

Ref: FOI2025-023

15 May 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to our previous correspondence regarding your request for the following information:

- * A copy of a document with the file reference AustC_BK24_016.pdf dated 20/8/57 and titled 'signal Penney to Professor Ernest Titterton re Marston's comments on health and safety'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference Mod08_017.pdf dated 15/4/57 and titled '[Paper by Marston]'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference Mod08_016.pdf dated 31/7/57 and titled '[Marston to publish his paper]'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference Mod08_126.pdf dated 10/8/57 and titled 'Message form to Prof Ernest Titterton, through Department Supply Melbourne'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference AustC_BK15_256.pdf, titled 'security plan operation buffalo'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference AustC_BK20_182.pdf, dated 12/9/56 and titled 'visit of mins personnel to Maralinga - medical examination'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference AustC_BK25_066.pdf dated 19/11/57 and titled 'UK personnel on duty at Maralinga'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference 05007349.pdf, dated 1958 and titled 'medical officer's journals HMS Narvik and Zeebrugge'*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the requested information within the AWE has now been completed, and we can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

We are able to disclose all of the documents you have requested.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise which involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure. This is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions under the Act. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interest's test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified as being within scope of your request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled you have a right to request an internal review within 40 days of receiving this letter, by writing to information.requests@awe.co.uk or our postal address: Information Requests Team, AWE Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR. If you are still unhappy after an internal review has been completed, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have the right to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. Please note the Commissioner will generally not consider a complaint until you have exhausted AWE's internal complaints process.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team

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For use with Documents with Protective Markings up to and including

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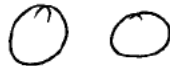
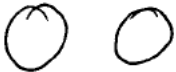
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MEDICAL OFFICERS JOURNAL
H.M. SHIPS NARVIK AND ZEEBRUGGE
FROM 1st JULY 1952

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DARK PAGE EDGES

For use with Documents with Protective Markings up to and including

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██████████ SENSITIVE - PERSONAL

Medical Officer's Journal H.M. Ships Narvik and Zeebrugge.

Period from 1st. July, 1952 to 30th. September, 1952 19

GENERAL REMARKS

To include any information of a professional or scientific character which the Medical Officer may consider to be of value or interest.

Other matters on which information is required are :—

- (a) A general description of the accommodation, ventilation and hygienic condition of the ship. To be included in detail in the first Journal rendered in an appointment. Subsequently, if there has been no change it is sufficient to state this fact, giving the date when the detailed statement was rendered.
- (b) An account of every circumstance that may have had an influence in promoting health or causing sickness in the Ship's Company.
- (c) A report of the hospital facilities available at places (other than British naval bases) visited.

This period covers the end of Phase 1. of the operation and the commencement of Phase 2. Phase 1. ended with the arrival at the Islands of H.M. Ships Campania, Tracker, and Plym on August 8th. 1952.

It will be recalled from my last journal, that apart from myself aboard Narvik, I had [redacted] working for both ships and living aboard Zeebrugge. On 15th. August [redacted] was drafted from the Campania pool, as a temporary relief for [redacted] who still remains in the Repatriation Hospital at Perth, suffering from a fractured Tibia and Fibula.

For security reasons it is still impossible to enlarge too much on the present arrangements and the reasons for them. I did however state in my last journal that a camp for R.E. had been set up in one of the islands and a camp for RAAF, in another. Following the arrival of Campania, it became necessary to build two further camps for scientists, one in each of the above mentioned islands. These camps were constructed by the R.E. at very short notice, and after completion were handed over for administration to the R.N. (19023) W/L 20966/D7638 15,900 8/51 JH Gp. 614

M179A (continuation)
(Established June, 1951)

Sheet No. 3

Medical Officer's Journal H.M. Snips Narvik and Zeecrugge.

Period from 1st. July, 1953 to 30th. September, 1953. 19

GENERAL REMARKS

and very little in the way of skin complaints, tropical sores, or otitis externa. There has been the occasional case of diarrhoea, but nothing in the nature of an epidemic.

The climate has remained delightful. The days have been very like an early summer's day in England, and the evenings cool, and often cold. As some indication of the type of weather we are having, up to a fortnight ago ^{few have} ~~I have not~~ considered it warm enough to go swimming.

I stated in my last journal that Narvik had to go to Fremantle without either myself or a member of the sickberth staff. The Coxswain looked after the sick bay. On her way back, she called in at Onslow for a few hours, to pick up mail. Shore leave was granted and a party of stokers visited the hospital to see Stoker [redacted] who was convalescing from appendicitis. [redacted] had been attending the sick bay for a few days with a very small ulcer on the back of his calf. It is still under investigation how, but somehow or other [redacted] managed to obtain admission to the hospital without my authority, and after a series of signals between ship and shore M.S. Narvik sailed without him. It seems that [redacted], who was there at the time, and who has a poor command of the language, was betwixt the devil and the sea. If he sent him back to the ship, he feared [redacted] would be accused of not treating him, and if he retained him, he [redacted] might be accused of retaining him without sufficient reason.

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(19023) Wt. 20966/D7638 30,000 8/51 JH Gp. 614

6-11-57
Each camp has a staff supplied by H.M.S. Campania. The running of all four camps has been very smooth and there have been no medical snags. Following an inspection by Surgeon Commander [redacted] it was decided that the medical arrangements should continue for the islands as in Phase 1, with the addition that [redacted] ex-Plym, should be drafted to the R.E. camp.

The medical arrangements were therefore.

1. That I visit the main islands whenever possible (if called for) and if not possible, the patients to be sent to me aboard Narvik.

2. In addition I try to visit each Island at least twice a week. [redacted] looked after the medical arrangements in the R.E. Camp, and the scientists' camp in one of the islands. He was equipped with suitable gear, and had a tent set aside for the purpose.

3. RAAF Medical orderly looked after the medical arrangements in the RAAF camp, and the other scientists' camp. He had a tented sick bay, quite well equipped. In the last few weeks the RAAF have left the islands, and I have looked after the two camps.

