

THE REDFERN REPORT ON THE SECRET REMOVAL OF TISSUE AND BODY PARTS FROM DECEASED UK NUCLEAR TEST VETERANS' AND NUCLEAR POWER STATION WORKERS.

This is the second New Zealand Nuclear Test Veterans Association (NZNTVA) expose' on issues of political, scientific, and military deceit and injustices impounded internationally on nuclear test veterans'. The issues are stranger than fiction.

Nuclear veterans' in the western countries and Russia have always been aware of the experimental nature of their service at nuclear weapons testing grounds. Over the years documents have come to light that have confirmed gross acts of deceit and misuse of the servicemen by every nation that has been involved in nuclear weapons testing. In the mid 1980's I unexpectedly received two large bundles of official documents of both UK and US origins from an unknown source in the UK. Many of those documents are now well known amongst the nuclear test veterans associations in the UK, New Zealand, Australia, USA, and Fiji. A number of these documents are also being used in the core documents in the legal case being brought by lawyers Rosenblatt Solicitors, London, representing the UK and ex commonwealth veterans and their families in their case for compensation for nuclear related deaths and illnesses from the UK Government.

It is especially interesting to note that Canada, France, USA, Russia, have paid compensation to their nuclear test veterans' while the UK steadfastly refuses any responsibility for nuclear related deaths and ill health suffered by the servicemen who served at the UK testing sites and their widows and affected off-spring. The UK continues to frustrate the veteran's legal efforts to have their generic case heard in court.

There is no doubt that the nuclear test veterans who served at the UK nuclear testing programme in the 1950's have been caught up in the intrigue, in all its forms, in the same manner as the deceit, injustice and abuse of human rights as many of the covert activities related to the cold war. There is a long list of acts that have been impounded on the UK and the ex-commonwealth nuclear test veterans that are so unjust, inhumane and bizarre, that many cannot believe them, except in political areas where many choose not to.

On the 10th September 2010 the UK awoke to the findings of the 650 page report of the Michael Redfern QC inquiry into the secret removal of body parts and tissue from deceased nuclear power plant workers and UK nuclear test veterans. The inquiry took three years to complete.

Those studied were those who had previously been employed by Sellafield and other nuclear power stations between 1960 and 1991. Some of the organizations involved in the secret postmortems were British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL), the Atomic Weapons Establishment, (AWE), the National Radiological Protection Laboratory, (NRPB), and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, (UKAEA). In Addition to nuclear industry workers, some deceased UK military nuclear test veterans had also been secretly subjected to post mortem and organ, tissue, and bone removal.

Some UK nuclear test veterans had for years been suspicious of the “flagging” of their documents and suspected that it was related to some scientific research possibly after their deaths and related to a programme known as MR185. The secret post mortems of deceased UK nuclear test veterans may well be the reason for such flagging. The families of those subjected to post mortem and organ removal were unaware of it, and that where bone had been removed the Redfern inquiry discovered petty cash receipts for broomsticks that had been used to replace bone so that the body would look natural when laid out. In many cases so many organs had been removed that the next of kin were unwittingly burying just the shell of the deceased.

Obviously the removal of organs and bone from the workers and nuclear test veterans was to try and determine various questions related to ionizing radiation exposure of the deceased during the course of their nuclear duties. The secrecy involved illustrates the fear of the nuclear power, nuclear weapons industry, and the political, military and scientific parties involved, of the public being more aware of the dangers to human health of radiation.

The following are extracts (in bold print) from “The Whitehaven News” 10th September 2010.

Kate Oldfield, solicitor for the Redfern inquiry families, said “The inquiry has clearly proved there was a free for all culture which showed little respect or consideration for a person’s dignity. The families now need time to let the report sink in. We will then look at the options that may be open to them.”

She said relatives were let down at a time when they were most vulnerable “by those in whom they were entitled to place an absolute trust”.

“Relatives were seldom asked for their consent. As a result families buried or cremated incomplete bodies and many of those who have discovered the truth years later have been greatly distressed”

In his report Mr Redfern said, “It is the general view that those removing and analyzing organs from the bodies of their relatives effectively treated the body as a commodity, thereafter replacing bone with broomstick handles to give the appearance of normality at the funeral.

An extraordinary range of organs was removed for analysis. The analytical process was destructive and the residue was eventually disposed of as waste in the low-level depository at DRIGG.

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