

20 April 1956

Mr. L. R. Fleck called me because of the absence from the laboratory of Drs. Kehoe and Kitzmiller to report that he had received information that three men working in the laboratory at MacDill Air Force Base at Tampa, Florida, had been taken off work by a local doctor, whose name had not been obtained, for 30 days because of "lead poisoning."

This information was relayed from MacDill Field to Middletown Air Force Base in Pennsylvania and from there to a Mr. John Curry at Wright Field. Mr. Curry then relayed the information to Mr. Bob Mead in Dayton and Mr. Mead relayed the information to Mr. Locher, who called Mr. Fleck.

No information was available as to the nature of the work which the men were performing excepting that they were working at a laboratory hood with T.E.L. The men who have been taken off their work are [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They are believed to be civilian workers and not in the Service. The reasons for the diagnosis and the action taken by the local doctor are not known.

A second call from Mr. Fleck at 4:00 p.m., same date, reveals that there has been a considerable correspondence presumably leading up to the situation described in correspondence between a Capt. McIntosh and also a Lieut. Pizzuto, both of the Air Force Base at Tampa and people in Ethyl Corporation, including Dr. Kehoe and Mr. Jim Baldwin, about the lead levels in the blood of presumably the men who are presently involved. Subsequent to these conversations, Colonel John Boysen at Wright Air Force Base was asked to develop further information on these three men.

KE 0017330

21 April 1956

Containers for the collection of urine and blood on the three men involved and a covering letter were sent to Captain McIntosh.

Dr. Kehoe, who had returned to his desk, was informed of the entire situation.

23 April 1956

Captain DeTreville telephoned from Wright Field to state that Colonel Boysen had not been able to reach MacDill Air Force Base and since Colonel Boysen is now out of the city, Captain DeTreville will take over and try to develop the requested information.

Bob Mead telephoned from Dayton and stated that Mr. John Curry at Wright Field had telephoned him trying to get an opinion as to the necessity of the removal from work of the three subject men. Bob asked me to call Mr. Curry. By the time I was connected with Mr. Curry, he had talked with someone at MacDill Air Force Base who was able to tell him that my letter to Captain McIntosh had been received and that the men were not to be taken off the work until our results and advice were obtained. It was Mr. Curry's impression (but not certain knowledge), that the men at no time had exhibited any symptoms and that the entire action had been taken as the result of analytical work, presumably on the blood only.

Dr. DeTreville called at about 4:00 p.m. and gave substantially the same information as had been obtained from Mr. Curry, with the additional information that apparently Captain McIntosh is no longer at the Base. Major O'Brien is the present Surgeon, but was not responsible for initiating the move to take the subject men off the job. This had been done by an officer under Major O'Brien's command without the Major's knowledge. It was confirmed that the three men

KE 0017331

asymptomatic and were taken off the job only as a result of the concentration of lead in the blood (only) as had been determined at one of the Base laboratories. The men now will not be taken off the job until our own analytical work is completed. Since the containers and communications had been addressed to Captain McIntosh, a wire was directed to the Commander of the Base, Attention Major O'Brien, Surgeon, directing his attention to the containers and communications which had been addressed to Captain McIntosh and asking him to accept the package and communications if located. He was to wire us if not located.

24 April 1956

Lt. Pizzuto telephoned from MacDill Air Force Base and stated that he had received the containers for the collection of samples. He stated that the results mentioned in his letter of 29 March, of a range from 56 micrograms per 100 cubic centimeters of blood to 92 micrograms had been confirmed by one of the service laboratories in Atlanta. He also stated that at the time these blood results were obtained, the urines were completely negative. He confirmed the fact that the men were completely asymptomatic. I suggested to Lt. Pizzuto that the men be kept on the job at least until our results were forthcoming. The samples are to be collected from the men today and shipped to us by Air Express by this evening. He requested that the results be reported to MacDill Air Force Base at our first opportunity.

1 May 1956

Results reported by wire as being within normal limits.

8 May 1956

Letter with results and interpretation to Base Preventive Medicine

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spector, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa 8, Florida with copies to
Colonel Boyesen and Mr. John Curry.

Lester W. Sanders, M.D.

Source:

Material:

Urine and blood

Submitted:

4-30-56 by Dr. L. W. Sanders for FACDILL Air Force Base, Florida

Required:

Food Analysis

Name	URINE			BLOOD			
	Analysis Number	Volume ml.	cc. H ₂ O/liter	Analysis Number	Spectrophotometric Weight 100 g. of serum	cc. H ₂ O/100 g. of serum	Weight 100 g. of serum
[REDACTED]	56A-2184	79	0.02	56A-2185	16.9	0.02	17.9
[REDACTED]	56A-2188	60	0.02	56A-2189	18.5	0.02	19.1
[REDACTED]	56A-2186	65	0.02	56A-2187	8.9	0.02	10.0

Samples collected: 4-25-56
Samples received: 4-30-56
Samples reported: 5-2-56