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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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ROYAL COMMISSION INTO BRITISH

NUCLEAR TESTS IN AUSTRALIA

MR JUSTICE J.R. McCLELLAND, President  
MRS J. FITCH, Commissioner  
DR W.J. JONAS, Commissioner

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT BRISBANE ON FRIDAY, 19 OCTOBER 1984, AT 10.00 AM

Continued from 18.10.84

Secretary to the Commission

Mr John Atkinson  
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

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THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr McClellan?

MR McCLELLAN: Your Honour, can I firstly add to the store of information the commission now has in relation to the Air Force activities, and tender a file which is numbered B84/201 part 2. It is a file which contains a report of Operation Totem. The report is some 34 pages in length and has a number of annexures with it. The report is from Group Captain Officer Commanding Headquarters, Eastern Area Detachment at Woomera, and it is a full report of Operation Totem.

Of interest in the document, which contains the usual information in relation to the flights that were undertaken and the crew who undertook those flights, it does contain further information in relation to the events that surrounded the contamination of aircraft, particularly in Totem 1, and it indicates some of those aircraft were found to be heavily contaminated upon their return to Woomera, and also indicates that it was impossible to read the maximum level of radiation when the cloud was penetrated by reason of the fact that the relevant instrument did not permit - went off scale.

The document also contains information in relation to the dosimeter readings of some crew members and contains, importantly, in paragraph 95, a statement in the following terms:

It indicates airborne radioactivity detection gear in aeroplanes 73-47 and 73-54 became unserviceable at high altitude as expected. However, the precaution of fitting a spare set had been taken and this proved sufficient for that task.

I infer from that, but it is nothing at this stage other than an inference, that it is possible that the explanation for the equipment not functioning during Hurricane - you might recall the fact that the British installed equipment late in the day but apparently from the evidence we have had so far it may not have worked - it is possible that the reason for that is contained in this paragraph where it is indicated that the equipment installed in Totem 1 also became unserviceable at high altitude, this time the comment being "as expected." Why that should be, at this stage of course, we do not have any explanation.

The report also indicates during Totem 2 the crew were instructed to use oxygen, and that was for the purpose of avoiding the inhalation of radioactive dust particles, and you might recall no such direction was given apparently in relation to Totem 1.

The report contained in the file has attached to it a number of annexures and they include what is said to be an interim report as at 9 November 1953 in relation to the radioactive contamination of Lincoln aircraft.

It indicates that at Woomera and Amberley there was personnel control which was established at Woomera on day 1 plus 5, and there has been evidence from various witnesses that, for a period of time, there was no decontamination provision, you might recall, upon the return of the Lincolns, and it was established, according to this document, five days after the explosion.

The report indicates that thereafter the flying suits and equipment for inside the planes, while considerably above the tolerance level, the document indicates, were not heavily contaminated. So, the comment from the officer is that, although above the tolerance level, they were not heavily contaminated.

RS group estimated the air concentration in the workplace to be of an insignificant level. It is indicated from this and the subsequent contamination level of the crew's clothing, it can be said with certainty, this document says, that none of the air crew suffered exposure above the safe level.

Now, obviously, we will have to investigate those comments further, particularly in the light of the report dated 21 October 1953, which at this time is said to be a progress report on Operation Totem. This report was written between Totem 1 and Totem 2. It indicates that at Totem 2 it was intended to use three Lincolns on a search plan, two only being permitted to enter the cloud, and then for a period of 10 minutes each only.

It goes on to say:

All the scientists are somewhat nonplussed with the amount of radioactivity registered at Totem 1 and are most apologetic that the matter was not fully covered by briefings and the issuing of equipment before Totem 1.

It says:

They are co-operating fully now.

In paragraph 15, the report says:

I would like to stress that there is no risk or undue concern over this what is said to be radiation business. I am assured that the risk to air crew is negligible but there is a possibility that the ground crew could, by swallowing radioactive particles, suffer what is said to be some discomfort in later years. The latter is the reason for our precautionary measures.

One does not know whether the officer is there saying the discomfort which they may suffer is perhaps some cancer or similar induced by the ingestion,

inhalation, of radiation particles. That is the comment made in that report and, as I say, that is dated 21 October 1953.

The report has attached to it also various telegraphic communications in relation to the discovery and concern in relation to the contamination of the aircraft; apart from the aircraft being hot, it would appear the air waves were very hot at the time that it was determined the aircraft, returning from Totem 1 at least, were the aircraft. I tender that file and I suggest it be added to yesterdays file which is exhibit RC78.

Can I indicate that there is at least one further file yet to come, and I will tender that, I hope, in Sydney next week, which deals with the communications between Australian Air Force personnel and the British at the time of Totem 1. It deals with the question of where the aircraft were to go, how close to the cloud, and there are observations in the document in relation to the statements with respect to the safety of the activity which the Australians were being asked to undertake. I am not in a position to tender that file today, but I will do so in Sydney next week.

MR JAMES: Your Honour, in relation to one of the things that my friend has put to the commission, I should indicate that the explanation concerning the inability of the equipment to operate can be found in the report dated 15 December 1953, at paragraph 44, where it is set out that:

The airborne radioactivity detection gear which had previously arrived by York aircraft were examined. Much was found to be unserviceable and considerable effort was required in the very short time available in rendering it serviceable.

Indeed, the report goes on to indicate that:

It is not possible to ascertain before the planes took off as to whether the monitoring gear was serviceable due to the late arrival of Mr Gale.

That appears in that paragraph.

In addition it appears, further, as to the question of monitoring of the crew:

A few cases occurred where personnel clothing and equipment registered up to 2000 counts per second and the clothing was then buried.

That appears at paragraph 267. It continues:

And in relation to checking of the air crew on return, not one of the dosimeters when the aircraft was in the cloud - - -

that is Totem 2:

- - - gave any indication that gamma-radiation was being received. Therefore, it can be concluded that not one of the crew members received radiation to a harmful degree.

Paragraph 274 says:

It was found, however, that items of clothing, navigation bags, flying boots and suits, gave counts varying between 75 and 2000 plus, the latter items were put aside for burial.

How the clothing could become contaminated and the crew in no way exposed is not explained.

MR McCLELLAN: Can I just ask Mr James: the report you are reading from, Mr James, is which one?

MR JAMES: That is the report of 15 December 1953. It is the, I gather, totality report compiled, amongst others, from the report that has now been tendered.

THE PRESIDENT: But whose report is that?

MR JAMES: That is the report of D.W. Calhoun, Group Captain Officer commanding Operation Totem as a whole.

MR McCLELLAN: I do not wish to debate it with Mr James at the moment. I do not know that that concludes our understanding of why the instruments did not work.

MR JAMES: I am not suggesting it does.

MR McCLELLAN: No. The comment in relation to latitude may need some further pursuit, and we will do that in due course. I do not know whether Mr James or anyone else knows whether Mr Calhoun is still alive. Perhaps Mr McIntyre could inquire for us.

MR McINTYRE: Yes, I will, your Honour.

MR McCLELLAN: I call Mr Gabli,

ADAM GABLI, sworn:

THE PRESIDENT: Sit down, Mr Gabli.

MR McCLELLAN: Your full name is Adam Gabli?---That is right.  
You live at Polly Close, Innisfail, Queensland?---That is right.  
You prepared a statement in relation to the matters before the  
commission?---Yes.

I tender that statement. It becomes RC 88.

Do you have a copy there, sir?---Yes, I have.

Do you have it in front of you?---No, I do not.

Could you get it? Are you right?---Yes.

You indicate in your statement that in 1957 you were a  
certified diesel and petrol fitter and turner?---That  
is right.

And you went to Adelaide looking for work. You joined the  
Department of Works in Adelaide, and you were posted  
to Maralinga, where you obtained work as a maintenance  
fitter; is that correct?---That is right, yes.

And there you were employed in the workshop at Maralinga, and  
you were also involved in the field servicing and  
maintenance of heavy equipment, including bulldozers,  
turna-pulls, cranes, low loaders, semi-trailers, and  
other vehicles?---That is correct.

What is a turna-pull, sir?---A turna-pull is earthmoving  
equipment. They build the airstrip, you see, with  
it.

It is a big - - -?---They carry 50 ton, and other one was 60  
tonner.

You were there for about 6 or 7 months. You do not recall  
any atomic explosions, but while you were there two  
pieces of equipment, a small bulldozer and a turna-pull,  
had written on them, you say, in white paint, "Mara-  
linga Project. Monte Bello Radioactive"?---That is  
correct.

And you indicate you have a photograph of one of those machines.  
Have you got that photograph there?---Yes, I have.

Thank you?---That is the dozer.

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A. GABLI

That is the dozer, is it?---That is the dozer, directly in the site up here, and they warned us, you know, to steam clean it, because in the radium - - -

Well, the photograph you show me is a photograph of a bulldozer. It has written on it - you can see in the photograph - "Maralinga via Watson - Department of Works"?---That is right.

Is that all that was written on the dozer?---No, they was - they are written on the bottom, you see, on this one - they are written - with the steam cleaner - - -

THE PRESIDENT: It is not audible at present.

MR McCLELLAN: You will have to lift your voice up. If I move away, you see, you will talk louder?---They - well, when you steam clean it, you see, on the dozer, they cannot see some mark is left already, you see. They mark it in the idler wheel, where is the oil leaking, and colonel - strongly - English colonel was - he strongly warned us be careful with it, you see, in just wearing working clothes - heavy working clothes - but was so hot, you see, we cannot even touch it with the hand, you see, because when the - - -

Let me come back a bit. The dozer had written on it, "Maralinga via Watson - Department of Works"?---Yes. There was on the bottom here written radioactive.

Underneath that, you say, there was written radioactive?---That is correct.

It does not show in the photograph. Whereabouts on the machine were those words written?---They was written here before, you see.

Written below the words "Department of Works"?---And just hardly even see them.

Hard to see, were they?---Hard to see, yes.

Were they painted on?---Yes.

What colour were they painted?---They painted white and black.

White and black?---Yes. It was a black board and they written up there radioactive.

You say that you were required, were you, to steam clean - - -? ---Yes.

- - - the bulldozer?---Yes.

And you had a conversation with an officer at about the time you were required to steam clean it, did you?---That is right, yes.

Now, tell the commission what that conversation was?---Well,



he told me to steam clean it, you see, and if they can use it again. He said they condemned it at present, you see, which vehicle I got - the place up here where all dozer and equipment - they was - - -

Just come back.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will have to repeat after him - - -

MR McCLELLAN: I think I might, your Honour.

THE PRESIDENT: - - - or else it will not be taken down.

MR McCLELLAN: Yes.

You were asked by the officer to steam clean this bulldozer, were you?---No. He told me to steam clean it because they want to use it.

Because they wanted to use it?---Yes. They wanted to use it for the English task force.

For the English task force?---Yes.

And during the course of you being asked to steam clean the dozer - - -?---Yes.

- - - did he say anything to you about taking precautions?  
---Yes, he did.

What did he say to you?---He said, "Be careful."

"Be careful "?---Yes.

Did he say anything else?---He said, "When you finish your job, you just go in the shower."

When you finish the job, you go in the shower?---Yes, which I did.

And when you finished the job, were you given any special clothing, or did you do it in your - - -?---No.

You were not?---None whatsoever. We wear own civil clothes.

Civil clothes?---Yes.

And you used a piece of equipment with a hose, did you, and steam coming out the end of it?---That is right, ordinary steam cleaner.

Ordinary steam cleaner?---Yes.

And were you monitored in any way for radiation?---Not I remember.

You do not remember. Do you have a photograph - the photograph you refer to in the statement is that photograph of that bulldozer; is that right?---That is correct, yes.

You indicate that you believe the equipment was used in the contaminated area, and was itself radioactive, and you detail some further matters in relation to that equipment. In paragraph 11 you say that you were frequently required to service and carry out repairs on heavy equipment in the field. You believe this equipment must have been contaminated, because you were required to take showers every day after being checked for radiation?---That is correct.

So when you had been into the field, you were checked for radiation, were you?---Yes, I did.

How was that checking done?---I went into second guide, you see, when I got - - -

Sorry?---I went into second guide - - -

You went?---Second guide, you see, and the policeman there standing - we have a badge, you see - the photo badge, you know, to wear it.

We will come back. Going into the forward area, you were given a badge, were you?---I wearing a badge there.

You were wearing a badge?---Photo badge.

Photo badge?---Yes.

Now, you went into the forward area, and when you came out again at the end of the day, were you checked for radiation in any way?---Yes, they did.

What did they do?---They got like a caravan or something.

