slight hazard. It is not intended to 'hold' equipment indefinitely, but as long as an unacceptable hazard exists I cannot issue a certificate of release for any item of equipment at present in this controlled area. I would suggest that all ground equipment in the area be re-decontaminated and a further check can be made about mid-January.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

15th, December 1958.

c.c. [Redacted]

SSPP,	"	"
SSPT,	"	"
SSIP,	"	"

14/10

CN14 XXIX

826

SECRET

C120 0401

(1)

EXT

Ref. No. EUSTON 5040

Correspondence on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:-
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
AIR MINISTRY,
and should quote the reference:-
[REDACTED]

AIR MINISTRY,
1-6, TAVISTOCK SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1.

13 OCT 1958

Sir,

Radiological Safety Precautions
Persons Selected for Service at Christmas Island

I am directed to refer to Air Ministry letter C.95567/57/D.D.Av.Med. dated 23rd September, 1958.

2. In order that all personnel proceeding to Christmas Island may be covered by this letter the preamble thereto is to be amended from "Medical Examination of Personnel posted to Christmas Island" to read "Medical Examination of Personnel posted or attached to Christmas Island".

3. I am to say with reference to paragraph 2 of the above Air Ministry letter that the reservation therein, "provided that they are required to work in the controlled area" has now been clarified and in future the posting or attachment notices of all personnel required to work in this area will be annotated to the effect that they are to be examined in accordance with Air Ministry letter C.95567/57/D.D.Av.Med. dated 23rd September, 1958.

4. I am to point out that the above arrangement will cover the cases of service and civilian personnel with the exception of certain flying and ground members of operational squadrons ordered to Christmas Island as units directly from their parent stations. All such personnel will require examination and arrangements for this are to be made at Command level.

5. Blood examinations and Chest X-Rays, (where the latter will not be routinely carried out at Personnel Holding Unit when it is known that an individual will not be passing through such a unit) are to be arranged at Service Medical establishments in all possible cases. In cases remote from Service Medical facilities every effort is to be made to ascertain the costs of civilian examination and such costs will only be entertained when the cost of transport to the nearest Service facility plus the pay of the individual concerned (to the nearest day) exceeds them.

6. Form Med. 42 is to be raised in respect of all service personnel examined. Air Ministry form 1928 is similarly to be raised for civilians.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

[REDACTED]

Wing Commander
for Director of Hygiene and Research

All Principal Medical Officers,
At Home and Overseas.

Senior Medical Officer,
90 Group
A.H.Q. Malta

[REDACTED]

/Copy to:-

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Copy to:-

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Air Log O,
Task Force Grapple (Rear).

2301 100 01

The Secretary,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
London, S.W.1.

Secretary of State,
War Office,

[REDACTED]
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Ministry of Supply,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
W.C.2.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class... ESI

Piece... 648

O. C. 76 SQUADRON

26. 9. 58.

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER S 304)

(date)..... 21/7/97

(Signed) 

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class..... ESI

Piece 648



24.9.58

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER S 3(4)

(date)..... 21/7/97

(Signed)..... 

29/9.

CINO 0404

0194 XXIX ①

1819

EXT 2

the subject of
this letter should be addressed to:-
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
AIR MINISTRY, D.D.Av.Med.
and should quote the reference:-
C.95567/57/D.D.Av.Med.

AIR MINISTRY,
1-6 TAVISTOCK SQ.,
LONDON, W.C.1

23 September, 1958

Sir,

Radiological Safety Precautions at Christmas Island -
Medical Examination of Personnel posted to Christmas Island from the U.K.

I am directed to state that the question as to whether a medical examination, in accordance with the provisions laid down in the "Factories (Ionising Radiations) Special Regulations", at present in preliminary draft form, should be complied with by the Services in respect of personnel taking part in Operation GRAPPLE and subsequent nuclear tests, has been under discussion within the Service departments.

2. It has been decided that, in future, all personnel posted to Christmas Island should be examined in U.K., as in the Regulations Part III Para. 21, provided that they are required to work in the controlled area there.

3. I am therefore to ask that arrangements be made for such medical examinations to be carried out.

4. The Factories (Ionising Radiations) Special Regulations require:-

- (a) A blood examination which shall include a total red blood measurement and a white cell count, with a differential white cell count; estimation of haemoglobin in grammes per hundred cubic centimetres of whole blood; and a search for and record of abnormal cells seen.
- (b) An x-ray examination of the chest, within two months of employment.
- (c) A medical examination subsequent to the examination referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

[Redacted Signature]

AIR COMMODORE
Director of Hygiene and Research

All Principal Medical Officers,
At Home and Overseas.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

/Copy to:

G.5483/AS/9/58/50



Copy to:



Air Log O,
Task Force Grapple (Rear).

[Redacted] (E.),
[Redacted]

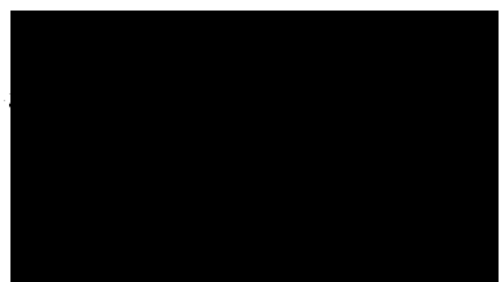


London, S.W.1.

Secretary of State,
War Office,
(M.D.)
[Redacted]
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Ministry of Supply,
[Redacted]
St. Giles Court,
W.C.2.

Folder G.10/M.A.5.



PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class.....ESI.....

Piece648.....

REF: WG/HP/7006

12.9.58

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER S 3(4)

(date).....21/7/97.....

(Signed).....[REDACTED].....

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class.....ES1.....

Piece.....648.....

LETTER FROM MAJOR W.G.

3. 9. 58

LOWER INTERGRATED.

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER S
3 (4)

(date).....2/7/97.....

(Signed) [REDACTED].....

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class..... ESI

Piece 648

31. 8. 58

CLEAN

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER S 3(4)

(date)..... 2/7/97

(Signed) [REDACTED]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class..... ESI

Piece 648

GRAPPLE

11. 9. 58

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER
3 (4)

(date)..... 2/7/97

(Signed) [REDACTED]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class.....ESI.....

Piece.....648.....

9.9.58.

CONTROL OF SAMPLING

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER
S 3(4)

(date).....21/7/97.....

(Signed).....[REDACTED].....

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class..... ESI

Piece 648

READINGS FOR ROUND TWO

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER
S 3(4)

(date)..... 2/7/97

(Signed)..... [REDACTED]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class... ESI
Piece 648

AWRE 8.9.58
CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

RETAINED BY DEP S 3(4)

(date)..... 21/7/97

(Signed) [REDACTED]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class.....ESI.....

Piece648.....

8.9.58.

TASK FORCE COMMANDER

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER

S 3(4)

(date).....21/7/97.....

(Signed)[REDACTED].....

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class..... ESI

Piece 648

6.9.58.

CANBERRA WH 976

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER
S 3(4)

(date)..... 21/7/97

(Signed) 

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group/Class..... ESI

Piece 648

3. 9. 58

TO GROUP LEADER TP GROUP

RETAINED BY DEP UNDER
S 3(4)

(date)..... 21/7/97

(Signed) ... [REDACTED]

by [REDACTED] 9/15/58 -
no comments -