I have continued to look after the R.A.N. ships, and in addition H.M.S. Plym.

H.M.S. Tracker, which is also part of the Fourth Landing Ship Squadron is being looked after by [redacted]

In spite of the increase in my parish, there has not been a substantial increase in the amount of work. The general health and morale of all has remained very good. There has, in fact, been a marked decrease in the attending list of those patients who were here for phase 1. There has been practically no V.D.,

Medical Officer's Journal H.M. Ships Narvik and Zeebrugge.

Period from 8th January to 31st March 19

GENERAL REMARKS

items in naval stores aboard. I have mentioned this matter to the Captain and obtained his approval.

The sick bay itself has had to be modified to cope with the additional stores. The two large medical chests have had to become articles of furniture. They have been secured to the deck, and the examination couch dispensed with.

Both ships are carrying approximately equal numbers of army officers and other ranks. There are just over two hundred in all, divided between the two ships. They seem to have settled down very well to naval life, and although at first there was some tendency to segregation, they are now mixing well with the ships company.

They came aboard only a few hours before we sailed, and I did not discover until after that it is not a routine in the army to have the chest x-rayed at yearly intervals. Accordingly I had them all done at R.N.H. Malta. There were no pick-ups.

None of the army documentation had been brought in line with the recent changes, and the papers that were sent were very scrappy. I have therefore changed all their documents to the new system. The work is not quite complete owing to difficulty in obtaining F. Med 29's which we do not normally use. An army officer and an army other rank were discharged to the ship from hospital without any papers.

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An inquiry has been held aboard H.M.S. Narvik, and a report forwarded to L.S.4.

The cost of in-patient treatment at Australian Hospitals, for servicemen, seems to be very high. At the Onslow Hospital which is extremely primitive, the basic charge is 74/11 per day. Thus, although I performed the operation, the bill for [REDACTED] was over £73. The bills for those patients admitted to the Repatriation Hospital will be considerably higher.

Since the arrival of Campania, it has been possible to perform operations aboard her. Three have been performed since her arrival. The last of these was a Campania rating who became ill in one of the camps. It was very rough at the time. I sent a signal to Campania, and in less than ~~quarter~~ of an hour a helicopter landed outside his tent and took us back.

This state of affairs was very different to the third and last appendix I took to Onslow just before the end of phase 1. This was a [REDACTED] airman. Firstly, there was a five hour delay because of low water. Eventually, we arrived off Onslow jetty aboard HMAS Koala at 0500. The swell was too much to go alongside and he had to be lowered into a rowing boat and towed by a launch, because there was no room. Then he had to be raised from the boat by crane, and lowered into the back of a jeep, and taken to the hospital. The matron administered the anaesthetic during which he stopped breathing, and I had to stop everything and apply artificial respiration for several minutes. However, he made a very satisfactory recovery in spite of all these excitements. He was discharged from hospital on the tenth day for four days leave in the transit camp, and

M179A (continuation)
(Established June, 1951)

Sheet No. 3

Medical Officer's Journal H.M. Ships Narvik and Zeebrugge.

Period from 1st July to 30th September 1952

GENERAL REMARKS

in three days was engaged to the local barmaid. I understand that a large party was held at the inn on the fourth day to which the whole of Onslow was invited. Curiously enough he had 'No Complaints' when I saw him on his return to the islands.

As I was walking along the Onslow jetty to board the MRL 252 on the morning of the operation, one of the Australian ratings, who was singling up, tripped and fell off the edge of the jetty. He struck his head and several parts of his body during the fall, and eventually ended up face downwards in the sea. Extraordinary bravery was shown by several members of the ship's company of the MRL, and he was dragged up and laid on the deck. He was too critically shocked to move for four hours, and apart from drying him, applying warmth, administering morphia, oxygen and plasma, little could be done. In all this I received invaluable help from [redacted] who came down from the hospital, and from [redacted] a consultant from the Williamstown Hospital, Melbourne, a passenger in the SS Gorgan.

Eventually it was decided to move him, and he was lifted by crane to the jeep and taken to hospital with transfusion and oxygen still going. The facilities in the hospital were too limited for dealing with one so critically injured, in particular he had some grave injury to his chest which became apparent during the next 24 hours, I therefore asked for airtransport to Perth, and

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an RAAF Lincoln arrived from Perth together with a doctor and nursing sister within 8 hours of the original signal. The patient was taken to the airfield by jeep with continuous oxygen, and rested at the airfield until the arrival of the plane. I understand that he is making a steady recovery, though it will be several months before he is fit again.

Fauna and Flora. Increasing interest has been taken in these matters from an increasingly high level, and no doubt [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will enlarge in detail on this subject in his journal. Upon arrival of Campania, I passed over the collection I had made during phase 1. for incorporation in the main collection.

W.R. Tests. I referred in the last journal to specimens of blood arriving at Perth from the Monte Bellos, haemolysed. Subsequently, I obtained a number of Behring Venules, but blood obtained by this method also arrived haemolysed. It seems therefore that all patients due for W.R.'s will have to wait until we return to port.

Spectacles. A number of patients have been seen by civilian ophthalmic specialists at Perth and advised glasses. The appointments were arranged through the civilian naval liaison officer [REDACTED]. Several special problems arose, but most of these have now been surmounted. The actual supply of the spectacles which are horn rimmed (no Naval Pattern ones being available) were arranged by [REDACTED] through Messrs Laubman & Pank of Perth after approval of the PMO. This firm sent frames to the Islands for me to fit.

Medical Officer's Journal H.M.S. Narvik & Zeebrugge.

Period from 1st. July 1953 to 30th. September, 1953 19

GENERAL REMARKS

Procillin. A suitable opportunity as still not occurred for me to use this drug.

Leave. On September 1st., I was sent to Fremantle Onslow for a weeks leave. [REDACTED] very kindly took over all my duties in addition to continuing to look after HMS Tracker. I spent my leave on a sheep station at Mardie 133 miles from Onslow, and on returning the evening before sailing to the Islands I was asked by the matron to see a civil patient suffering from appendicitis. The Flying Doctor was unable to come during the night to give an anæsthetic, so I elected to treat the patient conservatively during the night and we removed the appendix the next day.

