

Annex H. Recollections of volunteers

H.1. Contact with volunteers and former members of Porton staff

The contact the survey has been able to make with volunteers and ex-members of Porton staff have been influenced by the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 and the criminal investigation mounted by Wiltshire Police. The various ways of contacting volunteers and ex-members of staff were considered early in the survey, informed by legal advice. The details are given below.

The names and Service numbers of volunteers who have attended Porton were recorded in experimental logs at the time of their visit. Volunteers who have contacted the Porton Helpline have given their names and current addresses. This information could have been used by the survey to contact volunteers but the provisions of the DPA intervened.

- The DPA prohibits both the processing and use of database information for purposes other than for which the database was first constructed. The definition of "database" within the DPA includes electronic and paper forms. The database generated by the Helpline contains personal data offered by volunteers for the sole purpose of receiving from Porton information about their visit. Personal data had not been offered for any other reason and, at the time, the volunteers were told that the data would not be used for other purposes.
- The database of volunteers' details in the experimental log was constructed as a record of those people who attended Porton. The information was also collected so that Porton could contact volunteers during follow-up studies. Again, that is a different purpose than the one which the survey wished to use the database for.
- In this case the DPA intervened further. In order to contact volunteers from the database of details in the experimental logs, the names and Service numbers would have to be used to find the current addresses of the volunteers. The easiest way of doing this would be to obtain from Service records and National Insurance number of each volunteer, and then through the DHSS the current address. However, both the Service Records Agency and the DHSS would have been prohibited by the DPA's ruling on databases from giving the survey this information.
- These same arguments applied to the names and addresses of ex-members of staff held by Porton. That database was constructed for precise purposes: administrative arrangements concerning pensions and retirement activities.

Advertising for volunteers and ex-members of staff to contribute to the survey was another option considered early in the survey. Of relevance here is the police investigation and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984. Advertisements would have explained the purpose of the survey and contained a means (telephone number or address) to contact the MOD if a volunteer or ex-member of staff was interested in contributing to the survey. They would have been asked to leave their name and address with the MOD.

- Under PACE, the Wiltshire CID would have had the legal right to copies of those name and addresses, as they related to people who might be able to help their enquiry. Thus, simply by responding to the advertisement people would become involved in the criminal investigation.
- The advertisement would, therefore, have carried a warning that responding would invite the attention of the police. Clearly, in carrying this warning the advertisement would explain that the Wiltshire police were conducting a criminal investigation of the human studies conducted at Porton.

- At this point ethics intervened. The Independent Ethical Committee at Porton had, coincidentally, considered writing to ex-members of staff explaining that the Wiltshire Police were conducting a criminal investigation into past human studies, and outlining the support the MOD would offer. The independent members felt that such a letter would alarm ex-members of staff unnecessarily. Once an ex-member of staff had been contacted by the police that was an appropriate time to write with details of the support the MOD would provide.
- This theme was taken up by the MOD. Advertising for volunteers and ex-members of staff to contribute to the survey and explaining that a criminal investigation was underway might similarly alarm ex-members of staff. Equally, some volunteers may become alarmed that "something wrong" had happened to them during their stay at Porton: that being the reason the police were investigating.

As a result of these considerations the MOD decided that the prospect of alarming people who were entirely ignorant of the Wiltshire police investigation was not warranted. That decision was made by the MOD before Sir Ian Kennedy joined the survey. It is a decision that Sir Ian disputes as wrong and he is not persuaded by the arguments against advertising for volunteers and ex-members of staff to contribute to the survey.

The Wiltshire Police were kept in touch with the progress of the survey and were informed of these decisions. The Detective Superintendent leading the criminal investigation offered a means of contacting volunteers. The police offered to send, on behalf of the survey, a questionnaire (designed by the survey) to those volunteers with whom they had been in contact during their investigation. That offer was accepted. Even though the sample would be narrow, some contribution of volunteers to the survey was thought essential.

The police sent out, with their regular newsletter, the questionnaire and a stamped/addressed envelope for volunteers to send their replies back to the MOD direct. The police did not divulge to the survey the addresses of the volunteers to whom the questionnaire was sent, and the questionnaire did not seek that information. The questionnaire was sent to about 600 volunteers. Two other points are worth noting.

- The Legal Executive who represents many volunteers offered to send out the questionnaire to those volunteers for whom he acts. The survey discussed this kind offer with the Legal Executive. At the time about 400 volunteers had replied to the questionnaire sent out by the Wiltshire Police. It was agreed that volunteers who the Legal Executive represented had almost certainly already received the survey questionnaire, and probably had responded to it. Therefore, it was agreed not to pester volunteers with another copy.
- The Chairman of the Porton Down Veterans Association kindly gave some advice on the design of the questionnaire. Distributing the questionnaire to his members was considered but it was felt that they would have already received one from the Wiltshire Police.

A final point on the DPA. As mentioned in the main text, some of the recollections offered by volunteers who have contacted the Helpline have been used by the survey. The DPA allows the processing of such data for historical and analytical purposes as long as the information is presented in any subsequent reports anonymously.

A copy of the questionnaire sent to volunteers appears on the next few pages. Specialists in questionnaire design in the (then) Defence Evaluation and Research Agency kindly contributed to the final design.

Porton Down Volunteer Programme Historical Survey

Questionnaire for Volunteers

Introduction

In May 2001 the Ministry of Defence announced that it will be conducting a historical survey of the Porton Down Service Volunteer programme. The historical survey will cover the period 1939 to 1989, and aims to produce a full description of the trials involving humans done at Porton.

Among other things the historical survey will explore the way in which Service personnel were recruited, the information given about the Porton Down trials and how consent was obtained.

The historical survey will benefit from asking people who participated in the trials what they remember about these subjects. That's why the attached questionnaire has been sent to you. You do not have to complete it.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire is addressed to the volunteer. But, if you are a family member and feel you can answer the questions from your discussions with the volunteer or from their personal diaries, please do.

- You may not be able to remember the answers to some questions. Please do not feel compelled to answer those questions. There are boxes for you to tick if you can't remember.
- The questionnaire mentions "visits" and "trials". A visit to Porton as a volunteer may have lasted for a week or more. You may have participated in many trials during one visit to Porton.
- You may have visited Porton more than once as a volunteer. If you did, parts of the questionnaire are repeated, so that you can complete a part for each visit. If you visited Porton only once you need complete only one part of each section.

Your Answers

The survey will use your answers for statistical purposes only. Your personal details will not be mentioned in the reports the survey produces.

The Wiltshire Police are investigating a number of the trials conducted at Porton Down. For legal reasons they have a right to see your completed questionnaire if it is directly relevant to their investigation.

If you choose to complete the questionnaire and send it back to the MOD, the details you give in Section 1 will be passed to the police. From those details the police will decide if your completed questionnaire is directly relevant to their enquiries. If they think it is, the MOD is legally bound to give them a copy of your completed questionnaire.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT THE POLICE TO SEE YOUR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS POSED YOU SHOULD **NOT** COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Porton Down Volunteer Programme Historical Survey

Questionnaire

SECTION 1 Personal Details

Is the person answering the questionnaire:

the volunteer a family member

please tick one box

Volunteer's name

How many visits did you make to Porton as a volunteer?