Like a - - -?---Like a caravan.

Caravan, yes?---And they test it for me, and he said - he said to me, "Well, you go back to the camp, you see, and have a shower."

How did they test you?---They got - I do not know what sort equipment they got.

Did you have to put your hands into something?---No, just standing in the site on the wall - - -

Standing near the wall, were you?---By the door.

By the door?---Was standing up there in the wall, and they test it for me, from top and bottom.

What - did they put a machine - - -?---That is right.

- - - or a counter over you?---Yes, something; I do not know what was.

And on every occasion after that were you told to go and have a

shower?---Yes, I did.

Were you ever checked again after the shower?---No, because I was in the camp.

Right. You say on some occasions, however, you were - or you recall taking up to three showers?---Yes.

Why did you take three showers if you were not checked?---Because we sweating so much, you see, and we were working with the greasy - - -

Sweating so much?---Greasy dozer, you see, and everything. We have to do this.

You say in your statement you were never given a film badge while doing this work. Now, is that true?---I do not know.

You do not know?---I do not know he give it to me or not, you see; I do not know.

MR JAMES: Might I speak to my friend?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR McCLELLAN: Is the position this, sir: that when you first arrived at Maralinga you were given a film badge to wear?---Yes.

And did you wear that every day?---Yes, when we was on duty.

When you were on duty?---That is correct.

Were you ever given any other film badge?---Not I - not I remember.

Not that you remember. But you did wear that film badge in the forward areas, did you?---I did.

Did anyone ever come to you and take the film badge from you while you were at Maralinga?---No.

Did anyone ever come to you and change the film?---No - just the photo badge was.

You indicate in paragraph 13 that on one occasion you carried out some repairs on a piece of heavy equipment close to one of the craters, and on that occasion you went and had a look at the crater; is that correct?---Yes.

On a further occasion YOU operated a crane which buried a box which Mr Jim Evans told you contained plutonium? ---Yes, that is correct.

You say it was buried about 10 miles from Maralinga, and to the north of the village, where a very deep hole had been dug. How deep was the hole, sir?---They get it from this north area - it was six minus - with Jim Evans.

No. How deep was the hole?---I do not know exactly.

Was it deeper than one man?---I think they got a problem, you see, because of the salt water coming up, you see, and they cannot go too deep, and - - -

Can you help me at all as to how far down it might have been?  
---What I remember - you see, Jim, he told me that 30 or 40 feet was - - -

30 or 40 feet?---When they got at water, and they got a strife up there.

You say the hole was very deep, and everyone in the vicinity had full protective clothing, including hoods and face masks. You had no protective clothing, but you remained most of the time in the cab of your machine?---That is correct.

You were told not to leave the cab because it could be dangerous outside?---Yes.

You picked up a lead box, about six feet long, four feet wide and 2½ feet thick, from a truck, and you lowered it into the deep hole?---That is correct.

You had to get out of the truck to secure the hook from the crane back on to the jib before you could leave. You say the site was then covered with soil and concreted over?---That is the crane, sir.

Sorry?---That is the crane up there - - -

That is the photograph of the crane, is it?---That is the photograph.

And you indicate thereafter you had some medical problems?---That is correct.

And you recall a conversation between yourself and an English colonel?---That is correct.

Is that correct?---Yes.

And upon inquiry you found that you could not get insurance from an insurance company to secure you against illness while you were at Maralinga?---That is correct.

Is that right?---That is correct, yes.

And you recall further illnesses, and you indicate in paragraph 20 that since then you have been in continual bad health, and you are presently anaemic. You say your illness has been diagnosed as radiation poisoning. Now, who diagnosed that, sir?---I went into Maralinga Hospital. A friend of mine, he took me there, because I cannot walk. My leg, in the knee, you see, from the Allis-Chalmers dozer, you see - and I got it injured a bit, you see, in the corner - there was a sharp

edge - and I still got the mark on that leg, just there.

Well, you injured your knee, and you ended up in hospital?  
---Yes.

But who diagnosed radiation poisoning?---In the hospital.

In the hospital at Maralinga?---In the hospital, they testing for it, but never warn me.

Sorry, in the hospital at - - -?---They never tell me; they never told me.

Just hang on a minute. In the hospital at Maralinga, were you diagnosed for radiation poisoning then?---Yes.

Who diagnosed it?---A captain.

A captain?---He was a doctor, you know.

He was a doctor?---Yes.

Do you remember his name?---No, I cannot remember. I ask for the Maralinga hospital base, for the sickness, illness, you see, and they could not give it to me - reference for this.

Have you asked for your medical records?---That is right, yes.

And you have not been given them?---Have not got it.

Have you been told why you have not been given them?---They just destroyed.

They are destroyed?---That is what he said. I have a letter for this too.

And is that the only doctor who has diagnosed radiation poisoning?---Yes.

I see?---He coming from the task force, you know, this English captain from England. 750 people - they come over at the time, you see.

Yes?---I do not think, sir, he was very experienced for that.

Yes, I see. Perhaps, your Honour, if I can put the photograph with the statement and - - -

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

MR McCLELLAN: And I have no further questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr James?

MR JAMES: Mr Gabli, your present doctor is a doctor J.J. Fichera?  
---That is correct, yes.

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F-i-c-h-e-r-a?---Yes.

No 1 Coronation Drive, Innisfail?---That is correct, yes.

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(Continued on page 1258)

And he furnished a certificate for you which appears on your original statement?---Yes.

Transcribed?---Yes.

Do you have the original of that certificate?---I think so, yes.

Might I approach, your Honour?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR JAMES: Might I open it?---Yes, you can open it.

Right, a different certificate; I will show my friend. It is a somewhat different certificate.

Mr Gabli, when you went into hospital in Maralinga was back in 1957?---That is correct, yes.

Since that date, have you been treated by various doctors?---Yes. I treated hundred different types of doctor.

I am sorry?---Hundred different types of doctors.

Does Dr Fichera, is he the only doctor that treats you at present? ---No; Dr Hamilton in Cairns, skin specialist.

Who else?---And Melbourne, they treated it for me.

Who was that in Melbourne, do you recall?---I cannot remember now; that is a long time ago.

Does Dr Fichera have your medical history? Did he get you to tell him all the places you have been?---I told him everything and he could not find evidence of the illness I had.

That is Dr Fichera?---Yes. Dr - I have this here - Dr Brampston.

This is a pathology report. Who was the first doctor to actually tell you that you were suffering from radiation sickness? ---Before explosion they got it and they warned us - - -

Not before the explosion; who was the first doctor to tell you that you were suffering from radiation sickness?---In Melbourne, probably he said it.

In Melbourne when?---In 1957.

And what hospital were you in in Melbourne?---I did not went in the hospital. I went in the Army barrack in Melbourne and he give it to me; certificate I am unfit to work, to go back.

Did he say anything about radiation sickness in that certificate? ---He did not say it, but he said to me, you very serious; you're ill. I am unable to work.

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A. GABLI

He did not say radiation sickness in that certificate?---He did not, no.

Who was the first doctor to say "radiation sickness"?---Dr Hamilton and Dr Fichera; he said, I cannot find the points out from you, he said.

Dr Hamilton was in Cairns?---Yes.

When was that?---Last year.

The captain that you spoke to was an English captain, was he?  
---That is correct, yes.

Do you recall if he was a medical officer?---That is correct, yes.

I think that at one stage you in fact witnessed an explosion?---A small test I went.

Is this one of the minor tests?---Yes.

Do you recall when that was?---They asking from us, if you go to have a look; as a civilian, the Army was very anxious to look.

You were in a bunker?---Yes.

And after that experience you decided you did not want to see any more?---That is correct, yes.

The bulldozer that had been produced to you, had you said something to us about the bulldozer having been condemned?---Yes. They said it to me. They bring it from the helicopter from Monte Bello to the workshop - nearer to the workshop, because they got a condemned vehicle there.

Who was it told you the bulldozer was condemned?---The captain.

Which captain?---English captain.

Same one?---Same one, yes.

Just to get clear this business about the film badges: you had one badge that was given to you when you went to Maralinga?---That is correct, yes.

You were never given particular, separate badges for doing particular kinds of work?---Not I know.

Were you ever given a small metal cylinder like a pen?---Possibly, because I carry a lot of tools.

But I am thinking of a small metal cylinder like this one?---Yes, I seen many up there.

Did you have one of those?---No. Maybe I put it in the toolbox or somewhere. I do not know.

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1259

A. GABLI



In paragraph 13 you refer to carrying out repairs on a piece of heavy equipment that was working close to one of the craters; what sort of equipment was that?---That is the dozer - not a dozer - a crane and a, like a turna-pull.

And when was that in relation to your leaving Maralinga?---English colonel; he said we are finished up here but if two of us, Bob Dearlove and me, he said if we are willing to stay - - -

When was it that you were working on this turna-pull near the crater; just before you left Maralinga?---Just before I left.

And when was it that you operated the crane to bury the box; was that just before you left Maralinga?---Yes, that is correct.

Might I have just a moment?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR JAMES: Do you produce a photograph showing yourself? Is that you?---Yes.

Wearing a white shirt?---Yes.

Amongst the condemned vehicles with the crane?---That is correct, yes.

Who is the man with you?---That is friend of mine, was. I cannot remember even his name.

He appears to have a camera with him?---That is correct, yes. We are not allowed to wear any camera but he took it out. I do not know where he got it from.

Is this the same crane in the same place?---The same crane and that is the turna-pull the dozer, which one I went out; and that is after when I got poison and that is how I was.

Do you mind if we retain these three photographs?---No.

Where were you born?---Hungary.

And what language do you speak?---I speak six languages.

When did you come to Australia?---In 1950.

So you had been in Australia some seven years by the time you went to Maralinga?---That is correct, yes.

What was your English like at that stage?---Not very bright but I can manage.

People would point things out to you?---No. I talk a bit, My grandfather, he speak English.

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1260

A. GABLI

I have no further questions of this witness. I think from the practical viewpoint I should tender the photographs and the pathology report.

MR McCLELLAN: We can add this to the exhibit.

MR McINTYRE: When do you recall it was that you left Maralinga? Do you recall the date, roughly?---When I recall - - -

What month was it in 1957 that you left Maralinga?---I cannot remember.

Was it in the autumn or the - - -?---I do not know. Up there was - I cannot remember now.

How long were you at Maralinga?---I have a date.

How long were you at Maralinga therefore in total?---Roughly about six or seven months.

When you went to the hospital at Maralinga village because you were sick and you saw the English medical captain - - -? ---Yes.

- - - what did he say to you was wrong with you?---He did not say nothing. He just laughed. He said, you will be better.

Did he take your film badge from you?---No, he did not take it because we use it when we going out somewhere.

Did somebody take your film badge from you before your left Maralinga?---Yes.

Who was that?---In the office.

What, at Maralinga village?---That is right, yes; and thoroughly check for us, we do not take anything out, what belongs to the Maralinga project.

You said that when you finished work each day you came out through a caravan?---Yes.

Was it one caravan or more than one caravan?---I seen only one.

And did you see any showers inside the caravan?---Yes.

Did you ever have a shower inside the caravan?---Yes, I have.

In the caravan did you see somebody monitor you with a small machine?---Once I seen it, but after I did not.

When you worked with your bulldozer, who was the person who told you what to do?---The captain.

An English captain?---English captain, he told us to go out.

And did he go out with you?---He give it to us, extra; we have to go to the office and we get the paper and badge; we have to hang it up here and we go out with equipment.

And did he tell you where to go and what work to do?---Yes.

And did somebody go with you whilst you did the work?---Yes.

What did you wear whilst you were driving the bulldozer?---My own overalls; also I have - - -

Thank you. You said that you were asked to have a look at one of the explosions?---Yes. He asked me because he was good friend in one way.

You said that was one of the minor trials, was it?---Yes.

What did you see?---Just a big flash, that is all.

Whereabouts were you when you saw that?---I was in the bunker, in the shelter.

Was it near the village?---No, no; far away.

How far from the village?---About five, six miles.

Do you recall a place called Roadside?---Close to the airstrip.

Close to the airstrip?---Yes.

And you were in a bunker there, were you?---Yes.

How many people were with you?---About 30.

And who was in charge of you?---From - how I call this - one from the Department of Works for the supervisor.

How far from you was the flash?---I could not tell exactly.

Did you ask to go and watch that?---He told us if we want to go out to watch it, he said, yes.

And you said that you wanted to watch it?---Yes. I was very interested. I was young.

Yes, thank you.

