

TOP SECRET DISPATCH RETURN TO JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF RECORDS SECTION, ROOM 5005 NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM JCS EVALUATION BOARD		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY		FOR ACTION JCS	PRIORITY 2
DATE 06 JULY 46			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM 0143		FOR INFORMATION	DEFERRED 4
DECODED BY MURPHY			BASEGRAM 5
PARAPHRASED BY TENNANT	CHECKED BY CMDR BARNARD	/	6
ROUTED BY TENNANT	DITTOED BY		7
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			8
PAGE 1 OF 7	051731Z	NCR 3647	9
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP			10
			11
			12
			13
			14
			15
			16
			17
			18
			19
			20
			21
			22
			23
			24
			25
			26
			27
			28
			29
			30
			31
			32
			33
			34
			35
			36
			37
			38
			39
			40
			41
			42
			43
			44
			45
			46
			47
			48
			49
No. 1 ADMIRAL.	No. 2 FILE. 051731Z	No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM	50
TOP SECRET			51
MAY BE HANDLED AS CORRESPONDENCE OF THE SAME CLASSIFICATION			52

IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

Out ~~THIS IS TOP SECRET.~~ FOR JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF FROM JCS EVALUATION BOARD. RADIO WASH PASS TO JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. *Omit*

1. IN COMPLIANCE WITH A DIRECTIVE FROM THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1946, THE EVALUATION BOARD PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF ATOMIC BOMB TEST, HELD AT BIKINI ATOLL ON 1 JULY 1946. THIS REPORT COVERS GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ONLY. DETAILED EVALUATION MUST AWAIT FULL COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM OBSERVERS AND INSTRUMENTS AND WILL BE REPORTED AT A LATER DATE.

2. THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD INSPECTED TARGET SHIPS THE DAY BEFORE THE TEST, WITNESSED THE EXPLOSTON FROM AN AIRPLANE 20 MILES DISTANT AND THEN APPROACHED TO WITHIN 9 MILES OF THE ATOLL FOR A BREIF VIEW. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS SOON AS SAFETY CLEARANCE HAD BEEN RECEIVED,

THE MEMBERS FLEW TO BIKINI AND BEGAN THEIR EXAMINATION OF SHIP DAMAGE. MANY PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN STUDIED, AND MILITARY AND

SCIENTIFIC SPECIALISTS INTERVIEWED, IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN AN OVER-ALL UNDERSTANDING OF TEST RESULTS PRIOR TO THE COMPILATION OF ALL THE DATA.

3. FROM ITS PREVIOUS STUDY OF THE PLANS FOR THE TEST, AND FROM ITS OBSERVATIONS IN THE BIKINI AREA, THE BOARD CONSIDERS THAT THE TEST

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. 051731Z No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM
DECLASSIFIED BY: JCS-CCS DECLASSIFICATION WORKING GROUP
DATE: 28 Jan 75
MAY BE HANDLED AS CORRESPONDENCE OF THE SAME CLASSIFICATION
Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations. COPY NO. 97-9-2

Am 746-K6

TOP SECRET DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES		PRECEDENCE
FROM _____		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE		1
RELEASED BY _____		FOR ACTION		PRIORITY 2
DATE _____				ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM _____				DEFERRED 4
				BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY _____		INFORMATION		6
PARAPHRASED BY _____	CHECKED BY _____			PRIORITY 9
ROUTED BY _____	DITTOED BY _____			ROUTINE 10
				DEFERRED 11
			BASEGRAM 12	
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.				13
PAGE 2 OF 7	051731Z	NCR 3647	IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW	14
			<input type="checkbox"/>	15
Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP			(Use G. C. T.)	16
ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT				17

WAS WELL CONCEIVED AND EXECUTED BY THE SERVICES IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH A LARGE CIVILIAN STAFF. IT IS SATISFIED THAT THE CONDITIONS OF

THE TEST WERE WELL CHOSEN AND THAT THE HIGHEST SKILL AND INGENUITY HAVE BEEN USED TO OBTAIN A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DATA IN AN UNBIASED,

SCIENTIFIC MANNER. IT BELIEVES THAT THE COMMANDER, STAFF AND PERSONNEL OF TASK FORCE Q DESERVE HIGH COMMENDATION FOR THEIR

EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE AND THEIR NOTABLE COOPERATIVE SPIRIT.