One → Please write in the box below the date of your visit

Two → Please write in the boxes below the date of your visits

Date of first visit:

Date of second visit:

SECTION 2 Recruitment at your unit

This part of Section 2 is about how you were recruited for your first visit (or your only visit, if you went only once) to Porton

2.1. How did your name go forward as a volunteer for the Porton Down trials?

I responded to a recruitment notice at my unit

Some other way

*Please write in the box below how your name went forward and **then go to the next page***

The Recruitment Notice

Yes No Can't Remember

2.2. Did the notice say anything about the purpose of the trials?

2.3. Did the notice mention any risks the trials might involve

2.4. Did the notice say anything about being able to withdraw from some of the trials?

Please write in the box below anything you remember the notice said about those three things

This part of Section 2 is about how you were recruited for your second visit

If you visited Porton only once as a volunteer, please go to the next page

2.5. How did your name go forward as a volunteer for the Porton Down trials for your second visit?

I responded to a recruitment notice at my unit

Some other way

*Please write in the box below how your name went forward and **then go to the next page***

The Recruitment Notice

Yes No Can't Remember

2.6. Did the notice say anything about the purpose of the trials?

2.7. Did the notice mention any risks the trials might involve

2.8. Did the notice say anything about being able to withdraw from some of the trials?

Please write in the box below anything you remember the notice said about those three things

SECTION 3 Briefing when you first arrived at Porton

This part of Section 3 is about your first visit (or your only visit, if you went only once) to Porton

3.1. When you first arrived did you have a briefing from a member of the Porton staff about the trials planned during your visit?

Yes No Can't remember

*If you ticked "No" or "Can't remember", please **go to the next page***

If you ticked "Yes" please answer questions below

The Briefing when you first arrived

	Yes	No	Can't Remember
3.2. Was anything said in the briefing about the purpose of the trials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3. Was anything said about any risks the trials might involve	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4. Was anything said about being able to withdraw from some of the trials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please write in the box below anything you remember was said in the briefing about those three things

This part of Section 3 is about your second visit Porton, if you made two visits

If you visited Porton only once as a volunteer, please go to the next page

3.5. When you first arrived on your second visit did you have a briefing from a member of the Porton staff about the trials planned during your visit?

Yes No Can't remember

*If you ticked "No" or "Can't remember", please **go to the next page***

If you ticked "Yes" please answer the questions below

The Briefing when you first arrived on your second visit

	Yes	No	Can't Remember
3.6. Was anything said in the briefing about the purpose of the trials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.7. Was anything said about any risks the trials might involve	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.8. Was anything said about being able to withdraw from some of the trials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please write in the box below anything you remember was said in the briefing about those three things

SECTION 4. The trials during your visit

This part of Section 4 is about your first visit (or your only visit, if you went only once) to Porton

During your visit to Porton you may have participated in many different trials. This section is about any information you were given before those trials.

<u>Before each trial started did a member of Porton staff:</u>	Before all trials	Before most trials	Before some trials	Before none	Can't Remember
4.1 mention any substances that were to be administered to you during the trial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 say whether you might feel any discomfort during the trial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 explain what to do if you felt any discomfort during the trial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 ask if you wanted to take part in the trial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please write in the box below any examples you can remember of the information given to you about any substances used and any discomfort you might feel

If you remember being asked if you wanted to take part, how were you asked?

- I was asked when I was on my own with a member of Porton staff
- The group I was with was asked as a whole
- I was asked to sign a piece of paper agreeing to take part
- Other ways (*please describe them in the box below*)

This part of Section 4 is about your second visit, if you made one

If you visited Porton only once as a volunteer, please go to the next page

<u>Before each trial started did a member of Porton staff:</u>	Before all trials	Before most trials	Before some trials	Before none	Can't Remember
4.1 mention any substances that were to be administered to you during the trial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 say whether you might feel any discomfort during the trial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 explain what to do if you felt any discomfort during the trial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 ask if you wanted to take part in the trial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

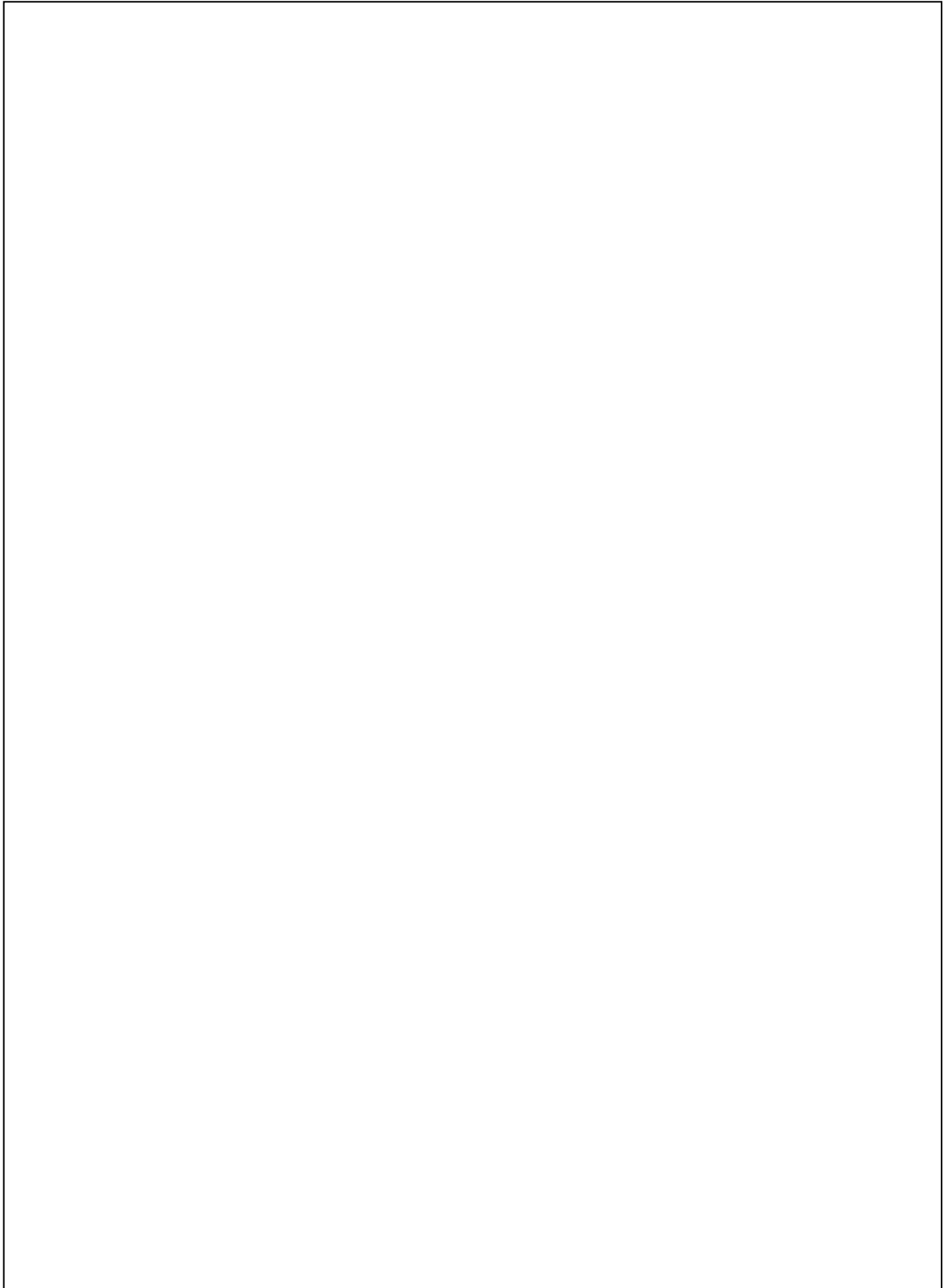
Please write in the box below any examples you can remember of the information given to you about any substances used and any discomfort you might feel

If you remember being asked if you wanted to take part, how were you asked?