MR McCLELLAN: I have no questions, your Honour.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW

MR McCLELLAN: I call Mr Naggs.

REX ENNIS NAGGS, sworn;

MR McCLELLAN: Your full name is Rex Ennis Naggs and your address is Post Office box 151, Inglewood?---Correct.

And that is in Queensland, is it?---Correct, yes.

You have made a statement in this matter; is that correct?---That is correct.

Do you have a copy of the statement there with you?---I do.

I can be tendered and marked RC89.

You indicate that you joined the RAAF in 1953. You might tell me how old you are now?---50 now.

And you were posted to 82 Wing and in 1953 you were an aircraftman engine mechanic. You went to Woomera in that capacity in September or October 1953 and you were there for about three weeks; is that correct?---I was there for at least three weeks. I was there over - actually I believe I was there for a fair bit longer, but I could only guarantee three weeks.

You indicate that before the first bomb went off, there were training flights by the Lincolns and you refer to the necessity to maintain the engine boost control units, which I infer are a device whereby the engine of the aircraft is enabled to function at higher altitudes; is that correct?---It saves the pilot moving throttles as they climb, altering power settings. It does it automatically for them.

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Right. But apparently it worked off air pressure and vacuums, so that if dust found its way into the unit, there would be a problem?---Yes. Very little piston - close tolerance piston in there to move backwards and forwards.

And you say it was not uncommon for problems to occur?---No, you get the odd problem.

The odd problem?---The odd problem once a week with a bunch of aircraft - that was all, normally.

Do you recall the events surrounding the first blast and the craft arrived back, you say, during the day and the booster units were apparently showing problems?---Yes. About, average, two engines per aircraft were having a problem.

Two out of four?---Yes.

Per craft?---Per aircraft. Sometimes it was one, sometimes it was three.

You say the units were dirty with fine red dust in the piston oil, which was causing the piston to jam. You remember you ran out of clean rags during the cleaning process and you were forced to do a final clean on the pistons with your overalls. You took your overalls off to - - -?---No, just rolled your sleeves down.

Rolled your sleeves down and rubbed it down - - -?---Yes. It was a nice, clean bit of rag you had, to do the final clean-up.

And you finished about 6 pm that night and showered and washed up as normal and you were back in the barracks?---Yes.

Now, was any concern expressed to you about radioactivity?---No. At that stage I did not even - I had never heard of it.

You had never heard of it. And was there any concern shown either with respect to you or the aircraft during the course of this operation?---No, none at all.

None at all?---Sorry, they would not let us near the aircraft. When the aircraft landed, they took the canisters off - they had these canisters under the wing.

Yes. You saw those coming off, did you?---Yes. I saw - I saw them coming in with them, but I did not go out to see them come off.

Were they taken off by hand?---I saw some practices beforehand, and they had a pole about five or six feet long.

A pole, did they?---Yes, they clipped on to the thing. Another bloke went in with an extension spanner - a socket on the end of an extension ratchet, and he unbolted it, and

nobody got - in that time, nobody got any closer than from here to that recording machine to the canister.

This is what you saw in the rehearsal?---Yes, in the rehearsal, yes, and they were on a stand and they would take it down and put it on a trolley. As the aircraft came in, once those canisters were off, we went out and refuelled - did a normal after-flight check on them. After the after-flight check, they started coming out with the unserviceabilities the crews had written up as they came back, and that was when we started on the  
. . . . .

You say they would not let you near the aircraft?---Oh, they just - you know, they marshalled the aircraft in. The first thing they did, the crew got out. As they left, they took the canisters off, and then - you know, they were normally marshalled in and chocks put in, and they were parked.

And after that you could go - after the canisters had come off - - -?---After the canisters came off, we could go into the aircraft and start to maintain them, do the normal refuelling, re-oiling, check the engines over - that type of thing.

And the rod that was used, you say, to get the canister off, that was put inside the - - -?---That was something that is clipped on the canister. It was on a, sort of, one inch pipe - it resembles, to me, one inch water pipe. It hung down about 18 inches under the wing - 18 inches, two feet, from memory. The rod had a thing on the end of it and they just clipped onto it, and this other bloke got hold of the - undid the nuts, or the bolts.

And the undoing of the nuts, that took place with an extended spanner as well, did it?---Yes, about that long.

You say that no-one was closer than from you to the recording machine?---Well, the bloke holding it was not any closer. The bloke undoing the spanner would have - the one undoing the nuts would have been inside it - would have been standing there, reaching out and undoing it.

Well, the distance you have there is about, what, five feet?  
---Five feet, yes.

For the rod?---Yes.

And the fellow with the spanner - - -?---He appeared to have - his hands would have been in - within two feet of the canister.

And in getting the nut off, could it come off without him - he having to put his hand onto the nut?---Yes. They just wound it right out. It was a bolt.

It was a bolt?---And it wound right out, and I do not know whether

they dropped it on the ground, or what they did. They were not worried about it once it was out, and they just went on and undid the next one. There were two of them to do.

You indicate that the aircraft which you had got serviceable continued to work, and you worked all day - this is the following day, I think - until 2 pm when you were pulled off. At this time, the Lincolns, which had left in the morning, were returning, and most of them were reporting problems with other units which you had not cleaned?---Now, I have used minimum times that I remember. I had at least one night. I think I had more nights, but I know there was at least one night that we had not been decontaminated. It could have been a lot more.

About 2 pm on the day that you recall, you were ordered off the craft and tested for radiation by an English major?  
---Yes.

You say he checked out the planes and discovered that they were much more radioactive than had been predicted. He checked your overalls and your body and said that both were radioactive, and you were ordered into the showers. He would not let anybody touch your overalls, and you saw them removed on a 6 foot stick after you had cleaned out the pockets. Did that concern you?---It started to worry me then, yes, that he was scared of my overalls and I had been wearing them - - -

For two days?---Well, I do not know exactly how long I had been wearing them because - I was a 19 year old, it was all brand bloody new, it was the first operation I had ever been on, and it was a bit peculiar when they - he would not go near those overalls.

Then you were required to shower, you say, from 2 o'clock until 6 o'clock and you were checked about every 15 minutes for radiation. How were you checked?---Well, they - - -

On a portable instrument?---No, it was not. It was not a hand held one. I used them later in the service, but it was one where they - it had a head on it - it was like a big microphone - and a lead, and they ran that over you, and there was a counting machine.

Fixed to a machine, was it?---Yes. It had a lead on it to a machine, and they read the machine off.

You said by about 5 pm most of your body was clean, except for underneath your fingernails and you had to repeatedly scrub those. By the time you were finished and were declared safe, underneath the fingernails was so raw that you were starting to bleed?---Yes.

That is underneath the fingernails?---Yes. It was starting to get a - - -

Sorry?---Just starting to get a shine of blood in the end - - -

A shine of blood?---Before they came clean, yes.

You believe your overalls were buried and you believe that there were others in the showers; you say there were a lot of air crew going through at the same time. Everybody washed until they were cleared, as far as you were concerned?---Yes, that is as far as I knew, yes.

By the time you had got back to your room, you had lost your towel and your bed linen, and the next day you were given new overalls and gloves and told to wear them at all times?---Yes, and a film badge as well.

You were given a film badge as well?---Yes.

Were you ever given a respirator?---No.

The gloves, you say, were not very effective; they were made of cotton, quickly became soaked with the contaminated oil. Instead of being able to wipe your hands clean, you believe they probably kept the radioactive oil close to your hands for an unnecessarily long period. You recall the fact that you were given film badges, the gloves and overalls and the film badges - I am sorry, the film badge, you think, was taken from you every day, the gloves and overalls every couple of days, and they were washed and returned?---When they became contaminated - they sort of checked every night. When things were contaminated, you know, you lost them.

You then recall that you had finished servicing the booster units and they functioned satisfactorily, and you only worked on the aircraft the next day after the English major began checking you, and that day you say you were again quite radioactive and needed about one hour of showering? ---Correct.

Your hands were better because you had been wearing the gloves and you used petrol to give them an additional washing. Your fingernails were still sore and tender. You recall then what happened to the entire unit, it was grounded, and there was a clean up operation, which you apparently were not involved in, but after that - after they had been cleaned, you were then allowed back near the aircraft again; is that correct?---Yes, as they brought them in, I used to refuel them, actually, when they had been declared clean enough.

You recall the fact that the Lincolns kept on flying missions. You recall the fact that you do not ever recall seeing the flight crew wearing any special gear. They seemed to wear standard RAAF issue. You say until the major came - paragraph 19 - you had not received any warnings about radiation or ever been advised that aircraft might be radioactive. After the major had checked you, he did warn us that the planes might be contaminated with



dust which could be radioactive and could be dangerous. However, this was not impressed on you and most people regarded it as a bit of a joke. When you returned to Amberley, you did not go through any special procedures. The Lincolns, you recall, were put back into service and continued flying. And then you left Amberley, went to Wagga, returned to 3AD, and you say by the time you came back to Amberley, the decontamination centre had been built and the - - -?---No, I was at Amberley working in the engine overhaul shop for a couple of years and on . . . . . I was then posted up to air frame repair squadron, which also had the decontamination centre attached to it.

But you were not part of the decontamination centre?---I was not part of the decontamination centre at that stage.

And by 1957, you believed most of the decontamination was over?  
---That is when I got there, and most of it was finished, yes.

And then you advert to certain matters, including the fact that shortly after returning to Amberley, you began to have regular blood tests, and these continued until about 1960, but you were never given any results. Were you told why you were having the blood tests?---It was to do with the - well, I thought the overdose I had received at Woomera.

Sorry?---It was to do with what had been referred to as an overdose. There was another bloke and I had been overdosed at Woomera.

Who was the other fellow?---Hobdell, as far as I remember.

And were you ever told anything in relation to what your blood tests showed?---No.

You say after about two years of continuing difficulties with your health, you were diagnosed in January 1984 as suffering from leukaemia?---Correct.

How is your health at the moment?---Well, I have a blood test every four weeks, and I have got to go - if it goes bad, you have to go back onto chemotherapy.

The two years of difficulties were, I infer, from 1982 to 1984?  
---Actually, I did not see - I saw a doctor - just lethargy - you just could not keep going. I had a farm, and I was trying to get things built up and going, and it got to the point where you would work for an hour and you would have to take half an hour break. You just could not keep working, and whenever I spoke to doctors about it, they said, well, get used to it, fellow; you are getting old, and that was it, until I collapsed. I could not work any more.

Have you raised your present condition with the RAAF?---No. I

have applied for a - you see, I was in Vietnam as well later - '67/'68 - and, with the Canberras, and I have applied for a Repatriation pension through that because, actually, the Agent Orange was the first thing that came to mind with me. It was brought to my attention at the hospital when I was at Prince Charles by another veteran that was there - he was on staff, actually - and I applied for the disability pension through that, but I have not heard anything as yet.

What about Mr Hobdell; what has happened to him?---I have not heard of him. Virtually, never seen him since about '54. I would not have a clue.

Yes, thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

MR JAMES: Mr Naggs, when you were at Woomera, do you recall getting an instruction some 4 or 5 days after the planes returned that you were to wash before smoking or eating after working on the aircraft?---This would have been in the brief the next day.

Right. I am suggesting about 4 or 5 days after the planes returned?---Well, I would say that the day the major found that they were radioactive. Now, I would not know if it was - yes, I do not remember exactly what time it was, but - - -

You have already said to us in your evidence-in-chief that you had adopted minimum standards?---Yes. If I remembered something was a certain time, if I can guarantee it was one day, I said one day.

So, it may well be in the event that you were given an instruction 4 to 5 days after not to wash - I should say, to wash before smoking or eating. Would that mean that you had been working on the planes for some 5 - 4 to 5 days?---Actually, from memory, that would be much closer to the mark - 3 or 4 days - 5 days.

Do you recall, firstly, a Group Captain Wilson - an English officer?---No.

A Mr Stevenson?---Warrant officer?

The radiological hazard group?---No. We had Warrant Officer Stevens.

A Mr Stevens. Would that be Warrant Officer Stevens?---There was a Warrant Officer Stevens. He was the WOE.

Right?---But whether he is still there or not, I do not know.

And do you recall some time after this, 1956 had gone by, being provided with any new equipment?  
---Only - we only got the rubber gloves - the cotton gloves.

That was after 1956 or was that after the second explosion?  
---No. After the English major arrived.

Yes?---If that was the 1955 period, which it would have been closer to, that was when we got cotton gloves, and they issued us with overalls.

Right?---My overalls had been buried, as I said.