4. EFFECTIVE PRECAUTIONS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD PERSONNEL AGAINST RADIOACTIVITY AND ASSOCIATED DANGERS.

5. THE BOARDS PRESENT INFORMATION IS THAT THE BOMB EXPLODED, WITH AN INTENSITY WHICH APPROACHED THE BEST OF THE THREE PREVIOUS ATOMIC

BOMBS, OVER A POINT 1500 TO 2000 FEET WESTERLY OF THE ASSIGNED TARGET, AND AT APPROXIMATELY THE PLANNED ALTITUDE.

6. THE TARGET ARRAY IN NO SENSE REPRESENTED AN ACTUAL NAVAL DISPOSITION, BUT WAS DESIGNED TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM DATA FROM A SINGLE EXPLOSION.

THE MOST IMPORTANT EFFECTS PRODUCED BY THE BOMB ARE THE FOLLOWING;
(A) A DESTROYER AND 2 TRANSPORTS SANK PROMPTLY AND ANOTHER DESTROYER

CAPSIZED. IT LATER SANK, AND THE JAPANESE CRUISER SAKAWA SANK THE

No. 1 ADMIRAL.

No. 2 FILE. 051731Z

No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM.

No. 4 SPECIAL.

TOP SECRET

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations.

COPY NO.

TOP SECRET DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE	
FROM		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1	
RELEASED BY		FOR ACTION	PRIORITY 2	
DATE			ROUTINE 3	
TOR CODEROOM			DEFERRED 4	
			BASEGRAM 5	
				6
				7
				8
DECODED BY		INFORMATION	PRIORITY 9	
PARAPHRASED BY	CHECKED BY		ROUTINE 10	
			DEFERRED 11	
			BASEGRAM 12	
				13
ROUTED BY			14	
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW	
PAGE 3 OF 7	051731Z	NCR 3647	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	
			16	
			17	

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

FOLLOWING DAY. THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE SUBMARINE SKATE WAS SO BADLY DAMAGED AS TO MAKE IT UNSAFE TO SUBMERGE THE VESSEL. THE LIGHT CARRIER INDEPENDENCE WAS BADLY WRECKED BY THE EXPLOSION, GUTTED BY FIRE AND FURTHER DAMAGED BY INTERNAL EXPLOSIONS OF LOW ORDER, INCLUDING THOSE OF TORPEDOES. ALL THE ABOVE VESSELS WERE WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF THE EXPLOSION POINT.

(B) NUMEROUS FIRES WERE STARTED ON OTHER SHIPS, INCLUDING ONE ON A SHIP 2 MILES DISTANT, WHICH WAS APPARENTLY DUE TO SOME UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE SINCE THE OTHER FIRES WERE MUCH CLOSER. HERE IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THE TARGET SHIP DECKS CARRIED A GREAT VARIETY OF TEST MATERIAL NOT ORDINARILY EXPOSED ON THE DECKS OF NAVAL VESSELS.

(C) THE ONLY MAJOR COMBATANT SHIPS WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF THE EXPLOSION POINT WERE THE BATTLESHIPS NEVADA AND ARKANSAS AND THE HEAVY CRUISER PENSACOLA. THE BLAST STRUCK THESE FROM THE AFTER QUARTER. APPARENTLY LITTLE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO THEIR HULLS OR THEIR MAIN TURRETS BUT THEIR SUPERSTRUCTURES WERE BADLY WRECKED. THESE SHIPS WERE UNQUESTIONABLY PUT OUT OF ACTION AND WOULD, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS WITHIN 3/4 OF A MILE, HAVE REQUIRED EXTENSIVE REPAIRS AT A PRINCIPAL NAVAL BASE.

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

TOP SECRET

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations. COPY NO.