- I was asked when I was on my own with a member of Porton staff
- The group I was with was asked as a whole
- I was asked to sign a piece of paper agreeing to take part
- Other ways (*please describe them in the box below*)

SECTION 5 Additional Information

Please write in the box below anything that you feel the questions have neglected to ask about the information you received and how your consent was obtained.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to write their feedback. The box is currently blank.

The survey considered a similar approach to ex-members of staff: confining contact to those people who had already been consulted by the Wiltshire Police. This avenue was closed temporarily, based on legal advice and advice from the police.

- Almost all the ex-members of staff interviewed by the police have been interviewed under caution. At the time the survey sought contact with those people, the conclusion of the criminal investigation was unclear. In particular, the police had not received advice from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) about the prospects for future court cases.

H.2. Volunteers' recollections

H.2.1. Replies to the questionnaire

By spring 2002, 401 volunteers had replied to the questionnaire. The replies covered a total of 447 visits to Porton. Thirty six volunteers had visited twice, 2 on three occasions and 3 on four occasions. Some of the replies have not been used by the survey: 2 related to visits that fell outside the period covered by the survey and 21 of the visits were undated.

Questionnaires relating to 14 visits compiled by family members of volunteers have not been used by the survey. Thus, information in questionnaires relating to 410 visits is used in the main text.

Not all of the comments tendered by volunteers in their questionnaires have been used. General comments about the nature of the studies in which volunteers took part have not been used. Neither have simple comments along the lines of "I wasn't told about the right to withdraw" (for example) and "I was told about the risks", as they do not amplify the statistics in the Tables which appear in the main text. Comments which do not address the subjects raised by the questionnaire are not used.

Some comments which are used are separated between subjects raised by the questionnaire. Many volunteers offered a single comment on (say) the initial briefing, which covered more than one of the subjects raised. In these cases, the comment has been split between sections of the main text, but the original meaning has been preserved.

H.2.2 Layout of comments

Comments are split into the sections addressed by the questionnaire: the contents of the recruitment notice, the initial briefing on arrival at Porton and the briefing before individual studies. Each comment is preceded by the branch of the Armed Forces in which the volunteer served and the date when the volunteer attended Porton. Within each section the comments are given in chronological order.

Some former volunteers who have contacted the Porton Helpline offered, during their telephone conversation, recollections of their time at Porton. Helpline staff do not seek this information but record it on a written form. These comments are annotated with an "H", those extracted from questionnaires with a "Q".

H.3. Recruitment Notices

H.3.1. Background

The questionnaire sought the recollections of volunteers about what the recruitment notice they responded to said about the purpose of the trials, any risks which may be involved and the right to withdraw. Comments on these topics are split between volunteers who attended Porton before 1964 (Section H.3.2) and those who attended afterwards (Section H.3.3), as the production of notices changed in 1964.

Some of the volunteers who completed a questionnaire recollect they were not recruited by responding to a notice. Instead, they were verbally recruited at their units. Their comments are listed separately (Section H.3.4). Finally, many volunteers recollect the recruitment notice saying something about common cold or influenza research (Section H.3.5).

H.3.2. Recruitment notices before 1964

(Army 1942): "I was member of 254 Pioneer Corps - volunteered in response to notice for volunteers for gas establishment at Porton." [H]

(RAF Dec 44): "Volunteers were asked for to act as guinea pigs in trials at Porton Down." [Q]

(RN Feb/Mar 46): "I along with several naval ratings volunteered for "gas experiments" just after the war." [Q]

(RAF Autumn 49): "Notice stated volunteers required for Chemical warfare research at Porton Down." [Q]

(RAF Jan 50): "physiological tests." [Q]

(RAF Feb 50): "As far as I recall it said the purpose of the trial was to assist with biological warfare, dermatitis etc. There would be no long-term after effects." [Q]

(RAF Jul 50): "Biological tests." [Q]

(RAF 51): "Volunteers wanted for scientific experiments; 48 hrs leave pass plus extra allowance." [Q]

(RAF Jan/Feb 51): "Notice appealed to my patriotism and also offered extra leave. Experiments of a simple medical nature and no danger." [Q]

(Army May 51): "The notice in Part 1 Orders requested volunteers for trials for gas mask design." [Q]

(Army Jun 51): "To determine the effects of gas on troops without gas masks." [Q]

(RN Mar 52): "physiology tests" [Q]

(RAF 53): "notice for volunteers to take part in chemical experiments." [Q]

(RN 53): "volunteers were requested to go to Porton Down for a two-week period as guinea pigs for warfare trials." [Q]

(RN 53): "Notice said excellent medical supervision and of course extra leave." [Q]

(RAF May 53): "Possibly some discomfort." [Q]

(RAF May 53): "physiological experiments." [Q]

(RN Nov 53): "Purpose of the visit was given as assistance in testing respirators." [Q]

(RAF Apr 54): "physiological research." [Q]

(RN 55): "physiological tests." [Q]

(Army 55): "Two volunteers required for Porton Down chemical research programme." [Q]

(Army Jan 55): "Notice was headed "Development of Defence Systems against Chemical Warfare". Also mentioned Ministry of Supply." [Q]

(RAF Before May 55): "physiological experiments." [Q]

(RAF Jun 55): "physiological tests." [Q]

(RAF Oct 55): "notice referred to Porton Down as chemical defence establishment." [Q]

(Oct 55): "Request for volunteers appeared in SRO stating they required airmen to assist in trials being carried out at the CPRE at Porton Down. No mention was made regarding the type of experiments." [H]

(Army 56): "physiological tests in return for a 48 hour weekend pass and ten shillings (?) " [Q]

(Army 56): "Notice said gas course." [Q]

(Jun 56): "It was a "physiological experiment course CDEE"." [H]

(RAF 57): "To test army equipment we would get £2 per week extra." [Q]

(RAF Apr 58): "Notice stated the purpose of the trials was to learn more about germ agents and their potential." [Q]

(Army 59): "notice: tests relating to chemical warfare." [Q]

(RAF Aug 59): "Notice said physiological tests." [Q]

(RAF Nov/Dec 59): "Notice on station standing order was similar to following: "Volunteers are required for CDEE/MRE Porton Down for physiological/medical experiments for the weeks X to X." [Q]

(Army Feb 60): "chemical warfare equipment." [Q]

(RAF May and Oct 60): "Notice on station standing order was similar to following: "Volunteers are required for CDEE/MRE Porton Down for physiological/medical experiments for the weeks X to X." [Q]

(RAF Jun 60): "Extra pay and no military duties." [Q]

(RAF 61): "Take part in tests which were highly secret at the Establishment." (and 62): "Standard notice same as the first one I had seen as a volunteer taking part in tests as gas masks of new designs." [Q]

(Army Jun 62): "I am sure it referred to testing clothing with no mention of risks nor any reference to opting out at any stage of these trials." [Q]