At noon I received a signal from CTF4 to state that RMAE Wareen which had left Onslow at 0400, had reported that [REDACTED] had been found dead at 0800, death believed due to poisoning. Wareen was fogbound but had been told to return to Onslow at the first available opportunity. Wareen arrived at 1430 and I boarded the vessel and inspected the body, after which it was removed to the mortuary. The story was that he had been out drinking during the evening and had returned onboard merry but not drunk. At 0400 he was found lying in a passage complaining of severe abdominal pain, groaning and saying

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"the b---- s have poisoned me." This being apparently an expres
not uncommonly used if you are just drunk, no one took any not.
In the morning he was found dead in his bunk.

At the request of the coroners clerk, [REDACTED], I perfor
an autopsy. No cause was found for death, but the entire intestin
was taken out in sections and tied off, unopened. At the point
where the first part of duodenum was divided, an acute haemorrhag
duodenitis was present, and it seemed that some form of poisoning
was the likely cause. Sections were taken from all organs and a
specimens were placed in normal saline in sealed bottles and pre
in the freezer. On hearing of the death CTF4 sent [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] to Onslow aboard Hawkesbury. They
arrived at 0300 next day. The police asked that I might go to
Perth by air in the morning and take the specimens to the
government toxicologist. This was approved and I flew
to Perth in the morning taking a report and the specimens, return
next day to the islands. During my absence, [REDACTED]
in Perth, a woman fired a rifle at her husband in an attempt to
murder him, and a child swallowed a tin of boot polish and had to
be flown 300 miles to Carnarvon by the RAAF!! Onslow is a busy
town these days!! No report is yet to hand of the findings
of the toxicologist.

Xray machine. The alacrity with which a new machine was sent
out from UK was very much appreciated. The machine has proved
invaluable.

Medical Officer's Journal H.M. Ships Narvik & Zebrugge

Period from 1st October 1944 to 31st December 1944

GENERAL REMARKS

To include any information of a professional or scientific character which the Medical Officer may consider to be of value or interest.

Other matters on which information is required are:—

- (a) A general description of the accommodation, ventilation and hygienic condition of the ship. To be included in detail in the first Journal rendered in an appointment. Subsequently, if there has been no change it is sufficient to state this fact, giving the date when the detailed statement was rendered.
- (b) An account of every circumstance that may have had an influence in promoting health or causing sickness in the Ship's Company.
- (c) A report of the hospital facilities available at places (other than British naval bases) visited.

This period covers the end of Phase 2. of the operation and all of Phase 3, together with the major portion of our passage home. Phase 2 ended with the explosion of the atomic weapon on the morning of October 2nd., and Phase 3. ended on the evening of October 30th., when we sailed for Onslow. Once again it is regretted that it is not possible to give a detailed account for security reasons.

There had been a full rehearsal for the explosion on 20/9/44. Narvik together with other ships of the force withdrew to a position about fifteen miles south of the islands on the day preceeding D-Day. The actual day of the explosion was governed in the main by the weather. The wind had to be in the right direction and strong enough to blow the cloud from the Australian mainland, and yet at the same time the sea had to be moderate enough to allow safe management of small boats. Arrangements had been made to cancel the operation at any time right up to within a few moments of the explosion. Such a cancellation would if repeated be extremely

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irksome to morale. We were all very relieved therefore that "D-1" took place on the day after the start of the "stand by" period, and that "D-day" took place the next day without any cancellations being necessary.

Everyman in the expedition carried a film badge which he wore for a few days preceeding the explosion and for three weeks after, regardless of the nature of his duties. Any man not on watch was allowed to witness the explosion if he wished. Everyone was mustered on the upperdeck with officers standing behind the men. All faced away from the explosion. There was a count down in seconds from ten to zero at which point there was a brilliant flash, so bright as to be clearly visible to me even with my back turned, eyes closed and hands firmly held in front of the eyes. There was then a count up, and when ten was reached, the order was given, "You may look round now". The sight we then beheld was of the atomic cloud billowing skywards. Black, grey and silver and here and there almost white in places where the sun caught it. Even as it rose the wind caught it and caused it to start spiralling to the north, whilst a slightly different direction and strength of winds at different levels caused it to assume a Z-shape. The sound of the explosion took about a minute to reach us and was split up into two sharp cracks. Such was the bomb, and when all was over and Phase 3., the clearing up period had begun, there was a feeling of anti climax amongst us coupled with relief that there had been no delay. The next suitable pair of days did not occur for a considerable period later, so we were most fortunate.

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Medical Officer's Journal H.M. Ships Narvik & Zeebrugge.

Period from October 1st. 1953 to December 31st. 1953.

GENERAL REMARKS

Details regarding precautions taken when entering a dirty area, and methods used for decontamination will no doubt be dealt with by [REDACTED]. I myself was most impressed by the smooth running and efficiency of the Health Ship. Phase 3. was concerned with the collection of records and the dismantling and re-embarking of valuable equipment and destruction of certain sites. A large number of people therefore entered the contaminated area at one time or another and had to be passed through the mill of decontamination on return. Quite a number of people said to me afterwards that the whole process had given them a great deal of confidence. They had come back heavily contaminated, but by carrying out the routine it had been proved that they could be made clean.

Before going ashore they were equipped with a film badge and dosimeter, and a daily record was kept of the dose received by each person who went ashore. These doses have now been entered in the paybooks & medical documents, the following stamp being used.

1952 ATOMIC TEST
RADIATION RECEIVED -

Whilst the majority had to stay aboard throughout Phase 3, a number of RE & RM

ROENTGENS.

officers and ranks lived ashore on one of the islands so as to facilitate the speed at which dismantling could take place. This island had escaped contamination. [REDACTED]

& myself each did a turn ashore. There was a small sick bay

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We left the Islands in a manner in keeping with our medical
experiences throughout our stay. Our LCM's had only just been
loaded, it was 1800, and the plan was to secure them and sail at
noon next day, when a signal came to CTF4 from Onslow stating that
there was a soldier with Acute Appendicitis ashore and no doctor
available. Narvik was therefore ordered to sail forthwith to Onslow.

