

1 photographing of these press studs, Mr Bailey, do you know?
2 A. I'm not sure when the final report will be ready, but
3 I know that they're working hard at it, so reasonably soon,
4 I would expect.

5
6 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

7
8 CMDR RUSH: Might Mr Bailey be excused?

9
10 THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

11
12 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW

13
14 CMDR RUSH: Sir, I call Ms Challenor.

15
16 <CATHERINE MARY CHALLENGOR, sworn: [11.13am]

17
18 <EXAMINATION BY CMDR RUSH:

19
20 CMDR RUSH: Q. Ms Challenor, could you state your full
21 name to the Commissioner, please?

22 A. Catherine Mary Challenor.

23
24 Q. And your address?

25 A. [REDACTED]

26
27 Q. And your occupation?

28 A. I'm currently Conservation Manager of paper, textiles,
29 photographs and art collections at the War Memorial.

30
31 Q. How long have you worked in that field at the
32 Australian War Memorial?

33 A. As manager in conservation, just for the past
34 18 months. Previously, as a textile conservator at the
35 War Memorial, since 1985.

36
37 Q. And your qualifications?

38 A. I have a Bachelor of Applied Science in Conservation
39 of Cultural Materials, specialising in textiles.

40
41 Q. Ms Challenor, was it in your role then as the senior
42 textile coordinator that you prepared a report in relation
43 to the textile components of the artefacts that were
44 located in the grave at Christmas Island?

45 A. I was senior textile conservator rather than
46 coordinator, and, yes, that was my role.

47

1 THE PRESIDENT: CMDR Rush, there is one other matter that
2 I should have asked Mr Bailey about. My understanding is
3 that the most recent investigation of the press studs
4 indicated that they had fragments of material attached to
5 them, and that whilst in the past it was thought that the
6 textiles were white and may have been dyed, the view of the
7 Federal Police was that it was likely that the textiles
8 were in fact blue, and not white. That may affect
9 Ms Challenor's evidence. I don't know.

10
11 CMDR RUSH: I might start with Ms Challenor and see if we
12 can deal with it through her, and, if not, I will recall
13 Mr Bailey, sir.

14
15 Q. Ms Challenor, you heard the comment of the
16 Commissioner as to an understanding that has been given to
17 the Commission of Inquiry as to the actual colour of the
18 overalls as a consequence of the further testing that has
19 been done. What is the position in relation to whether
20 they were white originally, or blue and have faded?

21 A. In my original report, I said that there were
22 definitely fragments of the cloth that appeared to be
23 undyed; however, I could not positively say that it had
24 been dyed or undyed. The evidence that I had in front of
25 me at the time, which came from the - when we broke open
26 one of the press studs, two layers of material came out,
27 and in that sample - and this is in my report - there were
28 bands of colour, possibly from corrosion, and I think
29 I indicated that it may have been dyed at one time, but
30 there was no very obvious evidence of that.

31
32 However, since writing that report two years ago, we
33 have broken open another stud to take more layers of fabric
34 out, and those fragments actually revealed a definite blue
35 colouration. At this stage, it is too early to say that it
36 is definitely a dye, but it is definitely a blue colour.
37 Obviously, we've taken images, and the AFP are now
38 following on from that to see if they can identify dye from
39 that.

40
41 THE PRESIDENT: Q. That means that the investigation
42 which has been progressing on the basis that it may have
43 been undyed or white, and thus may have been the boilersuit
44 of an officer, may have been misconceived, if this material
45 is blue.

46 A. Yes.

1 CMDR RUSH: Q. That is the position, is it not?

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3

4 Q. Because although there were different types and
5 varieties, the boilersuits that sailors wore in 1941 were
6 dyed blue?

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8

9 THE PRESIDENT: And interestingly, of the 89 people who
10 remain on our list - our list, at least - none of them are
11 officers. I think there are two petty officers. Apart
12 from that, they're all seamen or able seamen or leading
13 seamen.

14

15 CMDR RUSH: Sir, we were supplied I think yesterday with
16 some photographs of *HMAS Sydney* through Ms Challenor. It
17 may be convenient if we can go through them individually,
18 I'm looking at War Memorial numbers. The first is 001282.

19

20 Q. Firstly, Ms Challenor, are these photographs of
21 sailors and crew of *HMAS Sydney* held in the archives of the
22 Australian War Memorial?

23 A. They are, yes.

24

25 Q. How are they identified as being - for instance that
26 photograph - of *HMAS Sydney*?

27 A. All these photographs are on our collection management
28 database and therefore they have unique accession numbers
29 and provenance and various amounts of details.