Was he a major or was he a captain - Captain Butler, RH Group?  
---I am blowed if I know. I did not really know their ranks, and somebody called him a major, and that was good enough for me.

What happened was you lined up before a counter in a hangar where there had been one of these machines, monitoring machines, set up; is that right?---It was in a tent at the back of the hangar.

In a tent at the back of a hangar?---It was our work tent actually.

It was just prior to your midday meal and just prior to stand-down?---No. It was after the midday meal because a couple of us - they were mucking around with us - and a couple of them had gone back to finish a job, and we came in late.

Do you recall a Mr Austin and a Mr Ellis issuing clothes and rubber gloves and things on 22 October?---No.

Do you ever recall somebody giving you special cream for hand-washing?---Yes. That was to put on before you went out to work.

And you would get grease on it and it would all come off easily?  
---Yes.

And when was that first given to you that you recollect?---That was after the decontamination started; in other words, when the English arrived.

And this is at about the time that the white cotton gloves were issued?---Yes, about the same.

Do you recall a decontamination unit being set up much later - a clothing decontamination unit?---That must have been - we got the overalls, and we used to hand them in if they were contaminated.

Right?---And get new ones from somewhere - I do not know where - but they used to be there in the tent and actually it came in contaminated from the aircraft. You cleaned up, you passed out, you got another pair of overalls, and you went back to the barracks, and they were yours for the next day or until they got contaminated.

You, I do not suppose now, would remember the numbers of planes you worked on?---I got a click when one number was read out this morning - A73-54.

A73-54?---Yes.

A73-25?---I would not know that, no. 54, I believe, was Group Captain Hearns aircraft, and I was on it.

A73-52?---I could not say.

A73-47?---No, I could not say. We actually went over all the aircraft doing the booster units, so it would have been the lot.

In terms of your experience, I want to put a statement to you and see whether, looking back on it now with hindsight, you would agree with that statement?---Yes.

The contamination of the aircraft was of course completely unforeseen and caused considerable inconvenience. Had the information on the possibility of contamination been available suitable provisions could have been made to meet the case. Whereas it was felt that the possibility should have been anticipated by the scientific staffs involved, it is appreciated the operations were concerned with research and, hence, all eventualities could not have been necessarily foreseen. Now, that is a contemporary statement. Would you like to comment on it?---I have done radioactive decontamination training since that time.

Yes. Do you feel you have been considerably inconvenienced?  
---Oh, personally?

Yes, personally?---I would like to know whether the leukaemia was caused by it or not. I do not know what has caused that. Whatever it is, it is a considerable inconvenience, for sure, but I thought you meant at the time it was an inconvenience to the squadron that we had. That is what I was looking at.

So at the time all the people thought about was the inconvenience involved in the precautions, the suits and so forth,

not the danger?---Yes, it was inconvenient. I think we would have been happy had we known to have used all this stuff, and if we had been properly briefed. We had no briefing - no real briefing anyway - until after this English major arrived, and we were all cleaned up next day; we came back down and then we got a briefing.

You have mentioned these trouble booster problems?---Yes.

Was it common knowledge at the time of the Totem explosions that the Lincoln aircraft could get dusty if they flew through test clouds?---Yes. I had not thought about it but, you know, they must do because they have always got oil. There is always an oil smear on their wings and things like this.

Had they been having booster problems well before Totem?---Using them in other jobs where it was dusty, yes, and we had problems there.

Thank you.

MR EAMES: No questions.

MR McINTYRE: Do you recall there were about six or seven Lincoln aircraft at Woomera?---I thought there were eight.

Did you actually service all of them or just some of them?---When it came to the problems of the booster units, I believe I would have gone over most of them.

You were part of the ground personnel with the detachment of Lincolns sent to Woomera?---Yes.

Who was your commanding officer; do you recall?---Commanding Officer Group Captain David Calhoun.

You mentioned continuous blood tests. When did you first start having these blood tests? Was it whilst you were still serving in the air force?---I think I had them about a week after I got back from Woomera. We had our first blood tests.

How often did you yourself have tests after that?---I had them about once a month for about six months, and six-monthly for a couple of years.

Yes?---And I would get a sort of annual call-up after that up until about 1960 which was sort of 1953, 1955 - I went about once a year.

Did your blood tests, to you, coincide with the pattern of normal blood tests or was yours a bit different?---Mine was a bit different.

For how long?---I got pulled in with the decontamination crew. They were being blood tested at the same time. I got put in with them although I was not working with them.

You yourself were not washing the aircraft at Woomera, were you?---No. I had too much radiation. They would not let me back on them until they were all cleaned up.

I am talking actually at Woomera. Your job was confined to working as an aircraftsman engine mechanic?---Yes. The rest of the bunch washed them. There were two of us left out.

Yes, thank you.

MR McCLELLAN: I have no further questions.

THE PRESIDENT: You can stand down now, thank you, Mr Naggs.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW

MR McCLELLAN: I call Mr Suffling.

GEORGE EDWARD SUFFLING, sworn:

MR McCLELLAN: Your full name is George Edward Suffling?---That is right.

You live at 52 Pimpama Street - - -?---You will have to excuse me. I have a voice problem.

Yes. Wartella Village in Queensland?---Wartella.

I think you have made a statement in this matter; is that correct?---Yes.

I tender the statement and it can be marked RC90.

In the statement you indicate that you were employed by the Department of Supply and in particular you were employed as an electrical fitter from September 1956 until May 1957 at Maralinga?---Right.

You indicate fundamentally the work you did there was the maintenance of various pieces of air-conditioning units; is that correct?---Yes.

And that maintenance required you, in particular, to change the filters of such units which were attached to a variety of buildings within the village centre; is that so?---That is right.

Your statement indicates in particular you were required to change filters?---I am sorry. I was not required to change filters.

To maintain them, were you?---No, just to expose them for testing.

But you did that in relation to filters which were located on units associated with some laboratories?---Right.

And certain other buildings including the police officer buildings within the village?---Not within the village, no. The police officer buildings were portable units which were spaced around the area.

Around the area, were they?---Right around the range.

I think, while you were there, you were never issued with any form of protective clothing?---No.

Is that correct?---Yes.

Nor any film badge?---No, not to my knowledge.

So far as you are aware, you did not have any contact with radioactivity - so far as you are aware?---No, I did not.

Although you indicate you did witness some of the explosions from a point near to the village?---Right.

I am sorry?---Yes, all the explosions.

All the explosions from a point near the village?---Right.

And, unfortunately, since and later in life you have been diagnosed as having cancer of the throat?---Yes.

And part of your throat, your voice-box, has been removed as a consequence?---Yes.

How is your health these days?---Quite good.

Quite good?---Except I still have to attend hospital for my throat, to have it checked over.

I have no further questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr James?

MR JAMES: You have made a claim under the Commonwealth Employees Compensation Act?---That is right, yes.

That is in respect of the cancer?---Yes.

And that claim was disallowed?---Right.

You authorized the Royal Commission to obtain your medical reports? ---Right.

Do you believe that your condition proceeds from your exposure? ---I think there is a possibility.

Have you been exposed anywhere else, as far as you know, of course?---Not to radiation. I had radiotherapy for my throat.

That is after the cancer developed?---That was initially. That was initially. I was treated by radiotherapy initially, and then it failed.

I have nothing further from the witness.

MR EAMES: No questions.

MR McINTYRE: No questions, your Honour.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr McClellan?

MR McCLELLAN: I have no further questions.

THE PRESIDENT: You may stand down now, thanks, Mr Suffling.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW

MR McCLELLAN: I call Mr Partridge.

JOHN WILLIAM PARTRIDGE, sworn:

MR McCLELLAN: Your full name is John William Partridge?  
---Correct.

You live at 13 Kelly Street, Eagleby, in Queensland?---That is correct.

You have prepared a statement in relation to the matters of concern to the commission; is that correct?---Yes.

Do you have a copy of the statement there?---Yes.

I tender the statement, and it can be marked RC91.

You indicate that you were at Maralinga, posted there in late 1956, and I think you were there as a cook in charge of the kitchen, initially at Roadside and then you were transferred to a place called Kittens; is that correct?---That is correct.



And you indicate that there were personnel at Kitten or Kittens who were scientists and engineers, and you say there seemed to be a lot of English and Canadians, as well as Australians and other nationalities, present there?  
---That is right.

Apparently, you did not experience any atomic explosion in 1956, but you recall three explosions in 1957?---That is right.

And you observed those from near to the Kittens area where you were located; is that correct?---That is correct.

You recall your observations after the explosions and what happened near the Kittens area, and you indicate the nature of the security which you experienced at Maralinga during that time?---That is right.

You also record for us the orders that you were given about the time of the major explosion, and it would seem that the universal order was the one given to you as well. In paragraph 13, you relate the fact that you recall on numerous occasions that you had dust storms in the area, and when this happened, very fine, bull dust, you say, would be blown everywhere?---That is correct.

Now, did these storms last for any length of time, or were they short-duration storms?---Sometimes they would last anything up to six hours.

And was the dust heavy, in the sense was the atmosphere heavy with dust during a storm?---It was that bad, sometimes you could not even see a foot in front of your face.

You could not see a foot in front of your face?---No. It was very, very severe, some of them.

You say it ended up in your clothing and in your suitcase and so on?---That is correct, yes.

In paragraph 14, you say within a couple of days of two of the tests in 1957 - do you mean within a couple of days on two occasions after a test?---That is right, yes.

You recall there were strong dust storms caused by high winds, and on both occasions you recall that the wind was coming from the direction of the test site. After one of the tests you recall that the wind storm was the next day. This caused you some concern, and you mentioned this to one of the engineers, who brought a radiation device of some sort around and tested your sleeping quarters, which were prefabricated buildings. He found, you say, high levels of radioactivity inside and all through your clothing. He said it was much higher than the allowable limit, and said we should clean the dust out at once. You hosed out your quarters, and you took contaminated clothing to the laundry at Maralinga. You say no special precautions were taken, and you simply washed it as normal. You followed the same procedure after the dust storms

following each of the two tests, except that the Geiger counter was used only on the first occasion, and the second occasion you presumed the dust would also be radioactive. Now, were you ever informed as to the level of radioactivity that was found in your premises? ---No. It was through my request - like, I knew quite a few of the engineers and the scientists there, and I said, "Look, these dust storms we are getting - would it be possible to get a reading," I said, "because I am concerned about the cooking side of it, and I don't want to sort of give out contaminated food." One of the engineers - I think it was the next day - he came in, and he just took a reading, just more or less around the quarters and everything like that, and he did not even tell us a reading; all he said to me was, "I'll tell you what," he said, "mate; it's well above the normal - what the body can take," we will put it that way, and he said, "If I were you," he said, "I would clean the whole place right out."

You say you complained about this to Captain Palmer of the British Army, but he said to you, forget it, since there was nothing that could be done about it?---That is correct.

You then recall the kitchens at Kittens, and the dust which you say was a constant problem in the kitchen; it was virtually impossible to keep it out. You say when you had dust storms, the dust would get into the food, and you recall on many occasions food being served with dust on it, and it used to taste gritty. You say we constantly tried to clean up the dust - you could never get rid of it - and the next time there was a bit of wind, it would be all over the place again. You say you recall the day after one of the tests you had a bad dust storm. You were in the process of cooking steak and vegetables. There was so much dust on the food that the steaks appeared reddy-orange in colour. You would not eat them, but most of the other personnel just cleaned it off as best they could and ate the food anyway?---That was correct. We were laughing about it, as a matter of fact.

You must have been a good cook to get away with that?---It was not a case of that; it was the only food available, we will put it that way.

Before being posted to Maralinga, you do not recall any special medical examinations, and you do not recall that during your time in the army. You were not given any lectures or warnings about radiation. In paragraph 20 you say after the third atomic explosion in 1957, you remember that late one afternoon, just before it turned dark, there was a huge explosion which startled everybody in the camp, since you had not been expecting any more tests. You looked in the direction of the explosion, and you saw a huge plume of dust rising from the direction of the Maralinga test site, though not as far away. You remember three lots of prefabricated sleeping quarters were knocked over, windows were broken, and other damage was caused. Now, those sleeping quarters, were they in

your camp at Kittens, were they?---Yes. They were just outside the fence at Kittens, and they were collapsible; like, when they were letting a bomb off, they would let all the walls down for the velocity, so that they would not get knocked over in the event of a high explosion.

Had they let them down on this day when this other explosion occurred?---No.

But they came down?---They came down; all the walls were smashed in.