Medical Officer's Journal H.M. Ships Narvik & Zeebrugge.

Period from October 1st. 1952 to 31st. December 1952

GENERAL REMARKS

The remainder of the Special Squadron sailed next day and only HMA Hawkesbury remained. She had just returned from Fremantle after giving her crew a fortnights leave, and now carries a Surgeon-Lieutenant AN.

The Onslow appendix turned out to be a false alarm, but I did remove a piece of metal from the scalp of a soldier who whilst travelling in the back of a truck was hit in several places by metallic fragments. A shot had been fired from the front of the truck at a Kangaroo and hit a stanchion at the rear of the truck!

We left Onslow on 4th. November and after a weeks leave in Fremantle sailed for home on 15/11/52.

We had to leave behind two patients at the Repatriation Hospital at Hollywood.

1 [REDACTED], who is suffering from schizophrenia and syphilophobia. He had apparently made several attempts to take his life while at Hollywood and the authorities considered it unwise for him to be taken home even with an escort aboard Campania.

[REDACTED] He presented with what appeared to be a fairly typical attack of recurrent B.T. Malaria (Parasites were found by [REDACTED]). He responded well to mepacrine and was returned to duty, but four days later complained of severe pain in the left hip. It was apparent that he either had an acute arthritis of the hip or osteomyelitis of the upper end of femur. Fortunately we were

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at Onslow at the time, so I had him flown to Perth that afternoon in the courier. He made a good recovery under intensive penicillin and at the time of writing the hospital diagnosis is Acute Arthritis. He was considered unfit to travel but was discharged on 2/12/52 to take passage home via Terror, but readmitted a few days latter with a recurrence.

What are the points I would make if I were given this appointment again?

1. Because of security I was told practically nothing before we left UK., but I was given a practically free hand to order what I liked. Because of the uncertain nature of the operation I ordered fairly large quantities of certain commodities, but this proved invaluable later on when I found my parish considerably larger than I had anticipated. The granting of a reasonably free latitude on an operation such as this was a very wise decision.

2. Having regard to the stores carried, and the nature of the operation, it would have been an advantage to have had either another SB rating, or an army medical orderly. I had only one SBA aboard Narvik and an LSBA aboard Zeebrugge. This did not allow for accident and within a few weeks I had lost them both. The promptness with which one relief was sent by air was much appreciated, but disaster was averted by good fortune, in that there was no major accident in phase 1 in spite of the often very dangerous nature of the work and in that the islands are an extremely healthy spot at that time of year. There was very little illness indeed. The common cold, for instance, was practically unheard of. If either accident or epidemic had occurred whilst I was by myself we would certainly have been in trouble, but fortune smiled on us.

Medical Officer's Journal H.M. ~~ships~~ Narvik Zeebrugge.

Period from 1st. October 1952 to 31st. December 1952

GENERAL REMARKS

3. Should there have been another Medical Officer in phase 1.?

I do not think so. There was enough work to keep one comfortably busy but not enough for two. If there had been a case of illness or accident with patient too ill to move, and requiring an anaesthetic, I planned to do things under local. In this connection I would like to put forward a suggestion that the ship's medical library should contain a book on the administration of local anaesthetics. Such a book was very kindly given to me by [redacted] on the way out, and I found it invaluable, and reassuring, when living so many miles from help. A Surgeon's Guide to Local Anaesthesia by C.E. Corlette M.D., Ch.M. (Syd.), F.R.A.C.S. published by John Wright & Sons Ltd, Bristol. was the title.

on, etc.

near RV

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4. I must recall what a very unsuitable ship Narvik is for the tropics, and how badly placed is her sick bay, which cannot be used as such in tropical waters. We are most fortunate in the islands in having such delightful mild English summer weather throughout our stay, but we had a taste of what Narvik and Zeebrugge (which is far worse) can be like, both on the voyage out, and during our return.

5. We had quite a lot of experience with handling stretchers both on and off the ships and up and down Onslow jetty. We found the Neil Robertson stretcher excellent in every way except for

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one incident which I think is worth recording. During Phase 2 & 3 scientists came to live in Zeebrugge. Accommodation was extremely limited so during this period, a very large packing case in the Tank space was fitted out as a cabin. It contained four bunks, and was fitted with a door, fans and all the other necessities. Although basically unsatisfactory, and reminiscent of the tube stations during the war, it was the best that could be done under the circumstances. One evening I received an urgent call to see a young scientist who had become extremely ill during the last two hours. He was practically unconscious, and the most marked photophobia I have ever seen, and definite neck rigidity. I decided he must be moved immediately to Campanile for lumbar puncture. He was strapped into a Neil Robertson Stretcher carried to the after hatch and hoisted by derrick. The points I would like to make are. -

1. In First Aid to the Royal Navy, PCE it states that in an unconscious man, the arms should be secured inside the chest piece. I consider this a most DANGEROUS procedure. Unless the straps are done up extremely tightly, and in a gravely ill man, this may not be possible, then there is a real danger of the patient slipping through the stretcher. By securing the arms outside the chest piece he cannot slip through. By seeing how much he had slipped when we had got him to the top, I am quite sure it was only the impingement of the chest piece against the axilla that stopped him falling through. I most strongly suggest that this paragraph should be amended.

2. The head strap which is used to prevent the head of an

M179A (continuation)
(Established June, 1951)

Sheet No. 5.

Medical Officer's Journal H.M. Ships Narvik & Zeebrugge.

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GENERAL REMARKS

unconscious man dropping forward is quite ineffective in a patient with neck rigidity. The head kept slipping out and was a cause of great anxiety. The solution in such a case seems to be to secure the head to the stretcher with some form of adhesive strapping passed round the forehead.

on, etc.