TOP SECRET DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM _____		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY _____		FOR ACTION	PRIORITY 2
DATE _____			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM _____			DEFERRED 4
			BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY _____		INFORMATION	6
PARAPHRASED BY _____	CHECKED BY _____		PRIORITY 9
ROUTED BY _____	DITTOED BY _____		ROUTINE 10
			DEFERRED 11
			BASEGRAM 12
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			13
PAGE 4 OF 7	00	051731Z	NCR 3647
			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW <input type="checkbox"/> 14

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

(D) OTHER SHIPS IN THE TARGET ARRAY SUFFERED DAMAGE IN VARYING DEGREE, DEPENDING ON POSITION AND TYPE OF SHIP, BUT THERE WAS RELATIVELY LITTLE DAMAGE AT DISTANCES GREATER THAN 3/4 OF A MILE. (E) THE PRIMARY MATERIAL EFFECTS NOTED WERE DUE TO BLAST, BUCKLING OF DECKS AND BULKHEADS, AND DESTRUCTION OR DEFORMATION OF LIGHTLY CONSTRUCTED EXPOSED OBJECTS, INCLUDING STACKS, MASTS AND ANTENNAE. SECONDARY EFFECTS WERE DUE TO FIRE, AND IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT ARMY QUARTERMASTER STORES AND MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT PLACED ON THE DECKS FOR THE TEST PROVED MORE VULNERABLE THAN NORMAL NAVAL DECK GEAR. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE TARGETS CARRIED NO PERSONNEL THE FIRES WERE UNCONTROLLED AND UNDOUBTEDLY THERE WAS MORE DAMAGE THAN THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNDER BATTLE CONDITIONS. SINGULARLY, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE WERE EXPOSED ON DECKS AND IN GUN TURRETS, THERE IS NO INDICATION ON SHIPS WHICH REMAINED AFLOAT THAT ANY OF THIS MATERIAL WAS EXPLODED BY DIRECT ACTION OF THE ATOMIC BOMB. FIRE FIGHTING SHIPS ENTERED THE TARGET AREA AS SOON AS THEY COULD OBTAIN RADIOLOGICAL SECURITY PERMISSION AND SUBDUED A NUMBER OF FIRES. THE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH THESE SHIPS ACTED PRESERVED FOR LATER EXAMINATION A GREAT DEAL OF

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. 051731Z No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM _____		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY _____			PRIORITY 2
DATE _____			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM _____			DEFERRED 4
			BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY _____			6
PARAPHRASED BY _____	CHECKED BY _____		PRIORITY 9
	DITTOED BY _____		ROUTINE 10
ROUTED BY _____			DEFERRED 11
		BASEGRAM 12	

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE. 15

PAGE 5 OF 7 051731Z NCR 3647 16

IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW 17

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.) 18

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT 20

EVIDENCE OF BOMB ACTION WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN LOST 21

(F) EXAMINATION OF THE FLASH BURN EFFECTS PRODUCED BY THE INITIAL 22

RADIATION FROM THE EXPLOSION INDICATES THAT CASUALTIES WOULD HAVE 23

BEEN HIGH AMONG EXPOSED PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, IT IS THE OPINION OF 24

THE BOARD THAT PERSONS SHELTERED WITHIN THE HULL OF A SHIP OR EVEN 25

ON DECK IN THE SHADOW OF RADIATION FROM THE BOMB WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN 26

IMMEDIATELY INCAPACITATED BY BURNS ALONE, WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN 27

THE SUBSEQUENT RADIOLOGICAL EFFECTS. 28

(G) WITHIN THE AREA OF EXTENSIVE BLAST DAMAGE TO SHIP SUPERSTRUCTURES 29

THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT PERSONNEL WITHIN THE SHIPS WOULD HAVE BEEN 30

EXPOSED TO A LETHAL DOSAGE OF RADIOLOGICAL EFFECTS. 31

7. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES DUE TO BLAST WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE BEEN HIGH 32

FOR THOSE IN EXPOSED POSITIONS ON VESSELS WITHIN A 1/2 MILE OF THE 33

TARGET CENTER. BEYOND THIS, ANY DISCUSSION OF THE BLAST EFFECT UPON 34

PERSONNEL WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE DETAILED REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL 35

SPECIALISTS. 36

8. IN GENERAL NO SIGNIFICANT UNEXPECTED PHENOMENA OCCURED, ALTHOUGH 37

THE TEST WAS DESIGNED TO COPE WITH CONSIDERABLE VARIATION FROM 38

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. 051731Z No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL. 49

