

October 3, 1942.

Ensign Roland E. Byrd,
1855 Schiller Street,
Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dear Ensign Byrd:

In accordance with your request, I am sending you such information as would seem to serve the purpose of the request in your letter of September 26. I hope it will be helpful. Moreover, if you can and care to give me some detailed information concerning the nature of the lead exposure in which you are interested, I should be glad to give you my best advice with respect to what may be expected. If there is any regular exposure to finely divided lead dusts in the concentration indicated in your letter, it would seem that cases of lead poisoning are very likely to occur, and without very much delay. However, this depends to some degree on the nature of the compound, the size of the particles, and the conditions of exposure, especially with reference to consistence or intermittency of exposure.

I think you can expect that any poisoning which occurs will be of relatively acute character. The expression "chronic lead poisoning" is poorly based in fact. Generally speaking, unless men have long been exposed to comparatively high concentrations of lead without precautions and without medical care, so called "chronic lead poisoning" does not occur. I assume, perhaps without foundation, that this is a fairly new type of exposure or at least that the men employed have not been engaged in work of this type over a long period of time.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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