You say nobody in the camp seemed to know anything about it, and the next day yourself and some other people drove out to have a look. You say about six miles from Kitten you found a huge crater, 50 feet in diameter, and 15 to 20 feet deep. The explosion did not seem the same as the atomic explosions, because there was no blinding flash of light, but it was still very strong to cause that much damage at such a distance. You say you subsequently heard rumours that some engineers, inebriated apparently, had broken into Kittens and stolen equipment to make their own bomb which they had then detonated. Now, tell me, sir: did you believe that story at the time?---Well, I do not know. That is only what came back to us.

I show you this plan, which is RC4. You see it is a plan of Maralinga, and I will just help you with it. You see Maralinga village?---That is correct.

Down there?---Yes.

Roadside there. Do you recall those two?---Yes, yes. I was at Roadside.

There is the Kittens area there?---That is correct, yes. I used to drive out there, and they had a security gate there. An English security guard was on the gate there. All I knew him as was Tim.

Near Naya, is it - about where the word Naya - - -?---Yes, yes, out that way.

Whereabouts was your camp relative to - - -?---Well, is that the building? Where is the building?

There is no building actually shown on the plan, but you see the road coming from Roadside then turns left?---That is right.

Does that help you to identify where your camp may have been? ---Well, I was in what they call Kittens area, and we had, like, a kitchen there, and the scientific place was there, and there was a kitchen right on the end of the building, and then my sleeping quarters were just off from the kitchen itself.

Now, tell me: whereabouts, in directional terms - if that is Roadside, that is Maralinga, whereabouts did this other explosion come from?---That was just here - just round here, I think.

You are pointing to a position between the Kittens area and the point Croydon; is that right?---Yes, I think so. It was just in that area. Like, I was not that close that - all we heard was the explosion; there was a mushroom went up; and there were some people getting on the plane - on a plane at the aerodrome, and they stopped the plane from taking off, because they did not know what was going on either. But all we knew was it was a big explosion, and I made a few inquiries of some of the scientists and that, and they said, "Oh, it was some idiots. They got drunk and made the explosion."

Some idiots got drunk. I see. You say they made a big hole?  
---Yes. It was quite a big crater.

Quite a big crater?---We were took inside one of the boundary fences; that is all I can remember.

You say you saw a mushroom come up, did you?---That is correct, yes.

Was it like the mushroom cloud of the atomic - - -?---Something similar, yes - probably not on a - on a bigger scale.

And then you indicate some further information, including your personal medical situation. You and your wife apparently have had five children, and you record some unfortunate blood disorders with your children. You say your own health fluctuates, but you have not been to a doctor in 30 years?---Well, I have now. I went last week, and I am completely clear.

Completely clear, are you?---That is correct.

Well, the fluctuations is - - -?---Just normal, probably, sickness.

And the rest of your family's health is fairly satisfactory. Yes, thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr James?

MR JAMES: Mr Partridge, what do you mean by fluctuates?---Well, sometimes I get a bit listless at work and things like that, and I will just basically take a few days off.

And when you say you are completely clear, do you mean you went to your general practitioner?---That is correct, yes.

And did he do any blood tests?---That is correct.

And he indicated there was nothing wrong with the blood?---Nothing wrong whatsoever.

Mr Partridge, probably the oldest joke in the army concerns a cook. You are familiar with the joke I am referring to?---Yes, I am.

And, of course, cooks, be they shearers cooks, army cooks or otherwise, are always getting complaints about the food?  
---That is correct.

Did you get any complaints at Kittens about dust in the food?

---Well, you had a few complaints, but basically there was nothing you could do about it. See, we were cooking on what they call a mobile kitchen.

That is a mobile Wyles cooker?---That is correct, yes, and all the grilling and that - anything to do with grilling or that has to be done on the top, because you have got an oven; then you have got a hot plate on the top; and this day - like, we used to get allocated certain types of food, and this day we were having grilled steaks, and we had them all sitting on top of the stove, and all of a sudden we got this dust storm, because they used to come out of the blue - you never knew when they were coming - and everything got just covered in bull dust. Well, we never had any other food. It was a case of, they had to eat it.

Did you receive complaints on other occasions, other than that day?---Yes. The first day I arrived there, there was a Corporal Taylor - I think it was Taylor. He was in charge at the time. He was English. But the complaint was that they could not cook good enough.

I see. Was the kitchen at any stage monitored, to your knowledge? ---Not really. It was only that I asked an engineer would there be a chance of getting the quarters monitored.

Right?---And they did a check - that is when he did a check of the sleeping quarters, and all in the wardrobes and everything else, and it showed a pretty high reading.

But the kitchen itself was not monitored at all, as far as you know?---I cannot remember, honestly, on that one.

You had your normal 12-monthly examination and a blood test that you had prior to your departure from Maralinga?---That is correct, yes.

What sort of blood test was that?---It was just a case of - we lined up - there was a few of us going out - and they took one needle of blood.

Right. When was it that you left Maralinga?---It would have been - I - I think it was round about November 1957.

Do you recall the name of the person that checked out your quarters for you?---No. Look, I could not recall that. He was one of the chaps that used to go into the hot area and do testing and everything.

Scientist or military - - -?---Well, he was an engineer. That is all I knew.

The explosion which you have referred to knocked down the walls of the sleeping quarters?---That is correct, yes.

Was anybody in them at the time?---I could not really say.

No suggestion of anyone injured?---I could not tell you that. I never heard anything.

Right, and you had, whilst at Kittens, very little contact with the people in the village?---That is correct, yes.

Nothing further.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr Eames?

MR EAMES: You refer to an incident, Mr Partridge, in paragraph 9, where you say that during the count down of one atomic bomb, the explosion had to be postponed and I was later told by some engineers and scientists that a number of Aborigines had wandered into the danger zone, and trucks had to go out and collect them and remove them from the area. Am I reading the wrong statement? That is a good start, your Honour.

THE PRESIDENT: It is in my statement.

MR EAMES: Well, I will try again, your Honour.

As you were, Mr Partridge; that statement I read to you refers to postponement for Aborigines being in the test zone. You do not recall which of the Antler trials it was that that incident occurred?---No. All I can remember is they were doing a count-down on it. I am not sure whether it was the first or second, it is so long ago. They were on the count-down. They had about half an hour to go. Well, they had planes continually flying over the area to make sure it is clear. Now they could pick up a dingo running across those areas in a plane, and they saw these Aborigines walking into the area; so they stopped the count-down. They went out in vehicles, picked them up and took them to wherever they were going.

Could I just ask you firstly: what was the source of this information? Where did you learn this from?---Well, I heard that from - when we were at Kittens. I said, "What stopped the count-down?" They said, "Some Abos were walking through the area and they had to stop it and get rid of them out of the area."

You say, "They said that." Firstly, whereabouts was this conversation?---This was back at Kittens.

And who were the people, firstly? Were they scientists or army officers or what who said this?---Generally everyone was talking about it. Like, when you are a cook there, you hear a lot because they are filing through and they were talking amongst each other, and you generally pick up - - -

No secrets in the kitchen, as it were?---No, generally not.

Did you hear this being discussed between scientists whilst you were going about your duties as cook?---Put it this way, it could have been really anyone, because a lot of scientists, when they got out of their gear, they were just like ordinary civilian people. You did not know who was who, and they would just be walking along, talking to each other, and you just hear different information, you know.

What I am getting at is this: was this, in your impression, one of the rumours that was often doing the rounds of the camps, or did this appear to you to be something in the category that it seemed to be based on fact?---It seemed to be based on fact. I mean, they did stop the explosion. I mean, they would not stop it unless it was something realistic.

Did you hear anyone discussing, for example, that there had been a wind change in the day before the test?---No, they would tell you that. They always told you that before

a bomb blast. They would say, "The bomb will not go off today owing to the wind or weather changes," etcetera, etcetera, but they did not say what this was about.

So there was no official explanation given at all for this particular blast?---No.

And that was unusual because you would otherwise always be told what the reason was for a delay?---We would always be told, yes, over the loud speakers.

And no doubt because the men got very annoyed and frustrated if the bomb did not go off?---Yes.

Your understanding then is that the fact of there being Aborigines on the test area as the cause of the postponement, that was accepted throughout the whole of the camp, was it, as the explanation?---Well, I do not know what went on back further. All I know is that was just a rumour that I heard. It is basically rumour because I never saw any Aborigines, so I do not know.

Understand that, but what I am getting at is, were there any alternative rumours being put forward?---No.

And you said that the rumour suggested that not only had people been found but they had been picked up?---They had been picked up in vehicles and taken well out. Well, what I heard is they had been taken to their destination so that they would not come back.

I take it you do not have any further information about where they had come from?---No. All I know is there was a few of them.

And you cannot recall whether this was the first, second or third atomic explosion?---No, I really could not.

Were there any patrol officers that you saw in the time that you were based at Maralinga?---Yes, definitely.

Can you recall any of their names? Mr McDougall for example?  
---No. I really did not know many names of people. I knew Sir William Penny and a few of the scientists and that, but there was that many people I used to come in contact with, you could not remember everyone's name.

Do you recall patrol officers, native patrol officers, or are you just thinking in terms of patrol officers, including peace officers, Commonwealth peace officers?---Mostly, Commonwealth peace officers.

Do you actually recall native patrol officers in the area?---No, I never saw any.



And prior to the test being conducted during this time, do you recall anyone going out doing patrols by motor vehicles?  
---There was continual patrols.

From what sort of people?---Mostly Commonwealth.

Commonwealth peace officers?---Yes.

And did you ever hear any of those people talking about finding Aborigines in the area?---No.

By that do you mean you did not hear them talk about it one way or the other?---That is right.

I have no further questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Mc McIntyre?

MR MCINTYRE: You said in paragraph 11 that security at the time of the tests and afterwards was extremely tight and personnel were not allowed past a security check-point without having proper passes. If you can just think back to that map you were shown before, whereabouts was this security check-point?---There was a big wire fence with a double gate just before you come into Kittens and there was - I can remember his first name, Tim; he was English or Commonwealth Police - and it was very tight. I used to go in there every day, and even though he knew me - I forgot my badge one day and he said, "I am sorry. I cannot let you in."

Are you talking about getting access into the Kittens area?---That is right; and he sent me all the way back to the village to get my badge with the photograph.

You say being sent back to the village. Do you mean back to Maralinga village?---No, Roadside.

When you say a village at Roadside, what was at Roadside?---They had a kitchen there. They had sleeping quarters.

Was that where you were sleeping?---For the first six months, yes.

At Maralinga village or Roadside?---No, Roadside.

So when you first arrived there, for the first five or six months you were sleeping at Roadside?---That is right. Then I was transferred to Kittens.

You say there was a combination built at Kittens as well, was there?---That is correct, yes.

Was it tents or huts?---No, no. They were - as I say, there was the scientific building and there was a kitchen on the end and there was a couple of sleeping quarters collapsible sleeping quarters - prefab.

How many people lived at Kittens, approximately?---I really could not tell you that.

Was it 20 or 500?---No, no, nowhere near that, because the scientists and all that, mainly of a night-time, they used to go back - as far as I can remember, they used to go back into the village. There would have been about - security - would have been probably about 10.

How many army personnel were there with you?---Around about six.

When you said the whole of the camp knew that the test had been delayed because of the presence of Aborigines, are you referring to the camp at Kittens or Roadside or back at Maralinga?---No, that was at Roadside.

How many people were at Roadside?---Three or four hundred.

Were you at Roadside at the time when this delay occurred?---Yes.

Were you actually waiting for the detonation?---We were waiting for the detonation.

Had you been marshalled there for the detonation?---That is correct, yes.

And were you taken to Roadside prior to each detonation rather than being left at Kittens?---That is right, yes. Roadside was the main viewing point of all the bombs that were let off.

You mentioned the engineer who checked out the residential area with a radiation device. Was he British Army or Australian Army, or was he a civilian?---No, he was Australian Army.

Do you know what rank he was?---He was corporal.

Had you seen the radiation device that you recall he was carrying before?---I never took much notice. He was just going around the room. He was taking a reading. Apparently he knew how to read one, and when we came outside I said, "What is it like?" And he said, "I will tell you what," he said, "It is well above the limit that human bodies should endure." He said, "So I advise you to just clear it all out."

He was a corporal from the Australian Army?---That is correct.

Had you seen him before?---Yes. He used to come through the kitchen all the time.

Do you recall his name?---No. Look, I am sorry, I cannot.

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J.W. PARTRIDGE

Did he sleep at Roadside or at the kitchen area?---He used to sleep at Roadside, yes. That is when I saw Captain Palmer and I told him and he said, well, there is nothing you can do about it anyway.