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
FROM		FOR ACTION	PRIORITY 2
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE 3
DATE			DEFERRED 4
TOR CODEROOM			BASEGRAM 5
			6
		FOR INFORMATION	7
DECODED BY			PRIORITY 9
PARAPHRASED BY	CHECKED BY		ROUTINE 10
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY		DEFERRED 11
			BASEGRAM 12
			13
			14
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			15
PAGE 6 OF 7	051731Z	NCR 3647	IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW 16
			<input type="checkbox"/> 17

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

PREDICTIONS. THERE WAS NO LARGE WATER WAVE FORMED. THE RADIOACTIVE RESIDUE DISSIPATED IN THE MANNER EXPECTED. NO DAMAGE OCCURRED ON BIKINI ISLAND, ABOUT 3 MILES FROM THE EXPLOSION CENTER.

9. FROM WHAT IT HAS SEEN AND FROM WHAT IT HAS ASCERTAINED FROM DATA NOW AVAILABLE, THE BOARD IS ABLE TO MAKE CERTAIN GENERAL

OBSERVATIONS:

(A) THE ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED AT BIKINI DAMAGED MORE SHIPS THAN HAVE EVER BEFORE BEEN DAMAGED BY A SINGLE EXPLOSION.

(B) THE TEST HAS PROVIDED ADEQUATE DATA OF A SORT NECESSARY FOR THE REDESIGN OF NAVAL VESSELS TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE TO SUPERSTRUCTURES AND DECK PERSONNEL FROM THIS TYPE OF BOMB. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE FIRST TEST (AIR BURST) LITTLE INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED ON HULL EFFECTS. DAMAGE TO SHIPS' HULLS WILL BE STUDIED SPECIFICALLY IN THE SECOND TEST WHEN A BOMB WILL BE EXPLODED UNDER WATER.

(C) A VAST AMOUNT OF DATA WHICH WILL PROVE INVALUABLE THROUGHOUT SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING FIELDS HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE BY THIS TEST. ONCE MORE THE IMPORTANCE OF LARGE SCALE RESEARCH HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY DEMONSTRATED. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THAT THE EFFORT AND EXPENSE INVOLVED IN THIS TEST HAS BEEN AMPLY JUSTIFIED BOTH BY

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE 051731Z No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

~~TOP SECRET~~

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations. COPY NO.

TOP SECRET DISPATCH

DRAFTER	EXT.	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM		ASTERISK (*) MAILGRAM ADDRESSEE	1
RELEASED BY		FOR ACTION	PRIORITY 2
DATE			ROUTINE 3
TOR CODEROOM			DEFERRED 4
			BASEGRAM 5
DECODED BY		INFORMATION	6
PARAPHRASED BY	CHECKED BY		PRIORITY 9
			ROUTINE 10
ROUTED BY	DITTOED BY		DEFERRED 12
		BASEGRAM 13	14
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE AND AS ADMINISTRATIVE.			IF OPERATIONAL CHECK BELOW
PAGE 7 OF 7	051731Z	NCR 3647	<input type="checkbox"/> 15

Originator fill in DATE AND TIME GROUP (Use G. C. T.)

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

THE INFORMATION SECURED AND BY GREATLY NARROWING THE RANGE OF SPECULATION AND ARGUMENT. MOREOVER, IT IS CLEAR TO THE BOARD THAT ONLY BY FURTHER LARGE SCALE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CAN THE UNITED STATES RETAIN ITS PRESENT POSITION OF SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP. THIS MUST BE DONE IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL SAFETY.

10. THE BOARD DESIRES TO SAY THAT IT HAS THE FULLEST COOPERATION OF THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER, AND THAT EVERY OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN AFFORDED IT IN CARRYING OUT ITS MISSION. THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD HAVE HAD ACCESS TO ALL DATA THUS FAR ACCUMULATED AND HAVE HAD EVERY FACILITY FOR PERSONALLY INSPECTING THE RESULTS OF THE TEST.

SIGNED KARL T COMPTON CHAIRMAN

JCS(#1)...ACT

No. 1 ADMIRAL. No. 2 FILE. 051731Z No. 3F-1 OR CHARTROOM. No. 4 SPECIAL.

~~TOP SECRET~~

Handle only in accordance with "Top Secret" instructions contained in Article 76, Navy Regulations. COPY NO.