IN MEMORIAM

Hymer L. Friedell
(1911–2002)

Hymer Louis Friedell, a charter member of the Radiation Research Society, passed away on May 10 this year. He is survived by two daughters and one son, as well as three grandchildren. His wife, Miriam, to whom he was married for 57 years, died in 1992.

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, on February 6, 1911, Hymer Friedell came to the U.S. as an infant and grew up in Minneapolis, MN. He received his academic and professional training at the University of Minnesota, where he earned an M.D. in 1936 as well as a Ph.D. in physics in 1939. He interned at Minneapolis General Hospital and served as a teaching fellow at the University of Minnesota General Hospital. While a National Cancer Institute fellow in 1939–1942, he was a teaching fellow at the Chicago Tumor Institute and at Memorial Hospital, New York. Later he served as an instructor in radiology and as a research associate at the Crocker Radiation Laboratory at the University of California.

In 1942 Hymer Friedell entered the U.S. Army as a Captain and was assigned to the Manhattan District as executive officer of the Medical Section and chief of the Medical Research Division. He later became deputy chief of the Medical Section. He retired from the Army in 1946 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

At different times during World War II, Hymer Friedell was stationed at the University of Chicago and at Oak Ridge, TN. In connection with the major objective of the Manhattan Project to develop nuclear fission and to produce the atomic bomb, there were serious concerns about associated radiation hazards, and research in radiation biology and radiation protection received high priority; both of these areas of science became lifelong interests for Dr. Friedell.

Hymer Friedell was present when the first atomic bomb was tested, on July 15, 1945, at Alamogordo, NM (the so-called