H.3.3. Recruitment notice from 1964

(RAF May 67): "Notice on station standing order was similar to following: "Volunteers are required for CDEE/MRE Porton Down for physiological/medical experiments". [Q]

(RAF Oct/Nov 67): "Notice gave the impression that volunteers would be testing equipment ie NBC Suits and respirators, rather than substances. The Notice did not mention risk." [Q]

(RAF Oct/Nov 67): "SROs just said that volunteers were required at chemical research unit - I don't think anything else was mentioned." [Q]

(Army Nov 67): "physiological testing was mentioned" [Q]

(RN Mar 68): "DCI mentioned that volunteers were required to partake in tests using NBCD equipment." [Q]

(Apr 68): "I saw a notice for volunteers to go to Porton Down chemical research centre." [H]

(Army May 68): "Volunteers for gas masks. Extra pay given." [Q]

(RN Jul 69): "Chemical/biological research." [Q]

(RAF Jun 72): "Trials were for the purpose of testing protective clothing and equipment." [Q]

(Army Dec 74): "All that I can remember is that it was for NBC trials." [Q]

(RAF Apr 77): "Volunteers for NBC trials." [Q]

(RN Mar 79): "The "advertisement" appeared in the navy news. It was in the form of what is now called an advertorial. It outlined the importance of the trials, extra cash (in 1979 the Armed forces were terribly paid) so this was an added attraction." [Q]

H.3.4. Volunteers recruited verbally (all comments from questionnaires)

(Army early 40s): "An officer came to our unit and asked for volunteers."

(Army Jan 40): "We were told we were going to Porton gas school. We thought we were going to test respirators. We went into the gas chamber. Exposed to choking nose and tear gas."

(Army Aug/Sep 40): "Name on detail board to attend for Porton Down possibly because his surname starts with 'A'. I was a raw recruit and did as I was told. No notice about risks etc. just detailed to go being just called up for service in June 1940."

(Army Feb 41): "I was ordered. I understood that I was going on a gas course with no experiments."

(Army 41): "Unit Officer asked me if I wanted to volunteer - to help the War end more quickly. Not told where I was going or what it was for. Was told it was a secret, I would find out in time. Was curious and so volunteered."

(Army Feb 44): "Picked out on Parade."

(RAF Mar 45): "Volunteers sought on daily parade ground but no information given."

(RAF Jun/Jul 52): " "You, you and you" Help forces in future against chemical warfare."

(RN Sep 52): "Informed by Divisional office that I was going probably because no one volunteered and they had to get their quota - least missed first."

(RN Feb 53): "Presence was requested. Refused to attend but was ordered."

(Army Mar 53): "We were told on morning assembly that a volunteer was needed to test equipment e.g. boots etc at Porton."

(Army May 53): "Under the impression I was to attend a "gas course" - the basis for promotion - as an observer."

(RAF May 53): "Information from Warrant Officer who said it was something to do with tear gas."

(Army mid 54): "While at the School of Infantry, Warminster, we were asked (I cannot if it was on the Detail Board or if it was verbally) if we wished to take part in this trial. I, like most, if not all, of the others volunteered as we were paid £1."

(Army Jun 54): "Unit was asked who would like a 72 hour pass for going on a one day experiment scheme (no mention about gas). Approx 95% agreed."

(Army Apr 56): "I was selected by the unit."

(RAF Apr 57): "Details of the recruitment notice were made known to us by section sergeant."

(Army 57/58): "Advert placed on noticeboard but was not attracting volunteers. It was therefore "suggested" that senior WOII should volunteer to encourage others."

(RN Sep/Oct 61): "Told I was going to Porton by the drafting Office at HMS Victory, whilst waiting for a flight to Singapore to join HMS Bulwark."

(RM Nov 63): "Visit and presentation by a Surgeon Lt Cdr to 41 CDO RM."

(RM 63/64): "Someone came to 41 CDO in Plymouth, gave a talk and asked for volunteers."

(RM Nov/Dec 64): "Given a presentation on the special tests required by a team from our CDO Unit."

(Army Spring 65): "I do not know how my name went forward to Porton Down. When I asked I was told "You're going to Porton Down." I was going to refuse but told by C/C I would be court-martialled. I can't be sure but gas training was mentioned but that's all."

(Army Jun 67): "My Battery Commander took the Bty to Porton Down for training and various members of the Bty were coerced into tests by him."

(Army Oct 69): "Verbal request from the NBC (Officers) course I was attending at Winterbourne Gunner. Request made by course instructor."

(Army Nov 69): "Volunteered by the Squadron Sergeant Major during parade."

(Army Dec 84): "While on a parade outside our block the Sergeant in charge asked for volunteers. Myself and 4 others volunteered."

H.3.5. Comments relating to common cold research

Comments on the contents of recruitment notices

(Army 42/43): "volunteers wanted for cold cure tests, extra leave given." [Q]

(RAF Apr 45): "Notice said trials were for common cold. Notice did not mention gases or any possibility of danger. Notice appeared on a Bulletin Board, asking for volunteers for trials at Porton Down." [Q]

(RN 49): "tests to try and cure common cold." [Q]

(Army Jun 49): "research into treatment of colds and influenza." [Q]

(RAF Aug 49): "simple trials for common cold." [Q]

(RAF 50): "cure for the common cold." [Q]

(Army 50): "volunteers required at Porton Down to research the common cold." [Q]

(RN Mar 50): "for cold research." [Q]

(RAF Jul 50): "volunteers were required at Porton Down to take part in current research into the common cold. It would necessitate a short stay and volunteers would be remunerated." [Q]

(RN Aug/Sep 50): "The notice said the tests were for research into the common cold." [Q]

(Army Oct 50): "Volunteers needed for research into the common cold at Porton Down." [Q]
(Army Dec 51): "Something about the common cold." [Q]

(RAF Jan 52): "tests for a cold cure." [Q]

(RAF Feb 52): "notice as stating that simple experiments would be carried out for the purpose of finding a cure for the common cold." [Q]

(RAF Mar 52): "Guinea pigs into research for the common cold." [Q]

(RN Mar 52): "notice asking for volunteers for common cold research." [Q]

(RN Mar 52): "to assist with research into various trials for chemical and common cold." [Q]

(RN Mar 52): "trials for common cold, Porton Down wasn't mentioned in recruitment notice." [Q]

(RAF Jun 52): "Common cold mentioned." [Q]

(Jul 52): "Station Routine Orders - volunteers for common cold establishment at Porton". [H]

(Army Summer 52): "Common cold. No reference to CDE." [Q]

(RAF Aug 52): "volunteers required for common cold research centre based at Porton Down." [Q]

(RN Aug/Sep 52): "cold cures." [Q]

(RN Sep 52): "find cure for the common cold." [Q]

(Army Oct 52): "asked for volunteers for research into common cold, no mention of any other tests." [Q]

(Army Oct 52): "request on notice board - asked for volunteers who wanted to take part in a scheme to find a cure for the common cold." [Q].