The patient had local pneumonia, the OSH was under extreme pressure. Our journey home has been uneventful. Apart from a few colds which began during passage up the Red Sea, there has been little of note.

near R.V.

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230-152
19 MAR 1956

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

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MINUTE PAPER

Out Ref. SA.Sec/56/562

Your Ref.

Date 19th March, 1956.

SUBJECT SECURITY PLAN - OPERATION "BUFFALO".

The Security Officer,
MARALINGA.

Enclosed, for information, is a copy of the draft Security Plan handed by the Chief Security Officer to [REDACTED] for ratification by A.W.R.E. The Chief Security Officer has pointed out that certain new details requested by [REDACTED] have been incorrectly paragraphed.

2. It will be noted that, except for certain additions, the Plan is substantially the same as submitted to the Acting Chief Security Officer under cover of SA.Sec/56/372 dated 24th February, 1956.

3. With reference to your M.91 dated 28th February, 1956, the Chief Security Officer has commented as follows:-

"The comments contained in your memo SA.Sec/56/418 arrived too late to be discussed with [REDACTED] but the views expressed by the Security Officer, Maralinga are generally valid and can be taken into account when comments are received from A.W.R.E. and U.K.M.O.S.S."

4. The figures for Peace Officers, accommodation and transport are tentative. The question of the number of Peace Officers was discussed with you and the Deputy Director, Commonwealth Investigation Service, earlier this week. Would you, as early as practicable, please confirm your requirements, together with comments on the proposals submitted for accommodation and transport.

[REDACTED]
A/Regional Security Officer (S.A.)

Enc.

note: You m8 of 12th March now rec'd.

m91

Removed for discovery in [REDACTED] V. THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Binder No.

14

File No.

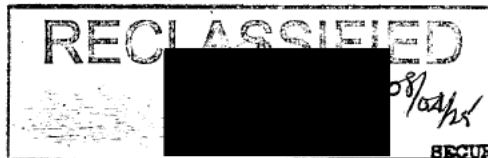
152

Document NO.

11

561162

R 30.152
19 MARCH 1956



~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY PLAN - OPERATION BUFFALO.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES.

During construction and passive periods the Range Commandant has administrative responsibility including all aspects of security, for the Maralinga Range area.

During the period of any trials, responsibility for Security in the Maralinga area is automatically transferred to the Trials Superintendent at the date of his arrival.

2. SECURITY PERSONNEL.

The Range Commandant and Trials Superintendent will have the advice and assistance of the following Security Personnel:

- (a) Security Officer, Maralinga - A specially posted Department of Supply Officer, responsible to the Chief Security Officer, Department of Supply, through the Regional Security Officer (S.A.), to provide the full requirements of protective Security in the area at all times. This Officer will have an appropriate staff of Security Officers and Peace Officers.
- (b) A.S.I.O. Liaison Officer, who will co-ordinate all security requirements in relation to the "Buffalo" Trial not the prime responsibility of, or sponsored by, Ministry of Supply or Department of Supply. He will seek any necessary amendments to existing procedures from the Range Commandant or Trials Superintendent, after consultation with the Security Officer, Maralinga.

Security

Accommodation/Messing.

Accommodation is required for the Security team as follows:-

- (i) Officers Mess.
 - 2 Department of Supply Security Officers.
 - 1 A.S.I.O. Liaison Officer.
 - 1 Sub-Inspector Peace Officer Guard.
- (ii) Sergeants Mess.
 - 6 Peace Officers.
 - 1 Clerical Assistant (Male).
- (iii) Watson.
 - 5 Peace Officers. This will include the 2 Peace Officers required to maintain the Sandhills Post.
- (iv) LA. Sleeping accommodation for 1 P.O. in Guard Post
- (v) IA/6. " " " " " " "
- (vi) TM/1. " " " " " " "

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Binder No. 14

V. THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
File No. 152 Document NO. 12

as per, and/or, and/or, and/or, extra messing facilities would be required in the Sergeants Mess.

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R30.152

19 MARCH 1956

(iv) (Contd.)

Clearance details of all visitors will be forwarded to the Regional Security Officer (S.A.) by the sponsoring authority prior to date of entry.

- (b) Press - Any authorised visit by representatives of the Press will be suitably covered by extra Security escorts provided by Regional Security Officer (S.A.), to and from the marshalling area and whilst at Maralinga.
- (c) Briefing and Debriefing - A list of all persons briefed for the "Buffalo" Project will be maintained by the Security Officer, Maralinga, and the Regional Security Officer (S.A.). The list, which will be kept up to date, will show the degree of briefing given, based strictly on the "need to know" principle.

U.K. personnel will be briefed and debriefed by the Trials Superintendent or his delegated deputy. Australian personnel will be briefed and debriefed by the Range Commandant or Trials Superintendent, as appropriate, or other delegated officer.

- (d) Undertaking of Secrecy - The provisions of the Crimes Act and Defence Act relating to the Prohibited Areas and official secrets will be brought to the attention of all personnel, who will be given the relevant extracts from these Acts. All personnel must sign an Undertaking of Secrecy.

5. ENTRY PROCEDURE.

Initial entry to the Maralinga Area will normally be by I.M.F. or Department of Supply Composite Pass with a "Z" or "ZJ" endorsement, in which case approval of entry and clearance details will have been notified in advance to the Range Commandant and Trials Superintendent. Authorised signatories of I.M.F.'s must be in possession of approval in documentary form before issuing an I.M.F. to a proposed visitor.

Exceptions to this general rule will be:-

- (a) Australian Service personnel may proceed to Maralinga on a movement order.
- (b) Movement lists of A.W.R.E. personnel will be forwarded to Range Commandant and the Security Officer, Maralinga, through A.W.R.E. Liaison Officer, U.K.M.O.S.S.(A).
- (c) Indoctrinees will move from Adelaide to Maralinga as a disciplined body. A Department of Supply Security Officer will be attached to the party for any special advice to the Officer-in-Charge of the Detachment and for briefing purposes.
- (d) Press and Parliamentary Parties.

