



April 2002

Recent Releases at the Public Record Office

PRO reference	Date	Description
AB 16/744	1948-53	Records of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and its predecessors: Weapon research, air Contains information on the 'cost' of nuclear weapons
AB 16/3207	1959-60	Claim by J R V Dolphin, Chief Engineer in recognition of inventions relating to the Red Beard Bomb
CAB 134/940	1955	Records of the Cabinet Office: Minutes and Papers Contains the Strath report by the Cabinet Home Defence Committee on thermonuclear attack
CO 1015/1758	1957-58	Records of the Colonial Office, Commonwealth and Foreign and Commonwealth Offices, Empire Marketing Board, and related bodies: Northern Rhodesia National Congress Action Group: reports on activities of "Hate Squads"
ES 5/357	1965	Records of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment: Operation DOMINIC: report on US installations on Christmas Island during Operation DOMINIC 27 March to 14 July 1962Contains images of the base etc
FCO 9/1377	1971	Records of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and predecessors: Financial support for United Nations Peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)
FCO 24/980	1971	Five Power defence arrangements for Malaysia and Singapore
FCO 30/1090	1971	Briefs and discussions on Community finance during negotiations on UK entry to EEC
FCO 30/1120	1971	Attitudes of France to UK entry to EEC

FCO 30/1121	1971	Attitudes of France to UK entry to EEC
FCO 30/1123	1971	Attitudes of France to UK entry to EEC
FCO 30/1138	1971	Discussions on sterling during negotiations on UK entry to EEC
FCO 30/1151	1971	Visit of UK Prime Minister, Edward Heath, to France
FCO 41/101	1966-68	European Commission on Human Rights and an application lodged by Sir Oswald Mosley
FCO 68/319	1971-72	Policy on resumption of arms sales to South Africa
FCO 68/366	1971-72	Visit of delegation from UK branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to Falkland Islands, November 1971
FO 371/100637	1952	Icelandic fisheries dispute
FO 371/106581	1950	Exchange visits of young people with Soviet Union: report of meeting of the British National Committee of the World Assembly of Youth
FO 371/86679	1950	Investigations into Katyn Massacre
FO 372/8042	1966	United Nations anniversary service, Westminster Abbey: diplomatic precedence and 'walk-out' of Kuwaiti Ambassador over his seating next to Israeli representative
FO 924/1596	1966	Communist exploitation of visits to UK
HO 144/4663	1921-25	Records created or inherited by the Home Office, Ministry of Home Security, and related bodies: DISTURBANCES: Question of withholding passport facilities to notorious Communist (William Gallacher)
HO 144/9486	1927-28	Registered Papers, Supplementary
HO 144/18871	1911-34	Title Royal and Royal Arms: Royal Alexandra Yacht Club: refused
HO 144/22959	1923-32	Deportation of British subjects within the Empire: memoranda and inter-departmental report for Imperial conference; American deportees with Canadian connections
MEPO 2/10756	1965-80	Records of the Metropolitan Police Office: Investigation into the death of Freddie MILLS found shot in his car in Gaslett Yard, WC2 on 25 July 1965: verdict suicide; subsequent allegations of murder unsubstantiated

PREM
8/1579

1950-51 Records of the Prime Minister's Office: Custody of
Cabinet and Cabinet Committee papers

New Document Releases

AB 16/744

This document, entitled 'Weapon research, air', contains previously unreleased information regarding the financial cost of atomic bombs in 1951. The handwritten paragraph at the bottom of the page reads:

'The unit "cost" of £900,000 applies to a nominal 30kt [kiloton] bomb (of greater explosive power than the Nagasaki bomb). Alternatively one third as many again of the nominal 10kt bombs (of the same explosive power as the Hiroshima bomb) could be made for the same cost; this leads to a unit "cost" for this type, of £700,000.'

MINUTE SHEET. 30/10/14/7
 Reference: 330/40/45/1

DECLASSIFIED

U.S./AC/EC

Please see Enclosures 78 and 79, and I would appreciate your comments when we have received replies from Halsey, Harwell and Fort Belstead.

AT. IN. T. P. (ADMIN.)
 9th April, 1951

(E.D. DAVIES)

2.

A. H. Davis:
 I am pleased that US (Air) has already accepted
 validity in your memorandum at 1700. You will therefore have
 noted the comments furnished therein.
 I suggest that somewhere the figures quoted ought to be
 qualified, as indeed was done in the paper from which some were
 obtained, that this statistic rather cannot be too strongly
 emphasized. Beyond this long term forecasts are inevitably
 wrong!

W. S. S.

3.

A. H. Davis:
 I have had Dr. Brown's telephone remarks on
 your 1700. He changes a little and emphasizes of the type of
 bomb for which the statistic has been used to be made. He
 suggested an additional paragraph in the following line:
 "The unit "cost" of £900,000 applies to a nominal 30kt bomb
 (of greater explosive power than the Nagasaki bomb). Alternatively one third
 as many again of nominal 10kt bombs (of the same explosive power as the
 Hiroshima bomb) could be made for the same cost; this leads to a
 unit "cost" for this type, of £700,000."

