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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 ADELAIDE ON TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 1984, AT 10.02 AM

Continued from 19.11.84

Secretary to the Commission

Mr John Atkinson  
GPO Box 4044  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Telephone: (02) 264 5155

MR McCLELLAN: Your Honour, can I call Mr Caine and I indicate that I cannot tender a statement.

TREVOR JOHN CAINE, sworn:

MR McCLELLAN: Thank you, Mr Caine. I think your full name is Trevor John Caine?---Yes.

I think you live at 1 Heather Avenue, Windsor Gardens, in South Australia?---That is right.

And I wonder, Mr Caine, if you would tell me how old you are?---52.

52; I think that you were a member of the RAAF for some years and in particular about February or March 1956 you were a member of a team of transport drivers for the RAAF, is that correct?---That is correct.

And I think in that capacity you were then informed that you were to be transferred to what you thought would be Woomera in South Australia; is that right?---That is right.

And in fact you ended up in the camp which you know as 43 Mile Camp? ---Yes.

Is that right?---That is right.

And do you recall when about it was you arrived at 43 Mile Camp?---I was looking through some letters I wrote to my fiancée at the time and it was around about 14.2.

14 February 1956?---1956, yes.

I think that you stayed at 43 Mile Camp until ultimately in about August of that year you moved into the Maralinga village, which had then been completed?---That is right.

And I think you were present during the explosion which occurred as part of the Buffalo series?---That is right.

Is that right? Now, I think that while you were there, and as part of the operation, you were required to undertake the servicing of a variety of vehicles, is that so?---That is right. I worked in the workshops there.

In the workshops?---Yes.

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T.J. CAINE

Did you engage in any driving of vehicles or were your activities limited to working in the workshop?  
---Only if someone was sick, or something. A couple of times I had to drop some professors out to the test area there.

And I think that before one of the blasts, immediately before one of the blasts, you became aware in some way of the presence of Aborigines near the site of the proposed blast; is that so?---Yes.

What happened in relation to those events, if you would tell me?---Well, apparently about four or five hours before it was going to go off there was some security, or Commonwealth police, I think they were, coming for some vehicles to go up because they said that there were some Aborigines trespassing on the site area. I do not know whether it was true or not. I did not see it.

Do you recall which blast it was?---It was the first one.

The first one, was it?---Yes.

And who recorded this event to you?---It was one of that Commonwealth police, when they come in to get their vehicle.

Do you remember his name?---I would not have a clue.

What, he came in to get a vehicle in order to go out and investigate, did he?---Yes.

And do you know whether or not any Aborigines were actually found?---I did not see anything. I only heard that some were there and they chased them off.

Chased them off? Were you told that by the officer or by someone else?---Someone else.

Do you remember who it was that told you?---Another security officer or Commonwealth police, whoever.

What about his name, any chance for - - -?---Fred Nurks, or something like that. I do not know.

I think that on one occasion, or at least one occasion, you were required to undertake a drive into the forward area?---Yes.

Is that so? How did that come about?---One of the - well, the professors were assigned a driver to drive them all the time so they could get used to what they were doing and this chap was sick or something one day and they come in and wanted a driver and I had to drive this professor out there.

And at the time was there a health physics caravan located close to the forward area?---Yes.

And did you go through the health physics caravan process to go into the area?---No.

Why not?---Well, apparently the professor just told me to drive on. I went through the gate and we got in about a quarter of a mile, or something, and he said I think you had better go back to see the clothing officer.

How were you dressed?---Shorts and boots and a little khaki jacket we sort of always wear, you know.

How was the fellow that was with you dressed?---He was in overalls with something stuck on his pocket, protective clothing or something. He was all dressed when I picked him up.

Did he have anything on his head?---No.

And when you were told to turn around and go back did you turn around and go back?---Yes. I had to go and have a shower in the thing.

You did, did you?---Yes.

And were you monitored with a Geiger counter or - - -?---Yes, they put a stick all over me, or whatever it was.

And did you show any reading?---I had to go and have another shower.

You had to go and have another shower, did you?---Yes.

Did they check you again after that?---Yes.

And then you were all clean, were you? And what did you do, wait for the professor or go back and get him?---No, I had to wait for him to come back out.

What, did he walk out, did he?---He come out - back out through the washing thing where I went in to be checked out. I was waiting with the patrol or security bloke who was on the gate.

Apart from the professor, was anyone concerned about the fact that you were in the forward area?---Not that I know of. No one said anything.

Can you tell me this? How is your health? Is it good or - - -? ---Yes.

No complaints at all?---No.

Yes, thank you, Mr Caine.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

MR JAMES: Mr Caine, what was your rank when you went to Maralinga?---Leading aircraftsman.

And what was your rank when you left?---The same.

Right. You have worked in the decontamination unit?---No, no.

You worked cleaning vehicles?---No, we serviced them. I was a mechanic, you know.

Right?---A mechanic and transport driver. We used to do the repairs on the vehicles to keep them going.

Right. Did any of these vehicles have paint markings on them, coloured paint markings?---Yes, they used to have but I do not know what they were now.

Do you recall if any had red or yellow marks?---A few had yellow on them.

Whereabouts was the yellow on them?---I think they were on the doors.

What about the areas that one would normally call the bumper bar and the mudguard?---Yes, probably would. I cannot recall, offhand.

Whilst you were working on those vehicles was there ever any mention of any being contaminated by radioactivity?  
---We worked with some navy blokes and air force blokes that were the mechanics in the shop.

Yes?---And one time a vehicle came in and they had a Geiger counter machine in there and they were making a noise with it, or it was crackling, you know. I went over to have a look and it was really crackling and the Warrant Officer Beresford started to come over so we switched it off and got out of there.

That is Warrant Officer Beresford?---Yes. He was in charge of the workshop.

Right. He was the bloke to whom you were directly responsible?  
---That is right.

And can you recall what part of the vehicle, the machine that was crackling, was put near?---It was sitting on the seat alongside. Like it is, one seat clips up and one stays there.

What sort of vehicle was it?---A LandRover.

Now, the vehicle that you drove the professor out beyond health control in, what sort of vehicle was that?  
---That is a Land Rover, too.

These Land Rovers, did they have some sort of cabin?---Yes, a cabin with a door on it and sliding glass.

All right. When you drove him out was the cabin in any way shut up?---Yes, because it is pretty dusty driving out there, you know.

Was there tape or some sort of plastic film, or something, over the vehicle?---I would not know.

Right. You cannot recall any special thing being done to the Land Rover?---No, just like a normal Land Rover.

Right. It was a metal cabin?---Yes.

Now, you drove him out. You were wearing no protective clothing, so after about a quarter of a mile he said, "Come back." Is that right?---Yes, he said, "You shouldn't be here. You will have to go back."

Now, on your way out, did there appear to be any fence or any security measure you had to go through before getting into the area?----I think it was a boom gate or a gate, but that was not down.

It was simply left up?---Yes.

So there was no one to check as to what sort of clothing you were wearing?---No, because it was in a hurry. Our bloke was sick and they grabbed me out of the workshop and I did not know where I was going until I was along the road with professor.

Do you know how long after any of the explosions that was? ---It is hard to time it.

Days, weeks, months?---Probably weeks, it would have been.

Were there other people heading out into that forward area at that time?---Yes, different ones. They were doing experiments, I think.

Did the vehicle in which you went out into the forward area have any paint markings of yellow and red on it? ---I think it was yellow, I am not sure.

Can you recall now roughly when that was, either in terms of date and time or in terms of which explosion it might have been near?---It was the first one.

Right?---After the first one.

Was that One Tree?---Yes, because there was a lot of - apparently the wind was not right and we had trouble - we were on, what do you call it, H-hour, it was a 24-hour rundown,

So there were lots of postponements?---That is right, yes.

Then came One Tree?---Yes.

Do you know if you went into that area before the Marcoo explosion?---Yes, I think it was.

Right. Now, would you remember now the name of the scientist you were with?---I would not.

Would you remember the name of the people who were in the decontamination unit when you came back?---No.



Health physics caravans?---No.

You were checked out by having some sort of Geiger counter put over you?---Yes, they put it all around me.

You did not put your hands and feet into any particular machine, did you?---No.

And did you have your showers in the health physics caravans? ---Yes, in the caravan.

You had no film badge at any stage?---No.

And no one recorded any reading for you, did they?---No.

Do you recall whether the people who ran the health physics caravan, when you were there, were navy, army, or air force or civilian?---It was a bit hard to tell because everyone wore khaki - shorts or whatever, you know.

Any with flamboyant moustaches?---No, not that I know of.

Do you recall the name "Monahan"?---No.

I have nothing further of this witness.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR EAMES: Mr Caine, with respect to this instance about the Aborigines, as you have said there were a lot of delays before the first test, the One Tree test. We have been told that it was delayed for something like 16 or 17 days. Can you recall how long before the final explosion - how long before the explosion it was that you obtained this information from the Commonwealth police?---It would have been about four or five hours.

Before the actual explosion?---Yes.

And the Commonwealth policeman that you spoke to, was he apparently the only policeman who was going out to look for the Aborigines?---I do not know; he did not say. He just said he wanted a vehicle because something was wrong with theirs and they grabbed one of our - normally they have got their own vehicles.

Yes. And he took, what, a Land Rover or something?---Yes.

Do you know whether they went north, south or in which direction?---They would have went west, I think. We were - where the village was you had to go through the road and then get on to the main road.

Would it help you to look at the map here? You see from the map - I forget the number of that map, now?  
---He went out that way, anyhow. Yes, down towards the airstrip way there.

Towards the airstrip?---Yes.

And you say that he left about four or five hours before the blast actually took place, did he?---Yes.

And did he give any indication about how much petrol he would need?---Did not say anything.

Prior to departing?---No.

Did you gain any impression that he was due to drive a lengthy distance or - - -?---No.

And you did not see him return?---No.

Did you see any other Commonwealth police vehicles go out on that day?---No, because they were based at a different station to us, see.

And subsequently you heard from another security officer that people had been chased off?---Yes.

I realize it is a long time ago, but did you ask any questions about that at the time?---No.

But, certainly, you got the clear impression that the people were not picked up and brought back to Maralinga?  
---He did not say; they just said they chased them off.

If I understand correctly you are suggesting in fact the test was not delayed at all?---No.

As a result of this?---Not that I know of.

And when did the police officer return the vehicle?---Well, we were working shifts and when I came back from the next shift the vehicle was already back there, so - - -

So that would be eight hours later - and it had returned?---Yes.

Was it towards the end of your shift when he took it?---When he came and - that is right, yes.

Can you recall how much of your shift you had to go?---Probably about two hours.

Was it a matter of some discussion around the camp that after all the delays it was nearly delayed again because Aboriginals had been seen on the range?

---Well, there was talk around it, you know, that  
Aboriginals - they would be getting chased in and  
out all the time because they did not know what  
the boundaries were or anything.

Yes. That was a fairly common matter of discussion, was it?

---That is right.

Was that something which continued throughout the Buffalo test  
series?---It was like that, I remember, all the  
time.

In your position involved with the vehicles, did you gain  
that information from people who might have been  
in a position to have observed Aborigines?---Yes, most  
of the drivers, you know.

So your information came from drivers whose jobs would have  
taken them out into the range areas, is that right?

---That is right, yes.

And the information you gained throughout the Buffalo series  
was that it appeared to be a not infrequent occurrence  
that Aboriginal people had been wandering in and out  
of the range area?---Yes, that is right.

In the time that you were there, did you actually see any  
Aboriginal people yourself?---No.

Did you see any occasions at Maralinga village with  
Commonwealth police vehicles having Aboriginal  
people in them?---No.

Or any of the native patrol officers, did they ever come - - -?  
---No.

- - - - for servicing of their vehicles?---No, none of them.

I have no further questions.

MR McCLELLAN: You said that you obtained your information  
from drivers who were driving in the forward areas,  
did any of these people themselves tell you that  
they themselves had seen Aborigines?---No.

Was it a case that a general story - that it was a general  
story that was around the village for some time  
that Aboriginals were known to be around the  
perimeter areas?---They probably would have got  
it from either the Commonwealth police or security,  
you know, because they were passing them all the  
time.

You said in relation to the story that the Aboriginals were  
chased off - I think you heard someone say that.

Is that the story given to you by the Commonwealth police or by somebody who you cannot recall from the village?---One of the drivers, I think it was, that was in with them or - - -

One of the drivers that was in with whom?---He used to run into them all the time because he would have the professor going past them.

So, in relation to the story about the Aborigines being chased off, do you say it was - you heard it from the driver and somebody else had told the driver?---Yes.

In relation to the report of Aborigines, about four or five hours before, around 1, do you recall whether the policeman said that Aborigines had been sighted or that there was a report that there might have been some Aborigines in the area; do you recall that much or - - -?---No. He said, "There are some Abos just right on the test area. I have got to chase them off."

I see. Your vehicle was back in the compound a little below eight hours later?---Yes.

How long did it take to drive from Maralinga village up to Roadside, approximately?---About an hour or three-quarters-of-an-hour.

Coming to your visit into the forward area with the professor, you said that you went through a gate and then drove for about a quarter-of-a-mile. Was the gate anywhere close to the health physics caravan that you showered in, when you came out?---Yes, that was opposite it.

When you went through that gate on the way in, did the professor who was with you go inside the health physics caravan on the way through?---No.

He just drove through there and did not stop?---Yes.

Were there any other people around the caravans when you drove through?---There was no one on the gate, but I could see - there were probably a couple standing by the caravan.

Was the boom gate, that you referred to, a boom gate of the caravan or back at Roadside?---Back at Roadside, yes.

And you said, I think, that this was after the first test and you said it was probably some weeks after the explosion?---Yes.

When you drove about a quarter-of-a-mile past the gate, there would have been some considerable distance still to go, would not there, before the actual site of the explosion?---Yes.

You certainly were not in an area where there were what were known as target response vehicles around you?---No. But apparently normally you used to have to drive in and drop the vehicle and then get into another vehicle and use that vehicle and stay in there all the time.

Whereabouts did you get the vehicle from to drive up to the forward area?---That was in a transport section.

At Maralinga village?---Yes.

And you drove that vehicle past the health physics caravan? ---Yes.

Well, after you got out did the scientist drive the vehicle himself?---No.

He walked?---No, he got in another vehicle - it was already inside.

I see. And was that vehicle - did that vehicle have yellow markings?---I could not say.

And did you drive your vehicle back to Maralinga village afterwards?---Yes.

So whilst the scientist was inside the forward area he used a vehicle that was already up there?---Yes. They used to stay inside there all the time.

Right. I think your workshop was at Maralinga village itself? ---Yes, when we were at the village, yes.

Do you recall there being a decontamination area off to the left of the road as you drove east towards the airfield?---No.

Are you aware that there was a decontamination facility outside the village?---No.

Were you aware whether any of the vehicles that you serviced, which might have had yellow markings, had been decontaminated prior to being brought into your workshop to be serviced?---The only time I heard about a decontamination thing was after that episode with the Geiger counter, and the bloke's Land Rover. Warrant Officer Beresford told us

not to worry about it because all these vehicles had been decontaminated anyway.

Now, was it the case that you were servicing vehicles up at Maralinga village which formed part of a static transport pool at the village?---Yes.

And the vehicles that you serviced were ones that were always located in the village and used from the village?---Yes, they had a big car-park there.

And you were aware that there were vehicles being kept up in the forward area?---Yes.

And it was not part of your function to service those vehicles?---No.

Yes, thank you. No further questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr. Caine, you may stand down, thanks.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW

MR McCLELLAN: I call Mr Murray.

THOMAS MURRAY, sworn:

MR McCLELLAN: Your full name, I think, is Thomas Murray?---Yes.

Is that correct?---I am a little bit deaf and I will just see if I can adjust this for you a little bit.

Tell me at any stage if you cannot hear, all right?---I can hear you now, yes.

Good. I think you live at 2 Reginald Avenue?---Yes.

Findon in South Australia?---Yes.

I think you have made a statement to an officer of the royal commission?---Yes.

Do you recall doing that?---Yes.

Do you have a copy of the statement with you?---I have. I have not got the statement but I have got - the fellow that I gave this information to.

I am sorry? Do you have a copy of the statement with you? ---Yes, but I never brought it in although I have got it home.

Well, Mr Colfax will give you another one?---As a matter of fact - yes.

Have you had a chance to read the statement now that it has been typed?---No, they were going to - no, I have not. As a matter of fact they were going to send a copy of this out and if there was anything that was not correct, I would let them know but nothing ever came.

Well, we will go through it together and you tell me if there is something that is not correct, all right? ---Yes.

You indicate there in the statement that you were in the Commonwealth police officer guard at Maralinga and Emu and you commenced duties after Totem 1 and Totem 2 in October 1953. Now, firstly, can you tell me this: before you were appointed and went out to commence duty at Emu, had you had any experience in the South Australian bush?---Yes, I did, years, many years.

What?---Right from a boy, yes.

Why was that? What was the nature of the experience that you had?---Well, I was born in the Blinman and it was - such as going out for rabbits as small boys - just for our food and all of this and then after that, as I grew up, left school, I went out as a shearer, at 14, on the stations on the West Coast and then I was a well-sinker after that and I was a fencer out on those stations - way back as far as you can go, as a matter of fact. This is the experience I had.

Well, your experience then, before you went to Emu, was it on the stations of the West Coast of South Australia; is that what you are saying?---Yes. The stations I went to as a shearer was Yalata, White Well and Nullabor.

I see, so - if we can just look at this map M4, which is to your left?---I get a bit giddy at times - I had better hang on.

Do you see - on the map here there is Maralinga there?---Yes.

Ceduna down off the map?---Yes.

Was your experience out in this area, south of the Nullabor Plain? ---Yes.

Now, before you went to Emu, which is up there, did you ever have occasion to go into this part of South Australia? ---Well, yes, we did.

You did. How often would you have gone in there?---It was just a habit of going back for something or other - I forget now.

Sorry? Did you go in there to that area as a boy or as a man?---Yes, I travelled out - up into the Territory - I travelled all about there.

Travelled all about?---Yes.

Now - then you decided to join the police officer guard and I think you remained with it until 1967?---That is right.



And in 1957 you became an officer of the Commonwealth police?---That is right.

When the force was reconstructed. Now, you say that your duties were to check on the movement of personnel in the areas of the tests which involved you in inspecting their passes and you also had to prevent natives from moving into the area at Emu and later the prohibited area of Maralinga. And, apparently your commanding officer was a fellow called Moffatt; is that right?---Yes.

Now, when you were at Emu, were you actually stationed in the village or were you stationed at an outpost? ---At Emu, in the village.

How many colleagues did you have?---I have Moffatt the sergeant and - look, I cannot think of his name - he left the show - and then a fellow called Mitchell came in afterwards.

Well, at any one time, were there - what, three of you?---Three of us, yes.

And were you given each an area to cover or how were you organized to discharge your responsibilities?---Well, no, we were just told to go out where the bombs went off, some - I would say at a guess - some 12 mile out and then we had to patrol around this area that was a contaminated area, put it that way. It was affected by the bomb - but I do not know whether they were or not. There were aircraft about, there was vehicles about and - - -

You located the two bomb-sites, did you?---Yes.

And when you patrolled in that area, did you patrol in an area from which you could always see the site of the bombs or did you move out a way?---No, we had to go out to - onto the tower to see the bomb-site itself but we could see that the aircraft that were there or certain - there was stuff that was left there assamples, you know.

What did you do? Drive around or patrol on foot or - - -?---Yes, drove around.

Drove around?---Yes.

Drove on roads?---No. As a matter of fact Moffatt was mainly the driver of the vehicle and we used to go - quite a trip - quite around some - I would say probably 10 mile from the site itself - a complete circle about - different distances, you know to pick up - say if there was any natives about or any fault that we - or anything that we could see that we could report.

● d did you do this every day?---No, not every day but we did the bomb-sites every day, yes.

What, you went out and did this patrol 10 miles from the - - - ?---Yes, but not this long patrol that I am talking about now - that was an occasional - but we did around about - within a mile of the bomb-site type of thing, you know, and inspected the aircraft and what-have-you and then to see what vehicles came in from Coober Pedy direct into the area itself.

How long did these trials go on for? Was it a matter of months or was it - - - ?---No, it was not. I was there - look, I cannot remember exactly, but I would say that probably a month, or it might have been six weeks, and I stayed for a double-header, as the saying is. I stayed. Some of them just had that - it might have only been a month, I do not know, but if it was a month I stayed two months.

You did a double shift?---If it was six weeks, I stayed 12 weeks, yes.

And were you only there on the one occasion carrying out these duties?---At that particular time, yes.

And tell me, in the course of these patrols did you ever find any Aborigines?---No, I will tell you what I did do. I walked many miles after we done that patrol, and it was finished about lunch-time. We would go back to headquarters, we would have our lunch and then I had a habit, and it was deliberate, that I walked many miles for the purpose of - to see if there was any native camps, any native tracks and also I had dingoes in view - tracks of dingoes in view too, because they were a nuisance as far as the pastoralist people were concerned and - from a very young person, always destroy a dingo because they destroy many sheep - this is the idea of it.

Did you find any evidence of Aborigines in these walking ventures?---No.

What about many dingoes?---Well, I had no traps at that particular time but I saw dingo tracks about, yes.

Did any of your fellow police officers find any evidence of Aborigines while you were there?---No. I was not there for the bombs; have I made that clear?

Yes, you were - - -?---After the bombs.

You were there after the bombs?---Yes.

I think that you, from time to time, had contact with Emu, thereafter, is that right?---That is right, yes.

I think that you made a number of visits until the village, as you understand it, was finally abandoned in 1960?---That is right.

And you indicate that you were told that Emu itself was safe and the only problem was in relation to the areas where the bombs had earlier gone off; is that right?---More or less. I will tell you what - we were instructed to have a shower immediately we had done our patrol around the bomb-site - that type of thing.

Did you do that?---Yes.

Were you ever checked for radioactivity?---And we also, I think, on one or two occasions carried a little badge thing, if you could call it, and we had to see if there was any change in the colour but there was no change in any colour that I can remember.

Do you recall carrying a thing like this?---I think pretty well like that, yes.

That is . . . . .?---Something like that, I do not know whether it could be - but about that.

I see?---We used to pin it on our - - -

And what were you told about it, that you were to watch it?  
---Yes. Any colour - as a matter of fact, when we went back after the patrol, Moffatt, who was then the sergeant - we would hand him that and he would have a look - no change in the . . . . .

And give it back to you?---Yes - no, threw it in the heap that was there.

Threw it in the heap?---Yes.

I see?---When I say a heap - it is a bundle of them there on - - -

Do you know what happened to it after it ended up in the bundle?---No, I do not know what it - - -

Did anyone ever record the number of the badge you were given against your name on any documents?---I do not think so. Probably, did. I cannot remember that.

When you came back and had these showers, were you ever checked for radiation by a Geiger counter, or other device?---Possibly but I just cannot remember. I know it was the shower that we had to have.

And the shower that you had, was that just a shower you had in your normal quarters, or was it a special shower?---That is - that would be right too, but the shower was that - we chose - if I remember right, we had overalls.

Yes, but where did you have the shower, just back in your normal quarters, or did you have it in a special place?---No, at the bomb-site itself, or where - the headquarters.

You had a shower somewhere up near the site?---That is right, yes, near the site, yes.

Did you change your clothes or did you just put the same clothes back on?---I cannot remember exactly, but I have got an idea that we might have put overalls on and then we went back - they were - we had the shower, they were taken off - whether they were

thrown into a heap in another issue or whether it was the same one, I cannot remember. Look, I would not like to say that.

No. Now, you say in your statement on page 2, that Moffatt left in about 1955; you think Emu was closed except for the patrol officer who was there about once a fortnight. Now - and on your returns, you looked for Aborigines and motor vehicles and so on. On any of your visits to Emu after the time you were there permanently, did you ever find evidence of Aborigines?---No, I did not, but I did look for them but I never found any sign of Aborigines being at Emu.

Right?---No, I did not.