These will be escorted under arrangements made by Regional Security Officer (S.A.) and the Escort Officer/s will be responsible for identifying all members.

6. SECURITY PASS SYSTEM.

Removed for discovery in [REDACTED] V. THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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19 MARCH 1956

of one of the following types of passes whilst within the perimeter of the Maralinga Range:-

- (i) Provisional Permit - Issued to persons whose period of duty at Maralinga does not warrant the issue of a permanent pass, or issued pending the issue of a permanent photographic pass. Provisional permits will be in two colours, viz.
Blue - All Areas in accordance with endorsements, excepting closed places.
White - Unrestricted Areas ONLY.
- (ii) Maralinga Photographic Pass - Issued to Maralinga Range Staff and long-term visitors. It will permit entry throughout the area in accordance with endorsements, except to closed places.
- (iii) Closed Area Badges - A system of differing identity badges will be used on demand of A.W.R.E. for entry to Closed Places within Restricted Areas. Badges will only be issued by the Peace Officer Guard against approved lists of authorised personnel to enter respective closed places.
In some cases to be determined by A.W.R.E., passes will be exchanged for a numbered special type film badge.
- (iv) Visitors Card - Visitors Cards will be in two colours:-
Blue - All areas in accordance with endorsement, except closed places.
White - Unrestricted Areas only.
- (v) Area Code Endorsements - Endorsements will be over stamped on Passes/Permits to control entry to restricted areas. Written authority by the Trials Superintendent or his delegated officer must be forwarded to the Security Officer, Maralinga, prior to the issue of the Pass/Permit. The following codes will apply:-

- A (in red) - All Areas, including all Restricted and Closed Areas.
- B (in black) - Tim Area 1A 1.1-1.2, 2.1-2.2.
- C " " - 1A 3.1-3.4
- D " " - 1A 4-11
- E " " - 1A 10-17
- F " " - Firing Sites
- G " " - K Area.
- X " " - All unrestricted areas.

7. COMMUNICATIONS.

- (a) Signals - Normal signal and cypher security regulations will be strictly enforced.

Responsibility for signals security rests with [redacted] until handed over to the

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The services of the Security Officer, Maralinga, will be available as required.

(b) Telephones.

The Peace Officer Guard will operate the normal exchanges at Wateon, Tim and Kittens at all times and will operate the Forward Control exchange during silent hours.

- (c) Official Mail - A safe hand mail system for classified official correspondence is in operation between Maralinga and Salisbury, where it connects with the normal Department of Supply safe hand system.

8. INFORMATION.

- (a) Maps and Plans - Only selected personnel, who have a need to know, will have access to classified maps and plans relating to Operation "Buffalo". Adequate locking facilities will be provided for all classified maps and plans relating to the project both at Salisbury and Maralinga.
- (b) Documents - Department of Supply Security Officers at all establishments will ensure that adequate protection is provided for "Buffalo" documents when not in use. As required, patrols of offices will be instituted, and safes and cabinets will be checked to ensure that only authorised personnel have access to "Buffalo" documents.
- (c) Custody of Keys - The Security Officer, Maralinga, will undertake the custody of duplicate keys to all cabinets, safes, doors etc. to all Security Areas, in accordance with the procedure agreed to by the Superintendent Trials.

9. OPERATIONAL.

(a) Security Patrols.

- (i) Air - Aircraft crews, proceeding to Maralinga, will be briefed as to circuit on approaching site and take-off, to ensure passengers do not obtain information beyond their need to know.

Crews will be requested to keep a sharp look out for new tracks, camp fires, vehicles or other signs of unauthorised entry into the area.

From time to time, as an aeroplane becomes available, the Security Officer will make aerial reconnaissance of the area.

- (ii) Ground - Peace Officer patrols will be carried out in accordance with Post Orders.

In addition, ground patrols, beyond the Range installations, will be carried out by the Security Officer, as appropriate.

R30.152
19 MARCH 1956

6.

- (iii) Fencing - Double fences will be erected to indicate closed area at:-

- (1) RB Area
- (2) LA
- (3) TM
- (4) Kittens
- (5) Airstrip
- (6) Firing Sites.

N.B. Fences will also be erected along Instrumentation lanes.

- (iv) Notices - Appropriate Notices will be erected at entry points to and on the perimeter of restricted areas.

Notices will be placed at strategic points around the perimeter of, and particularly on tracks leading into, the Prohibited Area.

- (v) Guards & Check Posts - Peace Officer Guards, who are operationally responsible to the Security Officer, Maralinga, will man the following security posts:-

- (1) Watson (Already operating).
- (2) Sandhills (As from 1/8/56)
- (3) LA
- (4) LA/C } As from arrival of
- (5) TM/1 } classified stores.
- (6) Forward Control (Roadside) In operation.
- (7) Kittens. In operation.
- (8) Firing Sites (Mobile, Caravan) As required.
- (9) Security Headquarters - Village -
(Roving patrol - RB & secure buildings village). (Operating from 43 mile until 1/8/56).

- (vi) Aborigines - The nearest Aborigines are known to be located at the Lutheran Mission at Colona Homestead, approximately 100 miles south of Maralinga.

Surveys by land and air will be maintained to ensure that there is no movement of Natives towards the Range Area.

- (vii) Press & Radio Releases - All personnel connected with Operation "Buffalo" will be briefed and reminded they are not permitted to make statements regarding "Buffalo" and Maralinga to Press and News representatives.

10.. MATERIAL.

Responsibility for all classified material ex U.K. remains with A.W.R.E. until arrival in Australia.

- (a) Arrival by Air - It is anticipated that classified material arriving by air will be off loaded at Salisbury. The Department of Supply Security Officer at Salisbury, as directed by the Regional Security Officer (S.A.) will be responsible for appropriate security during unloading and storage. Prior notification of classifications, arrival and onward movement of such material will be forwarded

Removed for discovery in [REDACTED] V. THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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561166

R30.152

19 MARCH 1956

7.