(RAF Nov 52): "research into the common cold." [Q]

(Army Nov 52): "orders stated that volunteers were required to help cure the common cold." [Q]

(RAF Dec 52): "Research into common cold." [Q]

(Army late 52/early 53): "notice said to take part in tests to common colds and flu." [Q]

(RAF 53): "I am almost certain it was to do with finding a cure for the common cold." [Q]

(RN Feb 53): "research into common cold." [Q]

(Army Mar 53): "volunteers for the common cold virus." [Q]

(RAF Apr/May 53): "notice mentioned tests for common cold." [Q]

(RAF May 53): "volunteers wanted to help find cure for common cold. offered an extra two shillings per day and a weekend pass." [Q]

(RAF May 53): "cold research." [Q]

(RN May 53): "volunteers required for common cold experiments." [Q]

(May 53): "Notice asked for volunteers for Porton for common cold." [H]

(RAF Summer 53): "for investigating cause of common colds." [Q]

(Army Jul/Aug 53): "I cannot be sure but it said something about the common cold." [Q]

(RN Oct 53): "asked to volunteer for tests with common cold." [Q]

(RN Oct 53): "volunteers to attend common cold unit at Porton. Would be infected or come into contact with the virus for which at the end of time there would be entitled to paid leave." [Q]

(RAF 54): "volunteers required for research into common cold." [Q]

(RN Jan 54): "purpose of finding cure for common cold - would receive a weekend pass and rail ticket and ten shillings." [Q]

(Army Mar 54): "notice led me to believe I was volunteering myself for research into common cold." [Q]

(RAF May 54): "asked for volunteers to participate into research into the common cold." [Q]

(RN Jun 54): "research into the common cold." [Q]

(Jun 54): "He volunteered to come to Porton for common cold research tests." [H]

(RN Oct 54): "helping fellow human beings in finding a cure for the common cold." [Q]

(RAF Dec 54): "volunteers in tests for common cold - extra leave and extra pay." [Q]

(RAF 54/55): "Notice asked for volunteers for investigations into the common cold." [Q]

(RN 55): "believe notice mentioned experiments with regard to the common cold and that financial reward would be given." [Q]

(RAF Mar 55): "purpose of trials was to try and find a cure for the common cold." [Q]

(May 55): "I was a volunteer to attend an experimental course, re the common cold at Porton Down." [H]

(RN Jul 55): "All the notice said was volunteers required for the common cold research centre based at Porton Down." [Q]

(RN Aug 55): "recruitment notice asked for volunteers for common cold experiments. Offered a minimal financial reward and a weekend's leave." [Q]

(RN Nov 55): "Recruitment Notice only related to Common Cold and Smog Related tests." [Q]

(RN Nov 55): "notice clearly indicated the purpose of visit was to test personnel in respect of cures/causes of the common cold and smog. There was I believe a warning you could be infected with the disease." [Q]

(RN 55/56): "research into common cold." [Q]

(RAF Jan/Feb 56): "only recall idea it was common cold research." [Q]

(RAF Jan/Feb 56): "common cold and flu." [Q]

(Army Aug 56): "I volunteered for research into the common cold. Reason for this: 1 weeks extra pay (approx. 28/-) plus 72 hrs weekend leave." [Q]

(RN Nov 56): "notice was for volunteers for common cold research at Porton Down." [Q]

(RAF 56/57): "research into common cold." [Q]

(Army Feb 57): "volunteers for cures for the flu virus." [Q]

(Army Mar 57): "volunteers would be subjected to tests relating to common cold." [Q]

(RAF Apr 57): "common cold research." [Q]

(RN May 57): "to research common cold." [Q]

(RAF Jul 57): "common cold." [Q]

(RAF Sep 57): "Trials to find cure for the common cold." [Q]

(RAF 58): "trials concerned into research into the common cold, weekend pass and a rail warrant to visit home." [Q]

(Jan 56): "Porton were asking for volunteers for cold research with a promise of a 48 hour pass for anyone attending the research unit." [H]

(RN mid 57): "believe notice mentioned CDEE as common cold research establishment." [Q]

(RN Jan 58): "simple notice seeking volunteers to assist in common cold research, who would be rewarded with a weekend pass and a minor payment." [Q]

(RAF Spring 58): "mention of common cold being part of the trials." [Q]

(RN 58 and 59) *two visits*: "Common Cold." [Q]

(RAF 59): "was something about common cold and being paid extra." [Q]

(RAF Aug 59): "notice mentioned the common cold plus other medical tests for military purposes." [Q]

(Sep 59): "routine experiments for such things as the common cold." [H]

(RN Sep 59): "common cold plus other trials." [Q]

(Army Oct 59): "volunteers required for common cold research." [Q]

(RAF Nov 59): "research into cure for common cold at Common Cold Research Establishment Porton Down." [Q]

(RN early 60s): "notice board of ship: subject was about influenza." [Q]

(RAF Mar/Apr 60): "not much detail on notice - may assist with cures for common cold and influenza." [Q]

(RAF Apr 60): "common cold research." [Q]

(RAF Mar 61): "Station orders as I remember asked for volunteers for "common Cold". Paid two shillings per test plus a long weekend pass at the end of the trials." [Q]

(Army mid 61): "Notice on Company Notice Board asking for volunteers to take part in tests to find a cure for the common cold." [Q]

(Army Sep 61): "for the common cold." [Q]

(RN Oct 61): "common cold trials and gas mask trials." [Q]

(RN Summer 62): "trials for cold tests." [Q]

(RAF Mar 63): "notice stated trials were for research into the common cold." [Q]

(RAF Apr/May 63): "common cold trials." [Q]

(RAF Apr 64 & Sep 67) *two visits*: "As I recall common cold was mentioned, also tests related to fit of gas masks." [Q]

(RAF Jul 65): "trials connected to research into common cold." [Q]

(Army Jun 67): "to do with common cold research." [Q]

(RN May 68): "common cold and other tests." [Q]

(May 68): "Came to Porton for common cold research tests as described on volunteers application form." [H]

(RAF May 68): "notice in SRO asking for volunteers for common cold research. DCI second notice giving more details such as location, duration and rates of pay." [Q]

(RAF Sep 68): "Tests for the Common Cold." [Q]

(RAF Oct 71): "Tests for the Common Cold." [Q]

(RN Apr/May 74): "volunteers to take part in testing for the common cold." [Q]

(Army 75): "notice stated trials for common cold." [Q]

(RAF Oct 77): "research into common cold and new equipment." [Q]

Volunteers who were led to believe the tests were related to the common cold

(Apr/May 47): "I attended the MOD's Porton Down Chemical Warfare Centre for what I was led to believe were tests for treatments for the common cold." [H]

(RAF Jul 50): "verbal request by NCO: purpose of trials 'research into common cold'." [Q]

(Army Oct 50): "someone came into barracks room asking for volunteers to go to Porton Down for tests for the common cold." [Q]

(Nov/Dec 50): "They were told by their sergeant at the Training Regiment that he thought they were going to Porton Down for something to do with a cold." [H]

(RAF Jul 51): "recruited verbally: common cold experiments at Porton Down." [Q]

(Army Apr/May 52): "Duty sergeant asked for volunteers to research common cold cures." [Q]

(RAF Jul 52): "misled from beginning as we were told would be taking part to cure the common cold." [Q]

(RN May 53): "asked by NCO - free weekend leave if I volunteered to take part in experiments for the common cold." [Q]

(RN May/Jun 54): "verbally recruited: informed that the purpose of my posting was to undergo tests for common cold research." [Q]

(Army 54/55): "Told at unit that tests were mild and intended to aid investigations into the common cold." [Q]

(RAF Jul/Aug 55): "We were asked to volunteer for trials into the cause of the common cold. Remuneration was good, compared to our service pay plus extra leave on completion was very attractive to say the least." [Q]

(Jun 56): "Volunteers from camp were asked to participate in research for common cold." [H]

(RAF Sep 56): "Told they were being tested for common cold." [H]

(Army Dec 56): [volunteered during parade] "I volunteered to attend the common cold research establishment. [Q]. "I was informed by the duty sergeant at St Patrick's barracks that volunteers were required to attend the common cold research establishment and if I did so I would have extra Christmas leave and not be required for duty over that period." [H].

