

RT4 001
30 MAR 1982

81/T&R/A

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CASE SUMMARY - [REDACTED]

1. The abovenamed x Army member, aged 45 years, has submitted a claim for compensation in respect of mental and blood disorders which he considers were caused by radiation sickness after being involved in nuclear tests at Maralinga S.A. in 1957.
2. [REDACTED] enlisted on 14 October 1954 and was discharged on 16 January 1961 because the period of his engagement had expired. The Central Army Records Office has advised that [REDACTED] was posted to 7 Independent Field Squadron for the period 15 June 1955 to 10 June 1957 however they were unable to confirm or deny that the unit was at Maralinga. Further investigation revealed that [REDACTED] was in fact detached to Army Task Force (Weapons Trials) for the period 1 February 1956 to 13 November 1956 in the Maralinga area. No records were held which state whether or not he was exposed to radiation dosages.
3. Army Health Office were not aware of any blood tests being sent to the United Kingdom nor did the ex-member's medical file contain any record of exposure to radiation, blood disorders or significant mental or nervous problems. Treatment was sought on 27 February 1957 for nerves and a specialist physician report of 26 March 1957 notes "thyroid not enlarged, no organic disease, condition purely nervous". [REDACTED] had advised he was treated by doctors at Lowson House, Royal Brisbane Hospital, a report was obtained and is at folio 19. It was stated in the report that "the patient's behaviour subsequent to his discharge from Lowson House indicates he suffers from mental illness with disturbed thinking which reaches psychotic proportions at times."
4. [REDACTED] original claim for compensation was dated 24 January 1981 however a further claim, dated 17 July 1981, was received and stated he had suffered "vomiting, nervousness, listlessness, frequent headaches, thyroid large than normal, pains lower right side of stomach, blood and liver disorder and mental disorder." These conditions he attributes to "equipment reclamation at Emu Field and Maralinga due to exposure to radiation - the areas were contaminated with plutonium 239".
5. With reference to [REDACTED] claim that blood samples were taken by the [REDACTED], our office wrote to that source for information. Their reply is at folios 33 & 34. [REDACTED] name does not appear on their records and they concluded if he was there he did not receive a radiation dose above the negligible recordable level, ie less than or equal to 200 uSv or 20 millirem during any service he may have had at Maralinga and specifically he did not receive a radiation exposure of "5 rads" (50,000 uSv) at Maralinga.



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