

Bergen

**Date:** January 3, 1996  
**To:** Dr. Matthew Meselson, Harvard  
**From:** Richard Bergen, MD, Medical Health Officer East Arctic  
**Subject:** CBW

Dear Dr. Meselson, Greetings and best wishes of the New Year. I was wondering if you could assist me in clarifying an (accidental) event that occurred in the Canadian Arctic about 40 years ago.

At the request of the territorial legislature, I have investigated reports of Inuit hunters who state that in the winter of 1955 they were bombed by high altitude aircraft. The ordnance exploded in the air, perhaps 500-1000 feet AGL. Some reported an outbreak of severe skin disease—boils or lesions of that nature—consequent to the bombing (likely by the USAF).

My investigation has been unable to corroborate the occurrence of skin lesions subsequent to the bombing, but many of the witnesses have died of apparently unrelated problems in the last couple of decades. The living witnesses are unanimous in saying that the bombs that exploded near them were airbursts. I made an expedition to the remote area on Baffin Island where this event took place. I could find no evidence of conventional ordnance on the ground in the region, although this was probably a long shot in any case.

I did find one 15 cm x 20 cm metal plate that neither I nor my Inuit guides could identify as either coming from local activities or conventional ordnance. While this again is a long shot, I was wondering if you might know anyone (or yourself) familiar with biological weaponry who could take a look at this nondescript piece of metal and help me to identify it?

Thanks for your time in this matter... (I am traveling at present so the most useful way to contact me would be through Internet).

Sincerely,

*Richard Bergen*

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