

EXHIBIT 86

Harts Island Letter 1944
Volunteers from Navy Brig 11 April 1944

Volunteers

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, MEDICAL DIVISION:

Subject: Procurement of Enlisted Volunteers.

1. A meeting was held at Cornell Medical Center on 10 April 1944 at 1400. Those present were:

- Comdr. Marion B. Sulzberger (MC) USNR
- Lt. A. Kanof, USN
- Major Richard C. Carlisle, MC
- Dr. Rudolph L. Baird
- Capt. William H. Shervin, Jr., CWS

Comdr. Sulzberger produced a letter dated 7 April 1942 to the Secretary of the Navy requesting that the study of the effect of toxic agents be permitted on volunteers from the U. S. Navy.

2. Approval of this project was obtained from the Secretary of the Navy as per attached letter. The N.D.R.C. and C.M.R. have in progress tests on volunteer Navy personnel at the Naval Disciplinary Barracks, U.S. Navy Receiving Station, Harts Island, New York. The volunteers for this project are obtained by addressing groups of Navy personnel being held for disciplinary measures and asking that they volunteer for necessary tests. Comdr. Sulzberger states that the procurement of these men is very satisfactory.

3. Comdr. Sulzberger suggested that we confer with Mr. Austin McCormick, advisor to the Secretary of War on rehabilitation of enlisted personnel. Mr. McCormick was Commissioner in New York State for the rehabilitation of prisoners and would no doubt be in a position to aid this Service in the procurement of enlisted Army personnel. Comdr. Sulzberger requested that this information be conveyed to Colonel Rhoads for his consideration and further action.

4. Comdr. Sulzberger suggested that, in the event the approval of the Secretary of War is obtained to use volunteer enlisted personnel from the rehabilitation center at Camp Upton, New York, suitable laboratory equipment be installed at this post and also the construction of a gas chamber if necessary. The finding of such tests under the direction of Comdr. Sulzberger and the Army could then be readily correlated in New York City.

Mr. Austin MacCormick,
114 East 30th Street,
New York City - phone Regent 7-0814.
Caledonia 5-9720.

Thompson

William H. Shervin, Jr.
WILLIAM H. SHERVIN,
Captain, CWS

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Office of the Secretary

Washington

May 8, 1942.

My dear Doctor Richards:

This will acknowledge your letter of April 7, 1942 with reference to scientific investigation of war gases.

As Secretary of the Navy I authorize the proposed investigation which shall be carried out in a manner subject to the approval of the Surgeon General.

Sincerely yours,

s/James Forrestal
Acting Secretary of the Navy

Dr. Alfred N. Richards
Chairman, Committee on Medical Research
Office of Scientific Research and Development
1550 P Street N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Certified a true copy
E. H. Cushing
Commander MC-V(S) USNR

VET017-000695

Copy

April 7, 1942.

The Honorable Frank Knox
 Secretary of the Navy
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Among the problems of war medicine, vitally important both for the armed forces and the civilian population, are those connected with war gases. Investigations in this field are the subjects of contract between the Office of Scientific Research and Development and several University groups in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. These studies include means of both prevention and treatment.

In the study of vesicant gases, investigators are confronted with one major obstacle, namely, that the skin of man is so different anatomically from that of laboratory animals that the latter are relatively useless as subjects for experimentation. It becomes necessary, therefore, to consider means by which human subjects may be made available for this type of research.

In the hands of competent experimenters much can be learned concerning the prevention and treatment of gas burns in man without subjecting them to more than relatively trivial annoyance or disability. A system is successfully in force under the auspices of the Canadian National Research Council which provides experimenters in this field with volunteers for these experiments. I have in my files a full description of their arrangements.

In or adjacent to the cities in which the investigators alluded to above are located are numbers of military establishments. It is our belief that a plan could be designed in accordance with which volunteers in limited numbers (not more than 50 in a group) for limited periods of time (10 days) would submit themselves to carefully supervised tests which would yield highly significant information. Such a plan should require the approval of the Surgeon General of the Service from which volunteers might be drawn; should be subject to arrangements approved by the officer in command of the unit of that Service and the tests themselves should be performed under the supervision of a medical officer of the unit.

In addition to the scientific and practical information which might emerge from such studies, another very practical advantage might accrue; that is, an educational familiarity with these gas weapons and consequent lessening of fear of their unknown qualities.

It is the purpose of this letter to request your approval of this general plan and perhaps to obtain your suggestions as to the most appropriate steps to be taken in its initiation should you choose to make them.

Certified a true copy
 E.H. Cushing
 Commander MC-V(S) USNR

Yours very respectfully,
 a/Alfred N. Richards, Chairman
 Committee on Medical Research

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