- (b) Arrival by Sea - Should any classified "Buffalo" material arrive by sea, A.L.R.K. Liaison Officer will advise the Regional Security Officer (S.A.) Department of Supply, who will arrange the appropriate security coverage during unloading, transit to Store in Adelaide area and storage.
- (c) Onward Movement of Stores - Adelaide to Maralinga - When classified material is forwarded from Adelaide to Maralinga, the Regional Security Officer (S.A.) will ensure that adequate security coverage is given, according to the classification of the material, to all phases of the transit.
- (d) At Maralinga - The Security Officer, Maralinga, will be responsible to the Range Commandant or Trials Superintendent, as appropriate, for adequate security protection of all classified stores, material and equipment in the Maralinga Area.
- (e) Return of Stores to U.K. - The Trials Superintendent will be responsible for the security of the return of classified equipment or components to the U.K. The Security Officer, Maralinga, will maintain effective liaison, and the resources of the Department of Supply Security Branch will be fully available as required.

11. SECURITY EDUCATION:

- (a) Loose Talk - Suitable posters will be displayed in the Project Area. All personnel will be warned, when briefed, against the dangers of loose talk and the inclusion of Project information in private mail.
- (b) Correspondence - All Project personnel will be warned against corresponding with pen friends, and further than they must not communicate any information concerning the Project to any unauthorized person. Frequent reminders are to be given.
- (c) Security Films and Lectures will be provided by Security Officer Maralinga.

R 30.105
12 SEP 1956

File copy for SA/5311/K.

175

146

SA. 700/4/3.

12th September, 1956.

Director of Mines,
Education Building,
31, Flinders Street,
ADEN/ADEN.

Visit of Mines Personnel to Maralinga -
Medical Examination.

With reference to your letter 870/56 dated 7th September. I would confirm that it is necessary for personnel visiting Maralinga to undergo a medical examination. Your staff should take with them a doctor's report which must include the results of a blood count.



Atomic Weapons Staff Officer.

564141

R 69.12

20 Aug. 1957

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OK Unclassified
BR 442.2

CYPHER MESSAGE

D 072

201400Z AUG

CONFIDENTIAL ROUTINE

FROM AURE ALDERMASTON

TO DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY MELBOURNE

AM 136.

FROM PENNY TO [REDACTED] THROUGH
DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY MELBOURNE.

YOUR LETTER 14 AUGUST JUST RECEIVED.

CERTAINLY I DO NOT WANT TO BLOCK [REDACTED] FROM MAKING
HIS COMMENTS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY NOR FROM SAYING THAT THERE
WAS SOME FALL-OUT WELL BELOW TOLERANCE LEVELS ON ADELAIDE OR
ELSEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA. I MUST INSIST ON HIS NOT
PUBLISHING DATA REVEALING WEAPON DIAGNOSTICS OBTAINED WITH
OUR INSTRUMENTS AND WHILE HE WAS WORKING SUBJECT TO
TOP SECRET CLASSIFICATION. I HOPE THAT YOU AND [REDACTED] CAN FIND
A SUITABLE COMPROMISE +++++

TIME OF RECEIPT 210100Z

TIME OF DECRYPTION 210200Z

571752

OFFICIAL

ANNEX "C" to O92/2554(ASD 2e) 7
dated 9 January 67.

The War Office, (PA 1(b))
LONDON SW. 1.
19 The November 1957.

19 NOV 1957

C/6084/PA 1 (b).

UK PERSONNEL FOR DUTY AT MARALINGA.

1. All personnel selected for duty at Maralinga may be exposed to radiation in the course of their military duties.
2. Before leaving the United Kingdom they will be examined for fitness to work with radioactive substances and service in a tropical climate.
3. The initial medical examination will include a red cell count, packed cell volume, haemoglobin estimation, total white cell count and differential count which will be recorded in absolute numbers and not as percentages; a note will be made as to the frequency or absence of abnormal cells.
4. No person will be employed on duties entailing exposure to radiation whose general health or the state of whose blood is unsatisfactory. If two total white counts and lymphocyte counts are below the lower limits of the normal (see para 7), the individual will not be permitted to take up duties at Maralinga.
5. On return to the U.K. the examination mentioned in para 2 will be carried out except where the average weekly dose is known to have been less than 0.03 RADS per week, and provided there has been no internal radiation hazard. These blood examinations on a group of individuals in the same unit should, preferably, be carried out by the same person each time so as to ensure a uniform and comparable technique.
6. Medical Officers and A.D.s will scrutinise the reports on the blood examinations, and there subsequent action will be guided by the following standards:

	TOTAL WBC	TOTAL RBCs	TOTAL LYMPHS	ABNORMAL CELLS.
Limits of normal	4500-12100	2250-8200	1100-3800	NIL
Warning level	4500	3000(+2500)	1000	NIL
REJECTION LEVEL	3000	2000	750	PRESENT

+ For personnel under 19 years of age.
A steady and progressive fall in successive blood counts or a fall below the warning level indicates that the individual must be removed from all contact with radioactivity until he has been found fit to return to duties involving exposure to radioactivity. The examination will be performed by a medical specialist...

7. DOCUMENTATION

- a. F med 12 (Request for special examination) will be initiated by the Officer responsible for supervision of the individuals medical condition. When the examination has been carried out, Part 2 of F med 12 will be completed by the pathologist who will also arrange for a copy of F Med 12 to be typed on F med 7 (outpatients record). The final copy of F med 7 will be sent to the individuals unit for inclusion in F med. 4 (Medical envelope). The card copy will be sent through the ADP command to the War Office (ASD state) for filing in F med 29 (Central Medical envelope) in the case of military personnel. Civilian blood counts will be sent to the War Office Record Centre, Hayes, Middlesex. U.K.
- b. Special Health Register. In addition to the above documentation each ADP will keep a special register in which will be recorded each successive blood examination.