And I assume that you went to Emu from Maralinga via the road that had been built?---No. The first trip I had, I escorted a truck driven by a Mines Department man that was taking to Emu for Lenny Beadell some of his equipment for his - - -

Right. Well - - -?---But I did not drive the truck - - -

I think I know a little bit about that trip?---I drove the Land Rover . . . . .

You came in from the east, I think. But what about after you had finished your permanent stay there and you were moving to Emu on the regular visits that you undertook?---Yes.

Did you go up the road from Maralinga for that?---Yes.

Now, when you travelled that road, and I assume you travelled it many times, would that be right?---That is right.

Did you ever see any evidence of Aborigines when you were moving along that road?---Well, no, with the exception of one occasion where these natives came in in my absence. You know that, yes.

Well, tell me about that if you would not mind?---Well, there was a native and a lubra and two children came in and near the Marcoo site there was a servicemens caravan and I was in headquarters looking after the - our inspector was away or something, I do not know - but immediately I got this call I went out and there were the natives and they were in a filthy condition.

Well, just stop a little. You were in headquarters back in Maralinga village, were you?---Yes.

You got a phone call?---Yes.

Who from?---Take it would be from the security people, like, I cannot remember. It might have been from the service people.

You do not remember the name of - right. And what did they tell you?---That there were some natives there and they had a tin - wanted some water.

And what did you do?---I went straight out to have a look.

Were you concerned about the fact that they were - - -?---I was concerned, yes, very much.

Why were you concerned?---Well, I was concerned that they might have come through that contaminated area and had some health trouble afterward, that was - I wanted to clean them right up.

Well, you went out there - you drove out there, did you?---Yes.

Drove yourself?---Yes.

And what did you find when you got there?---I found the native and the lubra and two children. I have got an idea there might have been a dog there; I cannot call this to mind.

And who was with them at the time?---Nobody with me.

No, who was with them? Were there any - - -?---There was a number of servicemen there.

Do you remember the names of any of them?---No, look, I cannot - - -

Was there a Mr Turner there?---Turner, no, he was not there, no. Turner was our health physics man?

Yes?---No, he was not there.

He was not there?---No.

And what were the natives doing when you found them - the Aborigines?---What were they doing?

Yes?---They were just alongside the - not very far from where the water was in the - where the caravan was where the shower was.

And, what, were they sitting down or were they standing around talking to people, or what?---No, I think they were sitting down. One - the lubra had one breast covered up with a dirty, filthy - I do not know what sort of a cloth it was, but it was very dirty and - - -

And did anyone - withdraw that. At that point did you ask whether or not anyone had checked to see whether or not they had been contaminated?---No. I did after.

You did after?---Yes.

Not when you first arrived?---No.

Well then, once you arrived what was done - what happened?  
---I said to the service people, "Can I take these natives into your caravan into the shower and clean them up cause they were filthy dirty." When I say dirty, they were just covered with dust and their - any clothing that they had was definitely filthy dirty.

Well, by the time you asked this question, had Mr Turner arrived?---No.

Did Mr Turner come to this location at any time while the Aborigines were - - -?---Not to my knowledge, no - not to my knowledge, no.

Right?---If he did I never saw him anyway.

I see and who did you ask whether or not the Aborigines could be washed?---Well, now, whoever the people that were there. Probably a sergeant or an officer or something of the sort.

You do not recall?---I just cannot remember.

And was your request met?---Yes, they said, "Yes, you wash them down."

And what did they do, go into the caravan and have a shower?  
---Caravan - and there was soap in the caravan and it was suggested to them, probably by me - it might have been by them, I do not know - that they had trouble with soap in their eyes and the lubra was crying and I said to the people, "I will go in there and wash them down myself." So, I went in and told them to close their eyes very tightly and I held their face up and brought them in under the - washed all the soap out and then I got - they just opened their eyes a little bit with this water to go in and eventually got their eyes - that they could use their eyes and then I got the shower and I soaped them down and I scrubbed them down for the purpose of - well, to clean them up that there was no contamination that could affect them in any way, that was my idea.

And was it difficult to persuade them to shower?---Pardon?

Was it difficult to persuade them to shower?---No.

Did you speak their language?---Well, not very much now but I could speak odd - yes, I could make myself understood.

But you could communicate with them in those days, could you?  
---Yes, yes.

And once they came out of the shower - I withdraw that.  
Did the woman shower totally or just wash her hair?  
---No, they showered all over.

All over?---They were in there together - in the particular space and as a matter of fact, to make sure that this could be, the servicemen were at the door looking in as I scrubbed down . . . . .

I wonder if you would look at these photographs for me? Four photographs which are part of RC140. I show you a photograph which has got an A on the back of it. Firstly, do you recall the woman in that photograph?---No, I cannot. I cannot recall - - -

You cannot tell me whether or not that is the woman that you saw?---Not as fine as that - a heavier woman than that, I had the opinion - have the opinion.

What about photograph B, it is a woman and child?---It is hard, is not it? The only thing that I could remember of these people - you have got two tins there and the only thing I ever saw with them was one tin.

Well, there is two tins on the ground. What about photograph C, does that help you?---It is rather difficult, is not it?

And then photograph D, that is the boy, or a boy, can you recall that?---No. No, I cannot recall that. I will tell you what I cannot recall is this - they never had this gear with them - that is not their gear.

Pointing to the collection of cans and other things on the ground. What about spears, did they have any spears with them?---Yes, they had a spear.

Did they have more than one?---Possibly, but he was the man that - he might have had two spears, yes and they had a woomera also.

Now, concentrate not on the people but on the bits and pieces in the background; you see that? Do they help your



recollection? Do you recall the construction materials being there at the time?---No, I cannot. I know exactly where it was. It was between Marcoo and Taranaki. That is where it was and I - there is a road there that I cannot call to mind.

Can you show me on this plan, which I think is part of RC2, I think - yes. You see Taranaki there, Marcoo there and One Tree there?---Yes.

Whereabouts did you think it was?---I should say it would be somewhere about - somewhere - and there is Breakaway, somewhere in there.

Somewhere in there near Breakaway?---It - outside the fence, not inside the fence. It is just outside - where is the fence?

Well, the fence does not show on that plan. You mean the fence around Marcoo, do you?---Yes, just - no, no, away from Marcoo, there was no fence around Marcoo in my day - it was only just - you would not call it - I would not call it a fence.

There were just some - - -?---A dropper - a steel dropper and a . . . . .

Well, where was the fence that you - what sort of fence is it that you are referring to, a man-proof fence or - - -?---Well, no, not really a fence, it - this is the contaminated area, this is the free area - - -

THE PRESIDENT: Mr McClellan, I do not know whether this is being recorded. Is it all right? Right.

MR McCLELLAN: Sorry, the fence - the fence that you are referring to - the man-proof fence?---No, there is no fence.

Right. Well, when you say that the Aborigines were found - or you saw them outside the fence, was this a very long fence that you are referring to?---No, I think what I was referring to was that it was in the - there is a fence there - the contaminated area and before you get into the free area - if you put it that way.

And where did you at first see the Aborigines, on the clean side or the dirty side of the fence?---Well, now there is a point too. It was around about that, but it was right at their caravan.

Were they on the clean side or the dirty side?---I could not say, no.

Now, did you make any inquiries as to where the Aborigines had been found?---Yes, I did.

What were you told?---I said: where did you find these natives, or where did they come from? And they pointed a little away from Marcoo; not very far, only a couple of hundred yards or so, away from the Marcoo site.

You mean away from the Marcoo crater?---From the Marcoo crater, yes.

And what, someone pointed you there or did they take you there and show you?---No, they did not. They just pointed: they come from over there. They did not really know where they came from. They went with the caravan and then the natives come up with a tin to get some water.

And when they - I just want to get it quite clear - when it was pointed out to you where they had come from, had they come across, as you understood it, ground that - - -?---Apparently, in that direction.

Just a minute?---Yes.

Ground disturbed by the explosion?---Well, I should say it would be dusty; put it that way.

What was the state of the crater at that stage? Was there a lot of - - -?---The crater, yes. I know all about the crater.

Was there disturbed ground around the hole at that time? ---No. The hole was just - the hole where it had blew up, and there was a great big bank of, you could say, . . . . . or slate, or whatever it was, coming out of the hole.

Was anything said to you about where they - the family had spent the night?---Well no, they did not, no, other than when they went to the caravan they came from that direction with this tin for some water, and not very far away.

Yes. But did you ask about where they might have spent the night?---No, I cannot remember if I did.

Did you try and ask the family where they had come from? ---Well, I have got an idea, or knew an idea - they may have told me, or hinted to the point that they came from that station. But look, I have just forgotten the name of it now. There was a tribal

offence committed. I think it might have been the native himself, or it might have been the lubra, I do not know. That is how they come to leave that tribal area around this station.

And - but did you find out whether they had come to Maralinga from the north or the south or some other direction?---No, no, no. They came - as a matter of fact, whether it would help you or not I do not know, but after I - I had taken them down to the mission station I came back and then I went forward and had a look along the 25-mile grid and I saw their tracks on the eastern corner of the 25-mile grid and - it is just hard to think now - and I saw where they had dug out rabbits.

Well, I wonder if you can help me - - -?---It was not a very big dig; it was a very shallow rabbit hole.

Well, I wonder if we can look at the map again. You say that after you had taken them down to Yalata you came back and went looking for their tracks?---Yes.

And you refer to the 25-mile grid. And you see the map again - there is Roadside?---Yes.

And the various sites. Whereabouts was it on this map that you located their tracks?---They were where your hand is, only on the - - -

Where my right hand is?--- - - - northern - - -

Up near East Street?---Yes.

And would it have been off the map that you located the tracks?---Well yes, when I first located them, yes, it was.

In what direction did the tracks move in?---They moved in the direction of - I cannot think of the name of the places now. Where they were going for this - - -

Well, Marcoo is over here?--- . . . . .

Well, Marcoo is there and you say you found them back somewhere up here where my right hand is?---That is right.

And were you able to follow the tracks across?---No, well, I never looked.

You did not look?---If I remember rightly I probably had a look along the streets in the 25-mile grid, but I cannot remember that because there might have been vehicles run along after they crossed. I do not know.

Well, here is another map on a smaller scale. You see, there is Roadside, Taranaki and the various other sites as shown?---Yes.

There is East Street?---Yes.

25th Avenue?---Yes.

Right. Would you be able to tell me on that map where it was that you found the track?---Yes, over here. Right on that corner.

Perhaps you might put a cross - a large cross, or a blue cross, if you would not mind?---I do not know, round about that. And I also found their tracks along the road, up to Punthana - - -

Native Well. We will put a cross on there. And you say you found their tracks?---And there was a - - -

Up the road?---Yes.

Along the road, was it?---Odd spots on the road, but this is where I first - but when I went out - - -

How far from the point of the cross did you find their tracks or evidence of their tracks on the road?---Look, I just cannot recall that any more neither, but I did find - I did find their tracks.

Would it have been just a couple of miles or - - -?---I did find their tracks and they went to Punthana Native Well.

They went to, sorry?---I saw their tracks around the Punthana Native Well.

How do you spell that?---Punthana?

Yes?---I do not know - P-u-n-t-h-a-n-a. As a matter of fact they have got pictures of it here because they gave it to these fellows to quiz me with today.

And how far away from Maralinga was this well?---Which well?

The well you are referring to?---I would say it would be from Maralinga. It was a lead-off from the road going to Emu. It was a 60-mile - it was a One Tree - 60-mile One Tree, and you go west. And you go out about - Giles - commonly known before they - it was Giles Flat Tops.

Giles Flat Tops, right?---Yes. And I also found where they had got the mallee root water in that particular area.

Right?---And I found little pieces of the mallee root where the bark had been taken off and had probably run the water into their tin.

How many days after you first saw the Aborigines was it that you went out and found the tracks?---I think it would be the next day.

The next day, was it?---Yes, it was only a guess. I am sure of it, because I was very concerned with this. And I was not very happy with the fellow that was doing the patrol work in my absence, that he did not see the tracks. Not that I - I cannot remember who it was now, but that would be one of my - that is why I was disliked by a lot of them, I suppose. I thought, well, you should have seen the tracks, you know, and this is the way I went on with them.

Well, your Honour, I will tender the plan and it can become part of the exhibit.

DR JONAS: Of what exhibit?

MR McCLELLAN: Sorry. Of 14 - and I have not got to it yet. Sorry, yes, we had better make it 148, and I will tender the statement.

DR JONAS: Is it possible to discern from the markings the direction in which they were travelling, or to infer from them - - -

MR McCLELLAN: Well, the witness has indicated, your Honour, they were then moving down - on the larger plan - through Marcoo to the south-west. Yes, it is possible to discern that.

Now, after they had been showered, the Aborigines, were they, in your presence, checked for any contamination?---Not in my presence, no. But as a matter of fact - - -

Do you know if they were checked?---Yes. I will tell you what happened. After the showering, to make it absolutely right, I took them in my Land Rover into headquarters, or not - but at an area called LA, which is just on the end of the airstrip, and I got in touch with the security people at headquarters and said: you come down and check these people to see if there is any reading on them.

And did that happen?---They did, yes.

Who came down and did that?---Look, I would not be just sure now. There was a security officer. There was, I

think about 20 of them there over the years,  
but it - no, I cannot just remember.

Was this back in the village, was it? This happened back  
in the village, did it?---It was not actually  
in the village but it was near the village.

Near the village?---I am telling you that I had them under  
police guard at an LA area which is just a mile,  
or half a mile actually, from the northern end  
of their airstrip.

Why did you decide to have them checked there rather than  
checked out at the health physics caravan?  
---Well, I mean, that was up to them. I thought  
it was my job to take them in so as those people  
could inspect them and test them.

Would it not have been possible to have them inspected out  
at the health physics caravan?---It is a wonder  
they - they knew all about it; knew that I was  
washing them down. Why did not they come out?

Well, was Mr Turner present?---Not in my presence, no.  
Mr Turner might have been there but I did not  
know him. I knew him but I cannot remember him  
being there.

But, I can tell you what happened. They did come to the LA area where I had them where a police officer was looking after them when they were here and I said, "If there is a reading there." - I said, "It's up to you. But, if there is no reading I am going to take them down to the mission station."

And did they show a reading back at the LA?---No, they did not tell me that they had a reading at all, and therefore I took them down.

Did you ask whether they had a reading?---I probably did. I just cannot call to mind.

How did you take them down to Yalata?---In my old Land Rover there.

And did they - what clothing did they have by the time you came to take them down to Yalata?---I think there was some clothing given to them. Just some old clothing. Yes.

The clothing that the - - -?---I think the lubra did have an old dress on or - look, I cannot just call it to mind, but the natives that I struck out in that desert, they were all in the nude. None of them had clothes on and it was not - but when they put clothes on there was something altogether different to them. They did not know what it was all about.

What about animals? Did they have any dogs with them? ---Well, look, I have got an idea they might. But there was a tale told that the dogs were shot. And I said if they had the dog there - I, sort of, got an inkling that there was a dog, or two dogs - I cannot remember, but they were taken down to the mission where the dogs would be destroyed. But, if anybody shot the dogs out at the caravan I would have said: you give me that rifle. I would have confiscated the rifle that shot the dogs. But, that was in - I was instructed to do so.

You drove them down to Yalata - what, that night did you? ---Yes, I did tell the security - - -

How long did it take to drive to Yalata?---Wait a minute.

All right?---I did tell these people when I was taking them down to the mission, "I want you people to follow me in case something happens to my vehicle and I have got to go away from the vehicle to get some assistance and if I break down you can look

after these natives and keep them there" but if I had gone down on my own and had broken down, these natives would have wandered away somewhere and . . . . .

How long did it take you to get them down there?---I got down there about, roughly I think about 9 o'clock. That is only a guess too.

You indicated in your statement that it was a fairly unpleasant trip for them?---It was an unpleasant trip. It was a filthy trip.

Why was that?---Well, I know exactly what it was because they had never had a ride in a vehicle before.

What, they were car sick were they?---And they were car sick and they vomited and it was the stench coming from this - I am sorry to say it, was absolutely filthy - almost made me sick. But anyhow, when I got down there I said to a native - a mission native - that I knew quite a few of these people - I said, "You look after these people now and find out whether the Pitjantjatjara here will accept these people from their station up north." And I said, "You tell me in the morning. Hide them now until you have a word with everybody" and then about - I do not know what time in the morning, it might have been 8 o'clock it might have been 10 o'clock, I cannot remember, but he said, "All right, they can stay here now."

You stayed the night yourself at Yalata, did you?---I stayed there. I probably threw my swag down under the bush, yes.

Can you tell me, did you know Colonel Durance?---I did know him, yes.

At the time all this was happening, did you discuss the matter with Colonel Durance?---Well now, was Colonel Durance there when this happened, I cannot remember.

I think he might have been but if you do not remember, obviously you do not remember?---I knew quite a lot and I was instructed by Colonel Durance as a guidance, right through the piece.

Were you ever involved in a discussion with anyone who suggested that this incident should not be talked about?---Well now, almost everything that happened there should never have been talked about because I did read and I signed a paper that I was to keep my mouth shut and tell nobody.



Right, I understand that. Was there any special discussion about the incident with the Aborigines?---Any discussion?

Special discussion about keeping your mouth shut in relation to the incident in relation to the Aborigines?---I do not think so, I cannot call that to mind, but I tell you what, I did complain about that because there was an exaggerated story I heard about it, about the hole I am telling you about at Marcoo where the bomb went off in the hole and they did say that there was smoke coming out of the hole and there was three dead natives in the bottom of it.

You say that is all wrong?---Course it is wrong and I can prove that it is wrong inasmuch as, I think it was Thompson who was there in charge, I cannot remember now, but I said to the man that was in charge, "You come out here to this Marcoo hole and I will show you where it is wrong," and I took him out and I did take Thompson out and let him - I said "Now, you tell me where there was a fire lit, any firewood down there, any ashes?"

Right, well, let us go back to your statement then, on page 2. We got to the point where we had you back at Maralinga and you indicate that you saw the blasts that occurred at Maralinga. I think you have a photograph of one of the explosions which is the photograph I have here?---Where did they get that from?

I was going to ask you where you got it from?---Well, I had pictures of this - - -

That is your picture?---It is, yes, and I gave it to the fellows not to take away but to have a look.

I think they have had some copies made, you see?---Did they?

Yes, so that is the original and I have got a copy here. Can you tell me, where did you get that from?---I think they were issued.

Do you know which explosion that is shown in the photograph? ---I can tell you that the One Tree site, all this stuff lying around here was definitely after, when we turned to face the show, you could see that, and even - there was a second bomb that went off with the same thing.

Is this the One Tree explosion or do not you remember?---Look, I would say it is pretty well Marcoo; I do not know; I cannot say.

You cannot say?---No. These towers now they were all - - -

See the towers in the photograph and the other buildings, do you recall what they were?---Well, some of them were for viewing the forward area.

Right. What about these buildings here, do you know what they were?---Yes.

What were they for, do you know?---They were there as - the effect of the explosion caused to quite a lot of this stuff that is spread around there, all around the place.

Now, that building there - ?---Wait a minute, if it was One Tree, that was a building there, a galvanised iron building, and it could have been just about that - no, it is not, because if it was that you would have seen the iron droppers along there and it is not; I would say it is Marcoo.

You think it is Marcoo. It looks like one hell of bang, does it not?---Yes, it was.

I will keep the prints if I may? You can have that one back, Mr Murray?---I do not know that I want them now, anyway, but I did say to these people: you take them, and they said to me that they would make copies of them and then send them back, and they have never sent them back.

Well, I have got all of them here. That one is the exhibit. I do not know whether any of my friends want to see it?---Look, it is probably 20 years since I have had a look at this but - - -

There is one other photograph I want you to have a look at, Mr Murray; again it has been copied from a photograph that you provided. It seems to be an aerial shot of Maralinga village; is that right? --Yes.

Was that something also that was issued to you or did you take it?---No, I suppose it was in headquarters there, I do not know, but I think everyone had one. I cannot remember now.

Can you just tell me, in the foreground of this photograph there is a cleared area with some facilities on. Can you tell me whether or not you recall what that area was? If you do not, please just tell me?---No, I cannot say that I can call it to mind at the moment.

All right. That is the copy. I tender that one as well, your Honour.

A further photograph, I think it is a photograph of you, I may be wrong, is that a photograph of you and an aeroplane?---Yes.

I wonder if you could tell me, the aeroplane has got SAAT on the tail, does that mean anything of significance? ---I have got an idea, that it was an aircraft at Emu in the trial section.

It was an aircraft that was exposed to the blast, was it?---Yes, and this fellow here, he was a Commonwealth police officer, he left anyhow, and he bought a milk farm at Port Lincoln or something. I cannot remember his name at the moment.

I was going to ask you whether or not that was an aircraft that was used for any patrol work. Again, if you do not know, please tell me?---No, look I cannot be sure of that, but there was aircraft and this man was there, but I would not like to say, because I was mixed up in some of this stuff, some decided they could take it away and some decided they - until they got permission to do so, type of thing - I cannot call it all to mind now.

Well, you say on page 3 of your statement that after the first bomb went off at One Tree, you went into the forward area to trap rabbits?---That is right.

Was this something that you were asked to do?---Yes. I was instructed to do it.

Who instructed you to do it?---Well, now, it would be the officer in charge. He might have been an inspector or he might have been a security officer.

Again if we look at the map, can you tell me what area you went into to trap the rabbits?---Yes. I done quite a few for a month.

Yes. Could you tell me on the map, if you would not mind: One Tree, up there?---Yes.

Whereabouts - - -?---In this forward area.

You are pointing to the area north of One Tree, is that right, on the map?---Yes, that is right. Around in that area there, and I have got an idea it was after One Tree, but then again I could be making a mistake. If Marcoo was number 2, it could have been after that one, but anyhow that is what I done.

Now, how far away from the start of the blast were you operating to trap the rabbits?---10 up to 15 mile, probably longer. It might have been 20 mile.

Did you get many rabbits?---Well, I did not get very many, but I got probably 20 or 30, I do not know.

Over what period of time?---Over a period of a month.

And to trap the rabbits what did you do, how did you go about it?---I skinned them, took them - - -

No, no, how did you trap them?---With rabbit traps. I am sorry if I said the wrong thing.

Did you have to dig a hole at all?---Pardon?

Did you have to dig a hole with the traps you were using?---Look, I have trapped, I would not say hundreds of rabbits, I have trapped thousands of rabbits in my time.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr Murray, these city slickers do not know anything about it; that is why he is asking you. Will you tell him all about it?---Yes. Well, I will. There would be a slight - - -

MR McCLELLAN: Did you have to dig a hole?---Yes.

Right. How deep a hole did you have to dig?---About an inch.

inch?---Yes.

And what did you do, lay a trap in the depression, or something?---Yes. Say four or five inches, or the width of the trap, and just - along, put the trap in there and then some paper on it to cover it over and along come the rabbit and did not see it and gets his leg caught.

Right. You indicated that you did this in your ordinary clothing, is that right?---No. When I went out - as a rule when I went into the forward area I put on overalls.

You put on a pair of overalls, did you?---Yes. They gave - they were issued as dungaree overalls.

And that is when you refer in your statement on page 3, you wore ordinary dungarees?---Yes, I saved the uniform because those uniforms get dirty very quickly and I am tipping that most of this trapping was done after I done my day work, at night. I went out at night and done it.

Do you know how long after the explosion it was that you were out doing this job?---Very quick. I would say the first night I went out was - I would not like to say the first night, but probably be the second night.

The second night?---Yes.

You were there for about a month?---No, I trapped rabbits over a period of a month at different locations, type of thing. And to make it quite happy - health physics, or Turner would know all about it. I skinned them in there and I even boned them in there, and parcelled the bones up and gave them to Turner to send to the UK to see what effect - - -

And do I take it you did this back at the village somewhere, did you?---I done it at the health physics section in the village.

In the village?---Yes.

And were you the only person who was involved in the trapping and skinning of the rabbits, or did other people help you?---As far as I know. Any other trappers that were there. removed them.

Well, you indicate in your statement on page 3, perhaps a little bit out of order, but we will talk about it now, that you have suffered various illnesses since that time. What is your health like today?---No good.