Did you hear any noise from the radiation measurement device or notice anything about it?---To me it sounded like a humming or buzzing noise.

Was it a crackling or humming noise? Can you not recall?---I had never seen these devices before because I had never been involved with them. To me it sounded like a humming noise.

What was Captain Palmer's job as far as you could see?---He was in charge of all the engineers. I think he was nearly in charge of the Roadside.

Was he in charge of the engineer corporal who checked the kitchen?---He was English but he was also in charge of all the Australians and that there. He was not in charge of me. I came under a Captain Brown.

From the Australian Army?---That is correct.

Where was he located? At Roadside?---No. He was back at Maralinga village.

How long did you spend actually at Kittens before you left Maralinga?---Would have been about four, four and a half months; that is only an estimate. I cannot quite remember.

The prefabricated sleeping quarters that were knocked down when this unexpected explosion occurred, were they at Kittens or at the Roadside accommodation area?---I think they were just outside the fence at Kittens.

Was it not the case there was some prefabricated structures at Roadside itself?---There was prefabricated buildings at Roadside.

Do you think it might have been the case that it was the prefabricated structures at Roadside that appeared to collapse rather than these erections at Kittens? ---Look, I am sorry; it is that far back. I just cannot remember everything.

You said in your statement that it was just before dark that this unexpected explosion took place?---That is correct, yes.

Was the light clear or was it fading light?---Just fading light.

And you describe in your statement a huge plume of dust rising from the direction of the Maralinga test site?---That is correct.

That is when you were viewing it from the area at Kittens?---Yes.  
No, wait a minute. Now I think of it, it could have been Roadside. It might have been back at Roadside at that time. As I say, it is very hard to remember 30 years back. I can remember the explosion.

What were you doing at Roadside when you saw this?---I used to have my own vehicle and I used to sort of call into Roadside if I was going back into the village, if I had nothing to do, and go back and see movies or something like that to fill in time.

Roadside was the main base, was it, at that stage?---Yes.

Did you ask anybody at Roadside what it was that had gone off bang in the night?---No. I never found out the next morning.

At Roadside did you ask anybody what it was?---No. I did not worry about it that much.

Did anybody at Roadside express any surprise when they heard the bang?---I think everybody did.

They had Kittens, I heard somebody say. It is a good thing we are adjourning to Sydney. We need a rest.

THE WITNESS: Especially when there was no count-down, no nothing, and all of a sudden, boom, up she goes.

MR McINTYRE: Well, people appeared surprised?---I think a lot were.

Did anybody ask what went bang?---Well, just a general thing - I wonder what the heck is going on; all the scientists having another go. Mostly everyone took it as a joke.

It was not taken seriously?---No, not 'at the time. They were all laughing about the quarters getting knocked over.

Yes, thank you, your Honour.

MR McCLELLAN: I have no further questions.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW

MR McCLELLAN: I only have one more witness today. He is a witness who will take a little time because he has some evidence in relation to the Aboriginal incident in the crater, and I, unfortunately, for the first time the logistics have not quite worked and the gentleman is not at court at the moment. I believe he is on his way and I suggest it may be appropriate to take the morning adjournment and await his arrival.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

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THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

MR McCLELLAN: I call Mr Woodland, if your Honour pleases.

KEVIN JOHN WOODLAND, sworn:

MR McCLELLAN: Your full name is Kevin John Woodland; is that correct?---Yes.

You live at 5 corner Kent and Boardman Streets?---That is right.

Kallangur?---Yes.

In Queensland?---Yes.

You have prepared a statement in relation to the matter before the commission?\_\_\_Yes.

Is that so?---That is right.

Do you have a copy - - -?---Yes, I have got a copy here.

You have got a copy there. I tender that. It can be marked RC92.

Now, sir, in that statement you have indicated that you were in the Australian Engineers, and you were posted to Maralinga in 1957?---That is right.

The commission, of course, has your statement and I would like to take you, if I may, to paragraph 7 of the statement on the second page. There you say on the one occasion, before the first explosion in 1957, you were in one of those contaminated areas with some other men, when you saw a family of Aborigines walking towards you? ---That is right.

Now, whereabouts precisely do you recall that you were?---Well, I cannot recall precisely where we were, but it was in a contaminated area.

Well, were there any facilities there with you - buildings, trucks?---No, nothing.

You were just out in the open?---Just out in the open.

Do you recall the health physics caravans?---Yes, I remember them.

Were you anywhere near any of those?---Probably a couple of mile away - two or three mile away.

Two or three miles?---Yes.

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K.J. WOODLAND

And were you closer to the contamination than the caravan or were you away from it?---I did not exactly know where the crater was.

You did not know where the crater was?---No, no.

Now, you say you saw - you and some other men - do you recall the names of any of the other men who were with you?  
---No, I cannot.

You cannot?---No.

But you saw this family. You say there was a man, his wife and two children of about 5 or 6?---Yes.

Do you recall the sex of the children?---No.

You do not?---I know there was a boy for sure.

A boy for sure?---Yes. Whether they were two boys, I cannot remember.

Who was the first person to see them? Was it you or someone else?---Well, I think there was three or four of us there together. I think we just more or less all seen them at the same time.

Do you recall what they were carrying at all?---Yes, he was carrying a billycan.

He was carrying a billycan?---Yes, and he had his spear.

Spear?---Yes.

Do you recall what they were clothed in?---He was dressed in a pair of trousers - long trousers, bare feet, no shirt or anything. She was dressed in a potato sack. The two kiddies, I think they had shorts on - or one of them had shorts.

Now, what happened when you saw them?---We radioed base if we could have a senior officer present in our area, and we were asked why, and we stated that we did not want to say at that stage why we wanted a senior - - -

THE PRESIDENT: Were you in a vehicle?---We had a vehicle, yes, yes.

MR McCLELLAN: You radioed through?---Yes, we radioed through. The radio operator wanted to know why we wanted a senior officer, so we told him that we had discovered Aborigines in a radioactive area, so then we had vehicles come from all over the place.

Vehicles from all over the place?---Yes.

What did you do with the Aborigines when you first discovered them?---Took them back to the caravan.

Did you have any trouble getting them back to the caravan?  
---Not to the caravan itself, but when we wanted to give them a shower, we did.

Well, did you take them in a vehicle back to the caravan?  
---From memory, I think we took them in the Land-rover.

Were you able to communicate with them at all?---No, only by sign language.

Sign language?---Yes.

You took them back to the caravan?---Yes.

And what happened to them then?---Well, we tried to get the girl undressed, to put her in the showers, but he kicked up a bit of a stink.

I am sorry, you tried to get the - - -?---We tried to get the girl undressed and put her into the shower.

Do you mean by that the woman - you mean the wife?---Oh, the woman, yes, yes.

Why did you try to get her undressed?---Well, to put her in the shower.

Why did you need to put her in a shower?---Well, we assumed from where she came from, she would have been contaminated, and as we had been dressed up in our suits, we had to get out of them and have our showers also.

Did anyone put a Geiger counter over the family?---They did, after they had come out of the showers, I think.

After they had come out of the showers?---Yes.

But not before?---I do not think so.

Would you have seen the whole process from the time they came to the caravan until the time they went into the shower?  
---We were there the whole time.

You say you do not recall a Geiger counter being put over them before showering?---No, not before showering, because one-half of your showers is on the radioactive side and the other half is on the clear side.

Was it usual - I see. So, the Geiger counter was located on the clear side?---That is right.

There was not a Geiger counter on the dirty side?---Not that I know of.



Were they all monitored after they had showered?---Yes.

Did they shower for any length of time?---Yes.

How long do you recall?---Possibly four or five times.

Four or five times?---Yes.

Each person four or five times?---Each person, yes.

Was there any problem in getting any of them to have a shower?  
---Yes.

What was the problem?---Because he did not seem to know - well, we tried to tell them that we wanted them to have a shower, and pointed to the shower and all the rest of it, but he still did not know what we were talking about. So we thought, well, if we undress one of them and put them into the shower, it might give him the idea, and then he would follow suit, so we started with the woman first, but he got a bit upset over that, so - then we started with the two kiddies and put them in, and then after that he seemed to know what we wanted him to do; so then the woman had a shower and then he had a shower.

And did you have any need to use force at all to shower?---No.

And did both children shower, to your recollection?---Yes.

And do you recall whether any of them had any parts of their body more particularly contaminated than any other part of their bodies?---Not really, no.

Well, do you mean by that that you do not recall or that - - -?  
---I do not recall.

Do you recall any specific parts of any person's body that may have been giving a positive reading?---Well, from what I can remember, all over. I did not use the Geiger machine on them.

Did you participate in the actual showering of the Aborigines?  
---Yes.

Now, shortly afterwards, you say in your statement, several senior officers arrived and supervised the decontamination of the Aboriginal family?---Yes.

Do you recall the names of any officers who may have arrived?  
---No. They were not from our camp.

Do you know the name Mr Turner?---Mr?

Turner?---It sounds familiar, but I cannot place him.

What about Sergeant Smith?---Well, that is a bit too common.

That is a bit too common, is it?---Yes, if you want to remember him.

Do you see the gentleman sitting in the aeroplane there?  
---Yes.

Do you recall that gentleman?---Can I have a closer look? My eyesight is not the best.

Yes?---I cannot say who it is.

You do not recall?---No, no.

Did the officers who came take over the whole operation of decontamination?---Yes.

They did. You then say they were taken back to the main camp at Maralinga. Did you go with them?---No.

And you were told certain things some days later. Now, you refer to the fact that you were told by an officer that everything you had seen came under the Official Secrets Act and you should not talk about it to anyone. I wonder if you could tell me in your own words what happened for that to occur?  
---Well, that is all he did say, that he just called - from memory, I think there was three or four of us there. He called all of us together and just told us we were covered by the Official Secrets Act and we were not to repeat anything that happened at that moment.

Was this an English officer or Australian?---No, Australian.

Australian. Do you recall his name?---No, I do not.

I wonder if you would look at these four photographs for me. Firstly, the photograph - which I will put an A on the back of - would you recall that as being the Aboriginal woman involved?---I could not remember.

You could not remember?---No.

Do you recall the army person with her?---No, I do not.

You do not recall?---No.

What about the photograph I mark with a B; do you recall whether or not that is the woman involved?---The dress looks familiar.

The dress looks familiar, does it?---They did have some dogs with them.

They had some dogs, did they?---Yes.

What about the photograph I mark with a C?---It is hard to tell.

You say it is hard to tell?---Yes, it is hard to tell.

What about the photograph marked with D and, again, can you tell me whether you recall the man in that photograph?---I cannot recall the man.

You cannot recall the man?---Is that a boy or a girl? A boy?  
It is too big.

It is too big? You think it is a boy?---I think he was younger than that or shorter.

Younger or shorter?---Yes. He looks fairly big, that boy.

You put two little kiddies in the shower together, and he looked too big to be one of those two?---Yes.

You are sure of that?---I am not sure. He looks too big.

After they showered, do you know what happened as far as clothing for them was concerned?---No, I do not remember it.

You do not remember?---No.

You indicate they had a billy. Did they have only one billy or more than one?---Just the one, I think.

Do you recall whether it had any water in it?---No water in it.

No water in it?---That is what he was after. He was after water.

He was after water?---Yes.

How did you know that?---He was holding his billy up and shaking it. So we assumed he was wanting water.

Did you know - I withdraw that. When you saw the Aborigines, first, I assume they were walking, were they?---Yes.

Did you ascertain, you and your group ascertain, where they had walked from?---No, we had no way of knowing where they came from.

No way of knowing?---No.

What time of the day was it, do you recall?---No.

I am sorry?---No, I do not.

You do not?---No.

Do you have any knowledge as to where they might have spent the previous night?---No, I have no idea.

No idea?---No.

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K.J. WOODLAND

I wonder if you would look at this document for me? It is a report called Airac Number 9 and on page 44, paragraph 13.5, there is an account of an incident, and we will read it together?---Yes.

It says:

A family of four members, man, woman, boy and baby girl.

Would you have described the family you saw as being four persons comprising a man, woman, boy and baby girl?---I do not know if she was a baby girl. I cannot remember a baby.

But you do remember a man, woman, and a boy?---Oh yes.

"All of whom were monitored for radioactive contamination at the control unit"?---Yes.

You would agree with that?---Yes.

"The only one who showed any contamination was the boy." Do you agree with that?---No, because I would not know.

You say you would not know?---No, because when they put the Geiger on them they all showed up with contamination.

You say that, when they put the Geiger on them, they all showed up with contamination?---Yes.

