



V

IV JAMES FINDLEY NOLAN: (31). In Feb 45, Nolan, a handsome, button-downed chap now a physician in the Los Angeles Tumor Institute, was in charge of the Base Hospital at LASL. He later took charge of protecting Base Camp at TR from radioactivity. "We tried to guess what would happen radioactively". Interested in what would happen if the explosion occurred at various levels. Joe Hirschfelder, Joe McGee and Jack Hubbard all helped. Nolan had 2 problems essentially: (1) protecting the scientists at Base Camp and (2) protecting people in nearby towns. So emotionally was each scientist involved with his particular experiment, that they would come to Nolan and inquire: "How much radiation are you going to let me take?" The standard limit or tolerance dose then was 1/10 of a roentgen. But no one knew really how much radiation a human could stand. So N turned the question around and asked the scientists: How much do you want? Most wanted to be allowed 25 or even 50 roentgens. Finally, they settled for 5 Roentgens allowance. Nowadays, that would be considered very dangerous, says N. "We then considered 5 Rs the maximum dose. These days, the maximum safe dose is 6 miliroentgens (or 6 one-thousandths of a roentgen), although doctors like N use up to 25 Rs in treating leukemia patients. N: "We were looked upon as cops." VI For the May 7 HE shot, N went to TR. He had about a dozen aides. When Stafford Warren reached TR and began worrying with his people about what would happen if the fireball reached 12,000 feet, it was felt that at level the contamination would be widespread. (Actually the fireball reached 20,000 feet). At the HE test, it was obvious that the towns of Three Rivers (on the east side), Oscuro and Carrizozo would have been inundated. V So Nolan had to take his calculations and evacuation plans to Oak Ridge for approval by Gen. Groves in late June. Groves was at OR on biz. N, then a Captain in Medical Corps, took with him a briefcase and his .45 revolver. Da Silva allowed N to put the .45 in briefcase and carry the ammo clip in his pocket because it was so hot lugging the .45 on his hip. His papers were marked "Top Secret". N took a TWA DC-3 to Chicago, then changed planes for Knoxville, Tenn. N personally presented the papers to Cols. Nichols and Lansdale. He then sat for hours in a waiting room while Groves "held court" with his aides. "Groves didn't believe in Medical Corpsmen and spit on them. He was always on a diet. Everytime he came to LASL he inspected the messhall and the menus. He didn't approve of fatty foods. But he kept a Hershey bar in his safe." N was finally admitted to Groves' office. Groves looked at N's papers and sniffed: "What's the matter with you, are you a Hearst propagandist? Groves meant by that crack that if he had to send alot of MPs and trucks into these towns for evacuation, security might be compromised and news of the test might reach the newspapers. Groves seemed genuinely sore at N for bringing up the prospects of radioactive contamination. "He had rifle-barrel vision. He was thinking only of the security aspect. All of which made him a great soldier." G

"Notes (Rush Research - Pages 181-301); Lansdale's Latest Papers"

VII

Stafford Warren finally convinced Groves of the necessity for evacuation plans. An Army MP, Capt. Palmer, a southern boy who'd been fighting Germans abroad, was put in charge of the "evacuation" vehicles. Plan was to station various scientists and monitors with geiger counters in motels in the vicinity. the Graveses were one pair: "Diz" Graves had been with Fermi at the 42 Chicago squash court experiment. Diz was present at this time, and N was her obstetrecian. "Diz raised hell to get in on the TR test." She was finally allowed to perch in the motel in Carizozo with husband Al. (Some months after TR, the Slotin accident at LASL caused Al Graves to lose most of his hair and become temporarily sterile. Had N known of this prospect at time of TR -- fact that that could happen and maybe account for the last Graves baby -- he'd never have allowed Diz out of LASL.) Also, it was learned later, a mother and son who lived on a ranch near Socorro, where infected cows were found after test, would have been terribly burned had they been outside at their ranch at time of test.

Week before TR shot, Peer Da Silva warned N he was going to Tinian as a courier. N was to be a scientific liaison man. On Sunday July 15, N left LASL with package of U-235 enroute for Tinian. (See "No High Ground", p. 129). N was aboard the ill-fated "Indianapolis" when it pulled out July 16 at dawn for Tinian from Hunter's Point, San Francisco. When he finally reached Tinian, N asked an Army colonel: "How did the Trinity test go?" The Colonel shook his head stuffily: "Sorry, security." But Deke Parsons later told N about the test, the yield and height of fireball.

Anecodte: At HE shot, N had dangled several score test mice from telephone poles to see what blast effect on the m would be. The mice got a bit dizzy but were not badly hurt. The shockwave simply twirled them around the wires a bit, but didn't damage them. Wright ~~Langham~~ Langham later suggested to N that they build a special wrack for stabilizing the micexm to better gauge the blast effect on them. It was promptly dubbed "Wright's Micerack".

Plaque on wall of Nolan's Office:

"United States of America
War Department
Army Service Forces - Corps of Engineers
Manhattan District
This is to certify that
J.F. Nolan

Has participated in work essential to the production
of the atomic bomb thereby contributing to the successful



Conclusion of World War II. This certificate is
Awarded in appreciation of effective service.

6 August 1945

Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War



SECURITY
III ✓
LOUIS JACOT (second interview): "Talk about security precautions -- anyone with two good eyes could have found where Los Alamos was, just by following the beer bottles from Santa Fe."

Plutonium came down from Hanford to LASL in two panel trucks that had been converted from Red Cross ambulances. A radio-equipped security sedan led the procession. They drove with ^{only a} 1-night stopover in a Utah town. Known as the "fireball express".

III ✓ So arid in Jornada that a single cow was given a 1-square-mile grazing area.

VI + VII ✓
II
Hans Staub was part of Anderson's post-test experiment to recover fallout from the crater. One of the lead-lined tanks was nicknamed "Staub's Fury" in paint on it. / Bruno Rossi and Enrico Fermi didn't like to give lectures at LASL because they were self-conscious about their thick Italian accents. Rossi very precise, shy and finicky in his manner. Great dunnet man. / Oppie alone, with help from Fermi, was able to pacify all the jealous prima donnas at LASL, many of them foreign celebrities; Russians, British, Hungarians, Germans, Italians, ect/.
III There was Dr. Richard Feynman who played the bongos and Dr. Edward Teller who played atrocious piano. Fermi was the only man who ^{could} control Teller at LASL. "Now, Edward..." Fermi would demonstate whenever Teller began one of his farout theories.

F "Ashley Pond" at LASL was named after the founder of the Ranch School. Los Alamos Yacht Club used pond as a pretext. It was the pond on which Fuchs used to feed the ducks belonging to Ralph Carlisle Smith.

VII ✓
July 15 Night: Marian (Jacot), a pretty young WAC with chestnut brown hair and and a beatific smile, not yet engaged to Louis, was on a date with a GI. The 2 had gone bowling (?), but the GI had to leave on a bivouac early next morning, so Marian retired early that night. Louis Jacot, small mustache and blue eyes behind rimless glasses, was sitting in one of the evacuation vehicles some 3 miles east of San Antonio.