No good. What is the problem at the moment?---I get this, as I have explained many, many times to the medical section - I get this extreme - I have even got it now -

down in my arms around my face and down my legs. It is a, how do I say, pins and needles, it is that effect. It is an extreme sort of thing, and this morning when I was having a shave I had my hands up like that and I had to drop them down quick because I got this terrible, inclined to be a paralysed feeling, if you understand.

Well, you refer in your statement the fact that you have got blood disorders. What is the state of your blood now?---I did have blood - - -

Are you over those; have they all gone?---No.

You have still got those, have you?---Yes, and I have got to go - I went about a month ago and the blood tests they took there were definitely wrong and I had a peep at the - which I should not have done - but I saw 33 over nothing.

That was your blood pressure?---It was the - - -

Blood pressure?---No, it was not, and I took it - when I went in - I gave it to the nurses, and when I go in to Black I said, "There you are, you tell me," and I said "I got a telephone ring some time ago, did anybody tell you that? Can I get this exactly right now - white blood cell count has been referred to you," and I said, "No." Black said to me, "No. You tell them no because I am the one who tests that."

Right. Well, you describe at the bottom of page 3 the changes you observed as a result of the explosion, and you say on the top of page 4, you were doing this work, catching the rabbits in particular, and you did not wear a film badge or a dosimeter?---No, nothing. I might tell you this, and I can remember the first night - or one night afterwards, I forget now, there were several fellows, I think they were UK people, and there might have been a security officer with them, just to - I do not know what they wanted to see, how I set a rabbit trap and what I done with the rabbits that were caught and how I destroyed the rabbit when I let them out of the trap, you know. I do not know why they were there, but that is what they were there for. Some reason beyond me.

You say on page 4 that you believe you were a guinea pig? ---That is right. That was said to me - - -

When you got the bones from the rabbits. Why do you say you were a guinea pig?---I do not know. I will tell you what, this did not happen very often and I tell you the people that said this to me, I think it was after this rabbit boning, but it does not matter, but it was after a mess occasion. They

used to have a dinner every three months or something at some of these, and probably with a little drop of alcohol, they referred to me that I could be a guinea pig, and I will tell you why. Because it was recognized by everybody there including the police, that I had no fear of being transferred, I had no fear of being dismissed, that I was at Maralinga to do this particular job and I was to find out what radiation would have effect on me the same as it had on the rabbits. Now, this is the conversation that went on.

Was any check ever made of you to see whether or not you had been affected by radiation?---No.

Pretty hard then for you to be a guinea pig?---I also put a report in to the medical section, three or four months, no, wait, not months, years, if they could find out what was actually wrong with me, was it, you know, and they got quite annoyed over it, as a matter of fact. When I handed this to Black, he flicked it over along his desk and said to his nurse, put it on the file. In addition to that I took another one up to - what is his name up here - Barston. - I do not go to doctors very often - and he just glanced through it and said, "No, I don't want it." So they were not concerned with my health as far as Maralinga was concerned.

You record on page 4 an incident where you picked up some pellets?---I did.

When you were with Harry Turner?---Yes.

Now, can you tell me - - -?---Not with Harry Turner; on my own.

Well, you found the pellets - - -?---Wait a minute, and then I took them to Turner.

Right?---But after that Turner came out with me with a gadget that he was testing to see whether - and I cannot call to mind whether he found any or not.

Whereabouts did you find these pellets?---In the forward area, might be five mile out, might be ten mile out.

Can you tell me which crater it might have been close to?  
---Well, it could have been Marcoo, it also could have been the One Tree. I cannot call to mind.

Right. How large were the pellets?---Not very big. As a matter of fact there was one - - -

As big as a fingernail, or - - -?---Something like that, yes. Not quite as big, but there was one piece that I picked up - some were very small. I put in a matchbox

to carry, and I have got an idea the other was a little bit larger, I cannot call to mind, but I did not put it in the matchbox, I might have wrapped it up, I cannot remember, but - - -

And did Mr Turner ever suggest to you that these pellets were in any way radioactive?---Not to my knowledge, he did not, no.

Do you think they were or not?---Well, I had an idea. The only thing that I had in my brain, I was an inexperienced man as far as this scientific effort went on, was that it reminded me, and I told them, I told Turner also, that it reminded me of a blacksmith's shop, around an anvil where they belt and weld iron, and so on, and these little bits - but some of them were probably bigger than that, you know.

At the bottom of page 4 you state that you indicate when you first went there you were told to find the Aboriginal rock water holes and the native wells and to look out for native tracks?---Yes.

Now, were these instructions you were given when you first went to Maralinga, or to Emu?---No, no, Maralinga. As a matter of fact, before I went to Emu and before I went to Maralinga it was Inspector Nichols. That is how I got the job. Let me say I do - - -

Well, when you got to Maralinga and you were told to go and look for rock water holes and native wells, how did you go about seeking to find them?---I went into the - I got quite a few maps there that I had a look at and I had to find them, and they take finding too, but anyhow I did find them.



Well, did you go out on your own?---Yes.

To look for them?---Yes.

With a vehicle?---Yes.

And look at this map again - this is M4 - you see Maralinga there?---Yes.

And Emu is up there?---Yes.

Giles - at the top there?---The top there, yes.

Whereabouts did you go looking for Aboriginal waterholes and wells?---I went around - I do not know - as a matter of fact this was after the contractors had got going. I was sent down to - you see, a lot of this, I was not on this work. I was just on the - - -

Yes, but you told us that you were given these instructions, you see?---That is right, I was given instructions.

And I want to know how - - -?---I cannot call to mind. I tell you what - I went out - where is - Maralinga here. Now, where is Roadside?

Well, Roadside would be just - - -?---Very close there.

Very close there?---Yes. That is Deakin's Well just there.

Yes, right?---And there is a track in here - Ooldea - in there. Punthana in here, Ooldea and I could name it now - but, you see, a lot of these go out of my mind.

Well, I am wondering - wanting to know - and I will now hold it up so everyone can see, all right. We will go through it again?---Yes.

Maralinga is there?---Yes.

Right. Did you go out to the west?---I think, first of all, I did go to the west.

Why did you go to the west? Did you have any suspicions, or did you know of - - -?---No, I did not.

You just went looking, did you?---Yes, and I - there is a lake out here somewhere. Now, what is the name of that?

Well, there is a number of lakes shown on the map?---Your map is not as good as mine.

Not as good?---No.

Lake Dey-Dey is there. Lake Maurice is there?---Yes. That is the lake, that is Lake Dey-Dey. This is the first lake I went into there.

So, you went up to Lake Dey-Dey, did you?---Yes, I did.

And did you find - - -?---Not - first of all - this Lake Maurice.

Maurice?---Yes.

All right. Well, did you find any waterholes on your trip up to Lake Maurice?---No, I did not.

What about Lake Dey-Dey?---No.

Was there water in either of them?---But I found small rock holes in there, yes.

You did?---In that area, yes. Very small.

All right?---But they were always dry when I located them.

Right. And did you go anywhere else looking for these waterholes?---Look, I went everywhere looking for waterholes, just to see if they were about.

And how far away from Maralinga did you go in order to look out for these facilities?---Out and back, I do not know, a real long way up here. Where is - I cannot see on the map. Where is Giles Water?

I am sorry, where is - - -?---You see, I do not know your map, you see.

Well, Ernabella is up here. Wallatina Station is there and Welbourn Hill?---Yes, I know all about Welbourn Hill. That is where they used to put brumby horses, and so on, and put them in there where they were sent over to India. That is all I know. That is nothing to do with this. What have we got here now?

Coffin Hill ring a bell?---Yes. See, a lot of this stuff was never named in my map. Where is Giles Water - you cannot find it?

Not straightaway?---No. As a matter of fact there was a security officer - I put a report in that I had went up into that country looking for some natives and they doubted my report, evidently.

Let me just come back a bit. You have indicated that you certainly went up to Lake Dey-Dey, Lake Maurice?  
---Yes.

And Giles Flat-Tops?---Yes.

Now, did you carry out this exploration before any bomb went off at Maralinga?---As far as Lake Maurice some were in there, a day trip type of thing, just looking for a waterhole, or something of the sort - this is what I - - -

Could you get up to Lake Maurice and back in a day?---Yes.

You could, could you?---As a matter of fact the colonels even went out there and they even stayed a night out there. They liked to camp out.

Was this before any of the bombs went off?---It might have been somewhere after the bombs.

Well, what I want to know is whether or not you carried out any complete investigation of that area before any bombs went off. Can you help me there? ---No, no, not really, other than to go out for the knowledge of these people, and my knowledge, if there was a native well or a native rock hole, or something, that we could go to have a look to see if there was any tracks around there.

Can you help me again: did you go into these wells in this whole area that you have indicated before the bombs went off?---No.

You did not?---No.

Did you go out to Lake Dey-Dey at all before any bombs went off?---It is possible I did. Went from Lake Maurice up to Dey-Dey and then came back. Not a big trip that one.

What about up to Giles Flat-Tops, did you go up to there before any bombs went off?---Yes, just before the bombs went off. I cannot remember, but that - yes, I cannot call it to mind.

But, tell me - - -?---Particularly after the road went through. Lenny Beadell put the road from there up to Emu. That was a special trip. I went up there. When I was going to Emu I would have to go in there and have a look around any of these holes that I knew and then to Emu.

THE PRESIDENT: We will have a breather, gentlemen.

MR McCLELLAN: Mr Murray, we were talking before the adjournment about the expedition that you undertook looking for evidence of Aborigines. You refer in your statement to the fact that Lenny Beadell put roads through; did you know Beadell well?  
---Yes.

And did you and he have discussions about where the Aborigines might be living in the prohibited area?---No, I do not think so other than quite a lot of Aborigines around the Giles weather station - that was way north, but I never went there.

Did anyone in authority express concern to you before the bombs went off about finding out whether or not there might be Aborigines in the prohibited area?  
---Well, as far as I can remember, I did go to those nearby native holes and, I think before the bomb - this was during the construction work. It was for my benefit really to find out where these things - that I would then know whether there was no - particularly after rain, whether there was natives about there because that is where they would be looking for their water. But what - - -

What conclusion did you come to: that there would be natives there after rain or not?---No, no.

Well, you concluded there would not be, did you?---No, I did not but there was a possibility and I always inspected, but I never expected to find them there.

Why did you not expect to find any?---Well now, when they came from the mission station they would then get water at their railway tanks, which they got into - I can tell you about that later. But then the desert natives - they would go to where the water mallee was - that the root coming from - do you know what I am talking about with the root water?

We understand that?---Yes.

Can you tell me - - -?---That is where they would get their water from when there was no water in their native wells and so on.

Was there any pattern of available mallee roots in and around Maralinga which would have given Aborigines water?---No, there was none nearby, I do not think. But they were mainly to the western side of the road or up in the - you go past - - -

Where are you referring to? Where are the mallees that you are referring to? Again, there is Maralinga?  
---Yes.

There is Emu?---Yes. Emu in there. Well, you would find mallee country in - I would say in an area there like that.

You are referring to an area generally west of Emu and about three-quarters of the way to the Western Australian border?---That is right, in there, yes. But I never saw any mallee on the eastern side without going over to Mabel Creek - those stations - I never - they could have been there and I never noticed it.

You then refer in the bottom of page 4 to some Aboriginal mates which you had before but were well out on the Serpentine Lakes. Now, I take it what you are saying is that you knew some Aborigines, prior to going to Maralinga, who lived down from the Serpentine Lakes area; is that right?---I just did not get your full question then - what was it?

Did you know Aborigines living in the Serpentine Lakes area before you went to Maralinga?---No, no, I did not, no, I am sorry.

Well, you say on the bottom of page 4 of your statement - have you got the statement there?---I believe I have, yes.

Just have a look at page 4. Down here, you see, you say:

The Aboriginal mates you had before that were well out on the Serpentine Lakes.

?---Yes.

When did you get to know those people?---Well, after the bomb.

After the bomb, did you?---Yes.

Your Serpentine Lakes are out here, are not they?---Yes, you can see them there.

Now, in that area there?---There is the Serpentine Lakes there.

Right. And Maralinga there?---Yes.

Now, when did you get to know the people in the Serpentine Lakes area?---Well, look, I travelled a lot out through there and I even took surplus petrol and a drum and I would dump it off and I had petrol depots out there which would permit me to do this. And I travelled in a lot of that country and I had petrol - if I was going to a certain site, for

instance, I would say: now, I want a certain amount of petrol and then I will take some surplus stuff.

I understand that, but when was it that you got to know the Aborigines who lived out in the Serpentine Lakes area? Was that in the late 1950s or when?---Yes, it was - - -

After the bombs was it?---Yes, because I tell you what these people were afraid of bombs.

Well, how many people did you find living out in the Serpentine Lakes area?---I found a couple of groups of them - most of them came from - they were not really a desert group, only the ones that you have got - I think you might have the ones that were - perished afterwards. But there was natives come down from those - Giles weather station and they moved about in that area at certain times. But I never saw them - there was one small group and they had clothes and they were rather difficult - they were afraid of me or it might have been the look of me, I do not know, but after that I never saw them again.

Well, you say in your statement that you would have got the sack if you had told the authorities. Now - - -?  
---What do you mean, "I got the sack" what - - -?

The statement says here, you see - we will read it together:

When you first went there you were told to find the Aboriginal rock water holes and native wells - - -

?---That is right, that is right.

And:

- - - and to look out for native tracks.

Right?---That is right, yes.

And:

Lenny Beadell put roads through there east and west which brought the natives in closer to the area.- - -

?---That is right.

Then:

- - - and they got to Wuldina Lake. The  
Aboriginal mates you had before that  
were well out on the Serpentine Lake.

?---That is right.

And you kept them out there?---That is right.

Now, you then say:

I would have got the sack.

if you had told the authorities. But you said  
to these natives, "You go back there and I'll  
bring soup"?---That is right.

Well, what is all that about, can you help me - why are you  
concern - - -?---When I found natives and they were  
getting a little bit closer than I expected them to  
be I would tell them that I had two to three tins of  
meat - I carried especially and I put them some where -  
they knew where I wanted them and then they would go  
back and they would have this. But when they got in  
closer - talking about "the sack" business was  
Lenny Beadell. He put that road from east to west  
and from Vokes Hill he decided to go to Cooke, you  
see. And I said, "Well, Lenny, I'm sorry but I'm  
going to stop you from going into Cooke with this  
road. I want you to stop 70, 80 mile out." And  
he said, "I'm not going to do that, I am going  
to - - -" and I said, "No, you're not," and I told  
the authorities that I did not want him - that  
would bring mission natives along that track out  
to those wells nearby in the contaminated area  
and would also take the desert natives into that.  
And that is how Lenny stopped, he did not put the  
road right into Cooke.

Where is Cooke? Can you show me Cooke on the map?---Yes, or I  
should. Where is Vokes Hill, for a start?

Vokes is there?---Vokes Hill?

Yes?---That is right. And you can see where Lenny stopped  
there at a few mile back in here. Now, where is  
Cooke?

Cooke is there?---That is right. No, nothing to do with that.  
This is the road that Lenny came in - down an old  
track down here from Vokes Hill and then right  
into Cooke.

Right, did the road stop before Cooke?---Yes.

Well, these incidents you say when you found Aboriginies coming in too close, you told them you would give them tins and so on, where were these people coming in from; the west?---Yes.

How far in were they getting?---They were definitely the desert natives.

Yes, but how far in were they getting?---They were getting into Wuldina.

Sorry?---Wuldina Lake. Where is Wuldina Lake here? This is on the road that comes down to Cooke, very close to - - -

What about Nurrari Lake?---Yes.

Wyola Lake?---Yes, that is right, into Wyola Lake.

They were coming in that close, were they?---That is right, yes.

And during what years did this happen that you found Aboriginies in - - -?---Well, later than I first found them, I cannot just say.

Well, are we talking about the 1950s or into the 1960s? ---It would be around the 1960s, somewhere in there, yes.

And did you assume that Aborigines had been coming into that area in the 1950s?---No, they never got in. I tell you what I did see - - -

How do you know they did not get in in the 1950s?---Because I could tell by their tracks.

By their tracks?---And the very old tracks - - -

What was the attraction that brought them in later on? ---Lenny Beadell road.

Well, did Beadell make a road from this area to the west? ---Yes, and then came from Vokes Hill - - -

Wyola Lake to the west?---Yes, that is right.

Yes?---A little north of that.

And then from Vokes Hill down to Cooke?---He came from - where is Emu here.

Up there?---And there was a road - he went straight west and then he came here - - -



Straight west from Emu?---Yes.

Then up to Giles?---Yes, and then he had a road up to Giles,  
and then Vokes Hill - he wanted this road to come  
down very close to Wyola Lake. What lake is that?

Wyola Lake?---That is right.

That is Halinor Lake?---Anyhow the road came down, I think on  
this side of that lake, down here to Cooke,  
and stopped about somewhere - - -

It was when the road came, was it, that you found Aborigines  
coming in to that area of the lakes?---That is right,  
and I can tell you when I first found those natives  
in there, and I knew them, and they were a little bit  
afraid, and the only way that I could get those  
natives to stay, they went off the road. I turned  
the vehicle around and I went back where I came  
from and I put an apple in the centre of my track,  
and then I left them there for probably a quarter  
of an hour, and went around out of sight, then I came  
back and the apple had gone, and I found them.  
There was two of them, a man and a woman in the  
scrub, and I never saw them after.

Well, do I understand that was the way you found out that there were Aborigines there? Do I take it it was pretty hard - - -

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that was not recorded. Your answer is, yes, is it?---Pardon?

Well, ask the question again.

MR McCLELLAN: By using the apples was the way you found out about Aborigines - - -?---That is right, because I knew that an apple - if they did not eat it they would never look to see what it was.

Did you have a suspicion that there were Aborigines there which made you leave the apple in the road?---Yes, yes, because I saw their tracks.

Saw their tracks. Was it pretty hard to find Aborigines in the bush unless you used apples or other techniques, was it?---I only used the apple once, but once they got to know you they would then - if you could not find them at a particular hole and you went somewhere else and you went down 5 mile and you stayed there overnight, they would come in at night to you because they wanted - no doubt they wanted a little bit of - - -

That is once they knew who you were?---Yes.

Yes, but if they did not know who you were would they make themselves known to you?---No. They were very afraid of strangers.

And were they hard to find?---Yes, they were, but I - tracks and the only way that I got to - - -

Tell me this: in terms of the tracks, were you very good at reading Aboriginal tracks?---Yes, I was. I would say that as a white man I was definitely an experienced trackman, yes.

Right?---And I can tell you how I learned.

Well - - -?---But it has nothing to do with this.

- - - is it a difficult thing to be a good trackman?---Pardon?

Is it a difficult thing to be a good trackman?---I do not think - I think that it is just that you know what you are looking for, that is about all there is.

Was Lenny Beadell a good trackman?---Look, I would not like to say that.

What about Mr MacDougall; was he a good trackman?---Mr MacDougall was not an experienced bushman in my opinion. Now, I should not say that, but any time that Beadell went off the track he had a native with him. He would go down to the mission and pick up a native and he would come up and he would go up - he always had a native with him and they - their patrol area was north of Emu, back many miles up in there, but as far as - what is the other fellow's name?

MacDougall?---MacDougall, I do not think he was an experienced bushman either. And I can tell you what they - - -

Well, would an experienced bushman in your experience be able to find Aboriginal tracks in the way that you could?---I suppose if they knew what they were looking for. They would know what a track was.

Would Mr MacDougall have known what he was looking for?---I suppose he would. I do not know, I would not like to say that about - this is only my opinion.

What about Mr Beadell, he would have known what he was looking for, would not he?---I should say he would because most of the natives came down from northern mission stations to - they knew all about Lenny and his plant and any instruction - what I mean they came to Lenny. Lenny - I do not think Lenny went to them, but this is only on my saying; I do not know.

Lenny was a pretty good bushman, was not he?---Well, I would say that he would. He could travel - - -

Not as good - - - ?---He had a - - -

Not as good as you?---Look, I would not like to say that. It is a wonder I did not perish, but anyhow he had a compass, he had the lot. And I had a compass they gave me and I never used it and it is still there, brand new.

THE PRESIDENT: You did not need one?---I did - I never needed a compass, no.

MR McCLELLAN: Did you know Mr McCauley, an Aboriginal - - -? ---I knew McCauley, yes.

What was he like as a bushman?---McCauley always travelled with me when he was out in that desert country.

Well, can you tell me - - -?---Look, I can say a story now that they got more or less - they broke down. Whether they were lost, I do not know, but they - it was not arranged - but I would meet them, they were coming from Zampas up to near Giles Water which

is pretty well up north in the outback, so on a certain day I got my vehicle and out I went. Not a sign of them, not a sign of them - I have already explained this to somebody - and then I had - what I - I had to come back to various petrol depots I had along the track and I would go west to see if I could cut their track coming down from there or going up there, never, and I moved down like that and eventually I cut their track at night as a matter of fact because there were two trucks in this sandy country and I followed them and I found them and they had broken down. I thought if they had broken down they would run out of petrol; that is right, and they had natives with them. Those natives came from the Cundelee mission station which is Zampas, so I then - well: you had better bring your truck over to where I have got a petrol depot here and I will fill you up full of petrol and away you go, but send those natives back to where they came from. I do not want them here at all, which no doubt they did. But an inspector did write a report about this and I think they were concerned about my whereabouts and whether MacDougall and Mac - whatever his name was - - -

McCauley?---McCauley, whether they were all right or something of the sort. So he wrote a report that any time that these native patrol people travelled in the Maralinga area they were to be accompanied by me. Now, whether they wanted to say that or whether they did not, I do not know, but that is what the report was and if you have a look at the reports that are there you will find it and I can tell you the inspector that wrote it was Coon - David Coon.

Well, tell me this: was McCauley any sort of tracker?---I could not say that. I suppose there is nothing in it really if there is, particular sandy country you would see - I tell you it is nothing to do with Maralinga - but I tell you what, there was a man lost in the Territory once. He went out, knocked off at dinner-time on Saturday in those days, and out he went for a walk and on Monday he never came back. And I was the road master - that is a railway - and I had to go and - I did not have to but I did go and look for him - and if I remember rightly I would have - probably I did it in a zig-zag type of thing - excuse me from waving around - and I cut his tracks and I cut his tracks here and I cut his tracks there and I eventually found him, and I said: whatever did you do, because he passed water by about 50 feet. He said, "But I'm all right." I said, "Well, you are not all right if you get out here in this country and get lost. If you do not pass water though - why did you not have a drink of water?" This is what goes on and - - -

Well - - -?---And I just had that - I do not know. See, you can look in little gutters in sandy soft spots. If you work - if you go straight, well, you would never find them. You have got to work in a zig-zag. This is the right technique. It had nothing to do with Maralinga, but anyhow we will leave it at that.

Well, I take it you have had a lot of experience in tracking in the bush, have you?---Well, I would not say a lot of experience. I have had a lot of experience, yes, but I have - - -

Well, then can you come back with me to page 4 of your statement? You suggest in there that you were concerned that you would get the sack if you told the authorities?---Well, now - - -

Well, what were you concerned about telling the authorities that they might have given you the sack?---Yes, I can tell you how that probably came about. I do not know, but you were never supposed to feed natives.

I see. So that was your - - -?---And I never told the authorities that - they knew, and I could go into the storeroom if I wanted a dozen tins of meat or whatever it might have been, I took it out and I found these natives in a hungry state and I wanted to put them back. I would give them one tin and then I would go back to where I knew they were and I would put a couple of tins there and they would go back and they would eat it.

Did you have to do this on many occasions?---I would not say many occasions, but I moved them back on several occasions. I will put it that way.

Right. Well, on page 5 of your statement you talk about the Milpuddy family and that continues on to page 6, and you describe on the bottom of page 6 in patrols out in the west where you found evidence of - - -?---Yes, I can answer that.

- - - Aborigines who died. Now, just tell me on the map, whereabouts did you find this evidence?---Yes. That is west of - I never found - I will tell you what, they were natives that were buried there in drift country. I could tell you what, when you are travelling along you see these white sort of little spots. On two - probably three occasions I saw it, and when I stopped and had a look they were decomposed bones.