(Feb 57): "Tests were for atom bomb - but they were originally told the tests were for common cold - given a weekend pass and £5." [H]

(Nov 57): "They were told they were coming for tests for the common cold." [H]

(Aug 60) "I was led to believe at the time that these tests/injections were for research into the common cold." [H]

(RN Sep/Oct 61): "medical research into common cold." [Q]

(Army Jul 71): "told by NCO on parade it was research into a cure for common cold." [Q]

(RAF Nov 71): "We were told that research for the common cold was being done, and that volunteers were required so I contacted Station HQ." [Q]

Inferences that the tests were related to the common cold

(RN Sep 50): "had impression it was related to finding cure for the common cold." [Q]

(RN Feb/Mar 51): "Senior Rating toured the establishment asking for Volunteers. Assumed as it was in Salisbury it must be common cold." [Q]

(Mar 51): "Believes he came to Porton Down for research into the common cold" [H]

(RAF Feb 52): "given to believe it was an establishment to research the common cold" [Q]

(Army Mar 53): "believe it was trials against the common cold." [Q]

(RN Sep 54 & Jan 57): "referred to trials at Porton Down, we assumed it was for common cold tests" [Q]

(Mar 55): "I was under the impression these tests were regarding the common cold". [H]

(RAF Spring/Summer 57): "I had heard about the cold research establishment at Porton and assumed that is what we were volunteering for." "Porton was connected with common cold research at the time." [Q]

(RAF Mar 61): "vague notion we were taking part in some cure for flu or cold." [Q]

(RAF Mar 61): "commonly held view that, as the trials were to take place at Porton Down, they would be for research into the common cold." [Q]

(Army Mar 61): "believed to be related to common cold research programme." [Q]

(Jan 63): "He thinks his attendance was between 1960-1962 and understood that he was helping with a search for the common cold." [H]

(Sep 64): "Common cold research was what he thought he was at Porton for." [H]

(RN 66): "understood I was taking part in trials for the common cold." [Q]

H.4. Initial Briefing

H.4.1. Background

The questionnaire asked volunteers if they received an initial briefing when they first arrived at Porton. If they remember receiving one, the questionnaire sought volunteers' recollections on what was said about the purpose of the studies (Section H.4.2), any risks they may involve (Section H.4.3) and the right to withdraw (Section H.4.4). Some volunteers recollect that the right to withdraw was mentioned but qualified in some way, while others remember no

qualifications being made. Comments on what was said about the right to withdraw are separated into these two categories.

Some volunteers remember that something was said in the initial briefing about payments for each test. Their comments are also included (Section H.4.5).

H.4.2. Comments on what was said about the purpose of studies

(Army 1942): "We were told about mustard gas - explained they were to have drops on the arm, but could leave now if they wished". [H]

(RAF 51): "You will sometimes be wearing gas masks, sometimes you will not. We will also be taking some blood samples from you." [Q]

(RAF Jul 51): "I believe the nature of the trial was explained as "a form of tear gas" but the agent used was definitely not mentioned." [Q]

(Army 52/53): "Test underwear against the effects of mustard gas." [Q]

(RAF Apr/May 53): "Told that a number of different trials were involved - nerve gas and other unspecified tests, including some which would be a placebo." [Q]

(RAF April/May 1953): ""experiments with "nerve gas" as it was described to us.... We were told it [the nerve gas] had been made radioactive and they were monitoring how quickly it was absorbed into the skin in tropical conditions." [H]

(RAF May 53): "Told trial would involve nerve agent." [Q]

(RAF May 53): "Told nerve gas experiments. Only information given concerned nature of the experiments i.e. gas put on material to see if it would penetrate." [Q]

(RN Oct 53): "Split into groups of 2 or 3 and shown what nerve gas could do to animals. The animals had a portion of their backs shaved and a liquid clear gas administered. Within seconds they all died." [Q]

(RAF Winter 53/54): "Told simple tests would be carried out on me including defatting my arms several times a day in acetone. Also blood tests." [Q]

(RAF May 54): "At the briefing we were only told we would be involved in certain experiments during the next days but no specific details given as to nature of experiments." [Q]

(RN 55): "My understanding at the briefing was that all the experiments would help in the development of service clothing and protective clothing - gas mask, for example." [Q]

(RAF Mar 55): "We were issued with, and told to wear for the duration of our stay "anti gas" underwear. Told would undergo vigorous exercise programme including treadmill work to check the comfort of underwear." [Q]

(RN Apr 55): "We were told that we would be doing lots of exercises to check if everything was functioning correctly under exercise. I don't think anything was mentioned about nerve gas at this stage." [Q]

(RN Jul 55): "First morning research identified as chemical warfare." [Q]

(RAF Oct 55): "Some indication that "gasses" would be involved in various experiments - briefing short and not comprehensive." [Q]

(RAF Spring/Summer 57): "Trials of gas masks. Mustard gas. Hot weather/desert tests." [Q]

(RAF Jul 57): "It was mentioned that the trials were in regard to testing treatment already in use to combat nerve agent." [Q]

(Army 57/58): "Chemical warfare trials for respirators, protective clothing, prophylactic chemicals etc." [Q]

(RAF Apr 58): "Pre trial talks explained that purpose was to improve knowledge of chemical warfare agents." [Q]

(RAF 60s): "They did say that the tests were either physical or you could be subjected to blister gas and nerve gas." [Q]

(RN Sep/Oct 61): "Short briefing on first day. Briefed as a group on second day when tests started. Told testing new equipment from clothing to gas masks." [Q]

(Army Jun 67): "I was told we would be injected with oximes (?) and 6 blood tests taken at 20 minute intervals to check what it was doing to us. I was told it was to do with making a tablet to take for nerve gas." [Q]

(Army Nov 67): "tests to check the efficiency of nerve gas antidote with respect to our eyesight. Live firing tests would be carried out before and after." [Q]

(Army May 68): "Main trial was to test gas masks in a humid condition (jungle)." [Q]

(RN May 71): "Testing biological clothing for wear and tear, we were testing gloves." [Q]

(RN Jun 71): "General thrust of trials was to help develop protective measures for NBC warfare." [Q]

(RAF Jun 72): "Purpose of trials was vague and was not relevant to some of the trials. Purpose was stated as the development and testing of protective equipment, not trials on the effects of chemical weapons." [Q]

(RAF Oct 77): "Briefing did not detail all of the trials planned. We were told we would be notified of which trials we would take part in as time allowed." [Q]

H.4.3. Comments about what was said about risk

(RAF 51): "You may experience some minor discomfort and we will be asking you exactly how you feel." [Q]

(RAF Aug/Sep 51): "Nothing was said that we might have adverse results from taking part, only minor problems arising from some of the trials." [Q]

(RN Feb 53): "Tests to be carried out were described as was the possibility of discomfort and necessary action." [Q]

(RAF Apr/May 53): "No danger but some discomfort." [Q]

(RAF May 53): "nerve gas experiments - very dilute no risk to health." [Q]