So you would say, would you not, it is wrong to say only one showed contamination?---Just the one, yes.

The report says:

He had a very minor degree of contamination over the buttocks and on the right side of his head.

And I assume, from what you have said, you would disagree with that, too?---I disagree with that.

"The degree of contamination was trivial." Would you be able to comment on that?---No, I would not.

"Being less than that at which decontamination was obligatory under the range safety regulations." Could you comment on that?---Well, from what I have heard, the degree of contamination is a lot lower now than what it was in those days. So I would not agree with that at all.

"But it was decided to decontaminate the boy. This was done in the usual way in the shower and then subsequently the whole family showered at length." Now, firstly, do you recall the boy showering first?---No.

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You do not?---No, because we put them both in together.

Both in together?---I am sure we did.

You are sure you put both children in together?---Yes.

And it says:

Subsequently the whole family showered at length also although this was not demanded by the presence of radioactive contamination.

Would you agree with that?---No, I would not, because "showered at length" would be for a period of time and, if they were not contaminated, they would not need to shower for a period of time. The two kiddies, and even the woman and the man, were completely caked with dirt. Looking at it, you might say they were lying on wet dirt and just let it dry out. It could have been half an inch thick on their body or something. So, if they had done that in a radioactive area, they would have been completely contaminated, I should think.

Was anyone, while you were with the Aborigines, able to communicate with them apart from using sign language?---No.

And what sort of vehicle were they driven away in; do you recall?  
---No, I cannot recall.

Do you recall a Mr D. Small who was present on that occasion?  
---I remember the name.

You do remember the name?---Yes.

I would like you to look at this for me. This is exhibit RC17. It is a further report, you see. It says:

At approximately 10 o'clock on 14 May 1957  
a party of engineers in charge Captain Marcur -

Do you recall him?---No.

"Sighted a family group noticed approaching the health physics control at Pompot. After reporting the matter by radio to base, indicated to the natives he wished to remain near the caravan. Captain Marcur handed over to Sergeant Smith." You told me you do not recall Captain Marcur and Sergeant Smith neither?---But Sergeant Smith was in the health physics group.

He was - he was in the health physics group that arrived at about 10.20?---Yes.

"Sergeant Smith and Mr Small then looked after the group until the health physics representative arrived with Flight Lieutenant Goldsworthy at 10.45." So do you feel Smith and Small could have been with health physics and not

part of your team?---Yes, they would have been, yes, because we did not have any senior officer with us when we were out.

"The group consisted of a man, wife, son and baby daughter. They were monitored from head to toe with a ten twenty-one probe. The only variation from normal background was found on the right side of the boy's hair and on his buttocks." You have told me you do not recall that monitoring occurring until after the shower?---Until after the shower.

Are you definite on that?---I am not definite.

You are not definite?---I cannot see how it could have been done.

You cannot see how it could have been done?---They would have had to bring them out first and then take them back to the other side of the shower, and I cannot remember anything like that.

It is said, again:

The only contamination was on the right side of the boy's hair and on his buttocks. The boy was then persuaded to shower in the caravan who was apparently washed by Mr Small.

Do you recall the boy being washed by anyone?---He was washed by two or three of us.

Two or three of you, was he?---Yes.

Did you participate in that?---Yes, because we were still on the contaminated side of the caravan, so we had not showered either at that stage.

"You pay particular attention to the boy's hair. At the conclusion of the operation the boy was a new person and was so obviously pleased with the result that it was not difficult to persuade the father to shower." Do you recall that?---That would be about right, too.

That would be about right?---Yes, because they had a good time in the shower.

No problem getting the father to shower?---Not after the kiddies.

Not after the kiddies?---Yes.

But there was before, was there?---Yes.

"The father then washed the daughter"; do you recall that?---No.

"The mother was content with just washing her hair"; do you recall that?---No.

Did she wash her whole body, to your recollection?---Her whole body.

"Altogether the process of monitoring and washing was accomplished surprisingly well, considering the circumstances. The natives were then handed over to security"; do you recall that?---I would not know if they were handed over to security.

Were you sent out to look for native tracks?---No.

Do you know if anyone else went out looking for native tracks at that time?---I do not know what happened after that.

When the Geiger counter was put over these persons after they had showered, as you indicate, was there any problem in putting the counter over them at that stage? Did they resist the Geiger counter?---I do not think so. I cannot remember.

You do not remember?---I am not sure whether we put the Geiger counter over ourselves first, just to show them what we were doing.

Do you agree with the statement that there was no possibility that any of the family could have experienced any radiation injury?---I would not have had the experience to agree with that.

You would not know?---No.

You proceed in your statement to describe security and you deal with matters of film badges. You also remark on an incident in relation to a watch?---Yes.

Tell me this: do you recall who might have said to you that metal objects would attract radioactivity?---I think it was just in one of the discussions given to us after we had arrived at Maralinga.

Do you recall who the health physicist was who took the watch, as you record in paragraph 11?---No, I do not.

You do not?---No.

Yes, thank you, Mr Woodland.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr Woodland, just one thing I would like to clear up. In your statement you say:

I recall that they had to go through the showers four or five times.

?---Yes.

Before their personal radiation count had reached the acceptable level.

?---Yes.

Now, that suggests to me - tell me if I am wrong - that they would have had a shower?---Yes.

Then be tested?---That is right.

And then - - -?---Go back in again.

Then go back?---Yes.

So they had four or five separate showers?---Yes.

That is your recollection?---Yes.

All of them?---All of them.

Thank you. Mr James?

MR JAMES: Just very quickly, your Honour.

For how long were you at Maralinga?---Approximately nine months.

Were you there for the three explosions in 1956?---Yes.

And was there a point of time, just after the third explosion, there was an unexpected explosion?---No.

Nothing that you can recall?---No, not that I know of.

The film badges you have referred to?---Yes.

Did yours ever change colour?---Once or twice it did.

To what colour?---That I cannot remember. I have tried to think of that often, but I cannot.

During each blast that you saw, you saw a Canberra bomber, you say, flying through the cloud?---Yes.

Were people with you when you saw that?---The whole group was there.

The whole group being the engineers group?---Yes.

And the commanding officer being Captain Palmer?---That is right, yes.

Nothing further, your Honour.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr Eames?

MR EAMES: Mr Woodland, these events were some thirty-odd years ago?---Yes.

Obviously, it is now pretty hard to recollect?---Yes.

I would just like to put some alternative details relating to this incident, to get your comments on them?---Yes.

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And if I could start, firstly, with your own to see if this assists you? In about 1980, I think you were interviewed by Adrian Tame?---Yes.

For the book, and no doubt you have seen the book?---Yes, I have.

This was your recollection four years ago, and can I just put it to you, and then ask you if that assists you?---Yes.

Or if you want to make any changes or whatever?---Yes.

He says at page 140, after an introduction to it - he quotes you as saying:

While we were in the radioactive area we were wearing protective clothing, and we had portable showers for decontamination. We came across this family of four aborigines. They must have walked down from the Alice Springs area, passing through test areas and sleeping on the ground.

Now, I just stop at that point?---Yes.

Does that refresh your memory? Do you have any recollection now of obtaining information that they had passed down from the north?---No, we do not know where they came from.

Yes. All right. Was that a conjecture on your part in the statement?---No, because I do not agree with a lot of things in that book.

All right. We had better go through it all then, and let us see. It might stop sales which have been booming up until now?---That is right.

Just going on, the next part is:

The dirt was two inches thick on the bottom of the shower when we had finished with them.

Do you agree with that?---Well, I do not know whether it was two inches, but it was very thick.

Right. Okay:

The warning signs were no good to the Aborigines. They could not understand them.

?---Well, they were all written in English.

It says:

They came to us with a billy for water, and we ran a Geiger counter over them.

?---No.

Can I just clarify, when you say no to that, are you saying that I did not say that four years ago, or are you saying that if I said that four years ago, I was wrong?---Well, we do not carry Geiger counters around in a radioactive area, for a start.

Yes?---So it would have had to be a caravan. It may be the way he has written it.

Could I just take you back and, as best you can recall, are you saying that you did not say that to Mr Tame, and he has got it wrong, or are you saying, look, I might have said it, but there is some confusion there, if that is what I said?---Well, in all probability I have said it, but not in those words.

Well, I will just read that previous sentence, and come back to the next one, and it reads:

They came to us with a billy for water, and we ran a Geiger counter over them. The readings were pretty frightening.

Now, that suggests - and going on:

To begin with, they couldn't understand what we wanted.

That suggests, does it not, that you had a recollection four years ago of some check prior to them taking part in showers?---No, not the way that is written.

You disagree with that - - -?---Yes, I do.

- - - insofar as it suggests that there was a Geiger counter test conducted before they showered?---Yes. I disagree with the frightening part, too, but I think that is only just writing there.

Well, as you would have seen from the book, it purports to be a direct quote of something that you have said?---Yes, I know.

And I think we should be fair to the authors as well. They may well have a misstatement recorded from you. Is it possible that you might have said that, but on reflection are now not certain that that is a reliable thing to have said?---Well, I do not think I said it in those words, and I am sure I did not, because there is other things in that book also that are untrue.

We will come back to that then. I will just go on:

To begin with, they couldn't understand what we wanted. There was a bloke, his woman, and two young ones.

You have agreed with that?---Yes.

"The woman was wearing a potato sack, and we wanted them to undress." Correct - yes?---Yes.

It has to be recorded, you see:

The bloke didn't want us taking her clothes off her, but in the end we got them in the shower, and they had to go through time and time again.

?---That is right.

And you agree with the part that he did not want the clothes being taken off the woman?---That is right.

"There was a bit of a panic eventually, and about 50 scientists came down, and we were told to forget the whole thing." What about that?---I would not know whether there was 50 scientists even there.

But definitely more than enough for a couple of cricket teams,  
I take it?---I will say.

"The Aborigines were taken back to Maralinga, and that was the  
last we saw of them."?---That is right.

"We have since been told that the Aborigines were subsequently  
taken onto an Aboriginal settlement."?---Yes, that  
is what we were told.

Can I just take you to the next part of this book. It says:

For years Kevin Woodland had done what  
he was told and kept quiet. Then he  
heard the air vice marshall on the radio

and he refers to an air vice marshall's statement

a British air vice marshall interviewed  
early in 1980 on the ABC Current Affairs  
programme saying of this incident that  
it was all nonsense

or saying about the suggestion that Aborigines were in  
the area, that it was all nonsense. It then purports  
to quote you:

I kept it to myself because I thought it  
was covered by The Official Secrets Act, but  
when I heard this British Air Force bloke  
on the radio, saying we had put them all in  
a compound, that made me angry.

Do you recall saying that? Was that - - -?---No, I  
did not say that.

All right:

I started talking about it, and then in July  
this year, 1980, my wife got a phone call at  
home, somebody asking for me by name. She  
said, "Can I take a message?" because I was  
not there. The bloke on the phone said,  
"You can take a message. Tell him not to  
say anymore about Aborigines." She told him  
to go to hell and hung up. It does not  
worry me. I won't be gagged.

Now, can I ask you, was there an incident some years  
back where your wife received a telephone - - -?  
---Yes, there was.

So your wife received a telephone call telling her to tell you to  
shut up about Aborigines?---No. The gentleman that  
phoned up - and I assume he was a gentleman - was very

polite. He did not use any swear words, threatening or anything, just told me not to say anything about Aborigines.

Now, at that stage you had not said anything about - - -?---I had not, no.

No. So, apart from members of the armed forces who were there at that time, or scientists, would there have been anyone else who knew about your involvement in this incident?---Only other members of the association that I would talk to.

When the message was received, I take it that it was anonymous, was it?---Yes.

And perhaps if we can just get topics. You have said there were other aspects of this book that you disagree with. Perhaps I should ask you - - -?---Well, that was mainly one of them, that story there.

I see?---Actually, that was taken from, I think, the Melbourne Truth. Then he sold the story to the Penthouse. Now he has written a book, so he is doing quite well out of it really.

All right. Could I take you to some other recollections of these events. Do you recall any incident of the - sorry - at the time of this showering, do you recall the female being less co-operative, and could only be induced by going into the shower with the baby in her arms?---I do not think the female was not co-operating. I think it was just the man himself. You know, whether he thought we were trying to assault her or something like that, I do not know, but he got a bit carried away when we started to try and undress her, so from there we went to the two kiddies first.

Did the mother get into the shower - and, of course, we have now heard there was something like five different showers? ---Yes.

Did the mother get into the shower at any time with the child, or with a child, in her arms?---I cannot remember that.

Can you recall an incident of the child getting soap in its eyes?