Whereabouts did you find them?---Well, they were in this western country somewhere. Probably in that area there somewhere. I cannot recall or give a guarantee.

Are you referring to the area between Lake Dey-Dey and Halinor - - -?---Yes, out in this country.

Halinor Lake?---Real drift country, waterless country too, but not - there was mallee country in there, but that is how I found these.

Right. Did you form any conclusions as to how long the bones had been there for?---Lord, how long would it take a bone to decay? I do not know, but I never dug into the thing to see what was there. The first - - -

But you would think many years, did you?---Yes, they were there many years, and what did happen - I got the shovel - I always carry a shovel, and I buried them with sand and then I cut off tree - branches of trees and put on there hoping that it would sand up and cover it up again. And if that was a really good look - in all that desert country you would probably find that. I do not know.

When you say something on page 7, which I think I would like you to explain?---Page 7?

Yes, at the top of the page, do you see?---Yes.

You say on another - - -?---Yes, that is right.

You were with MacDougall and a native patrol officer from somewhere, you say you forget the name; would that have been McCauley?---That is right. That is the one with the piccaninny.

What is all this about? Tell me what happened? Were you out in the bush?---This - yes.

Whereabouts were you?---We were going east from, I think it was from - I can get the name from - what do you call this lake here?

That one is Wyola Lake?---Wyola, that is right, we were going west from there.

West would be out that way?---East rather.

Yes?---Somewhere in there because we went - took them east to get on the track.

And what happened?---And that native did not wish to camp there - there was a group of mallee there and he walked around and he saw this saucer-like depression - which is not a big one - and he immediately wanted this also picked up and taken away and it was a piccaninny grave that had died there and buried.

Do you know how long ago?---Pardon?

Do you know how long before?---That was before McCauley came down to MacDougall - down to Woomera - he was up at Giles then when that was - - -

Would it have been in 1950s or earlier?---Late 1950s.

Late 1950s?---Yes.

And how long ago had the - - -?---1978 or 1979.

How long ago did you understand that death had occurred? ---Death had occurred with this - I do not know - the black fellow, he did not want to camp there and I pacified him by saying that - trying to get - - -

Do you know how long ago it was that the child had died?---Well, first of all I did stupidly make a track. I went up to near Vokes Hill and I travelled south and then turned east and I went in and I cut the track and

went back. But then MacDougall wanted this track and he came with me and followed my tracks down there, and that is when we got to the Wyola Lake - I think it was Wyola, there is a couple of names there - and that is when we were going east and that is when this little saucer-like depression - and the native he had with him did not want to stop there.

Right, but did you find out from the native how long before that it was that the child who was buried there had died?---No, I never even asked him. It was quite a long while, anyway.

When you say a long while, do you mean many years?---I could not say.

Or months?---No, it was longer than months.

Was it? All right?---It was - there had been grass grown on it and, in that particular time, there was no grass on it at all.

You then say on page 7, you say further down the page: the natives got fairly close to the prohibited areas but you sent them out; you see that?---On page 7: "I do not think any of the natives were killed by the bomb." I do not know how this come about.

And you say the natives got fairly close - - -?---Who - where did you get this from?

Well, it was given to me by an officer of the commission, you see, who I think had a chat with you?---It was this fellow, is it?

No, not that fellow. No, Mr Ryan?---Another fellow. Who?

Do you remember Mr Ryan coming and talking - - -?---Yes, I can, yes.

Well, Mr Ryan gave me this?---Did he. And I told Mr Ryan that he was making mistakes, as far as Emu was concerned.

Did you?---I did. I got a little bit annoyed. He had this gadget and he was pressing buttons and doing this - he was making every effort, I thought, to confuse me. And I was not backwards in telling him.

Right?---He then went to the native that came down. This is not right, as far as I am concerned.

Well then, tell me what is not right. We are looking at page 7, right?---Yes.



And we have read the first paragraph on that page; is that okay?---Yes, that is right.

That is right, is it?---That is right, yes.

The second paragraph: you do not think any of the natives were killed by the bomb. Is that right?---I do not know where that came from.

Well, do I leave it in or take it out?---You can take it out, because I never - I did not know of any natives killed by bombs.

Well, I think that is what you say there. You say you do not think - - -?---I did not say it. I am sure I did not. I probably - to some of his confusing questions that he was asking.

Right, okay. Well, we will take that out?---Yes, take it out.

Then you say the natives - or the statement says - the natives got fairly close to the prohibited areas but you sent them back out?---That is right.

Now, is that true?---That is right.

Okay, now - - -?---And I have told that before.

Right. Well, this is, is it not, the account you gave me of natives in the Wyola Lake area, and so on. Is that what you are referring to?---Yes.

Right. That is what you are referring to there on page 7, is that right?---Yes. The natives got - what was that - fairly - that is right, that is where the natives - we came down Lenny Beadell Road.

Right, but you sent them back out by using - - -?---I sent them back out.

By using the tins, and so on?---Wait a minute; I can go on how they got back. I then got hold of McCauley - but he was a native, and I understand that he had quite a knowledge of their language. And I got these natives, sent them back, and I left them there and fed them at a certain time. When they got in closer after . . . . . they came in closer and I thought, now, the only thing I can do is feed these natives and - I was not stealing the food but I took the food - put it that way. And to get hold of McCauley to come have a word with them and tell them to go right back.

Right?---And Lenny - now wait a minute - Penfold was with him.

Who was Penfold?---He was a security officer.

Was he?---Yes.

Okay. Now, then your statement suggests that you had an operation on your prostate?---I did.

Prostate, yes?---I do not know whether it is spelt right. I had never spelled it - did not know what it was so - - -

Right, they just tell you things, do they? Then you go and describe the nature of the country. You say it was waterless country and after rain any water container you had - you filled it - - -? ---Now, what is this. I have not read this - wait until I read it, will you? My prostate was enlarged and I had to have an operation.

Yes, well - - -?---It was waterless and - that is all mixed up. A lot of these fellows that came up to question me should not have come to the place. They told me afterwards that I should not have had them there.

Right. Well, just let us look at the next bit. Let us leave out your physical condition?---Yes.

You described it as "waterless country and after rain - - -" you say, "any water container you had - filled it with water"?---That is right.

You probably washed with it - you might have made a pot of tea with it. You say Harry Turner told you not to do it. Now, what did Harry Turner tell you about it?---That was when I had - we will bring the prostate operation in to this now, will not we?

Well - - -?---This is when I had bladder pain.

Right?---If I am permitted to say that, but I did.

Yes, you can say anything you like in here?---Yes.

All right?---And I went to Adelaide and the doctor - Harbison said, "I think if I was you I would have that removed." And I said, "Well, I prefer not to." And he said, "What do you do?", and I told him that I went back into that outback country and he said, "Don't do that because if you get out there, you mightn't get out of it with that." So then the operation went on. But when I went back to Maralinga, after the operation, Turner and a UK - I think it was a UK doctor - they had a word with me, "What really happened about it?" And

that is when I told him, that is waterless country and any empty water containers that I had - and there was rain about, water lying in rock hole or a claypan or something of that sort - I filled it up so that it was spare water.

And what did they tell you about it?---Well, they did tell me not to wash with it and I understand not to drink it.

Did they tell you why?---Well, there was - I think that it is possible that that water flowed over contaminated ground when it - when the rain came and the water was running into the rock holes and native well and what-have-you.

Well, did it occur to you that natives would be using the same water?---Did it what?

Did it occur to you that the natives would be using the same water?---Well, they did, because I have seen them do it.

Did you raise that with Mr Turner?---I cannot say I did - I probably did. I probably did, I cannot remember saying it.

And the water that you were picking up and using which they were concerned about, can you show me on the map what area you would have been getting that water from?---Well, anywhere there was a rock hole and a native well and a claypan.

But are we talking about an area in close to Maralinga or - - -? ---Have you got a - have you good a good map that is showing claypans and - - -

No, I think that is about as good as I can do at the moment?---Is it? It is not too good. Excuse me for being rude but - - -

That is all right?---Now, what - were we where?

Well, we were back here at Maralinga and I want to know - you see, what area it was that you were taking water from that Mr Turner was concerned that you should not. The whole of the prohibited of the area, was it?---Rock holes - there is rock holes - I found them, no end of them.

All right?---And anywhere claypans. As a matter of fact I have even seen MacDougall go along - pull up at the claypan with muddy water in it and he, I think, impressed me, probably, that he wanted a drink

and he just got down on his knees and he drank  
the water out of the claypan.

Right?---And I did not tell Turner that.

You did not?---No.

But Turner told you to stop drinking and using the water,  
did he?---He did, yes.

And did you - - -?---He did not tell me to stop it but he  
said it could be - that that water could have come  
over some contaminated stuff, or words to that  
effect. I cannot - - -

Well, did you - did you stop using the water?---I do not  
think I did. I probably stopped using it but  
any empty container that was there I filled them  
up to make sure that I had water for the radiator  
and whatever, you know.

Right. But you stopped using it for drinking and washing,  
did you?---I think I did, yes. I do not think  
I used it for drinking and washing.

What about tea? Did you make tea out of it after that, or what?---I do not think so, no.

Well, what did you do - - -?---Because I had - the idea of doing that - filling up the empty water containers - that if I was out there and run out of good water that I would have water to drink or wash, or whatever you want.

Well, we have now been through your statement. Attached to your statement, I think - and I trust your copy has it attached - is certain correspondence. Have you got that attached?---Pardon?

Some letters attached to your statement. There we are, see? The first letter, I think, is a letter that you wrote to the Commissioner for Employees Compensation; is that right?---"With reference to a phone call from Canberra advising me that the visit" - that is right - "of a medical officer - - -"

You wrote that in 1983, did you?---19 April 1983, yes. My wife was present when I went in there.

Right; and you recall the events in that letter?---That is right, I did:

Due to ill health, weakness and loss of balance -

Wait a minute, now. I do not know if this was - whether it was referred to him, but I did not do the . . . . . my wife done most of it, but I - he seemed to - his greatest concern was my eyes.

What has been the problem with your eyes?---Well, I just had an operation - taken a lump off that one. And there is a blood vessel now that developed. And you can see with those lumps. And this lump here was cut off there. You can see where it was cut off and then there is a lump developing underneath.

All right. How old are you now, sir?---I am not old. Do not mention old age to me. I am not old age, but I am 77.

77. Pretty young?---As far as I am concerned, yes. If a person is - the only thing that stops me now is my legs. I cannot walk with my legs. Apparently it is the bones that have gone. I do not know.

Well, you then have attached a copy of your records with the Australian Nuclear Veterans Association. See that?

That is called your radiation exposure profile.  
See that?---Look, I do not know very much about  
these people but I can tell you that when I first  
made contact with them they had never heard of me.

Right. Well - - -?---I said, "What have you got there for  
Tom Murray out of Maralinga?" - "Never heard of you."

Right?---I thought, well, if they have not heard of me  
what is the good of talking with these people.

Well, they have prepared a dossier on you called The Legal  
and Health Survey. See that?---Yes.

Have you read that before?---Some of this could be quite  
good. After the explosion I did police work in  
the forward area for the purpose of removing  
any person not permitted - for removal - - -

Have you ever read this before?---No, I do not think I have,  
but this is right, up to where I have read there.

Well, would you like to read it through and tell me whether  
it is all right. Tell me if there are bits of  
it that are wrong?---It is right:

Immediately after the first nuclear  
. . . . . to trap rabbits.

That is right:

I wish to advise that within the  
few weeks . . . . .  
animal life disappeared.

And that is right.

Okay, read on. Tell me if there is anything in there that  
is wrong?---Yes:

Firstly I was issued and trusted  
with the keys.

This is definitely right:

Immediately after the nuclear explosion  
. . . . . grid area.

Right:

At the end of the tower and balloon  
test . . . . . 25 miles.

Right:

Due to the continuous police patrol  
. . . . . required from me.

That is right, too. I never read it all but it  
is right:

I would fill in.

That is right:

I wish to advise that in addition  
to the . . . . . on my  
chest arms and face.

That is right:

In addition to the burning treatment  
I had . . . . . a blood  
abnormality.

And this is right:

During this discussion with the English  
doctor . . . . . leave the area  
as soon as possible.

That is right:

I developed internal haemorrhaging,  
stained motions . . . . .  
caused by haemorrhoids.

That is right:

A Doctor Britten-Jones of North Adelaide  
performed . . . . .  
attached to Dr Barson, 4, 5 -

That is right -

arranged for me to be examined in  
St Andrews.

And that is right, too:

After the examination I was verbally  
advised . . . . . no sense  
of taste or smell.

I do not know, my memory has always been bad  
but anyhow this is . . . . . I was  
admitted to hospital suffering from loss of  
memory. No sense of taste or smell is right.

The problems of memory interfered with my speech. The problems, as outlined, demand that I must be accompanied on outings. A blood test is now being taken by Dr Barson and sent to Adelaide and even without that, there is still a blood test being done with me.

Right. So, everything in that three pages is correct, is it?---Yes.

Well, in the next document, it is a handwritten document, is that one that you wrote?---Now, this is one that I started to write for the - what do you call these people that - - -

The government - someone from the government, was it?---No, it was not in the government.

Was it for ANVA South Australia?---The Doctors Black, neurologist, that is right. "Blood abnormality is still being treated - - -

Just hold on. This is something that you wrote, is it? ---Yes.

Okay. Right. Then two pages over, there is another typed document, it is a little hard to read.

MR JAMES: Unfortunately I think that last document is missing a portion?---There is a lump of this missing.

That is the reference to the guinea pig section. Apparently the photocopier - - -?---Here we are.

MR McCLELLAN: The handwritten document has a line missing off the bottom. Does anyone know what it is?

MR JAMES: It relates to the allegation of guinea pig.

MR McCLELLAN: Can I read it on to the transcript?---This was written by me for the Veterans Association.

I understand that. The bottom of the first page reads:

Such as the above information was discussed - - -

?---"Such as the above information was discussed over the years throughout the village."

"Throughout the village, I was jokingly referred to as a guinea pig"?---That is right, that is definitely right.

That was a joke, was it?---Yes, classed as a joke, yes. There was another one that I could not - see, a lot of these people were shifted. They were there for



six or eight months, or a month before a side a bomb and a month afterwards and then they were sent away, and it was quite a joke as far as I was concerned, "You will never be transferred, and you will never be sacked, you're going to stop here." And this was a joke, this is what went on.

Tell me, what is this typewritten document at the end? It seems to be instructions you were given about surviving in the bush; is that right?---This is one that I did - a chappie had got a position, I think it was something to do with the natives, and he had not any experienced outback travelling, what he had to take, the tools he had to take, and so on, and I did - but I do not think I can read all this.

No, it is a bit hard to read, but it is something you - - -?  
---I did. I did give this fellow - - -

Instructions as to how to survive in the bush?---That is right yes, and I have even got the original home now.

Right, now, we have been through the statement, but you have not had the chance to read every word in it, and I am going to ask you whether or not what is in there, apart from the correction you have made on page 7, is true, you see. I think what I will ask you to do, if you would not mind, is when we break for lunch, would you mind just reading through those pages and then you can tell me after lunch if there is anything that is not true, okay?---Well, I glanced through this quite good, and most of it - - -

Have you?---But some of this - what did I say was not altogether right? I will read it afterwards anyway.

Right. What you have told me so far is there is something you want taken out on page 7, but see, what I want to do - - -?---This is what it was.

Yes, that is what you told us. It is pretty important that we get you right, you see, so after lunch, if you would not mind, I will ask you whether or not there is anything else?---And I might say, and I think I have said it before, that some of this - Peter Ryan was it, he had this machine that you talk in to and he was pressing buttons and this is not right and I thought possibly he is trying to confuse me, and I did tell him that, but that is not right that you are saying there.

I do not like to tell people above my - but that was not right, and he seemed quite a nice fellow afterwards, because he told me all about the natives that came down, the story where they were camping in the hole, and he was quite good after that, but at Emu we did not altogether agree.

Right. Just pardon me a moment. Tell me this: did you know Mr Toon at Maralinga?---Who?

Mr Toon?---No, I did not know him, no. I had heard of him but I did not know him; no, I did not know him. I did get a letter from this fellow.

You got a letter from him, did you?---Yes.

Talking about Aborigines, was he?---Yes; died under a quondong tree, wild peach tree, or something; yes.

Did you ever hear of that while you were at Maralinga? ---No.

Did you ever hear about the time of totem, of a black mist?---I did.

When did you first hear about that?---But I knew nothing about that; could have been while I was at Emu. It may not have been, but when I came down to Maralinga and then went back to Emu, it was - I would say that it was a form of gossip.

Let us just go over this carefully. You say that back in the 50s you did hear about a black mist, did you? ---I did hear about the black mist, but when I heard I would not like to say.

But it was while you were at Emu or Maralinga, was it? ---I do not think I heard it when I was at Emu. It was probably when I went from Maralinga up to Emu. Some of the fellows there had heard about this. I do not know. It might have come through Lenny's gang. I do not know where it came from, but anyhow it was there.

And what did you hear about a black mist? What was told to you about a black mist?---Well, the story was that the natives went blind and all sorts of things, and were really ill with this - but this was only - something I took no notice of whatsoever. It was only just, as far as I was concerned, a sort of a gossip thing. As far as I was concerned, I knew nothing of it.

What happened? Did the talk of it just die away?

---I think it has. I have not heard it for some time now. I might have heard it just very briefly in a conversation: yes, the black mist type of thing, but I did not know anything about it.

Tell me, during all this time you spent in the bush, were you aware of any epidemics of illnesses amongst the Aboriginal people?---Yes, natives have been sick and - - -

But do you remember any major epidemics, major illnesses that they suffered from?---I cannot say other than the odd native being sick.

What about measles?---No, I would not like to say that, no.

What about the flu?---No, I could not say what they had, but they were sick. Some of them were sick, yes.

Were there many Aborigines that you saw in your time in the bush who were blind?---Yes; not a great number, but I repeatedly got information from the railways - that is, from Watson, Ooldea, just along that area - where natives were putting their dirty billy cans into the fettlers tanks that were alongside, and they complained about their dirty things going into their water, you know, type of thing. I went down on a number of occasions and I picked up people who were blind. They had spears that were white, and I took them in my Land Rover back - I would not say whether it was the first tank or the second tank, but down where there was a suitable water supply, and I told the other people who were there to get back out of it, I said, because the railways - those women do not like you drinking all their water. Now, this went on not only once but a number of times, and I also got trucks - there was a truck at Maralinga driven by a sergeant from the air force who drove the truck, and we went down to Ooldea and picked up - would I say 30 natives that were camped out a bit, put them in the truck. It was a wet night and we took them down to the mission.

Tell me, did you ever hear of the black mist, apart from the gossip that you told us, from Aborigines?---No, it would not be reliable, whatever I said. No, I would say I do not know anything about that.

Did you ever hear from any Aborigines at Mabel Creek station about the black mist?---Look, I would not - I knew Mabel Creek quite well, as a matter of fact, and I knew - - -

Yes, but did you ever hear about the black mist from Aborigines?---No, I cannot say that I did. If I did - I could not say yes and I could not say no. No, I do not know - I would say no to that.

Yes?---I heard little items of gossip along the line, but I would not like to say. As a matter of fact, on TV yesterday, or on the radio - in the Advertiser this morning there was a story about it, but I know nothing other than little bits of gossip here and there, and black mist. I saw black powder, black smoke coming from even the trials. I was at KA early in the piece when the UK people were setting off trigger bombs there. They were known as trigger bombs, and we understood that they were triggers to set off big bombs. This is only gossip amongst - nobody knew. None of us were scientific in any shape or form, and I have - at KA, and I have seen the bomb go off. They would tell me to come down to lunch, and we are going to set off so-and-so at a certain time, and I could see just looking, same as you do - it would not go more than 20 feet above the ground anyway. That is the type of thing it was.

Right, thanks, Mr Murray.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr James?

MR JAMES: Mr Murray, could I show you some photographs?  
---Yes.

Before I do, could I say this: do I understand that you have had the pleasure of being interviewed by Mr Ryan, on behalf of the commission?---That is right.

And Mr Hemsley on behalf of the Australian Nuclear Veteran's Association of South Australia?---That is right.

A Mr Digby Wilson on behalf of the Department of Supply?  
---That would be - yes.

And the photos you now have are those you are left with after Mr Ryan and Mr Wilson had interviewed you?  
---Yes.

Mr Wilson I gather has considerably more of your photographs, including, as I understand it, photographs of a group of some 40 Aboriginal people?---There were some mission natives, but whether he got that, or whether he took it or whether he just put it in his bag, I do not know.

Right?---I would not like to say, but he did say to me, "I am going to take one or two items of those," he said, "I will take a copy and I will send them straight back." Well, they never came back, and what he took - I cannot recall to mind what he took.

How long ago was that?---I can tell you - it does not say there. I would say a month, five weeks ago, something like that - a month.

Might I approach, if your Honour pleases?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR JAMES: Firstly - - -?---These people you are talking about, yes.

Firstly, the photograph I now show you, does that show the Commonwealth police guard personnel, the range security headquarters and personnel?  
---I know - that is Flannery.

That shows them all does it?---Yes, I know them all.

There is an inspector in the - - -?---Yes, that is McCaughey.

That is Inspector McCaughey in the centre of the rear rank?---Yes.

Flannery in the centre of the front rank?---Yes.

Whereabouts are you?---It is an awful looking picture, is not it, but that is me there.

You are on the inspector's right-hand side?---Yes.

And who are the other personnel?---This is the clerical man on the security side.

He is on your right?---This fellow here, yes.

Who is the fellow on McCaughey's left?---I would not like to say, no, no.

This fellow on his left?---I cannot recall in my mind, no.

And the two persons on either side of Flannery? There is one somewhat older than the other?---I know his face, but I cannot recall his name.

If you cannot remember, no problems?---No, no problem.

Now, there is a photograph here of three gentlemen holding up what appear to be dingo scalps. Did you take dingo scalps whilst you were at Maralinga?---Yes.

And how much was the bounty on dingo scalps in those days? About £1 a scalp?---About £1 a scalp, I think.

And indeed on one of the nights you were there, did you get 17 in one hit?---I did, yes.

Could you rely on getting a few dingoes at least every night that you went out?---No, no, I would not say that. When I was out and camped of a night, and I was not too tired, I would put a trap 50 or 60 yards along the track and probably - if there was a dog in it, I would scalp him in the morning, and if he was not there I would just pull the trap up and take it along; but these, I cannot just call to mind, but I was instructed to catch dingoes.

Could I stop you for a sec?---Yes.

There was a Commonwealth policeman on a tower, with instructions to shoot dingoes, was there not? ---Not to my knowledge.

All right. You were instructed to trap dingoes. Was this at the same time that you were instructed to trap rabbits?---A little after, I think.

Right. Now, these three gentlemen in the photo with all the dingo scalps, who are they?---Well, I do not know who this fellow is. This fellow was - he was not there very long, but he was at Maralinga with me; we were doing the postal work in the construction days.

Right?---But I cannot just call him to mind. These scalps that I have got there - - -

Is that you in the middle?---That is me.

That is you in the middle?---Yes.

And there is a heap of scalps at your feet?---That is right.

Three of you are holding up a number of scalps?---That is right. Now, those scalps may have been caught when I was at Watson.

Right, before you went to Maralinga?---No, no, when I was stationed at Watson. I went around and about and - you know.

Did you trap dingoes in the area of the bomb explosions for the Buffalo and Antler series? Within a mile or two of the crater areas?---Yes. I will tell you where I was instructed to go out and catch dingoes, and I will tell you how it came about. They had quite a large marchoo. A big tent - - -

A marquee?---A marquee, I am sorry.

A big tent?---I am sorry.

Right?---And they would open tins of biscuits, not one but probably half a dozen tins of these biscuits - - -

Mr Murray, can I stop you?---Yes.

And suggest to you that the dingoes were knocking off the boffins lunches?---That is right. No, I would not say knocking off the lunches, no, I would not say that.

They were knocking off the food in the marquees?---When they went home at night they would have the open biscuit tins on benches, and they would have pies and pasties; and then even in the bins, the dogs would come along and tip them up and they would eat whatever was edible in there, and then they wanted me to go out and clean these dogs up.