(RN Nov 53): "Naval Officer stated that various tests would be conducted with no physical risk." [Q]

(RN Jan 57): "Some discomfort from tests." [Q]

(RAF Apr 58): "No danger to short term or long term health." [Q]

(RN Sep/Oct 58): "Group told we would be taking part in some tests (not trials) that the tests were harmless." [Q]

(RAF Mar/Apr 60): "Told tests were harmless and any discomfort would soon pass. I felt we were generally treated as if there was no need for any details to be given, whilst at the same time acknowledging that some minor discomfort may be felt by some of the 'team'." [Q]

(Nov 62 & Feb/Mar 63): "It may be that others were not told of the "dangers". I certainly was." [H]

(Army 67): "Told no risk involved in the tests." [Q]

(RN Feb/Mar 67): "Told to expect running nose, sore eyes, tight chest when in Sarin experiment." [Q]

(Army Nov 67): "Assured not at risk." [Q]

(RN Jul 69): "May have side effects which would be monitored." [Q]

(RN Jun 71): "Told there would be no risk unless you were too energetic during nerve agent trial." [Q]

(RAF Apr/May 75): "That no risk would be present in any of the trials." [Q]

(RAF Oct 77): "Asked (3 times) Navy Petty Officer what to do should I feel unwell. He said that there would be no need to tell doctors about attendance as trials would not cause after effects." [Q]

H.4.4. Comments about what was said about the right to withdraw

Unqualified explanations

(RAF Jul 51): "I think the group as a whole was asked if anyone wished to withdraw during the initial briefing." [Q]

(RAF Nov 54): "We were all told at the first meeting that we could leave at any time and return to our unit." [Q]

(Army Feb 60): "If you wish to withdraw from the tests speak now." [Q]

(RAF 60s): "I was told that various tests were being looked at and would I like to be a volunteer." [Q]

(Nov 62 and Feb/Mar 63): "It was made perfectly clear to us before tests took place that if we did not feel comfortable with a particular test we could withdraw from that test." [H]

(Jun 67): "He did say it was all voluntary but they were not told a great deal." [H]

(RN May 68): "told could withdraw at any stage." [Q]

(Army 72): "had the option to refuse all experiments." [Q]

(Apr/May 74): "What they did wasn't very pleasant but at all times we were asked for permission." [H]

(Army Dec 74): "I could stop at any time and withdraw at will." [Q]

(RN Jun 77): "Made clear in introductory lecture that volunteers could withdraw from experiments although as they had no idea what experiments involved this was not a realistic option. Told clearly by Army officer that we could withdraw from experiments." [Q]

(Army Dec 84): "I was told I could leave at any time and nothing would happen." [Q]

Explanations recalled as being qualified

(RN Sep 50): "Intimated that volunteer would be returned to unit in disgrace if chose to withdraw." "Told that having volunteered were expected to conform or else be returned to unit." [Q]

(RAF Jul 51): "Implied no risk and withdrawing would be considered unreasonable." [Q]

(RAF May 53): "Told we could withdraw - return tickets collected after agreeing to stay." [Q]

(RN Sep/Oct 58): "told as we had volunteered we were expected to take part in all tests." [Q]

(RN Mar 68): "Sick berth assistant who briefed us stated that we could opt out of any tests, but also added that nobody ever had opted out." [Q]

(Army Apr 68): "There was an option to withdraw but it was put in such a way that you would be seen as losing face. As the only NCO in the group, I felt I didn't have this option." [Q]

(Army Summer 68): "That we could withdraw at any time. However being returned to our unit after requesting transfer would not go down well at our regiment (ie bottling out). How would it look to our other servicemen." [Q]

(RAF Nov 70): "We were informed on the first day by RAF Officer that although we could refuse the odd tests, too many refusals would result in being RTU [returned to unit]." [Q]

(RAF Oct 71): "We were told that we could withdraw from trials but as we had volunteered we would be expected not to withdraw." [Q]

(RAF Apr/May 75): "We could leave Porton now if we wanted but if we decided to stay then we would be expected to complete all trials for that week." [Q]

(Army 89): "We were told that we could stop at any time but they stressed we would only get paid for tests that had been completed." [Q]

H.4.5. Comments on references to payments

(RAF Nov 59): "Each trial carried a monetary reward." [Q]

(RAF 60): "When being asked if wanted to take part in a trial, we were told how much the trial was worth, from memory, the sums varied between 2/6 to 10 shillings." [Q]

(RAF 61): "NCO would have a list of trials which were priced at different amounts of money for taking part i.e. simple tests 7/6, or more involved 15/-. Being National Serviceman on low pay jumped at the chance to take part." [Q]

(RAF Dec 62): "Emphasis on remuneration for tests." [Q]

(RAF Mar 63): "Told at the beginning that certain trials i.e. self injection would be rewarded with extra cash." [Q]

(RM Nov 63): "Much made of extra pay." [Q]

(Army Dec 68): "Informed we would be paid for every test we took part in. Some tests pay more than others." "When asked to take part in a certain trial, they told us how much money we would get for each trial. Most of us agreed to take part in trials carrying the greatest reward." [Q]

(Army 68/69): "The more things we did the more we would be paid." [Q]

(Army 75): "We were told that if we did not attend trials that money would be deducted from our allowance." [Q]

H.5. Briefings before individual studies

H.5.1. Background

The questionnaire sought volunteers' recollections of the information given to them before each study in which they took part. Comments on what was said about any substances to be

used in the study and the effects they may have are listed in Section H.5.2. The following section (Section H.5.3) gives the comments made by volunteers on what they remember being told to do if they felt any discomfort.

H.5.2. Information on substances and their effects

(RAF Feb 50): "I remember being told that many of the patches stuck to me arms were associated with dermatitis and that I might have temporary blisters." [Q]

(RAF 51): "Nothing specific, just it was 'gas' and that we may feel some discomfort." [Q]

(RN Mar 50): "Told patches may irritate for a day or so." [Q]

(RAF Aug/Sep 51): "We were told mustard gas was to be put on our arms and we may get blisters. We did not know about injections we were given." [Q]

(RN 53): "Said it would make us sick." [Q]

(Army Dec 53): "Mustard Gas - advised of purpose of trial. Advised that injection was atropine." [Q]

(Army Jun 54): "Comprehensive information given to me before Atropine experiments." [Q]

(RAF Nov 54): "We were told that substances may cause irritation, do not scratch them, do not get them wet in the bath." [Q]

(RAF Sep 55): "Mustard gas - stinging, blisters. "Gas" - headache, blurred vision." [Q]

(RAF Oct 55): "Prior to nerve gas exposure double vision was mentioned as an after effect. In reality double vision and severe headaches and inability to sleep lasted for 2-3 days." [Q]

(Nov 55): "Told about smog tests and the possible effects of irritants from chemicals in the fumes." [Q]

(Army 56): "Told we were to be gassed and that we may become light headed and feel giddy. The gas was never named to us." [Q]

(RN Mar 56): "Before entering the gas chamber was told the eyes would be affected, causing partial temporary blindness." [Q]

(RAF Sep 56): "Nerve agent: informed about effect on eyes which would soon clear up. Atropine antidote: effected taste, headaches - symptoms not forewarned." [Q]

(RAF Apr 57): "Told eyes would be blurred and pupils would get small but, get back to normal. At many times much discomfort. Went to Porton three times and was always told they couldn't talk about substances." [Q]

