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ARMY SERVICE FORCES
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE
P. O. BOX 1539
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

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4/27/54

IN REPLY REFER TO

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5 June 1945 **PUBLICLY RELEASABLE**

MEMORANDUM TO K. T. BAINBRIDGE:

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
LANL Classification Group
July 7/27/94

Subject: Bombing of TR Base Camp.

Per: Memo dated 6/29/47
By: Jos Redman / Tony Crew

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 25 May 1945, subject as above.
2. A representative of my office has learned the following from the Executive Officer, Alamogordo Army Air Base:

a. The crew and plane has been identified in each case. In both instances the plane had been on a 2,500 mile mission, and was flying at 15,000 feet at 250-300 miles per hour. In each case, also, preceding planes had scored hits which completely blacked out target B-3. Following planes then bombed the camp site, believing it to be target B-3. It was felt at the base that the error was one of judgment, and beyond a reprimand, no disciplinary action was taken.

b. Certain precautions are now in effect to prevent recurrence. The marking and lighting system has been changed. Previously night targets were marked with separated lights, the number of lights designating the number of the target (one light for target 1, etc.). Under the present system a number of lights are illuminated outside the target area, which is itself illuminated in an identifiable pattern; for example, a red lighted circle with a white cross inside. In addition, before leaving on a mission, each crew is specifically briefed and instructed to drop no bombs unless the target can be clearly identified, are further informed that there is activity in the TR area and that a mistake might endanger life and property. It was the view of the Executive Officer, who has himself made a night flight over the camp area, that there is no further danger of bombs dropping on the camp site.

3. With reference to Paragraph (3) of your memorandum, it is my understanding that the TR area is at present designated as a danger area, not a prohibited area. I have asked for an investigation of this question and have requested that steps be taken to place the highest available restriction on the TR area.

4. In addition, I feel that we would be justified at a later date in requesting a complete cessation of night bombing for a period of several days, in view of the extreme importance of the fears expressed in Paragraph (2) of your memorandum.

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M. A. M. Jones
4/25/98

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T. O. Jones
T. O. Jones,
Captain, Corps of Engineers
Intelligence Officer

cc - J. R. Oppenheimer
J. H. Williams

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