They even got to the point where the dogs had injured the polythene - the plastic wrappers that had been put in the garbage bins, which were used to test the solubility of the fall-out in water; did they not? ---Well, that could be right, but hungry dogs would eat anything, chew anything; and I do not know anything about this plastic stuff, I probably saw it and probably did not know what it was all about.

All right?---Yes.

But you certainly embarked on the exercise of trapping dingoes within a fairly close area of the crater sites?---Yes.

Now, the dingoes that you trapped, what were they like? Did they look healthy?---Yes, there were young dogs, there was the older dog and they were in quite good nick. Some of them were very hungry looking, hollow looking. There was a second lot I went out that - in the contaminated area, I went out there. There was also a tent rigged up there, and they were - and I went and - - -

When you were trapping them in the contaminated area, what were the dingoes like - sick?---No, I do not think so, round about, some dogs were very poor and some younger dogs, of course, as a rule - I probably



should not say this - but as a rule, dingoes in that type of country - see, there were no rabbit food for them after that bomb went off, and they were hungry dogs and that is what they were doing.

Right, so they did not look too good after the bombs. But you put it down to the fact that the rabbits and the other animals and birds had disappeared for 100 mile radius?---That is right. Wait a minute, we get that radius. In a northerly - easterly - a northerly, westerly, there was no - prior to this there was great big rabbit warrens, big ones, and they were full, but after these bombs went off, there was nothing there at all.

Lots of rabbits, lots of dingoes, before the bombs - and eagles too, I take it?---There were eagles there, yes. Did I give you an eagle's nest? I had them there somewhere - - -

No, you had photos of eagles, I think?---Yes.

No, they are not with the bundle. Might I add these two photos of the security personnel and the dingo scalps to those that have been tendered?

Yes?---Now, those scalps may have been really trapped before - they may have been trapped when I was at Emu, and when I was on a - type of thing - - -

The ones in that photo may have been taken before the bomb?  
---That is right, yes.

Only one further photo. You have a photograph here - I will hand it to you - it is a copy of one of your photographs. It appears to be a view of the country taken from an aeroplane. Firstly, do you know what aeroplane it was that was taken from - what sort of aeroplane?---Yes, I do. It was the . . . . . aircraft piloted by Knight and I was on this aircraft. Now, recently that aircraft - lost aircraft was found by people photographing the area.

Right?---And then they wanted me to go out to see if I could pick up this aircraft.

What aircraft was lost?---It was a . . . . . a . . . . . I think the name of it was. Knight was the pilot.

An aircraft piloted by somebody named Knight?---Yes.

Called a . . . . . did you say, or a - - - ?---No, I think the aircraft was a . . . . . I have got photographs of it home there, a pile of them.

Right. When was it lost? Roughly what year - 56, 57?  
---Somewhere about there. I just cannot call to  
mind exactly when it was, you know.

And was the aircraft that you took that photograph from  
searching for that aircraft?---That is right.

It was - do you know what height it was flying at?---I would  
say they were flying at - I would not have any idea  
of height. I suppose I looked down, but I was  
looking down all the way. Say 2000 feet. Might  
have been 1000 feet. I do not know.

Right. Was the photograph taken out of the bomb bay of the  
aircraft? Out of the bottom of the aircraft, or  
out of a side window, or what?---No, look, I could  
not tell you - I do not even know.

But that photograph was to - illustrates, does it not, how  
able you might have been able to see, out of a  
searching aircraft, people or aircraft on the  
ground?---Well, the country that that aircraft was  
lost in was a pretty rough sort of a country, and  
I went through on this aircraft to see if I could  
advise the pilot of this aircraft, looking for  
the - and he went in a direction, turned around,  
and came back in a zigzag fashion.

Right?---And we were travelling along, and he was the pilot  
there and I was sitting here, and there was two in  
the back seat, and I said, "There it is, over there."

Is that fairly typical of the country heading north and west  
of Maralinga?---Yes, that is right.

So I do not seek to add that to the tender?---But I have got  
some photographs of that sand, much more difficult  
than what that is.

That is not a bad area?---That - no, it is - no. But it is  
fairly bad to get over there - fairly high, if you  
understand, you know - to go in a northerly  
direction.

You have received no result on your compensation claim?  
---Pardon?

You have received no result on your compensation claim?  
---No, I have not. I - there was a - what did I  
do here? No, I never got - I do not know that -  
the medical doctor, the Commonwealth medical doctor,  
he examined me and told me to put in for compensation.  
That is 12 or so months ago

Was something said about your white blood cell that - - - ?  
---That is right.

Your blood cell count being either elevated or depressed?

---Yes. There was something I did not know, that - there - a vast difference in the readings.

Right?---The last time I went there, it was an awful reading, and I had the - - -

Was something said about that being due to your bone marrow having problems?---It could be; I do not know. I said to them - I said: this trouble I am having, this bone ache and pain and so on, I said, in this blood business, would it be anything to do with Maralinga? They said: well, we do not know, but it is possible. And that is all I know about it.

Now, you have told us about the animals disappearing - - - ?  
---Animals - - - ?

Disappearing after the bomb?---Yes, that is right - dead right, yes.

Did you find any dead animals?---No, I did not.

When you were trapping the rabbits, did you trap rabbits that had ulcerated faces, eye problems - looked as though they were unhealthy rabbits?---No. I mean, there could be that myxomatosis in there, but - no, no, I never saw them. No.

Did you ever have any discussion with Harry Turner about the things that you should look for as problems in the animals that you saw?---I do not think so, no.

Any discussion about diseased kangaroos at Woomera, and whether or not - in fact, at this time there was drought throughout the area, so that you could expect kangaroos to have scaly patches, hair falling out, and to look very ill?---Well, I have been watching kangaroos in droughts - and big droughts, too - when I was in the railways, they would even sneak along and they would get in a culvert going under the railway, and you could go in and out and they would not even get out of that. They were starved for food and water; that is the only thing that I - there was people did say - I have not got a great deal of memory of this sort of gossiping stuff, but they had caught rabbits down Watson way somewhere that had two ears and three ears or some rubbish like that, but I have never ever seen anything like that.

I merely want to suggest this to you, about the whole of the animals; before the bomb, everything seemed all right?---They were good, yes.

Right. After the bomb, they seemed ill, when you could find

them?---They disappeared, definitely, at - I would say up to as far as Emu and probably beyond Emu, too, I do not know - but not so far south. They were just a little north of the railway, where there was rabbits.

That joke that you have told us about, you being told that you would never be fired or dismissed - indeed, that you were used as a guinea-pig - that was even taken a bit further than that, was it not? Were not - - - ? ---Well -I can tell you another one - I think it was only a joke or some made-up stuff. Remember when I caught the rabbits and the bones were sent to UK, and then I caught dogs; their bones were not sent to the UK, as far as I - but probably at a dinner party or something, not that I ever drank very much, but they did say to me: if something happened to you, your bones will go to the - go to the UK, too. Now, this was only a joke, on my part, as a - - -

Who was it that said that?---Well, I would not like to say. Probably the chappies that - I knew most of them that were having a drink.

Right?---If I was called in - they could probably tell you this, I do not know - but there would be some drinking, and some problem of a few punches thrown: where is Tom Murray? They always pulled me out of bed. The peace officer on duty, he did not want to interfere, and I would go in, and quite a few times I went into the bars, and all I done was looked at them and never spoke to them. And that stopped. They were quite obedient, as a matter of fact.

Mr Murray, the - there was a group of Aboriginals that perished, much further to the west, was there not? A substantial group of Aboriginals?---Yes. They are the people that I had. Yes.

Right?---You have got the - I think you have got the slides there, somewhere.

Right. No, I have not. Mr Wilson, I think, got those, did he not? Or the Department of Supply?---I had about 20 or 30 slides to bring in, and I thought, well, you will all have them in there, so I will not bother with them.

Well, were these people people who had come from Ooldea?---No, they never.

Right. Whereabouts had they come from, and how did they come to die?---They were the desert native that are around the Serpentine Lake and in that area there, and they eventually got in closer, and this is when

I got McCauley to get these natives to use their influence and their language and get them to move back and stay back.

Right?---But what happened to them, they would not go. I wanted to take them down to Yalata mission.

Yalata?---The older lady was a Koothetta woman - - -

Koothetta?---Koothetta, not a Kokotha, a Koothetta - tribe.

Right?---And when she was young, she committed some tribal offence between Port Augusta and Ooldea - somewhere in that area - and then she went bush and she got mixed up with this man that she was with now, and she has been - and she would never go back to Ooldea. I said: look, I can take you back to Ooldea, told them - no. But then they decided they would like to go to Cundelea, way into Western Australia, Zanthus area, and evidently they went, when McCauley told them to move back a bit, they - and Lenny Beadell's Road, they followed that road, and then they - and when you go into that station country, and they are putting baits, they will always put notices on trees alongside the road: strychnine baits laid. Well, those poor natives could not read, and they might have been hungry, they might have even been thirsty, and they might have picked up some of those baits; and then again, they might have perished. But then, that was three of them, the two elder ones and the little boy, elder boy. But then the younger - the two younger, - or the younger woman and then the girl, and the little boy, they came back from that area - - -

Right?---And they got out of it, and they buried themselves in sand, in the real hot day, and they got back to a service camp that - north of Ooldea, down from Warburton Mission, where Lenny Beadell's Road crossed there, and they were putting in some station there - I forget the name of it at the moment.

That is how we got the story of the others perishing?---Yes, well, they perished, and that is what happened, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, well, I think it is time for an adjournment. We will adjourn till 2 o'clock.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

MR McCLELLAN: Just before Mr James starts and asks you some more questions, I think you have had the chance of looking at that statement over lunch, have you?---Yes, I have had a look at this.

I think you have satisfied yourself that, with the changes you have now made to it, the statement is true and correct?---Yes.

And you have signed it?---Yes.

I tender the statement if it can be marked 148?---The wording, as I mentioned, is a little bit different, but it is fair enough all the same.

It is okay, is it?---Yes.

We will mark it RC148. Together with it we can place the photographs that have been tendered this morning.

MR JAMES: If I might approach you, we have one more photograph which apparently shows some sort of joking incident. There is a box on the back of the truck with a big padlock attached to it?---That is right.

I think it is you holding the padlock?---That is right.

And a sign saying, "Yea, it's alive"?---That is right.

On the right hand side, is that the range commander, Brigadier Durance?---That is right.

Colonel Durance?---That is Penfold. This is the range commander here.

The range commander on the left and who is that?---I cannot think of his name - I know him quite well.

He is wearing what appears to be a crutch of some sort?  
---Yes.

To his upper arm, with a metal crutch with a clasp around it. Was that a person named Dale?---I have forgotten a lot of these fellows - there were so many of them. This was quite a big joke. We were going to lock him up - never locked him up, but I got up there with a key just to make a story of it.

You have mentioned Frank Moffatt?---Yes.

When you were at Emu did you and Frank Moffatt patrol through the area that had been the subject of the Emu blasts?---Yes, not - we circled the bomb site itself, yes.

Did you carry your water with you in a canteen?---Yes.

I gather there was an occasion when Moffatt drove over the top of the canteen and the canteen was injured?  
---That is quite possible - I just cannot remember. I remember we did - went some distance, 10 miles radius around this and we had a lunch and that might have been when he ran over the canteen of water, or something like that.

You carried your water on these patrols and even when you were in the forward area from Maralinga in a hessian water bag on the front of the vehicle, did you not?---No. I had a water bag there, but - in other areas out in the bush, say on horseback, or something of the sort, you always had a canvas water bag, but on this patrol job I had plastic four-gallon cans of - - -

Cans of water?---Yes. Excuse me for waving my arms about but that is the way I talk, I think.

You have mentioned the three of you who were at Emu - Sergeant Moffatt and another chap. Would the other chap's name be Brennan?---Yes, Brennan - he was a sergeant.

And he was a Scotsman who eventually returned to Woomera and died in Andamooka?---That is right, yes.

I think his sister's husband had also been a member of the peace officer guard?---Yes - Brennan - he was the sergeant at Woomera and he came up to Emu after the bombs went off and then, as you said, something happened and he left the job and went over to the Andamooka opal field. Then there was a Mitchell there after that in my time.

You have described being at the KA area. Did you know that as the Kittens area?---Yes.

You have described seeing explosions or fires with a thick black smoke; is that right?---No, I cannot say that I saw thick black smoke, but I did see a discolouration when the bomb went off. They were only small bombs; they were only trigger bombs, small bombs and at KA I knew when this was going to go off and I looked out and saw this as a very - - -

Would you describe it as rather like adding rubber tyres to a fire?---No, it would not be as dense as that, no - much lighter than that.

Smoky rather than black?---Yes, a little bit - I would not say it was black altogether - it was a little bit

brownish or darkish or something of the sort,  
just a small - that an explosion had gone off.

You were a security officer at the KA area, I think, until you were replaced by a guard serviceman who breached security; do you recall that?---I was there when they originally started the trigger bombs at KA. When they had completed their trials I then went to Watson, that is, the postmaster - was looking after the post office, put it that way, during the Kwinana Construction days.

You then went back to KA?---I then went back after that - I cannot say exactly when, but I did go back to KA when there was another trial on and I did patrol to make sure that nobody went into - they had a line of demarcation - I would not call it a fence - it was - that nobody was to go in and it was my position to go out to make sure that nobody did go in when they left the place.

The only people who were allowed in were English?---They were English, yes.

No Australians allowed into that area; is that right?---I do not think so, no - no Australians to my knowledge. I think they were all English people. I got - are the photographs there? I had photographs of them.

Photographs of the Kittens area?---Yes.

No, I do not think we have any, but presumably they might be with the ones you gave to Mr Digby?---I do not know about gave, but I let them have a look at it and they said they were going to take a copy of them and send them back, but it does not matter much, I do not think.

Mr Digby Wilson, I think. You had a portion of time on duty in the towers near Roadside?---That is right.

Your job was to look out for what could be seen - native, animal, trapper. Did you come across any trappers in the area at any stage?---No.

Why did you expect trappers in the area?---The area - before the bombs went off, the area was full of rabbits and trappers - and sending them down here to Adelaide, I think, for some rabbit - - -

Meat?---Yes, I suppose, I do not know, but after the bombs went off there were no trappers in there, but way north of Emu and way west of that I had an eye on all trappers and told them they were not to come in any closer.



There were a number of trappers up and around that area through 1956 to 1957?---That is right.

Did you ever hear the story that Aboriginal people would be persuaded to move west out of the area by putting quantities of clothing on mountain ranges heading west progressively more and more to sort of lure them out of the prohibited area?---No. I put some food out to lure them out, but I do not know of any clothing. I tell you what I have got - clothing found by somebody - there was a singlet, a native man had on and it was not as long as it should have been, but anyway, it was found. Where he found it and how he got it I do not know.

So, one Aboriginal person was found wearing a short singlet?  
---Yes.

That is the only credence you can attach to the story that it was sought to chase people west or lure them west with clothing?---That is right.

Did anyone ever discuss with you the presence of people in the area who had made their presence known by the fires they were lighting at dawn?---What was that again - sorry?

Did anyone ever discuss with you there were Aboriginal people in the area and it was possible from the air patrols to work out they were there because they could see the fires when they did the dawn patrol?---Well, there was an aircraft flying around looking for an aircraft that was lost and there were some burnt patches and I was sent out to have a look, inspect the burnt patches to see if there were any natives about there and I got bitten by a snake on that finger in the effort, but there was no natives about then.

Would you agree that the desert people, the spinifex people, if they wanted to remain out of sight would not have had much of a problem doing it?---No, they could hide without any trouble at all. I will tell you how they would do it. They would go from spinifex to spinifex type of thing, you know, type of thing. They could cover their tracks. I will tell you what they would do and I have seen this, too: if natives were going to cross a track, they would throw grass into the centre of the track, for instance, and they would go from that to that and then over the side. They would then flick that away with a spear, or whatever it might be, but then that does not cover their tracks approaching that - do you see what I mean?

I think you believe that what has been said before his death by Mr Jack Burke about the finding of two

or three dead natives to be what you have described as the people that were found near the Marcoo crater?---That is right. They claimed these people were in that hole, but they were not there - I inspected that. I even took an inspector to it. There was nobody there.

You believe what Mr Burke has talked about and what you saw are the same thing?---Yes.

Is there any possibility they could be two entirely separate incidents?---No, they could not be.

Why not?---Number one, there would be no Marcoo hole for a start.

I am sorry, I do not understand?---Well, we will say, for instance, that the one that Mr Burke had mentioned was incorrect, which I claim was, but then there was the second one - there could have been a Marcoo hole somewhere else that these natives - no, I will not have that at all.

What I am suggesting to you is there might have been two incidents happening at different times?---What, at this particular hole?

Yes?---No. I will tell you why, because the peace officer on the tower watching the forward area would then see if there was any movement and I would have gone in to have a look, for sure.

But he, up on that tower, was prevented from seeing in quite a few directions by the various rises in the land, was he not? Was that not why they put a special road in?---When you are talking road, there were roads everywhere. There was a road that went up to Taranaki. There was a road that went up on the eastern side, the western side, and there were tracks that went in - - -

But the peace officer up in the tower, there was quite a bit of dead ground into which he could not see whilst he was up in the tower looking over the forward area, particularly to the north; is that not so? ---No. I will tell you what - beyond north of that he would not see that far, but what he would be seeing is the immediate radioactive ground, put it that way.

The area of what, about half a mile or so north beyond the Marcoo site?---Yes, probably a little more than half a mile, but he would see out into that ground raised up. There were towers, there was One Tree. There was Marcoo. There was Taranaki, Biak. For any of those bombs that went off they could cover all that if anybody went into that particular area. Quite a few of the service people went in more-or-less examining this, what damage had been done with the bombs on the particular vehicles and whatever may have been placed there when the bomb went off to see what damage.

Do you recall a man Jones from the Commonwealth Department of Supply?---Who?

Jones?---Jones of Supply?

Yes?---I can remember a security man, yes.

He went to check on the finding of the natives that you have told us about, that McAnley wrote about in the Adelaide Advertiser, people he said he met on the boundary of the prohibited area. Does that ring a bell? Let me put this passage to you. There was an article by McAnley. Do you know a man called McAnley? Do you know about natives being seen on the boundary of the Maralinga area who were fed for a couple of days waiting for a native patrol to come and tell them to go back, and the man that found them rang you and got you to go out?---This is on Lake Macquarie, way over on that side, was it?

It may well be. You went out and you have got some slides of those people?---That is right.

Or you had some slides?---I was the chap that rang up the patrol from Woomera to come over and have a word with these people to get them back because they could handle their language better than I could.

Right. This is when you rang McCauley and got him to come and speak?---Yes, that is right, McCauley.

These are the Lake Wyola people?---Yes.

Mr Jones, I think, from the Commonwealth Department of Supply came out and saw those people?---Mr Jones?

Do you recall that?---I saw a security officer called Jones, went out with me and it was a very bad trip and I had to take him out of the vehicle and damp him down and cool him off to get him over it. It was a bad trip for him. It was a trip - what could we say - a clerical man could not go out on those

trips without first some training or some exercise, because he was in a bad way, this Jones - a very fine man, too. He was a security man.

I think you knew also of the cemetery near the airstrip, the burial ground for various drums of material, did you not?---Yes.

You saw those drums, or did you see those drums getting buried?---Yes.

I think you were told not to let anyone in and not to say anything about them?---I suppose I was. I did not tell anybody, but it depends on which hole you are talking about. The one at the airfield?

Yes?---The drums came in and was put into this hole during the night.

What, the drums were flown in?---Yes.

And they were put in the hole at night?---That is right.

And you were told to keep it quiet?---Probably was, I do not know.

That was very near where they had been washing the planes down, was it not?---Yes, around the corner, that is where the dirty planes were being washed.

That is where Mr Burke was?---That is right.

You were asked in your evidence-in-chief, whether you had heard about an incident of finding three decomposed Aboriginal bodies in a quondong tree?---Yes.

And Mr Toon, and you said you did not hear about this while at Maralinga. Do I understand that before Kwinana started the building, there was a big limestone quarry at Watson and ballast was taken out of there to build the railway line?---That is right, yes.

And after the quarry was closed, it was then that the incident came with the three decomposed bodies in the quondong tree?---That is right. Wait a minute, there was no decomposed bodies outside - - -

There was a native and two lubras who went there?---That is right, down in the hole.

And he got ill and he died?---Yes.

That was at Watson?---Watson, yes.

They could not dig a hole to bury them so they trussed the bodies - tied them up - and where did they put them?---The South Australian police officer from Tarcoola, he came up to this incident. It was probably reported from the railway fettleers, a gang, or whoever it was, and he came up and said to the lubras, he said: you could not dig a hole in this hard stone, but the face of the quarry was something like, I would say 12 to 20 feet high and at the bottom of this face there was loose grill stuff that - - -

Loose shale type?---Yes, stuff that had been in the explosion and it was up about 5 feet, probably 6 feet, and it came down, and this police officer then dug the hole after the body was trussed up, dug a hole and that is where the native corpse was put in there.

About 5 foot up a rock wall, I gather?---No, along the floor really. It was dug in this - this grill along the wall really.

Do you believe that that is what Mr Toon was referring to?  
---I would say so, yes, but there was no natives under this wild peach tree or whatever tree he found because I had walked about and driven about there setting traps while I was at Watson.

This is around the Watson area?---Yes.

So you do not believe there were any native tree burials around that area?---No, I am positive there was not, because I knew the mission natives so well, there were so many of them that came in there that they would have told me that this had happened.

Of course if they were not mission natives would that change the position?---They were all mission natives that came in there.

No people coming down out of the desert?---No.

The small pellet material, was that iron stuff that you were looking for? Did you think it was iron?---Well yes, you mean the stuff that I had picked up and put in a matchbox type of thing?

Yes?---It burnt very similar to a blacksmith's shop where the anvil is where you belt it with a heated iron and shale comes off.

Like little droplets of scaly metal?---Yes.

Did you discuss what it was with Harry Turner?---I cannot discuss what it was but I did explain it reminded me very much of a blacksmith's anvil, around the anvil of a - - -

Did he mention the word plutonium to you?---I have got an idea, but I have heard this word since.

So you do not know whether he did or not - you have an idea he did?---He came with me or at least I had to go out with him when he had this instrument trying to find this stuff.

How did he go? Did he find any?---He never said that he did.

He never said that he did not either?---No. What I found I found with my naked eye and I will tell you what I did do even on the way out, I made sure for quite a long while after that, if I put my swag down of a night to camp, that I had a good look where the swag was going to be. I was not going to put my swag on top of that to get this radiation come up through. I did not know anything about it. This was the precautions I was taking.

This happened in about 1961?---That is right, somewhere about there.

Whereabouts was it that you found this stuff in relation to any of the craters?---I tell you what, it was around about the Marcoo, One Tree, in that area around there.

If I might approach you for a second. That is to say, fairly close to Tadge - you see Tadge here between Marcoo and One Tree?---Yes, somewhere in that area. It might have been out a little while, out about - I cannot remember just. Marcoo, there was the two towers went up there and I think that might have been the site that I looked more closely around - - -

You are now indicating the area between Marcoo and One Tree north of Tadge, is that right?---Well, I found several pieces of it, two or three. I cannot just remember how many. Some were very small, but it was definitely that burnt iron sort of stuff.

Some was small molten globule-type things?---Yes.

Some was quite big?---I tell you what. I picked up one was about a grain of rice. Probably not as big as that, but then there was other - one in particular was - I do not know what to say now, as big as my small fingernail, I suppose, something like that, but not as thick, thinner than that.

I think your early history, in your early history, you had worked as a well-sinker, a fencer?---I was, yes.

You had pursued a number of occupations in the bush. Done any prospecting?---Well, I suppose I was prospecting

all the time for something that might turn up, a nugget of gold or something, but I cannot say that I ever went out, you know, digging.

You think you might have made a report about this material for the benefit of future long range patrol officers and left it at Maralinga?---Well, I have been asked if I have got any reports. Now, when this show closed down to the extent I made an application if I could transfer from the police to the Department of Supply type of thing, and they said: no, you cannot, you wait. When I turned 60, I was finished. What was it now they wanted?