THE PRESIDENT: What is the answer?---May have done.

MR EAMES: You do not remember?---I do not remember that, no.

Leading to that showering being discontinued for the child? ---I do not remember that.

THE PRESIDENT: Were you using soap?---Yes.

MR EAMES: Would you say that the mother had a - when she showered, that she had a very cursory shower, or would you say it appeared to be a very thorough shower?---Everyone had a very thorough shower.

Were any of the people, apart from the children - the man or the woman - were they washed down by any of the people who were there?---Except for the kiddies, I think they washed themselves.

But you would not disagree if someone suggested that there were some, to some extent at least, people forcibly washing them in areas where they were not otherwise washing themselves?---It may have happened. I do not know.

Yes?---There was, you know, a lot of people in the caravan at that stage.

Can you give me an idea of how many people would have been in the caravan at that time?---There was the four of them; there was three or four of us; two chappies on the Geiger and that; probably plus about three or four other people, so probably about 10 to 15 people, I think.

In the statement that I quoted from the Maralinga book, you describe the people as - I am sorry, I think I have got that wrong. I am just looking at: the reading was pretty frightening. Did the people appear to be frightened at all?---No.

Mind you, I suppose that your appearance would have been fairly impressive - - -?---In the first place it was.

- - - for anyone wandering in out of the desert?---Yes. It did not seem to worry him, because all he was after was water, anyway.

From what we have heard of those masks, could you see?---You could see a bit.

You were wearing the full face masks, were you?---Yes.

How long had you been out in the range at that stage in full gear?---I do not think we had been there too long. I think we had only more or less just arrived there, and been there, say, a few minutes.

Was there any episode of the boy having to be prodded into the shower by the father?---I do not think so.

What happened to the father's spear?---I have no idea. It should have been left on the other side.

When they had had their showers, eventually they got back into the same clothes, such as they were, that they had had, did they not?---Well, I cannot remember that, but, you know, if that did happen, it was wrong, from what we had been taught. But I cannot remember whether their clothes were destroyed or left on the other side, and whether they were redressed in army clothes or what. I cannot remember.

Was there any suggestion, just going back to the shower for a moment, that there was some embarrassment about washing of the woman's private parts by the husband; that people were trying to encourage him to do it, and he would not do it, and then other people had to do it? Do you recall an incident like that?---It may have happened. I do not think we were worried about her private parts really.

Well, again, that is the sort of thing that may have happened. There may have been other people involved?---Yes.

You are not saying it could not have happened?---No, no, because we were always taught that your hair was the main part to wash, anyway.

Yes?---All over your body, whether you had had a suit on or not, so - - -

Yes. Do you recall a John Hutton, a sapper, at that time?  
---I might be wrong, but he has not changed his name, has he - John Woodley?

Yes?---When he has changed his name.

Yes?---Yes, I do.

You do recall him, do you?---Yes.

And do you recall him taking part in the same incident as yourself?---I cannot remember.

He was not with you out in the range when the people were discovered, was he?---I have tried to remember that since remembering his name, but I think, from memory, it was a lance corporal. I cannot remember now, I am afraid.

He was apparently?---Yes.

You said that when you radioed back to base about this family, you did not want to say over the radio why it was that you wanted your senior officer. Why was that?  
---Well, mainly because we did not want anyone to

know what we had discovered. It was not up to us to, you know, say anything about it really, so - - -

Well, did you recognise at that time that this was going to cause a real fuss?---If we did not keep it quiet, yes.

Yes, precisely. In fact, at that time when you made this discovery, was there any understanding amongst the people working there that there had been any Aborigines in the area before?---No one had ever mentioned it before.

But had there been any discussion about Aborigines at all? ---Prior to that happening?

Yes?---No, not that I know of.

Had you seen any native patrol officers, for example, in the area?---No.

What was it that made you think that this was going to be trouble?---Well, I think we were all young at that stage - we were only all about 19 - and from what we had been told of what we were doing, and being in contaminated areas and all about radiation, I think we just panicked just as much as what they did when they saw us, because when we saw them, then, naturally, we wanted to pass the responsibility on to somebody else.

Well, that does not quite go to the question of why you would not say it over the radio?---Yes.

Was it the point that you were - I think you did actually say that you knew the last thing the authorities would want would be for anyone to hear that it had happened?---Well, I think it was - see, everyone - if you were in a vehicle, you were on that same wavelength in every vehicle. I think the idea was that we just did not want 500 vehicles driving out to where we were, anyway. Naturally, we knew they should not have been there, so we just wanted to keep it quiet until somebody else could take control and, you know, let them worry about it as well.

Let me put it to you directly: you would have known at that time, would you not, that this was an incident that the authorities would want to hush up?---Oh, for sure, yes.



And all of the experience that you had gained in the range would have made that quite obvious to you without anyone having to say so?---Yes.

And indeed, that being your assumption at the time when you were on the radio proved to be right later when they read the riot act to you about the official secrecy?---That is right.

Did you cop any threats at that time about what the penalties were under the Official Secrets Act?---I was not threatened with execution.

You were not threatened with execution?---No.

I think it does have some humane aspects; what about 30 years gaol?---Well, we were not told, but we knew what the penalty could be, yes.

And you took them seriously?---Yes, very seriously.

And they intended you to take them seriously?---Yes.

I have no further questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr McIntyre?

MR McINTYRE: What time do you recall it was that you first sighted these Aborigines when you were out?---You mean time of day?

Yes?---I have no idea. I cannot remember.

Morning or afternoon?---I could not even remember that.

You said you were in a party of two or three people?---About three or four of us.

Who was in charge of the party?---I cannot remember, because I cannot even remember there being a corporal with us.

You radioed to your base for a senior officer to come. Whereabouts was the base physically located that you spoke to?---That was the main Maralinga village.

The village?---Yes.

How long did it take then for the help to arrive, or for the officer to arrive, that you radioed for? It is a fair distance, is it not?---It was quite a while, because we would have been - about half an hour, three-quarters of an hour away - an hour away from the main village I suppose.

In that time were the Aborigines taken to the health physics caravan, or did you wait for the officers to arrive before you took them there?---No, we took them to the caravan.

And whilst waiting at the caravan, did any showering take place before they arrived?---No, because I think we waited outside the caravan I think.

What, for the whole time?---The radioactive area outside.

How many officers arrived in response to your call?---Quite a few.

And you say there was no showering until they arrived?---I am pretty sure that we did not shower before they arrived.

It is your recollection the Aborigines were outside the caravan then?---Yes.

Do you have any recollection of Lance Corporal Woodley being present?---I cannot remember John being present.

Do you recall talking to him about the incident afterwards?---We talked amongst ourselves, yes.

You said that the Geiger counter was put over the Aborigines after they had been showered, and in answer to a question from his Honour you said they were showered about four times and checked after each shower?---Yes.

I think you said there was not a Geiger counter on the dirty side of the caravan but only on the clean side?---Yes.

What was your experience with the caravan when you yourself were being decontaminated? Were you showered and then taken through to the clean area and checked and sent back to the dirty area?---Yes. The caravan was on half the contaminated side to half the clear side with the rope going around it, or the coloured streamer or whatever. You would come into the contaminated side, undress, leave your clothes there, shower, and then go through to the other side; run the Geiger over you. If you were clean, then you got into your own clothes or you went back for another shower.

It could be the case, if you had three or four showers, you could be in the clean side on two or three occasions, found to be still not clean and sent back into the dirty area? ---Yes.

In relation to each of the Aborigines, was it the case that they were - in the case of the four or five showers, they were first showered, then taken into the clean area and monitored, then sent back for the second shower, then back into the clean area for the second monitoring? ---I think it was a matter, in the caravan - it was just a long caravan, just in two parts, and you more or less just crossed the centre line and that was the safe area or something. They may have even just come into the shower side, ran the Geiger over them then.

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When the first monitoring was done, do you recall hearing any sound coming out of the monitoring instrument?---Well, we heard sounds.

A crackling sort of sound?---Yes.

Did that level of crackling diminish as the showering process continued?---As they were showered, yes.

Do you recall any person making notes in any document or any book of any readings which might have appeared on the Geiger counter?---No, I cannot.

And it is your recollection, is it not, that after the first showering, when they were first monitored, that the machine made a pretty positive noise as far as the whole body was concerned?---I do not know about a frightening noise or anything like that, but it just made a noise and then they just went back and had another shower and just kept on going.

At this stage were you used to the process of being decontaminated, showered and monitored?---I had been in it about two or three times I think by then.

Was the level that you perceived the monitor to be registering at, from what you could hear, any louder than what you yourself would have heard when you went through on occasions when you were being decontaminated?---Yes, because I never had to go back for a second - I might have gone back once for a second shower or something like that, but other than that - sometimes, depending on how long you had been in there; it was mainly on the clothes, not your body anyway.

You said that senior officers arrived; were they service officers or civilian?---Service.

All service?---Yes.

You said you had no knowledge of where they came from. Were you asked questions by the officers when they arrived at the caravan in an attempt by them to find out what you knew about the incident?---No, just where we found them.

Did you take them out and show them where they were found?---No.

Did you just point and say "over there"?---That is right, yes.

Do you recall who it was that asked you those questions?---No, because there was different officers from Army, Navy, Air Force, whatever.

Captain Palmer was the officer in command of your particular unit?---Yes.

Was he there?---No.

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And I think you were asked the question before, but you do not seem to recall the name of Captain Marcur. or do you?  
---I cannot remember. We did have a chappie come out from the main village to us when we first arrived and went out to our small camp, but I always thought he was a major.

Do you recall whether the people that were with you - that is, the engineers with you when you first saw the Aborigines - were they questioned at all by the officers that came out to the caravan?---Yes. We all were.

Were you questioned separately or together?---Just as a group I think.

Do you recall any of them being asked to indicate where it was the Aborigines had been found?---I think it was just a question asked in general and we all pointed and said, "In that direction."

And it is your recollection that you cannot - that there was no person that appeared to you to be able to communicate verbally with the Aborigines?---In the first place I do not think so, yes.

Subsequently was there any person that seemed to be able to talk?  
---I do not know because as soon as they took them away, we had nothing to do with them after that.

You mention this conversation I think that you wife had on the telephone?---Yes.

Were you present when she took the call?---No, I was at work. It was during the day.

And your account of what the conversation was is obviously what she has told you?---Yes.

I think you said that your involvement with Maralinga was known to members of your association?---Yes.

That is the Veterans Association?---Yes.

And presumably by other persons that were at Maralinga at the time?---Yes.

And as far as you are concerned, the phone call was anonymous?---Yes.

But your wife said it was in a polite term?---Yes. There was no threat attached to what was said.

Thank you.

DR JONAS: Did you say that the Aboriginal people had some dogs with them?---Yes.

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Can you remember how many?---I cannot. There was two in those photos, but I cannot remember. I know there were dogs there.

Do you know what happened to the dogs?---No, I do not.

Do you know if they were kept behind in the contaminated area?  
---I think they were all taken together with the Aborigines, too.

Were they - - -?---The only way they could have left them behind was to kill them.

Were they washed down or anything, if they went with the Aboriginal people?---That is a good question. I cannot remember the dogs - I cannot remember anyone putting the dogs through the showers.

But you think they went with the Aboriginal people when the Aboriginal people went?---I think so, yes.

MR JAMES: Might I ask one question by leave?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR JAMES: When you saw these people, did they have any open sores on their bodies - knees and so forth?---It would have been hard to know because they were that dirty.

In the showers did you see any open sores - elbows, knees, ankles, that sort of thing, or leg ulcers?---Yes. I cannot remember, no. We were not really looking for anything like that at that stage.

MR McCLELLAN: Tell me, was there any other occasion on which you were told not to tell anyone about something that happened at Maralinga?---Because of other things or just over Aborigines?

No, not over that incident. Anything else, were you ever told on any other occasion not to talk?---No, not that I can remember.

Yes, thank you.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW

MR McCLELLAN: I also tender the statement of Neville John Kendall. I understand that it is universally acceptable.

MR McINTYRE: I do not object to its tender but on the same basis as last time. I do not, by consenting to its tender,

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acknowledge that what is in it is correct, and it may be that evidence might have to be called.

MR JAMES: I should indicate, your Honour, it is no disrespect to failing to attend, but time and tide wait not for any seaman and he sail.

MR McCLELLAN: It can become RC93 and as far as I am concerned, that is it.

THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn to Sydney next week.

MR McCLELLAN: Next Tuesday at 10 o'clock.

AT 12.50 PM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED  
UNTIL TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 1984

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