(RN mid 57): "Injected with blue dye by a male doctor. Told this was to test how long it took to reach certain areas of the body. Samples were taken from various areas, including the ear. Told it may also cause whites of eyes to turn blue." [Q]

(RAF Aug 57): "I was told it was a form of riot control gas and might feel discomfort in chest, throat and eyes." [Q]

(Army 59): "During one trial were told to expect burning sensation on face, stinging eyes and runny nose after removing respirator." [Q]

(RAF Nov/Dec 59): "It always seemed very accurate and usually the 'test' backed up all that had been stated in the briefing." [Q]

(RAF Aug 60): "CS Study, warned of possible effects." [Q]

(RAF 61): "In one test I was told radio-active liquid would be dripped on my arm. Told it would not do any harm, hair on arm would fall off but re-grow." [Q]

(RAF Mar 61): "Mustard gas tests. Blisters were then treated with a powder compound and ointment. Told procedure might sting." [Q]

(RAF 62): "Trial involving new vaccination instrument using compressed air. The scientist explained how it worked but not the pain involved." [Q]

(RAF 62): "CS would sting eyes." [Q]

(RAF May/Jun 62): "During an experiment to test the protective qualities of a suit material we were told that the substance being tested against was liquid mustard gas. We were told that if we touched the liquid skin damage or blistering would result." [Q]

(RAF Nov 63): "Informed that I might vomit after drinking one mixture."

(RN Aug/Sep 64): "Self Injection may cause tingling in thigh." [Q]

(Army Jun 66): "Told that it was a new form of CS Gas. Briefed - sore eyes, running nose and sore throat, coughing and vomiting." [Q]

(Army Nov 67): "Told nerve gas would not harm us. Told eye drops may temporary affect vision." [Q]

(RN May 68): "Drops in eye which may cause burning sensation." [Q]

(RAF Sep 68, Oct 71): "On discomfort; dizziness, sickness or sweating were sometimes mentioned." [Q]

(Army Dec 68): "CS trials may make you feel sick. Mustard agent may blister." [Q]

(RN Jun 69): "CS gas apparently as bad as getting soap in your eyes." [Q]

(RAF Nov 70): "Some information given about CS Gas, mustard gas, and nerve gas. No information given on LSD." [Q]

(Army Jan 71): "Explained there would be discomfort after/during trials. Skin may be irritated after tests with patches on arms. Pain in legs after injections." [Q]

(RN Jun 71): "All tests involving discomfort were well briefed in advance." [Q]

(Army 72): "Full briefing on CS Gas experiment." [Q]

(RN Feb 72): "CR would cause varying degree of burning. Mustard Gas may leave blisters." [Q]

H.5.3. Comments on action in the event of discomfort

(Army 42): "told to come out of the gas chamber whenever they wished." [H]

(RN 53): "We were put in a chamber with gas masks on and told that if we had a headache or strong irritation to hold our hands up, and we would be taken out. No one obliged." [Q]

(Army Oct 53): "We were to put a hand up if feeling unwell." [Q]

(Army Jun 54): "When being exposed to sarin gas we were walking around a large gas chamber. We were told to put up our hands if we suffered symptoms. I did, and left the experiment." [Q]

(Army Aug 56): "Before entering the gas chamber we were told to touch the instructor on the shoulder and he would let anyone out when they felt that they could not stand the gas any longer." [Q]

(RAF Apr 57): "On the gas trials you were told you could leave the room at any time during trial and to make for the door where staff were waiting." [Q]

(Army Jun 62): "Should I feel at all dizzy, I should signal the observers outside the chamber to stop the trial." [Q]

(RAF Apr 64): "If uncomfortable we could withdraw." [Q]

(RN May 68): "Drops in eye ... could have eye washed out if painful." [Q]

H.6. Participating in studies

H.6.1. Background

Comments from volunteers about refusing to take part in studies are given in Section H.6.2. Volunteers were invited to comment on their recollections of being asked to participate in studies. These comments are given in Section H.6.3. All the comments in this section are drawn from questionnaire responses.

H.6.2. Refusals

(RN Feb 53): "Refused to take part due to the reaction I had on the first visit. My third and fourth visits followed a similar pattern as the officer in charge tried to cajole me into further tests. After my first visit I told the officer in charge I had no wish to partake in further trials. He was not amused. I was made to feel very low and a time waster."

(RN Apr 55): "All volunteers declined to take part in nerve gas trials. Then informed that it was not like previous nerve gas trials as it would only involve a very weak dose. No pain or after effects and so on this basis volunteered."

(RAF Jul 59): "Those who did not agree to the first test were taken to another room and asked to agree to an alternative test."

(RAF Mar 60): "Refused to do one or two tests. Doctors were annoyed and reacted by questioning premise to volunteer."

(Army Mar 61): "Noted in my diary that it was laughing gas but was later told it was nerve gas. Refused to take part in further trials of this nature."

(RAF 63): "Refused certain tests based on previous knowledge, but was nevertheless used in other tests."

(RAF Oct/Nov 67): "Told would not be paid full amount as refused one trial involving a catheter. Disputed this but not awarded money for syringe trials."

(Army May 68): "Main trial was to test gas masks in a humid condition (Jungle) - this was the best paid test but I refused and was offered other tests."

(RN Jun 71): "My particular group refused trial for Atropine injections."

H.6.3. Comments on participating in studies

(RAF Aug 49): "Assumed was still under Service Orders Obeyed orders without question."

(RAF Aug 50): "Please remember that we were National Servicemen and scared to ask questions and/or speak to 'superiors'."

(RN Feb/Mar 51): "As a new recruit I obeyed orders."

(RAF 51/52): "Assumed presence as a volunteer serviceman was sufficient."

(RN Sep 52): "Different mindset in the 1950's. Did not question orders, no human rights then."

(RN Jun 53): "I was among others and did as ordered."

(RAF Jun 53): "Servicemen did not question superiors."

(RN Nov 53): "We believed it was our duty to complete whatever tasks we were allocated."

(RAF late 54): "I had only been in the RAF a few months and in those days you just did as you were told."

(RN Nov 55): "Instructed not asked. As a young serviceman I did as I was told."

(Army 56): "I feel the fact we volunteered for travelling to Porton was sufficient for the authorities."

(RAF Jan 56): "Servicemen told, not asked what to do."

(RN Mar 56): "Asking was not an option in the 1950's."

(Army Aug 56): "I was 19, I was a soldier and I did what I was told."

(Army Dec 56): "Felt there was no opportunity to refuse to take part in trials. Some of the members of Porton were senior officers."

(RAF 57): "Not asked at all - we were ordered..... You are in services and do as you are ordered."

(RAF Aug 57): "I was there as a volunteer serviceman under military discipline."

(RN 58, 59): "As I was a naval rating and had volunteered I considered that was my approval for any tests they wanted me to participate in."

(RN Feb/Mar 67): "Felt a lot of pressure to do the tests once there, threats that you would be sent back to base and put in front of your commander. I did not consider I had a choice in carrying out the tests. Emphasis put on the fact that doctors carrying out the experiments were senior officers and therefore we must obey orders."

(RAF May 68): "Not asked, servicemen obeyed orders."

(Army Nov 69): "Army personnel obeyed orders."

(RN May 71): "As volunteers accepted that would be required to take part in all experiments."

(RAF Apr/May 75): "Told that civilian staff held rank over volunteers."