Did you make a report about the finding of this material to the security section?---All right, the report. Now when that show finished I gathered up all the reports that were in the Commonwealth Police office - I think there was two bundles. One bundle went into one box and another bundle of them went into another box and I would say they went down to Salisbury. They might have come here to Adelaide for all I know.

But in your report about this, did you not say that it was important people leave these little pellets alone if they find them?---I have got an idea that there were words to that effect. Probably told me also.

That was because of what you heard from Mr Turner about the nature of the pellets?---Yes.

Was there ever water in the Marcoo crater?---No.

Gathered, collected in the bottom of the dished effect?---Not to my knowledge. I had many looks, quite a number of looks in the Marcoo and I never saw any water.

You were first told you had a low white cell count after you had gone with the bladder trouble off the range? ---Well, this UK medical man did tell me he had been advised of blood abnormality, but he did not say where he got it and I do not think I ever asked him where he got it.

This is after you got back to the range after your prostate trouble?---This is before I left. I would say it might have been two years before I finished and I would have been 65.

1965?---Something like that, but he did tell me, I can explain fully to you. He did say: how long have you been here, what age are you, and he said: "You take my tip and get out of it." This is when he mentioned this blood abnormality, and I had a house to pay for then and I stopped there a while longer.

You had this photograph of the Marcoo explosion that has already been tendered in evidence. Did you have photographs of the other explosions that you gave to Mr Digby Wilson?---I had some explosions there, some with K-A, but they were there, I had them in a bundle. There they are, we will have a look at this, we will have a look at that. Apparently they put them to one side - I do not know, I had no great interest in them. Once I was finished with the place I was finished and that was all there was to it. I gave them any photos that were there. They could have a look at it. I understand what they wanted to have a look at they copied and sent them all back to me which I thought, that is fair enough, you have still got them there. I have still got them here though it does not matter much.

That, I think, was Mr Hemsley who got those last lot from you?---Yes, he was the best man we had there. He was a lawyer as far as I remember.

He gave you back the originals?---When he came, I said: are you the fellow who is getting \$800 a day? I only said it as a joke - excuse me for saying that.

Whilst you were engaged in your Emu patrols, were the people from Maralinga coming up from Maralinga and acquiring portions of the equipment and stores left at Emu?---That is right. There were a number of times that I went to Emu from Maralinga after what you call him - Moffatt had gone, and there was quite a number of - there was UK people - I would say half a dozen people there, and I had to advise when they were going to - to suggest they would take this and they would take that - that one would go through Coober Pedy and this lot here would be picked up and go down to the railway, and I would let them know at headquarters what was going on, you know.



Was there ever a suggestion of which you were aware that this stuff might have been contaminated?---No, not at Emu - no, not to any great extent.

You did not hear that the troops were upset at the idea that this stuff might be contaminated and would be used at Maralinga where it could affect people?---Mind you, some of that stuff did come from Emu down to Maralinga and it was put in certain spots before an explosion to see what effect that would have on that - I do not know - but this is how it was distributed around the place, you know.

Used, in effect, for target response rather than for people to live in?---Pardon?

It does not matter - I will withdraw that?---No, but since I left, while you mention huts to live in, that was still there when I left, but I understand the natives had gone in there, or some of that, and they had taken that, or something - I do not know - but that is since my time. I cannot let you know that.

What, the natives had come in and taken, what, things like tractors and driven off into the sunset?---No, there could have been - there were all sorts of things buried. There were trucks buried; there were tractors buried; there were all sorts of things in deep holes. If I was fit enough now I could take you, not to Roadside but Deacons Well or down to 43 Mile, and there was one hole as big as this, deeper than this. This was the first one that I saw early in the piece and I would say that there were tons - I would say two tons - probably I could be exaggerating - one ton, I would say, of lead shot and all sorts of things dumped into that hole and then it was just covered over and I was about the only one who ever knew there was a hole there.

Where did the lead shot come from?---I do not know. It came from the UK, as far as I know.

Whilst you were present during the series, did you ever become aware of any suggestions that the firing of the major tests or any one of those tests had gone wrong in some way - the fall-out, for instance, the in-close fall-out had gone in the wrong direction; the wind direction had not been right, or something of that kind?---No, I cannot remember that, but I will tell you what I can remember. They were to go off at a certain time on a certain date and the breeze was in a northerly direction and half an hour or even less than that before there was an altered wind change and it was cancelled from that date to another date, or the next day, or some day. This is the only thing I know about them, you know.

ere you ever aware of two of the shots, two or more of the shots, being fired when the prevailing wind at ground zero was east, north-east rather than north?  
---No, I have got my very doubts - if the wind was not as they wanted it, it would be cancelled and it would be blown north away from everything - no.

You understood that all shots were to be fired when the wind was in the north?---In the correct direction, yes.

Nobody suggested to you that there had been firings when the wind was to the east, north-east. Indeed, bearing in mind what you know about it, you could not believe that they had done any of the firings while the wind was to the east, north-east?---I would be surprised if there was a firing when the wind was in the wrong direction - that is the only thing.

I have nothing further of this witness.

MR EAMES: Mr Turner, just a couple of questions, low budget ones. Do you recall a person called Peter Press at Maralinga; he was one of the Commonwealth Police, was he?---Yes.

You were saying before that there were people on towers who, if they had seen Aboriginals coming into the area, would have let you know. Could I see if this refreshes your memory of an incident? Mr Press has given a statement to the commission and he says that he was up there in 1958 and he says that in 1958 on one occasion he was keeping watch on the Rainbow Tower. Whereabouts exactly was the Rainbow Tower?---I knew the Rainbow Tower was there, but which one they call Rainbow Tower I cannot remember. There were several towers - two towers along there. The Commonwealth Police would have to - even an inspector, if there was something that he could not get a police officer on, he would do it himself. As a matter of fact, I have seen - what is his name - Inspector Coombe go up there and I said, "What are you doing up here?" and he said, "I could not get anybody else to come here." He said, "You can stop here." I said, "I cannot stop here - I am going." How I remember it so well, he had his lunch - it was wrapped in newspaper and there was something in there that I was going to read - I forget what it was all about - and I went to turn it and the vegetable skins or the fruit skins or something tipped up. He said, "Get out and go and do your job." He was a good man, Coombe, there was no doubt about it.

Can I read to you what Peter Press says about one incident. He said, "I only saw one group of Aboriginals, which was a family of four . . . . . These are a different group.

Does that refresh your memory? Do you recall an incident - - -?---I remember Peter Press, yes. I can remember him being on a tower. As a matter of fact, I have an idea that he shot a dingo up there and I said, "You give me that rifle and take it back and do not bring it here any more."

Is it possible that there was such an incident - you just cannot recall it now?---There - if there had been - these natives that we are talking about that Mr Burke - - -

Sorry, I did not mean to confuse you by that. He is saying that had nothing to do with Jack Burke's story. He is just talking about a group of Aborigines, an entirely different group, which he saw walking into the area and let you know?---No.

Is it possible that his recollection might be a bit more precise on that than your own?---I would say that he would not be. I will tell you what, I still owe Peter Press half price of a dingo scalp, but he shot this dingo and I said, "Get me the scalp and I will send it down and I will give you half price" type of thing. Anyhow - - -

There is a back way out after you finish your evidence, if you like?---He got into some squabble somewhere along the line and they decided out for Peter Press. That is about all I can tell you about him.

Can I take you back to the incident you have talked about, about the people at Marcoo crater that you eventually took back to Yalata. If I might just ask you a couple of questions. At lunch-time I gave you some documents and asked you if you could have a look at those. Do you still have those there? ---Yes, but I did not have time to have a look at them.

Could I take you to one which is a report by yourself dated 16 May 1957 written to the deputy superintendent peace officer of Adelaide. I think it might be the first page?---Is that the first page, is it - 16 May 1957? Is that it? I have not read it, anyhow.

Yes, that is the one. You will see your signature on the second page there. Could I just read to you the first paragraph and see if this assists your memory:

At 10 am 14 May 1957 I received a message that a party of natives  
. . . . . Mr Turner stated  
that the natives were free of  
contamination.

You said earlier today that you did not recall Mr Turner being there. Is it possible, having seen your report there, which was written a couple of days after the incident, that it may well have been that Mr Turner was the person that you first saw when you got there?---He could have been there and I never saw him, but I did not see him - at least I cannot remember him being there - I think that would be the best - - -

You notice it says there, leaving aside the name for a moment, but it suggests when you arrived at the caravan the people were being tested by someone from health physics - you say here Mr Turner. Do you have any recollection that they were actually being tested when you arrived?---Not to my knowledge they were not.

Is it possible that that was the case, that 30 years later - - - ?  
---I would say it is not possible, that I would have been there long before Turner got there, anyway.

Then you go in the second paragraph, speaking of Mr White, the security officer, and you say that you transported the people to the XA area to await further advice and then Mr White advised the authorities had decided to remove the natives from the area and to transport them to Colona and hand them over to the Tallawan Mission and you say Mr White came with you and you say:

An interpreter ascertained the following information -

Does that suggest you had some difficulty yourself in communicating with them? I take it your knowledge of languages would have been of southern languages rather than languages from the northern area; would that be right?---Yes, probably - yes. I do not know just what - under directions from Mr White - I do not know who Mr White is. Is Mr White a security officer?

Security officer, yes?---I did not agree with all security officers. It says "security officer" -- yes, all right. It says:

I transported the party of four natives, father, mother and two piccaninnies, to block XA.

This is what I have just explained that came - - -

I am just going through your report. The point I am making is that you suggest here that an interpreter was obtained to ascertain information from the people.

Can you recall who the interpreter was at Tallawan Mission that you used?---The only interpreter that could question these natives that I knew was when I got to the mission station.

At Yalata?---Yes.

Was that an Aboriginal person used as an interpreter?---Yes.

So, was the situation that prior to getting to Yalata there was a real possibility that there might have been some miscommunications?---I do not know about the communication, but there was no stoppage - it simply went straight on, on, on and on.

Yes, but in terms of you being certain what they were saying, they being certain what you were saying, for example, was there some doubt in your mind which led you to get an interpreter when you arrived at Yalata to make sure?---No, not really. I never questioned these natives at all other than: you came from that station - I cannot remember the name of it now and they could not speak English, these people, but when I got, as I have already explained, to the mission there was a native fellow that I knew and he was sort of in charge of the whole show - not the missionary himself, but as far as the natives go, and I told him to question these natives and find out whether they would be accepted here. This is the only thing - - -

Was it Mr Dutschke that you saw?---Yes, Dutschke, he was the missionary, was he not?

Yes, he was with the mission. He was on the pastoral property side?---On the pastoral property.

Yes?---I knew him - when I say knew him, I met him, but the missionary was a man that you, me and I - - -

Was that Pastor Temme, was it?---That is right, and I took a load of stuff - I said to the people at Maralinga, "If you have any spare clothing, spare blankets, shove them in a bag and I will take them down to Ooldea and I will get the mission natives to come" - I do not know how many, but there might have been half a dozen, because I had quite a load on my old Land Rover and they were quite pleased to get it.

You said that the drive down was a pretty bad one with the people being very sick. I suppose from time to time on other occasions you had transported Aboriginal people in your vehicles, had you?---That is right.

It would be the case, would it not, on a number of occasions that you transported people who had also never been

in a motor vehicle before?---I do not know -  
most of those were around the mission station -  
they would have a ride, for sure, but anyhow,  
nevertheless - - -

Is it possible that the people, when they were being sick,  
that they may have been sick for reasons other  
than or not just solely because of the drive of  
the motor vehicle?---I would say that people that  
were put into a Land Rover like that and who had  
never been in there before, most of them, natives  
in particular, would have been sick. I mean, it  
was something - I do not know, but anyhow, they  
were sick.

If you do not know, I suppose that is as far as it can go?  
---What they ate, I do not know. We gave them  
good food at LA.

We have been told by one other person at Pom Pom at the time  
when these Aboriginal people were brought in, that  
the Aboriginal man indicated they were feeling sick  
from the water, that there was something wrong  
with the water that they had been drinking?---Never  
said it to me.

Well, is it possible they might have said it to other people?  
I take it you were not in on all of the conversations  
at all times?---Well, I was at LA when the security  
fellows came over and I told them to check and see  
and anyhow I said if they are all clear I will take  
them down to the mission. If they are not, it is  
up to you. Where will we take them - this is how  
it turned out.

Did Sergeant Smith do some questioning of the people - do you  
remember Frank Smith?---Frank Smith, I can remember  
Frank Smith, yes.

Was Sergeant Smith involved in questioning the people at the  
caravan, or near the caravan?---I would say no.

You say that definitely or is that - - -?---Yes, I would say  
definitely, because I knew Frank Smith.

Why do you say definitely? Do you say because you did not  
observe him or that that is not the sort of thing  
he would have done?---If I had known any of the  
people that were there and they were talking to  
them, I would have questioned them.

Is that because no one else had any language at all?---No,  
and Smith, I am sure, never had any Pitjantjatjara  
language either, so it does not matter much.

Just going back to your own statement, you said that after  
describing what happened at Ernabella Mission,  
at the end of the page it says they were bush  
natives, they had very little contact with civilized  
natives. Then, over the page you say, a more  
precise interrogation carried out by Mr White  
and Mr Temme, superintendant of the mission, and  
I feel Mr White will give any further detail if  
required, was Mr White, in your opinion able to  
communicate with the Aboriginal people?---I cannot  
recall this White to mind, as a matter of fact, I  
do not know.

Could I just take you to another report from Harry Turner  
dated 18 May, a couple of days after your own, and  
ask you to comment on it, and also on some reports

by Sergeant Smith. Mr Turner says this about the incident - he describes it at being at 1000 hours on 14 May. The party of engineers in the charge of Captain Marqueursighted a family group of natives. So he goes on, and then he says, after recording the matter by radio to base and indicating for them to remain there, Captain Marqueur handed over to Sergeant Smith of the Health Physics group who had arrived at about 10.20. Sergeant Smith and Mr D. Small then looked after the group until the Health Physics representative arrived with Flight Lieutenant Goldsworthy at about 10.45. Could I ask you, do you recall Sergeant Smith and Mr D. Small being there on this occasion?---No.

Do you recall Flight Lieutenant Goldsworthy being there?

---I cannot call him to mind at the moment, but as I have already said, these natives were brought down to the LA area and then the security people come and checked them to see what reading was on them and as far as Frank Smith - Sergeant Frank Smith from Health Physics, I did not even know Frank was in Health Physics. The most important man that was in there outside Turner was a fellow called - a Western Australian chap - and I have forgotten his name for the moment.

Could I take you quickly on to a bit more of this. Mr Turner says the people were monitored from head to foot with a counter, a 10.21 as it was called - this was at the caravan. You do not recall seeing any of that?---It could have been checked at LA, not the caravan at all.

Are you saying there was definitely no check conducted at the caravan, or it could have all happened before you got there?---It was not before I got there, that is for sure, because I was there as soon as they were there, more or less, within 20 minutes.

You have described to us you were the person who actually did the washing of all four of them?---That is right, I did.

That was of all four of the people, was it?---Well, yes. There was a man, there was a woman, there was a boy and I have got an idea there was a smaller child. Going back that far, but anyhow that is as near as I can get it.

They all washed together in the same cubicle?---They were in the group there.



Can I just read to you what Mr Turner records:

The boy was then persuaded to shower in the caravan. He was thoroughly washed by Mr D. Small, who paid particular attention to the boy's hair.

?---No.

That is incorrect?---Yes.

Further:

At the conclusion of the operation, the boy was a new person . . . . . the father then washed the daughter.

Is that how you recall it?---No, that is incorrect.

Further:

The mother was content with just washing her hair.

Do you recall that?---I am sorry, but that is incorrect.

Further:

The process of monitoring and washing was accomplished surprisingly well . . . . . to security, who evacuated them from the area.

You see, it is suggested that the showering was done in the Health Physics caravan and then they were passed over to you and security?---No.

Do not misunderstand me, I am not attacking you for it?---I was the man that suggested we use your showers in the caravan, and they said yes. I was the one that went in and I got a bigger shower than what they got, out anyhow. The people you are talking about now, I do not know who they were. I think they were gawking in through the day to see how I was washing these natives down. I do not know, it did not matter to me. I mean, I have seen so many hundreds of nude natives in the territory that one nude native would not bat an eye-lid with me.

I think you said you would not expect Sergeant Smith to be able to communicate with Aboriginal people at that time: is that right?---If it is the same Sergeant Smith that I would know, I would say Smith probably would not.

ould I just read on? It says:

It was found that the family group had camped overnight at a position given by Sergeant Smith as being 328 yards . . . . . but could not be traced very far.

Just stopping there, you were telling us this morning you understood the tracks to be from the north east, did you?---That is when I first - up at the end of the grid, that is where I first struck the tracks, yes.

It goes on:

No native tracks could be found crossing any of the roads that surround the area . . . . . approach was from the north west.

Do you say there were native tracks that were on the road surrounding the area?---There were tracks on the corner of the 25-mile grid. There were tracks on the road; there were tracks off the road, and there was also tracks at Punthener Well, which is 60-odd miles from there in Giles's flat top.

Can I ask you when it was that you actually checked for the tracks. Was it on the same day, or was it some days following?---I would say it would probably be the next day.

Did you report your finding to Mr Turner, or to anyone else about the tracks?---Well, I suppose, to the police, and then they would do what they liked with it I suppose, yes.

Who would you report to?---To the Commonwealth police and the security, yes.

At Adelaide?---Adelaide, yes. All my reports went to Adelaide, excuse me for saying - one to Canberra, one to Western Australia, and I do not know, there were five or six of them sent down. Where it went it does not matter much.

The black mist incident that you said you heard about, could I just be quite clear about it. You are saying, are you, that you heard that story during the time that you were stationed in the Maralinga area; is that right?---Yes.

When I say in the Maralinga area - - -?---In the Maralinga area, in the Emu area when I travelled about,

I met somebody who had heard about the natives.  
I might have probably heard of that at Coober Pedy.  
I might have heard it at Mabel Creek.

Wherever you heard it from, that would have been, you believe,  
in the 50s?---Late 50s.

Yes, late 50s. Would it have been before the major trial  
series had come to a complete close?---Wait a  
minute, I do not know about that. This black  
smoke that knocked natives about and so on and  
sent them blind or whatever was done, that was  
nothing to do with Maralinga. That was the two  
explosions at Emu.

So what you heard in those days was stories from more than  
one source that Aboriginal people had been knocked  
about, had become ill, as a result of one or  
other of the explosions at Emu; is that right?  
---Could be right. I will tell you what, I  
probably did hear where the natives - but no  
business of mine at all, but they were way north  
of Emu. It had nothing to do with that area  
at all.

I just want to be absolutely clear about it. What you did  
hear about, is you heard probably in the late  
50s?---Well, I hear all these sort of stories  
from time to time. I cannot fully remember now  
where I heard them.

But you certainly did not hear it just in the last couple  
of years, did you? You heard it way back then  
when you were stationed out there?---Well, yes,  
I did hear that. I do not know just when I  
heard it, but I heard something that I had nothing  
to do with at all, but I did hear that this black  
smoke, the natives saw this black smoke and they  
went blind or something. I could not give you  
the full facts of what I heard, but this was  
the black smoke.

If someone was to suggest the story about the black mist  
was a recent invention, that Aborigines had  
just made it up in the last few years, that is  
quite different from what you recall, is it not?  
You recall it being told and talked about way  
back in the 50s?---As I said before, that was  
beyond me. I knew nothing of that at all, but  
this is what I had heard. Where I heard it,  
I do not know.

Precisely, but you heard it back in the 50s?---I do not know.  
It might have been in the early 60s. I do not  
know, but I heard it in there.

But at a time when you were stationed there; is that correct? It was at a time when you were stationed there that you heard it?---Stationed where?

Stationed at Maralinga that you heard these stories?---Yes, I think it would be.

Perhaps just as a general proposition, would it be correct to say that the areas of country that people like yourself, Mr MacDougall, Mr McCauley and so forth had to travel meant that it was really impossible to say at any one time that Aboriginal people had been kept out of the range, no matter how hard you try to do it?---Well, I said before, I am not going to say I heard this from the Woomera native patrol people - McCauley and MacDougall, but I travelled with them quite a bit, and they would come and we would go into the Maralinga area and we would go here and we would go there and that is about all there was to it. They might have said this. It is nothing I knew about. They probably knew more about it than I did. I do not know, but I heard it, and where I heard it, what the story was, exaggerated I suppose as far as I was - but I did hear so many exaggerated stories. I even rang the police up - I do not know if there are any police here, but if they are they would realize, I rang them and I told them, look, if there is any exaggerated story that involves me, I said it is not right, it is wrong.

In 1959, 1960, 1961, you were involved with McCauley in some large, I think and also MacDougall, in some patrols especially into the north-west area; is that right?---That is right, yes.

Was it the situation that as a result of those patrols, it was discovered that there had probably been a whole group of people living in the Lake Wyola area and in the Lake Dey-Dey type areas for many years that you had not come across?---No, that is incorrect.

Could I ask you to have a look at the document dated 14 September 1960 - it is in one of the piles of documents in front of you there. Perhaps I could find it for - - -?---No, it does not matter. You just carry on. I will tell you what, I was going to say that I went through that area with these people and if there had been any natives there that they saw, why would I be with them and not see them, because they were definitely with me when I went through there.

I just want to get your comment on a report made by Mr McCauley dated 14 September 1960?---Yes, I read it in the paper, I know all about it.

You have read this one, have you?---Yes, but you read it out now. Go on.

It is a patrol to the north-western perimeter of the Maralinga prohibited zone. The purpose of the patrol was to establish a track around the west and the north-western border of the Maralinga prohibited zone to enable a check to be made on tribalized natives known to be either living in the prohibited zone or wandering into it from the west and north west. Then under "method" he says, in plan, native patrol officer McCauley was to establish the track between Forrest and Pat Hall's Vat rock hole while Constable Murray from Maralinga provided the fuel of the vat enabling both officers to proceed to the graded road at Mount Lindsay and return to Forrest, Vokes Hill and Maralinga over their respective tracks.

Do you recall this particular patrol?---I can recall it, yes, every bit of it.

This was one where it sounds like a pretty hard trip; one of the vehicles became unserviceable?---That is right, they were in trouble. They ran out of petrol, all sorts of things.

Under Natives he reports this:

Two men, four women and eight children were encountered just north of the Nurrari Lakes.

I do not think the map is there now, but the Nurrari Lakes, are they in the prohibited zone? ---Yes, I know about where they are.

It goes on:

Only one man had seen whites before . . . . .  
They did not see any flashes.

Did you recall hearing such a group of people had been come across at Lake Wyola?---When I found MacDougall and McCauley after they were going up to Gills Water, it was wherever they were going to make this track down to Forrest and so on, but they ran out of petrol and then never got anywhere near that, but I went up there and there was nobody there. Then there was a message to say that they were broken down, or out of petrol - I forget what it was all about - and for me to go. I went up into this Gills Water area and there was nobody, no track, and I came down, got some more petrol from some of my hidden depots and I went west - no track - and I came back, got some more petrol and I went west and I done that a number of times and I got down 95 miles below where they claim they would be and I cut their tracks and then I found them at 9 o'clock at night and I travelled in and I found them and there was a number of dressed natives with them and I say that they came from the Zanthus Mission.

Is it the situation that you disagree with the conclusion reported by Mr McCauley?---Mr McCauley, he knows all about those natives, every bit of it, and I told him and I even fed those desert natives that were there, to keep them there so as McCauley could come and tell them to go west and get out of the way.

● You told us that Mr McCauley had Aboriginal languages;  
is that right?---I think he was a little bit  
better than I was, anyway.

And if Mr McCauley had reported that that group of people  
found at Nurrari Lakes had been living  
permanently in the area around Nurrari Lakes and  
Lake Wyola and had heard the sounds of the  
explosions during the test programme, you would  
have no reason to doubt that that conclusion  
would have been reached after he questioned the  
people, would you?---Look, if there had been  
any natives in that area, I would have found  
them - even if I did not find them, I would  
have found their tracks and the natives that they  
had, they were dressed and I say that they came  
from the Zanthus Mission, just a little on from  
Zanthus, you know - you would have the name of it  
there. After that, when I decided these desert  
natives were getting in far too close along  
Lenny Beadell Road, I thought I would get hold  
of McCauley to tell them in his language to get  
them back out of the way.