OFFICIAL

572442

Ref: FOI2025-023

Foxymedialimited@gmail.com

15 May 2025

Dear Ms Boniface,

Further to our previous correspondence regarding your request for the following information:

- * A copy of a document with the file reference AustC_BK24_016.pdf dated 20/8/57 and titled 'signal Penney to Professor Ernest Titterton re Marston's comments on health and safety'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference Mod08_017.pdf dated 15/4/57 and titled '[Paper by Marston]'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference Mod08_016.pdf dated 31/7/57 and titled '[Marston to publish his paper]'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference Mod08_126.pdf dated 10/8/57 and titled 'Message form to Prof Ernest Titterton, through Department Supply Melbourne'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference AustC_BK15_256.pdf, titled 'security plan operation buffalo'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference AustC_BK20_182.pdf, dated 12/9/56 and titled 'visit of mins personnel to Maralinga - medical examination'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference AustC_BK25_066.pdf dated 19/11/57 and titled 'UK personnel on duty at Maralinga'*
- * A copy of a document with the file reference 05007349.pdf, dated 1958 and titled 'medical officer's journals HMS Narvik and Zeebrugge'*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the requested information within the AWE has now been completed, and we can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

We are able to disclose all of the documents you have requested.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise which involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure. This is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions under the Act. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interest's test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified as being within scope of your request.

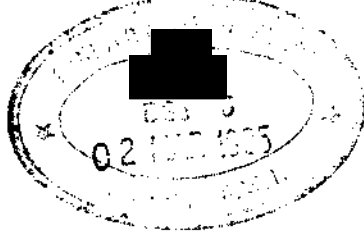
Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled you have a right to request an internal review within 40 days of receiving this letter, by writing to information.requests@awe.co.uk or our postal address: Information Requests Team, AWE Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR. If you are still unhappy after an internal review has been completed, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have the right to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. Please note the Commissioner will generally not consider a complaint until you have exhausted AWE's internal complaints process.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team

DOWNGRADED TO
UNCLASSIFIED



OK [redacted] 22/3/57

~~TOP SECRET~~

228/4/57

Reference ~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy No. 1 of 4 copies

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

This paper by [redacted] must be studied very carefully. As you know, [redacted] is a possible source of trouble in Australia, and we must therefore be prepared to argue on a purely scientific basis about his statements.

You may wish to consult Harwell and M. R. C.

How soon can you give me your considered comments?

Director's Office.

15th April, 1957.

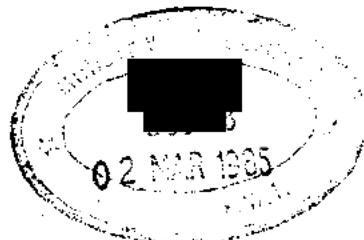
REGIMITE
Code 18-76
E.S.Ltd.
52-2105

DOWNGRADED TO
UNCLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



318/7/57

31st July, 1957



29/2/55
L

Dear

There seems to be some confusion between us about allowing [redacted] to publish his paper. Our views are as follows:-

Your letter of 12th June to [redacted] is certainly acceptable to me as regards the conditions under which [redacted] could publish under the classification "Confidential-Atomic". The only technical matter which gives it this classification is that presented in Figs. 3 and 4. [redacted] is not concerned with, and does not discuss, the diagnostic implications of these graphs. Nevertheless, the energy spectrum coupled with the decay deducible from the curves for different dates indicates one aspect of the constitution of the rounds. The argument that he could have produced the same analysis if he were not engaged on official work cannot make any difference to the classification. In the first place he was officially concerned and it is impossible to know with certainty whether he would have taken the same observations in any case. The more important point, however, is that the information is not at present openly published and we do not propose to take the initiative in increasing its circulation beyond official circles.

The deletions required to allow open publication are quite small. The two figures would have to be removed, and also the first sentence on page 14 and the phrase ".... Fig. 4...." of this animal", in the penultimate sentence on the same page. Personally, I think the paper would still serve the scientific purpose for which it was written if the deletions are made. [redacted] must, however, make the choice between an open paper subject to these conditions and a classified one if he wants the figures and references to them to stand. It should be clear to him that the condition has nothing to do with any debate on radiological safety and is purely a technical matter of the security of weapon information.

With best wishes,

J. G. PENNEY

[redacted]
Department of Nuclear Physics,
The Australian National University,
Box 4, G.P.O.,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.,
Australia.

Copies to:- [redacted] N.

3531



OK

22/2/85

DOWNGRADED TO

UNCLASSIFIED

L

F. Sigs. 92 (large
(pads of 100))

MESSAGE FORM

FOR COMM CEN/SIGNALS USE

NUMBER

000646

PRECEDENCE—ACTION ROUTINE	PRECEDENCE — INFO DEFERRED	DATE — TIME GROUP 20 - 1400Z	MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS
FROM PENNEY			PREFIX GR
TO [REDACTED] THROUGH DEPARTMENT SUPPLY MELBOURNE			SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
INFO			ORIGINATOR'S NUMBER [REDACTED]

YOUR LETTER FOURTEEN AUGUST JUST RECEIVED. CERTAINLY
I DO NOT WANT TO BLOCK [REDACTED] FROM MAKING HIS COMMENTS
ON HEALTH AND SAFETY NOR FROM SAYING THAT THERE WAS SOME
FALL-OUT WELL BELOW TOLERANCE LEVELS ON ADELAIDE OR
ELSEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA. I MUST INSIST ON HIS NOT PUBLISHING
DATA REVEALING WEAPON DIAGNOSTICS OBTAINED WITH OUR
INSTRUMENTS AND WHILE HE WAS WORKING SUBJECT TO CLASSIFICATION
(.) I HOPE THAT YOU AND [REDACTED] CAN FIND A SUITABLE COMPROMISE.

Page _____ of _____ pages	REFERS TO MESSAGE CLASSIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	DRAFTER'S NAME Sir William Penney	OFFICE	TEL No. 309						
FOR OPR'S USE R	DATE	TIME	SYSTEM	OPERATOR	D	DATE	TIME	SYSTEM	OPERATOR	RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE
										RANK

B. & S. Ltd.—1088

20 August 1957

3556