W. S. S.

12.4.51.

(OVER)

New Document Releases
AB 16/3207

This file contains the claim made by J.R.V. Dolphin in recognition of inventions relating to the Red Beard (Atomic) Bomb. Mr Dolphin requested a financial award for his work on the weapon, but was turned down. The pages below show his original letter and some of the thought processes that led to his rejection, plus a draft of the final rejection letter sent.

DECLASSIFIED TOP SECRET ATOMIC

Copy No. 1 of 4 copies

Reference: HO 1030

Distribution: C.J.Highton
Dr. Schonland
Sir William
Penney.

Claim for Ex-gratia Award in Recognition of
Inventions Relating to the Red Beard Bomb.

While I was Chief Engineer at A.W.R.E. I put forward a number of ideas for nuclear weapon systems. These ideas arose from discussions with my personal assistants and provided practical engineering means of achieving the results which we understood the scientists required.

One of our ideas was an implosion system that was adopted eventually for Red Beard, now our main nuclear weapon and the trigger for our thermonuclear bomb.

Although based on fundamental ideas originating in the scientific field our contribution was, I think, very significant. It put an end to the hesitation and uncertainty which dissipated the Establishment's efforts in the search for a practical solution to the Red Beard specification and enabled us to concentrate on the production of a successful weapon.

It was not my job to invent weapon systems. The initiative should have come from the scientists, and their proposals would have then been engineered by my main weapon design team.

My proposals met strong opposition from the scientists based on quite honest opinions that the defects of the design were such that it could not work. No better solution was however put forward, and eventually my pleas that tests should be made were accepted. We filled and fired some model lenses which had been intended solely for demonstration purposes, and the results were comparable with those obtained from the highly developed Blue Danube lenses. Nevertheless I still had to combat considerable personal criticism before my efforts to get my implosion system accepted were successful.

I feel that I can fairly apply for an appropriate award in recognition of my contribution, having regard to the points made above, which may be summarised as follows:-

1. the proposed scheme ended the deadlock in meeting the Red Beard specification
2. it was not part of my normal duties to make such a proposal
3. I had to press the adoption of what I considered to be a sound solution in the face of considerable opposition from senior scientists
4. the device worked so well that it is still our main nuclear bomb and trigger for our thermonuclear bomb.

To assist in the consideration of my claim I append a more detailed account of my contribution. This is based on my memory of distant events but I am sure it can be substantiated in essentials from the records at Aldermaston. In particular reference could be made to:

Sir William Penney
Sir William Cook (later stages)
Admiral P. W. Brooking
Mr. J. Shackleton
Group Captain J. R. MacLachlan (who controls the
room in which models of my proposals are or
used to be stored).


G. R. W. Dolphin.

24th July, 1959.

DECLASSIFIED TOP SECRET

phi 14/10.
Chairman (through Mr. Lindsell)

Draft reply to Mr. Dolphin attached.

The security considerations which made it impossible for him to write up his work on "Red Beard" in any technical journal do not apply to his work on the Rotary Hot Line. It might have sweetened your reply somewhat if you were to suggest that he should write up his Rotary Hot Line work for e.g. "Engineering". I am apprehensive however that if this suggestion was made the Authority might get out of one row into another. His article would of course have to be cleared with the Weapons Group (where his Rotary Hot Line work was done) and it is most probable that he would make extravagant claims which would involve a long angle before they could be brought down to any resemblance to reality.

On the whole therefore I would suggest that this point should not be included in your reply.

ad
Secretary

14th September 1960

B
15/9.

Mr. Pearson
2. G. H. Giffels ^{awb} 19/9.
1. G. H. Lussell 22/9

15th September, 1960

Thank you for your letter of 8th September.

As you know, the Authority decided, after taking independent advice, that your work in connection with "Red Beard" was within the scope of the duties expected of you by virtue of your appointment as Chief Engineer. Public servants in this country do not customarily receive personal publicity for the manner in which they carry out their normal duties, and I regret I do not feel that the Authority can depart from this general principle in your case.

It is true that scientific and technical work is frequently reported by the author in the appropriate professional journals. This was not possible in your case for security reasons; but I feel sure that you were aware of this restriction when you accepted an appointment at Aldermaston, and it is one which applied not only to you but to virtually all the senior staff of the establishment.

You refer in your letter to the Rotary Hot Line. I am advised that your work in connection with this was part of your normal duties. I understand also that the maximum payment ever made by the Ministry of Supply to an inventor, when the invention was used commercially, was 50% of the royalties. This award was made in very exceptional cases where the invention was wholly outside the scope of the man's duties. The award was reduced where the invention bore some relation to his duties, and he received nothing if it fell wholly within his duties.

I am sorry that I cannot give you a more helpful reply; but what I have said does not detract in any way from the appreciation which is felt by the Authority for your services when you were in its employ.

Roger Makins

J. R. V. Dolphin, Esq., C.B.E.,
The Mill House,
Whitchurch,
Oxon.

Mr. Pearson
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