I think at one stage in 1963 were natives found in the  
Bringya Soak area, I think it is pronounced;  
is that right?---Yes.

Were these a group of people - is the Bringya Soak area  
in the prohibited zone?---What is the name of that?

Bringya - B-r-i-n-g-y-a?---Bringya.

Bringya Soak area, were a group of people found in 1963  
in the area of the Bringya Soak area?---Who was  
with him - did he say who was with him?

Can I read it to you? He suggests - it is again from  
Mr McCauley on 16 October 1963 and he says:

The patrol was planned in three  
parts and the first part was  
. . . . . in contact  
with Constable Tom Murray.

Do you recall that?---Yes.

He describes how they came across this group at Bringya Well?  
---We never came across any group at all, not  
while I was with them, but they may have come  
across - but I think they might have picked those  
natives up at the Zanthus Mission Station.

He could have been travelling, of course, on his own at that  
point. He reports in his document:

Early in 1963 Constable Murray saw the tracks of two Aborigine near Vokes Hill.

Would that be right?---Yes, but that is when they followed Lenny Beadell Road - I have already stated that now.

Do you agree with this conclusion that Mr McCauley came to in 1965, on 9 June 1965:

The whole of the Maralinga prohibited area has never been systematically or even completely searched on the ground. It is therefore not possible to state categorically that there are no Aborigines living in it or occasionally moving in from the west.

Would you have agreed with that conclusion in 1965?---I would say in 1965 that there were no desert natives in that area.

Would you agree that the whole of the Maralinga prohibited area had never been systematically or even completely searched on the ground?---I would say yes, but I did systematically work that area in long-range patrol and, look, I better say this: any time they came in to that Maralinga area they were with me and I went in there on a number of occasions, even to the Serpentine Lakes, where McCauley and myself even had a little bit of a walk and found some tektites.

Can I just clarify something? You told us your duties involved two things. One was to ensure that Aboriginal people did not come into the area. Your other duties were to ensure general security; is that right?---Yes.

In other words, people connected with the range were not going into the wrong areas. During the test programme would the second of those duties be your main responsibility?---I just did not get that then.

Was your main responsibility, when programmes like Buffalo and Antler were being run, the second of those ones, in other words, that you were to look after personnel at Maralinga to ensure that they were going to the right places?---That is right.

So, during the times of those test programmes, would it be the case that you and the other security officers had less time to do long-range patrols and that



that was left to MacDougall, McCauley and other native patrol officers?---I can tell you what, as far as I know, and I would, I am sure, know all about it, they were stationed - McCauley, first of all, came down from Giles to Woomera. I knew him up there. He was only a young man and got in and then their patrol was north of Maralinga, way up, I think there are hundreds of thousands of square miles they were patrolling there - nothing to do with Maralinga at all, but when they came into Maralinga and they wanted to have a look, they came with me and they were never in there, because I would have seen their tracks for a start.

I have no further questions.

MR McINTYRE: In relation to the extent to which you were patrolling, you were shown a photograph by Mr James before lunch showing a number of your colleagues around an office with a sign over the top saying Range security. Did all these people at some stage involve themselves in long-range patrol work, or was that something which you did yourself?---I did myself. When I was absent, they done the very narrow, such as the 25-mile grid and just in around there.

Was there anybody other than yourself who was engaged in the long-range patrol work from the Maralinga range security?---Yes, there was a fellow called Biard who came out with me and I showed him these - in my absence, did he go out into that Serpentine area or somewhere there, I do not know, but he was on just one long-range patrol.

Was it normally the case there were two of you from Maralinga engaged in long-range patrol work, or just you?---No, just myself. When somebody was going to take over from me for a short patrol period, they came to me to be shown where to go and what tracks to look for and what-have-you.

What did you understand your tasks to be at Maralinga in relation to long-range patrolling? What were you told your job was going to be?---I was told that personnel were not allowed into the place and I will tell you what: it was such as Aborigines; it was trappers and people coming from the Coober Pedy area through Emu Down and I marked those roads on the road to see if there was any vehicles that had gone along there in my absence.

Did you understand your task to be to monitor the tracks and the roads in the outer area to ensure that no persons came in?---That is right.

You said at page 4 when you first went to Maralinga you were told to find the Aboriginal rock water holes. When was it in 1956 in relation to the Buffalo trials that you started your duties at Maralinga? ---The position was it was mentioned to me and by whom I do not know - it might have been the inspector, for all I know, that I had to have - could I have an idea of just where these rock holes were and where would natives be if there was rain and water about, where natives were likely to be there and I made short trips out before the explosions, such as - even some of the chiefs went with me to have a look, you know.

How many months or weeks was it prior to the first explosion in the Buffalo series that you arrived and took up your duties in relation to patrolling at Maralinga village?---Look, I was patrolling at 25-mile grid before the first explosion, yes, but not beyond that other than I might have went up to Punthinna just for a look, but that 25-mile grid, there were several tracks that went through and we wanted to see what tracks went in there and who they were and so on. That was the idea of it.

Was that patrolling being done by yourself, or by yourself in company with someone else?---Sometimes with somebody else, but as a rule by myself.

You said after the detonation of One Tree, you were engaged in trapping rabbits up in the forward area and you have indicated the distances from the One Tree site that you were doing that. Was the route you took to get out there - did you go up through Roadside, or did you go out around the east or west in that area to trap rabbits?---I cannot remember. There was a track that went straight through the forward area. On the eastern side you could have went up to very near - what do you call it - the One Tree site and then up to Marcoo. There was a bituminous road right to the Marcoo area - you could have gone in there anywhere.

I think you said the traps were laid by you at night-time? ---They were laid by me, yes.

At night-time, did you say?---Yes.

What was your job in the day in those days?---I was doing the usual police duties and small patrol around - what do you call the 25-mile area business, type of thing - if there was any movement going into the forward area.

At the time that you were trapping at night-time in the forward area after the One Tree explosion, do you say you were doing your normal patrol duties during the day around the 25-mile grid?---I did, that is right.

Did those duties continue with that daily patrolling and nightly trapping through the Buffalo series?---I do not know. There were no rabbits to trap after a certain - I might have caught a few rabbits up as far as - I trapped a few up to a month, but whether all those bones went to the UK, but the first issue was - I got quite a few rabbits - I do not know how many there was, but I trapped them and parcelled their bones up and I understand Turner or somebody else sent them to the UK.

Between Buffalo and Antler in the inter-trials period, what sort of patrol work were you performing?---Pardon?

Between Buffalo in 1956 and Antler in 1957 what patrol duties were you performing then?---That is around about that forward area - to see what movement was in the place.

Around the 25-mile grid?---That is right, and up on the eastern side and up on the western side to see what - and also discuss with the fellows on the towers to see if they had seen any movement and there was quite a lot of movement with the service people, of course, and the UK people in that - - -

During the Antler series did you perform any more intensive patrols prior to the commencement of the trial series to see if there were any unauthorized people or Aborigines in the forward area?---I always made - before the trials went off, I went around that 25-mile up that road to see that there was no movement on the eastern and western side of this particular area.

Whilst you were doing that patrolling, did you ever see any aircraft overhead apparently covering the area as well?---Of course there was quite a lot of aircraft flying around pretty well all the while.

Were you aware, for example, whether there were any aircraft specifically flying to perform reconnaissance work to see from the air what you were trying to see from the ground?---I would not know what they were up to. They were flying about there, for sure.

I take it after the Antler series concluded you just continued your patrol work in the ensuing years in the same fashion?---That is right. I went on to

the long-range patrol after the explosions were finished and that is when I used to do - in a week, around about, very near, movements such as mission natives or anybody else and then I would go on the long-range patrol. This is what went on.

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T. MURRAY

Is this the case, that between the major trial series, you were performing short patrol work around the 25-mile grid, but in the inter-trial periods, you were doing the long range patrol work inside the entire Maralinga prohibited area?---Yes.

You mentioned that when you went to Emu after the total tests, you went to the bomb sites every day. Did you get close to them or what distance did you cease approaching the bomb sites in your daily patrols?  
---That is not altogether right. I did not go there every day to the bomb site. You mean after the bombs had gone off?

When you started work at Emu as a security officer, how often did you visit the bomb sites?---As a matter of fact, prior to the explosion, they were giving me the keys - - -

I am talking about Emu?---I had nothing to do with Emu.

When you went to Emu and you worked there as a security officer, after the trials had finished and whilst you were there working, how often did you go out and visit the bomb sites?---Not very often, but when I was on the long range patrol and so on, I made a patrol of the Emu area, but if there was people there that I knew from Woomera, or wherever they might have been, I never bothered - it was up to them, you know.

In relation to the black mist, do you ever recall any suggestion that the black mist was experienced by people in the area of Welbourn Hill?---I knew Welbourn Hill. I knew the Giles who were at Welbourn Hill, but I never spoke to Giles - never discussed it with him.

Did you ever go out to Welbourn Hill at any stage whilst you were stationed at Maralinga?---I was there and I tell you what, I went there and I can tell you the people that were there. There was a team of horses there ready to go to India. Giles was there.

That is Mr and Mrs Giles?---I do not know that I saw Mrs Giles at that particular time, but there was a fellow called Jack Butler who was also at Maralinga afterwards, and there was Napier Brothers, and there was a fellow called Bill Taylor, and they were to gather these horses and send them down, truck them down here and then go to India in the boats too. That is what I know about Welbourn Hill.

Did you ever visit Welbourn Hill after you arrived and took up your station at Maralinga?---No.

Did you ever visit Welbourn Hill after the time you commenced your work at Emu as a peace officer?---I think the nearest I got to that was Emu and then over to Coober Pedy and Mabel Creek, but I never went beyond because that belonged to the fellows from - MacDougall and McCauley.

One final thing. You had referred to you the existence of the rainbow observation tower. You described your ability to see the various test sites from the top of the tower. What is your recollection of the distance over which you could see, or the range that you could observe from a position on top of the tower? In other words, if you were posted there as a picket, how far could you see?---You could see quite a bit. Beyond that explosion business, you probably would not see very far. Sandhills and so on, but up to where the effects of the explosion went off, you could probably see that from the towers that the police were on.

Thank you.

MR McCLELLAN: I have no further questions. Sorry, Mr James wants to find out something that has him intrigued.

Can you tell me - LA, what was LA?---LA was a loading area, and that was right on the end - when I say the end - it was more or less a quarter of a mile from the end of the airstrip. We had a police officer stationed there.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr Murray. Thank you for coming along and giving your evidence. You are excused now.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW

MR McCLELLAN: I call Mr Mizon.

ERROL ALFRED MIZON, sworn:

MR McCLELLAN: Your full name is Errol Alfred Mizon?---It is. You live at 5 Indus Court, Flagstaff Hill, South Australia? ---That is correct.

I think you made a statement in relation to matters of concern to the Royal Commission?---I did.

Do you have a copy of that statement?---Yes.

I tender the statement. If it can be marked RC149.

In this statement you indicate from the years 1948 to 1963, you a senior meteorologist in the South Australian regional office of the Bureau of Meteorology. Is that so?---That is correct.

You were initially in charge of forecasting and warning and later in charge of special services?---Yes.

Some time in the late 50s, you were moved from one end of the area to the other, so you cannot be certain of the role you were playing at the time of the Maralinga trials?---That is in my permanent situation at that time, yes.

You indicate in paragraph 2 that in 1956, you were requested by Mr Dwyer, who was the director of the bureau - I think he was based in Melbourne, was he not?---That is correct.

To join a Mr Phillipot, also from the Melbourne office, to form an advisory team at Maralinga for operation Buffalo?---That is correct.

Apparently Mr Phillipot was the team leader, he having been on the support teams for Monte Bello and Emu. Another professional officer was attached to provide the normal aviation forecasting support services needed, several technical support staff, primarily for upper air observations and data process. Tell me this, you obviously formed a unit at Maralinga for the purpose of providing forecasts. Did the British provide their own unit or was it exclusively an Australian operation?---As far as the forecasting service was concerned, it was exclusively an Australian operation. At the time of Buffalo, as best I can recall, there was a former meteorologist from the Canadian service - I cannot remember anyone who was specifically a meteorologist as such with the British team, but these people had access to us and we provided service, identical services to both the safety committee and to the trials directors team.

Tell me this, as far as the facilities available to you were concerned, were they in your opinion entirely adequate for the job you were required to perform?---In terms of what we had at the time, for general services, we did lay on specific assistance from the various regional offices around Australia to support us, also from our central office, the analysis and forecasting centre which served all the regional offices. These were primarily special upper air forecasts not normally carried out as a matter of routine.

Can I just ask you again and remind you, were you provided in your opinion at the time with facilities which were adequate to do the job you were required to do? ---We got - Phillipott and I were given as much as we asked for in the period just prior to going to Maralinga, yes.

When you were at Maralinga, did you ever have the feeling that you did not have things that you maybe should have had to enable you to do your job?---I think the major thing that we lacked was additional man power at that time - I am speaking of 1956 - because a 24-hour watch over what became a very extended period for intense concentration did take its toll upon us.

Did that toll have any adverse effects upon the advice that you were giving?---Not on the advice I would venture to say, no.

What about the acceptance of the advice, did it have any consequences at that end?---No, I can fairly say that our advice was never queried as to its accuracy because the people concerned realized the difficulties of providing forecasts of atmospheric conditions over extended periods.

Was your advice always taken?---Yes, because it was not my decision or the team's decision concerning the use of the advice. The advice was accepted.

I appreciate that. Always accepted?---Yes.

Never ignored?---Not to my knowledge.

Tell me, how did you give that advice, in what form? Did you just communicate anticipated weather conditions, or did you pass comment as to whether or not those conditions would give an acceptable firing environment? ---We provided on a routine basis twice daily a statement concerning our assessment of the probability of suitable conditions of which we had been advised of course, what the parties were looking for, the probability of those conditions, even a remote possibility occurring in the next 24 to 48 hours.

So your advice was - - - ?---This was a continuously updated situation.

So your advice, rather than being couched in terms of the meteorological particularities, was advice as to whether or not conditions would be favourable, was that right?---That is the day-to-day situation until - and I should mention there was a daily conference of the trials director, the trials director's team, the safety committee representatives were on site at the time, not necessarily the whole of the



safety committee, and the meteorologists, gave a briefing of the expected conditions as far as we were concerned. There were also considerations regarding the anticipated fall-out areas et cetera, the whole of the thing was taken into consideration before a decision to go ahead was taken. That decision initially was that for 24 hours in advance, they would go into a standby situation, because the initial requirements were 24 hours advice of such a condition, because they had a series of operations to go through. Later in the series, they did shorten that time - they became more efficient in building up to the situation.

When you say later in the series, you mean later in Buffalo?  
---Later in Buffalo and through Antler.

Were you there for Antler as well?---Yes.

You recorded in paragraph 4 of your statement what you say were the criteria that you were given. Rainless, cloudless, or few clouds, winds at all levels from surface to expected cloud height away from future test sites and base area - that is to the north-east for preference. Fourthly, little vertical sheer, so that the heavy particle fall-out would be minimal in size?---The area of the heavy particle fall-out.

Sorry?---The area covered by heavy particle fall-out. That is the local area fall-out.

You have amended that before you signed it, have you?---No.

THE PRESIDENT: That is the way it reads here. The heavy particle fall-out area.

MR McCLELLAN: I am sorry. What I want to ask you, were you always able to achieve those criteria?---At what stage are you referring to?

For each blast?---For the blast, I believe so, yes. For the standby, that is the declaration of a standby area, we had many of those as I stated elsewhere in the statement, the requirements of the test team and the desirable conditions to satisfy the safety committee were almost meteorologically incompatible at that time of the year.

Have you looked at this document AIRAC 9?---I have been retired for eight years. I did see most of the documents, or many of the documents which were published.

You know who AIRAC are, do you?---AIRAC - no, I do not know - yes, but I do not know that particular - - - .

AIRAC 9 has on page 39 a diagrammatic representation of the direction of the fall-out from each of the tests?---No, I am sorry, that is not the direction of the fall-out - that is the centre points of the trajectories of the cloud at the main cloud area.

Let us just have a look at the diagram a little more closely. You see there is an explanation figure of 12.1:

Approximate paths of the radioactive clouds from the 12 nuclear tests numbered consecutively and tables 4.1.

That is a table of the tests. For 4.1 you have to go back a long way. It is back on page 7. They are all the tests; is that right? Are you with me?---Yes.

The letter A, it said, indicates:

The path of the secondary cloud.  
In all cases some fall-out  
. . . . . inferred from  
meteorological conditions.

It comes under the chapter Long Range Fall-out?  
---That is right.

Would you accept that is a diagrammatic representation of what is referred to as long range fall-out?---It indicates the areas where fall-out over a longer period of time or long range could occur - not necessarily occur, but could occur.

Could have occurred?---Could have occurred, yes.

By reason of the path of the cloud?---That is right.

Can you answer this for me: you see explosion number 8 there. The eighth explosion was Kite?---Kite does not mean anything to me.

That was the air drop?---Yes.

It suggests at least part of the fall-out cloud moved out towards Adelaide and went south-east from the site?---That is right.

Do you recall that occurring?---Yes, I recall the type of situation there was - - -

You do recall that occurring?---I recall it occurring. There is 8 and 8A. 8A comes to the south-east. Taking you back to the explanation again, they are part of the same explosion - 8A is said to be a secondary cloud. They both moved from the site, according to that diagram, anyway, south-east?---Sorry, 8 is almost due east. There is very, very little southerly component.

8A has more southerly component than 8?---That is right.

Is that, to your recollection, a correct interpretation of what happened?---If those are the reproductions from the trajectories which I helped to calculate at the time, I do not recall the details of any particular tests at this stage for reasons, if you want me to, I will elaborate on, but we did, as part of our programme, provide a forecasting service up to the instant of detonation. Thereafter we provided a tracking service for the meteorological conditions which were existing and shown to exist from analyses of the atmospheric conditions. These were used in two ways. They were used to produce this sort of case history of the event, the post-event period. They were also used, at the time, to help position aircraft in the right area to measure the intensities of the cloud and where they could be located.

I wonder if I could politely ask you how it is that we ended up, given the criteria that you were given for discharging your function at the range - how it was we ended up with a cloud that moved, in part, east, slightly south of east and in another part south-east and indeed down towards Adelaide - how did that come about?---The normal condition, as I think most of you would be familiar with from photographs, of an atomic explosion - anything that occurs in the low levels and can take in - and train surface material will leave what I can only describe as a stem of a mushroom with the main fireball expanding and cooling into a mushroom top. The major part of the radioactive material is in the latter area and is a form of, in the main, finely dispersed particles, with some larger particles left, but the intensity of a fireball will vaporize most of the material. If, as on this occasion, there was a slightly

stable layer - in this case, if I recall, it was about 5000 feet level - the main cloud goes to something like 30,000 feet-odd - the passage through that stable layer of the atmosphere does not retard very much, but can trap a smaller quantity of the radioactive material and that is what we refer to as a secondary cloud. It became apparent as a slight bulge in the stem of the mushroom and then in the main cloud. I was making very detailed theodolyte measurements, making visual observations and checking by theodolyte measurements, the height to which the cloud went - this was a check against aircraft measurements - we wanted to know the dimensions so we could track it in the proper area, the dimensions in which the major cloud, the mushroom was confined and any irregularities that appeared in the stem, because it was after the first time that we picked this one up - this was something I was doing of my own volition.

Can I take you back - and I am sorry to do it - you indicate in item 3 of the criteria, which you set out in paragraph 4, that the winds were to be at all levels from surface to expected cloud height away from future test sites and base area to the north-east for preference. Now, this explosion had two consequences, did it not; firstly, the cloud did not go off to the north-east - it went east, south-east and, secondly, I think it went out, in fact, in part over the village?---No, it did not - nothing came near the village.

Nothing near the village?---Nothing near the village.

Can you tell me how it was, given these criteria, that you ended up with a cloud that went east and in part south-east?---I will draw your attention to paragraph 4 in which I said, from the trial director's viewpoint, optimum conditions - nobody said that every condition they would use had to be an optimum condition - this combination was what they considered the absolute desirable thing.

Do I take it someone made a decision on this occasion to let this bomb off in conditions which were not optimum?---They were rainless, as I recall this - they were virtually cloudless.

Would you mind? Can you just tell me, did someone make a decision on this occasion to let the bomb off in conditions which were not optimum?---Someone made a decision to let it off every time it was let off after considering all the factors involved and that was not my decision.

I know, sir, but you are aware of what I am asking you, are you not?---I am saying that we have not looked at all the conditions involved and I have already pointed out that the combination of the conditions you have mentioned to date and those which the safety committee were looking at were almost meteorologically incompatible and that meant that if the trial was to go, then they had to decide on a set of values or accept a set of values which existed at a particular time which satisfied both areas and the trials people were obviously mainly concerned with the local area and the safety committee were concerned with conditions as I have listed, that the radioactive fall-out, that is, from the distant areas over the Australian territory was minimal, both in total amount and at any particular locality outside the range area. This had consequences later, in that where a previous explosion had passed over an area, the cloud of an earlier explosion had passed over, it was considered desirable that a future one would not go over those same areas. That would be to minimize any possible fall-out in any particular locality and the other ones, as far as possible, it should be zero over heavily populated areas and that it should avoid reservoir catchments and they were their conditions for considering the safety of the Australian populace.

Without abandoning the question I have put to you a couple of times, can I take you to paragraph 5.2, which as you have just indicated was a criteria that, as far as possible, it should be zero and I assume by that radioactive fall-out should be zero over heavily populated areas?---That is right.

I know there is debate as to the level, but this explosion, the one we are talking about, number 8, deposited some material either adjacent to or over Adelaide, did it not?---It possibly did. I have seen figures in another document, I think it was, concerning the safety committee's measurement programme, a large part of which was conducted, the collection of it, by our own officers in the bureau.

It would appear for this explosion the criteria of the safety committee were not met either, were they? ---That could be inferred.

Can I go back to the question I asked you a moment ago: given that you were providing the met advice that you were and given that you ended up with a cloud which passed instead of north-east, east, south-east and

indeed in part over Adelaide, how was it on this occasion that the decision was made to explode that bomb?---In the first place, the effect of that slightly stable layer was not recognized, but it was identified and at those levels the winds were in a different level and that is why the 8A trajectory is nothing like - well, it is further south than the 8 trajectory. There is not much difference on this occasion, but often there would be quite different things at those two levels.

Let me ask you just to stay with this explosion. In light of that answer, can I put this question to you: are you saying that the minor part of the cloud, the 8A part, was a part which at the time of the explosion you could not have necessarily predicted?---With the knowledge that we had at the time, we did not predict that, as far as I can recall.

But I take it that you did predict some major part of the cloud moving almost due east?---I think that would be correct, but without the full case histories available for my reference, I could not rely on memory to say yea or nay to that.

Can I ask you this, sir: do you recall whether or not at the time the advice you were giving was that it was satisfactory, having regard to the criteria of which you were aware, to explode this bomb or not?---Again, as far as I can see, there is nothing on this diagram or elsewhere, perhaps, maybe, to indicate a time scale. If in fact the winds at the major cloud level were particularly strong, that is, a strong westerly, it would be carried out of the area before very much fine matter fall-out could occur, I again stress, in the Australian area.

Can I stop you short again, if I may, and just bring you back to the criteria. It would seem to me - I may be wrong - but the decision to explode this bomb was made at a time when the criteria were known not to be capable of fulfilment?---I could not really agree with that, as I say, without checking every item which was given in the forecast of the situation.

At the very least, I think you have said to me the cloud behaved as predicted and went almost due east, at least in its main part?---That would not be inconsistent with the requirement for the safety committee's thing of major populated areas and particularly catchments, and also for a minimal time over the Australian area. If the local trials people were quite satisfied that it would not damage future sites and the safety committee were also considering the relation to other items in the immediate vicinity beyond the heavy fall-out area, then it would not be inconsistent with their requirements. I have stated the general requirements were optimum conditions.

