

October 31, 1944

19 days and 19 nights of lead work of various kind I
Lt. Col. Raymond Hussey, M. C. [redacted] [redacted]
Director, Army Service Forces, [redacted] [redacted]
Army Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, [redacted] [redacted]
615 North Wolfe Street, [redacted] [redacted]
Baltimore 5, Maryland.

Dear Colonel Hussey:

I sent you complete reports of the results obtained on the Boston workmen, by way of Major Dooley. Inasmuch as the exposure in this case has been brought to an end, I think there is very little useful purpose served by much further discussion. However, I do want to make a few remarks for the record concerning the significance and the results obtained.

With one exception, the combined results on the blood and urine demonstrate the occurrence of significant exposure to lead compounds. One instance, that of [redacted], it is apparent that the lead exposure was insignificant, since both results are within normal limits.

In view of the fact that most of the other men had been exposed to the existing conditions for a period of nine months or more, it cannot be said that the exposure in general was of an order of magnitude that would justify alarm, if it were limited to comparatively short intermittent periods of exposure. Nevertheless, there are at least two instances in the group, those of Anderson and Stanley, that have reached dangerous levels, and there are four others that must be regarded as well above the limits of safety. I refer here to [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted]. There is very little doubt that if exposure of this type had been continued for a additional period of months or more than a year, cases of lead poisoning would have been expected to occur. You will note that in general the findings in the blood correspond fairly well with those on the urine. It would be interesting to have detailed information on these men of such a type as would permit one to make an estimate of the significance of their exposure. On the whole, however, under the circumstances it is probably safer to regard average values for the entire group excluding [redacted] as a satisfactory portrayal of the level of the hazard. On this basis it is quite clear that the lead exposure was well above safe levels.

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I was sorry to note that you were indisposed and even sorrier not to be able to talk with you. However, I found Major Dooley a very agreeable gentleman, and we had a pleasant day together. I trust it was worth the trouble, and I feel that if our comments aided in the elimination of the exposure, it certainly was worth the trouble.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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KE 0005409

KE 0005411

Samples of Urine and Blood received from the Medical Supply Officer, Army Industrial Laboratory, 615 North Wolfe Street, Baltimore 5, Md.

NAME	URINE			BLOOD		
	Analysis Number	Volume Ml.	Mg. Pb/Liter	Analysis Number	Grams	Mg. Pb/100 G.
[REDACTED] #3	44A-5226	85	0.11	44A-5227	15.2	0.06
[REDACTED] #7	44A-5228	100	0.15	44A-5229	11.0	0.065
[REDACTED] #11	44A-5230	115	0.12	44A-5231	8.7	0.05
[REDACTED] #6	44A-5232	145	0.41	44A-5233	9.7	0.075
[REDACTED] #2	44A-5234	100	0.18	44A-5235	5.3	0.08
[REDACTED] #1	44A-5236	160	0.14	44A-5237	12.5	0.07
[REDACTED] #12	44A-5238	155	0.07	44A-5239	11.1	0.03
[REDACTED] 0	44A-5240	85	0.10	44A-5241	10.4	0.06
[REDACTED] #9	44A-5242	135	0.15	44A-5243	9.9	0.06
[REDACTED] #5	44A-5244	80	0.08	44A-5252	5.4*	0.08
[REDACTED] #8	44A-5253	50	0.15	44A-5254	9.7	0.08
[REDACTED] #4	44A-5255	95	0.30	44A-5256	7.6	0.075

These samples were so small that they were combined, and both spectrographic and di were made from the one sample.

Samples collected

Samples received

Samples reported