Were you present at the time the decisions were made to fire or not fire any particular explosion?---In the main, yes. I can say yes.

Were you present on the occasion the decision was made to fire the Kite?---I could not say yea or nay. There were some occasions when the trials director and the safety committee may have gone into camera, but in the main, we were there because normally we get to the stage where close to firing - that is say in the late evening period before the firing scheduled for the following morning, we would have been on a standby condition since the preceding morning, then at that stage the decision would have been taken to press forward to the final decision moments. I was never there at the final decision moments because that was taken at forward control normally.

Can you help me then with a couple of other things. You have said in your statement that one of the criteria of the safety committee was as far as possible the fall-out should be zero over heavily populated areas?---That is right.

Now, what was a heavy populated area in those terms?---Any of the capital city areas, and if we predicted that a cloud would have moved over Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide as a major cloud, that would have precluded a firing on that occasion, or Brisbane.

We see there on the plan before you there are explosions which are numbered 6, 7 and indeed part of 8, all moved across New South Wales?---Yes, north coast of New South Wales.

At the time that explosion number 6 occurred, which was One Tree, were you aware of the potential for a

cloud to separate and to move over two different courses across the country?---No, we had not observed that up to that stage.

Had you had any discussions with British meteorologists who may have been involved with the Monte Bello or Emu explosions?---No. I discussed the situations with Mr Ashton who was at Emu and Henry Philpot who was at Emu and Monte Bello, up to the time of Buffalo.

One of the Emu explosions, I think separated in part - do you recall whether or not that was so?---I do not know. I was not at Emu.

Are you saying at the time of One Tree, the potential for the cloud to separate was not known to you?---The potential for separation under a strong inversion was recognized, that there would be some trapping. On this occasion, the inversion that was present, it really was not an inversion, it was just a stable layer. An inversion is where the temperature actually increases with height through a layer of the atmosphere.

Well, after One Tree you were aware, were you not, of the potential of the cloud to separate, because the One Tree cloud in fact broke into two, did it not? ---Yes, that was from there on, yes. That was the one that I picked it up on first.

Having picked it up at One Tree, can you tell me this, to what degree or what order of accuracy, and we will need to define a standard, were you confident thereafter you could predict the likely path of the fall-out cloud after an explosion, given its potential to break into more than one path. You might give me an order of degrees?---Now, could you just rephrase that, please?

Certainly. It needs a standard. It needs within certain degrees - north, south, east or west, but having regard to your experience with One Tree when the cloud broke, I am interested to know, I assume that weather forecasting is not a perfect science? ---That is very true.

What level of accuracy were you confident you could expect with your forecasts having regard to your One Tree experience?---It comes right back to the time scale. In the very short time scale, in the period of three to six hours after an actual sounding and a set of observations taken for changes to be expected locally, to analyze those situations, for the development of a marked inversion, I think



we would be reasonably confident of picking that. The development or tendency to a stabilization of a layer, that is something just starting to go towards an inversion situation if it went that far, would be much less confident. As far as prediction of trajectory is concerned, which could be a matter of less than 24 hours or anything up to 48 hours or more, depending on the general wind strengths and the course followed, the confidence would fall off extremely rapidly and that is why we have a continuing up-date situation. In a situation like this, if you have got a strong wind situation, the basic inaccuracies in measurement in the first place and certainly in prediction have less influence on the direction of winds if they are strong rather than light winds. For instance, if you have a five knot uncertainty, taking a figure out of the air, a five knot measure of uncertainty even in measurement or prediction - it does not matter - if you are applying that to the end of a 50 knot wind, it is much less significant than if applying the same to a 10 knot wind.

What I am interested to find out is this: if you look again at the plan as I indicated to you, a decision has been made to let the cloud from three of the explosions move out across New South Wales in a way - - -

THE PRESIDENT: The first three?

MR McCLELLAN: Yes, 6, 7 and 8, in a way which could have had the potential to affect Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong or Canberra?---I think you would find if we went to the actual conditions, they are all strong wind situations. Therefore the area would be cleared very rapidly and the cloud would not be over any point for any length of time, any long period of time.

But it would be the case, would it not - - -?---And it was not over the major catchment areas in general.

Well, it would be true, would it not, that these three explosions were let off, given the level of accuracy that you could predict, at a time when there certainly could not have been a guarantee that either Newcastle, Sydney, Wollongong or Canberra would not have been affected by the cloud, would that be right?---That the cloud could have passed over any of those areas, yes, that is reasonable.

So it would be clear, would it not, that having regard to what you have set out in paragraph 5, and

I understand what you say in paragraph 6 about the impossibility, but having regard to what you have set out in paragraph 5, the criteria of the safety committee in terms of 5.2 were not met?  
---No, were not met. As far as possible it says, minimal or zero. It was not an absolute condition, when I made that statement. These were not conditions which were given to us in writing. It is our inference from our discussions with the safety committee and with the trials people.

And at that stage - I am not sure whether you are familiar - there were of course significant catchments in and around Sydney and of course Canberra, providing domestic water supply for the city populations?

---There is also the fact that - - -

Sorry, you were aware of that at the time?---Yes, surely.

So the position would be, again would it not, that those bombs were let off at a time when certainly you people could not have guaranteed the safety committee that there would not be fall-out over the catchments, would that be right?---We would not have been guaranteeing anything regarding fall-out.

But what you would have been saying, do I infer to the safety committee is, there is a cloud that is going to go over New South Wales. It may be going to move quickly, but as far as those catchments are concerned, we cannot guarantee that they will not collect fall-out?---That would be the safety committee's inference. It would not be the statement we would have made. It was not our providence to make that type of statement.

But the position would be, the advice you were giving, there was a reasonable prospect that the catchments would get some fall-out, would that not be so?  
---Again I would have to say, I would have to see the strength of the winds. The stronger the winds, the less would be the rate of fall of any particles from the major cloud and therefore, because of the turbulence factor. We are dealing with not large particles, the sort of things which would fall out in the local area, but particles of below a certain size and these would be just kept up by turbulence and settle very slowly.

Did you have information and knowledge as to the rate of deposition of fall-out particles?---We in fact calculated a possible fall-out area locally based on the total wind structure first as predicted, and then as measured immediately after the explosion in each instance.

● am sorry, you would not have had that for the One Tree explosion, number 6, would you?---We would not have had - - -?

You would not have had that information?---For the local area fall-out, yes, certainly, because it dealt with the possible area covered by particles falling from various heights - say from 5000 feet, 10,000 feet. We usually did them in 5000-foot steps, up to say 30,000 feet if that was the level of the cloud or 35 if necessary.

What about the rate of fall-out over New South Wales, did you have any calculations for that?---No. As I say, the particles which were carried in the long range things are influenced very, very strongly by turbulence, the small particle fall-outs.

Did you have any information that would have helped you to know precisely what behaviour the cloud could be expected to undergo across New South Wales for explosions 6, 7 and 8?---By "precisely" I am not quite sure what you are leading to.

How much information did you have? You have told us - - -?  
---That was an area well within the upper air sounding networks which we operated at our staff weather stations. When necessary, that is, if there is a flight imminent or a trial imminent, there was some doubt about it, we would call, although we did not like to exercise this option too often because of the staffing situation - - -

I am sorry, we are at cross purposes?---We could call for additional soundings.

I appreciate that, but we are at cross purposes. We know that for 6, 7 and 8 you have made predictions of clouds going across New South Wales. You have told me that one of the justifications for allowing the explosion under those circumstances could be that, because of the high velocity of the expected winds, there would not be a great deposition of material. What I want to know is how much information you had about the likely rate of deposition of material over New South Wales related to questions of wind velocity at the time you were making predictions for explosions 6, 7 and 8?---I had no precise information about the rates of fall-out. As I said, without some measure of the total turbulence and the particle size I could not make such a prediction and I would not have. On the other hand, I can say that, as far as the local area predictions were concerned, the trials team operated on a different - using the same sets of wind which they got from us - they made quantitative or attempted to make quantitative assessments of the intensity of fall-out in the local area, heavy particle fall-out area and that was in general much smaller than those we used just assessing or based on - I cannot remember the size - whatever was the rate of fall, with the minimum size which could be expected to precipitate, irrespective of the turbulence.

In paragraph 6 you encapsulated the problem that I think we have been looking at. There was a significant delay for the first Buffalo explosion One Tree, was there not?---Yes, a month.

It was a delay which caused enormous frustration amongst those located at Maralinga, did it not?---Yes, it certainly did.

fact, it became so notorious that it was celebrated by songs, poems, limmericks and the like in the national daily newspapers?---I never had time to read the national daily newspapers.

I guess by the time the decision was made to fire at One Tree everyone was looking for the first opportunity to let the bomb off; would that be right?---I think that would be a reasonable statement, yes.

We have, do we not, a path of the cloud there that went almost due east?---That is right.

I take it that the effect of that delay - I think it was almost two weeks - was to throw out the whole programme; is that right?---I think the delay was longer than two weeks.

Longer than two weeks, was it?---Yes.

But did it have the effect of throwing out the whole programme?---I would not know. That would be concerned with the preparation of the future sites.

Was there an urgency thereafter in letting off the other three?  
---No, we took - they took every opportunity that arose and we were a little fortunate that the situations changed from a very dominant westerly pattern to a pattern with greater southerly components after the changes that came through.

That is really not reflected in explosions 7 and 8, is it?  
---We talked about 6, 7 and 8 first.

The only one - - -?---I am talking about those after 6, 7 and 8.

After 6, 7 and 8?---Yes.

Were 6, 7 and 8 in met terms as far as you were concerned a bit dicey?---No, I do not believe so for the reasons I have said. They were all under very strong wind situations. Dangerous levels of fall-out from the discussions I had, were never expected anywhere and I have stressed dangerous levels and many of the levels of fall-out which were measured, which I recall from reading, and again it is a long period ago and I never worried to keep the documents or they were classified documents, but they all came to me - I just glanced through them to see if there was anything in it which I would disagree with markedly, but the levels of fall-out measured, to my knowledge, were in many instances very little different from what we all experienced daily, or in periods, from cosmic radiation. It is a matter, as far as I know, of your acceptable level.

Then, do I take it, that notwithstanding the criteria of which you were aware, which you have told us about in paragraphs 4 and 5, decisions were in fact made on a different basis?---Yes. Not every condition satisfied optimum conditions for both parties.

And the decision was made by others on the basis of their understanding of what would be an acceptable level of dose rather than a basis of no dose; is that right?---That would be true, I should think. If you establish a test site in such a situation as Maralinga and you propose to run tests which were to penetrate to something in the order of 30,000 feet or more, then you would be placing that into an area of persistent westerly component winds.

You describe in paragraph 7 the routine process. You indicate that you retired in 1976 and then the nature of the measurements that you undertook during the course of the explosion which you describe in paragraph 8 as well. In paragraph 9 you deal with the questions of local contamination. I asked you before about whether or not it was part of cloud 8 that moved out over the village area and you said no. Was there ever an explosion in which any part of the cloud moved over the village area?---Not from my observation of it, no.

Not even a secondary cloud of any form?---No.

You then describe the services provided for operation Antler. You say:

On this occasion . . . . .  
and technical components of the met group.

This, you say, relieved the stress for the working party and the people you remember. You say that during both periods at Maralinga, together with all other personnel with whom you were in contact, you had a film badge?---That is right.

You recall it being changed; you have not seen any results. You then describe your medical condition at the time of the statement. Do you still suffer in the way in which you have indicated in the statement? ---I do. I am on heavy medications continuously.

You describe the relationship that you had with ground zero and also some work you did in a laboratory and you indicate that you prepared the statement and in order to assist you do not wish to start any claim in relation to the work that you undertook. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: You and Mr Phillipot were the only meteorological experts on the range, were you?  
---We were the two appointed to provide an Australian team to advise the safety committee and the trials director. As I have indicated, the trials director had some assistants, but they were more concerned with the type of calculation mentioned for the local fall-out area.

Were either you or Mr Phillipot always present at all meetings of the safety committee at which a decision was to be taken whether or not to go ahead with an explosion?  
---Usually, both of us - I will come back one step. Mr Phillipot would normally brief the safety committee in camera. The general assembly of the top echelon of the trials team would meet in the conference room and we would carry out a briefing there jointly. Usually, we covered portion of the aspects each at that stage, and then, in most instances, I can say that yes - they would say: yes, we will go into standby.

Either at the briefing in camera or the briefing prior to a meeting of the committee on its own, or at a meeting of the safety committee at which this question of whether to go ahead with the explosion was being considered was the question squarely put to you: are meteorological conditions favourable for an explosion or not; was it put to you like that?  
---No.

You were merely asked to state what are the meteorological conditions?---What we expected, to the best of our knowledge, the conditions to be at such-and-such a time.

On some occasions, presumably on your advice, an intention to go ahead with an explosion was altered?---Yes.

Because of what you told them?---Yes, that was one of the causes of the long delay.

Certainly. Was there any occasion which you can recall on which your knowledge of the probable weather conditions was such that you would not have advised that the explosion go ahead if you had been asked for that advice?---Yes - not when an explosion took place. If I might recall one situation - - -

Tell me this one, the one you have been asked about by Mr McClellan. Number 8, Kite, did you hold the view, or did you express the view to the safety committee before that explosion that it was not desirable in the light of the meteorological conditions that the explosion should go ahead?---No, I do not think we would have even done that. We would have elaborated extensively on any points

concerning the influence, but we could not have said: do not do it, because that was not our function.

But you knew what these explosions were about and you knew what it was desirable to avoid; surely you would have had an opinion on each occasion in the light of your knowledge of expected conditions whether an explosion should go ahead, would you not?---Yes, and as I tried to point out before, I am certain in my own mind that, because it went ahead, it was a strong wind situation and we were confident that it would not seriously breach the deserata, if I might put it that way, the desirable conditions.

MR JAMES: I might be a little thick. I am having problems understanding you. Do I gather your memory of the events are such that you believe, because the tests went ahead, there must have been strong winds? ---What I am saying is that from the direction of the trajectories as reproduced in this document and without reference to my full case histories which were prepared, it is my impression they were all strong wind situations.

But what I am asking you is, are you telling us that because the tests went ahead and you could not assume that the Atomic Weapons Test Safety Committee would have allowed the test to go ahead if it had not been safe - - -?---All I am saying is, because they went ahead, I am confident that they were a strong wind situation for the very reason that if there had been a light wind situation we would have been giving uncertainties as to the trajectories after 24 hours and, therefore, with the risk of going in other directions.

If you had given uncertainties to the Atomic Weapons Test Safety Committee that you could not tell the trajectory or the strength of the wind, or whether it would rain or snow, or whether there would be, for instance, an inversion layer over Adelaide, you would have thought that an Atomic Weapons Test Safety Committee observing its responsibilities would have vetoed a particular test?---That is correct.



But they did not?---They did not veto it no, and they had vetoed others.

They vetoed One Tree from time to time at the beginning of a difficult firing season, did they not?---Well, I do not know that the firing season may in retrospect be considered a difficult one, it was merely the desire for all parties to wait for what they hoped would come along, an optimum condition for everybody.

Because everybody knew that perfect conditions could not be obtained with any degree of high probability?---That is right.

So in due course, trajectories were accepted that ranged through the entire north to east quadrant of the compass. Have a look. In fact, more than north to east, when I look from 8A through to 9 and 10? ---Yes, they were - - -

Favourable winds in short, cut out Cooktown and the Victorian border and Hobart, but left the rest of the east coast exposed, is that right?---The most favourable winds, the most common winds would be from in an arc through from Maralinga down to Melbourne, say up to the mid-coast of Queensland, mid-north coast of Queensland.

So we can take it that it was expected that the fallout clouds would pass really in an area bounded between Rockhampton and Melbourne?---Well, they would not accept conditions that were really expected to go over as far south as Melbourne, but the conditions at that time of the year would carry anything if released on a random basis, yes.

So they would not have accepted danger to Melbourne, but from what I can gather, Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Brisbane were all acceptable?---I would not say that either. I am saying that from Maralinga, a line through Adelaide and Melbourne is pretty well a straight line. There are a lot of - material that would be coming down that direction would generally be in a lighter wind situation than those - I am speaking of the high level - than those in the east-west or west-east direction.

THE PRESIDENT: I notice that Mr Phillipot was a Melbourne man.

MR JAMES: That may explain it.

Indeed it seems fair to say that the trajectories went from 10 in the direction of Darwin through to 8A, which is some degree north of Melbourne - that is north of Melbourne where it cuts the coastline?---Yes.

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The other trajectories, that is 12, 11, 6, 6A, 7, 8, through to 8A, cover the most intensively settled area of Australia?---True.

And it would seem to you, therefore, that the location of Maralinga, if what you have told us about the prevailing winds being to the east and east north-east, was - - -?---To the east.

And up to the east north-east, that selecting Maralinga as a location in which to test nuclear was a very strange thing to do?---It is a question I am sure of the assessment of the magnitude of fall-out from 30,000 feet at any particular point as compared with the magnitude of fall-out in a restricted area of a bomb blast.

But you could not even be confident meteorologically of the fall-out and the expected wind pattern of the restricted area of the blast, could you?---Yes I could.

But there was at least one occasion when there was quite a definite sheer resulting in one Sergeant Smith sprinting to get out of the way of the cloud. Do you recall?---I do not know which one you are referring to. I do not know where Sergeant Smith was located.

Did you get any feedback from Health Physics during this entire exercise as to where the close-in fall-out landed?---No.

So you were expected not to have experiences to learn from for the sake of what you could advise on the close-in radiation areas? They did not give you the material on which you could advise them?---No, we were - - -

Is it fair to say that your advice was not really sought on the close-in areas at all?---Yes, the safety committee were concerned. That is why their request that we prepared an assessment of the possible, based on the simple model of a minimal rate of fall which would give us - - -

I am only confusing you. What I am suggesting to you is that you did not in fact have a very great role to play in advising in respect of the close-in fall-out and I will add to that, and the safety committee were not concerned at all about the close-in fall-out - that is within the prohibited range area fall-out?---They were always inquiring for it. Their reasons. I do not know what they did. I noted there was concern about certain station properties just outside the range area, whether or not they would be affected.

I accept that. I am talking about in the range area, in the vicinity of the explosions?---As I said, the area we assessed was in all instances much more extensive than that which was calculated from an intensity basis by the trials team. The smallest particle which would

be expected to fall from - and it would be mostly then from the higher levels - would be well away and the intensity would be very low, I should think.

I am talking about the close-in fall-out, where the bomb goes bang, not 20 miles further away?---That in my view is up to wherever, according to the wind strenghts would be the heavy fall-out area.

Right. I am talking about that?---The area they would probably want to decontaminate or isolate.

Whatever. What responsibility did you have for that area in terms of meteorology?---We assessed before as a prediction and again at the time of the explosion the area based on a given rate of fall of particles from the height of the cloud to the surface. This we used what we termed the effective wind from surface to a height.

We have already been told by the Health Physics people that there were a number of "anomalies" occurring on the firing of the tests in the Buffalo and Antler series, some of which have been related to meteorology. Would you like to comment about anomalies, meteorological anomalies occurring on the firings?---I would like to comment on one, what may appear to be an anomaly, and you may get some comments from people about one stand-by situation which was carried through to the nominated 6 or 8 am time, or whatever it was, and the only announcement which was made, and it was in the Buffalo series, I know that because I took exception on this with Sir William Penney. All he said was, "Sorry, gentlemen, I have lost my winds." Everybody knew who were out there and had been out there all night that by that time the winds were coming from due north, a light northerly, but he did not say what I knew, and because I could not say anything about it at that stage, the decision was taken behind my back in my office between Bill Penney and his chief assistant: will we cancel it? He had assembled all the politicians and the newspaper people in Adelaide. He said, "No, they need the practice." They were brought up, and all I got, I took exception because this was in my - I was in the South Australian office, that got headlines in the paper as I saw subsequently - all he did was lost his winds. In short we had not predicted it, but the night before we knew darn well it was not going to go off.

So what you are suggesting to us is that for over 24 hours in an adverse wind situation - - -?---No, not 24 hours, about 12 hours.

Twelve hours in an adverse wind situation, the test was not called off either by Sir William or the Atomic Test Safety Committee?---That is right, the test was

called off. They effectively called off the test, but the trial was carried through, the procedures were carried through to the death knock, and the wind change took place a few hours before. There was a light wind situation, but this was exactly as had been predicted.

So do you say they had in fact called it off on your information, but let everybody run up the costs and sit around wasting time?---Well, there is a question, I think if you are running any operation, where it is running up costs, the people were there, they needed practice. The only people who were not there were the outsiders who were coming to be observers of the event.

You say that there was never a meteorological anomaly during the firings for Buffalo and Antler?---You say an anomaly. The first one, that 8A, when I picked up the tracking of something in the mushroom stem, you could class as an anomaly. It was not the expected thing we were positively looking for.

There are two anomalies with that are there not. First you get a secondary cloud?---That is not an anomaly. That can occur.

But it was something that was not expected?---On that occasion it was not expected.

In fact more than two. Secondly, it proceeded a lot further south than anyone expected?---I doubt whether the main cloud - - -

Just the secondary will do?---Because we were not looking at that height. It was round about 5000 feet specifically for a cut-off.

Thirdly it went over Adelaide?---Something came over Adelaide. There was some fall-out in it. We do not know the exact width of the spread around that mid-point. That is the best estimate of a mid-point of the path taken.

Fourthly, when it got to Adelaide, it stayed here for a while did it not, because of the inversion effect you have already mentioned?---No, the inversion I have referred to is a horizontal stable layer, and it was in this that the thing falls. That does not cause it to stop anywhere, it was the wind structure - - -

But I am suggesting to you that there was at that stage an inversion over Adelaide noted in the Atomic Weapons Test Safety Committee minutes which caused quite a substantial delay on the cloud dissipating over Adelaide for Kite?---I could not say that it was over Adelaide it delayed. The delay of the inversion was trapping material which could only be dissipated horizontally and not in three dimensions.

I take that, but I am suggesting to you the cloud was delayed over Adelaide. Have you ever heard that put before?  
---No, not that statement, I do not think.

I suggest to you that Sir Ernest Titterton became very upset when he received the meteorological reports of the movement of the Kite cloud?---I would not be surprised.

And that the Atomic Weapons Safety Committee decided to embark on a press release in order to allay public anxiety. Had you heard that before?---I do not recall it.

You would agree though, would you not, that an inversion effect over a capital city, whilst a radioactive cloud is passing, could be a dangerous thing?---Depends on the level at which the cloud is passing. If in fact the cloud is above the inversion level it would be a protection.

Certainly, and if it is below, it is a dangerous thing?---If it is below an inversion, it would minimize any vertical dissipation. The turbulence effect is to expand the volume of material.

So that with such an inversion, you could expect a higher than expected deposition of radio active particle matter from the cloud than you would have predicted?---Sorry?

Cloud going under inversion, slows down, because it slows down more stuff drops?---If it is in the inversion, it is trapped below an inversion. The whole thing is up to the inversion level, then it can only spread laterally. I am saying.

And down?---Yes, particles would still be going down, going down from any point, but it could be taken up again.

Were there any of the clouds of which you lost track?

THE PRESIDENT: I think, if we are going much longer, we had better adjourn now.

MR McCLELLAN: There will be some cross-examination.

THE PRESIDENT: Will you be able to come back tomorrow?---I did not anticipate being recalled. I am not quite sure. I know I have a very heavy programme on the calendar, but if I could make a telephone call, I might be able to answer that question.

MR McCLELLAN: I think the reality is, as I understand from what I have communicated to my friends at the bar table, that we could not finish sensibly today.

Would there be another day that might be more convenient?  
---There were about three vacancies on our joint calendar at home in this whole month. I could not appear this morning, because I have a permanent commitment every fortnight with a group.

Do you think you might be able to come - - -?---I may be free - it may be my wife's commitment tomorrow. Before the end of the week I could get in one period.

Perhaps if we adjourn.

THE PRESIDENT: Let us know. Arrangements will be made for you to inform the commission when it suits you to come back. We will adjourn now until 10 am in the morning.

AT 4.30 PM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED  
UNTIL WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 1984