30

31 Q. So what we're looking at there at 001282 is
32 a photograph - do we know what year approximately it was
33 taken?

34 A. According to the database, it was March 1940.

35

36 Q. Is there any other detail on the database?

37 A. Yes, there's a summary, which says that these were two
38 ratings examining the fuses of 6-inch shells brought aboard
39 the armed merchant cruiser *HMAS Westralia*, so it is not
40 actually from the *Sydney*.

41

42 Q. Sorry, could you repeat that?

43 A. This photo was taken aboard *HMAS Westralia*, not
44 *Sydney*.

45

46 Q. So this is not a photograph of sailors on board
47 *Sydney*?

1 A. No.

2

3 Q. But in relation to clothing, it is Naval clothing of
4 the era?

5 A. Yes, that's right.

6

7 THE PRESIDENT: It also gives a good depiction of a 6-inch
8 shell, which is just slightly bigger than the 15cm shell,
9 which is 5.9 inches, 87 of which would have hit *Sydney*.

10

11 THE WITNESS: Could I make a comment about this photo,
12 just to note that the man on the right-hand side is wearing
13 white canvas shoes, which I believe were noted in the
14 original report on Christmas Island.

15

16 THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

17

18 CMDR RUSH: Q. Thank you. At 001284, a photograph
19 I think of paravanes?

20

21 A. Again a group of officers and ratings from
22 *HMAS Westralia*. Note in this photograph a variety of
23 colours of overalls, and I believe the man in the top
24 centre, top, three from the left, is a warrant officer
25 wearing sort of pale, whitish coloured overalls. Again,
26 these details and these photos were picked by Jane Peek,
27 our senior curator at the War Memorial, and it was her
28 belief at the time, which led her to the conclusion that it
29 was possibly white overalls. These photos and the
30 information that she has given me were based on that
31 assumption.

31

32 Q. So the person that you're highlighting there is third
33 from the left, next to the man just wearing a white
34 singlet?

35

36 A. That's right.

37

38 Q. You say white overalls and a warrant officer or petty
39 officer?

40

41 A. Yes.

42

43 THE PRESIDENT: Q. The person at the left top in the
44 blue boilersuit appears to be wearing a Commander's hat.

45

46 A. Yes.

47

48 Q. Which suggests that probably engineering officers --

49

50 A. Yes.

51

1 Q. -- of Commander rank wore blue, not white, as we've
2 previously been told?

3 A. Again, this is not my area of expertise, but I do know
4 that Jane was fairly specific in suggesting that sailors,
5 when they had been away from home for a number of years,
6 would have picked up uniforms or overalls, or whatever,
7 from around the world, depending on what was available and
8 what they needed at the time.

9
10 Q. The other interesting thing is that there appear to be
11 sailors, one of whom is holding the trolley with probably
12 a bomb on it, or some armament on it, who is in blue
13 overalls; the person immediately above him, above the
14 officer, in the centre of the picture, is in white
15 overalls. They both appear to be sailors as distinct from
16 officers.

17 A. This is a fairly typical example of the fact that the
18 sailors' issue overalls faded very quickly. They had quite
19 fugitive dye and therefore they appeared in all shades of
20 pale blue through to dark blue.

21
22 The interesting thing about the RAN-issue sailor's
23 uniform is that it did not have press studs.

24
25 THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

26
27 CMDR RUSH: Q. And in relation to the footwear that's
28 shown there, that also appears to be white?

29 A. Canvas shoes, it appears to be, yes.

30
31 THE PRESIDENT: Q. Can we blow up picture of the
32 gentleman who I thought was wearing a Commander's hat on
33 the top left-hand side? Can one see if they are press
34 studs or buttons? I don't know that one can. No, I don't
35 think one can.

36 A. It's very hard to see.

37
38 CMDR RUSH: Q. If we can go to 001675, what was the
39 commentary with this, Ms Challenor?

40 A. Again, showing white and blue overalls. The summary
41 from the database says this is a group of artificers in the
42 engine room of an RAN cruiser. It doesn't specify which
43 one.

44
45 Q. So in the engine room, we are seeing likely petty
46 officers or warrant officers in blue and in white overalls?

47 A. Yes, yes.

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Q. Is there a year given?

A. May 1940.

THE PRESIDENT: Q. These are all *Westralia*, are they?

A. It doesn't specify for this one.

CMDR RUSH: Q. If we could turn to 005428?

A. Again, note the variety of overalls. The man three in from the left, again, appears to be wearing canvas shoes, with a paler-colour set of overalls. The sailor second from the left has a little sort of belt arrangement at the back, which often had a metal clip on it as well.

Q. From the War Memorial, what is the description and date given to this photograph?

A. 1941, *HMAS Sydney*, ratings unload fresh provisions from a truck on the wharf.

THE PRESIDENT: Potatoes, I'd say.

CMDR RUSH: Q. 009558.

A. Again, particularly on the left, you can see a pair of blue overalls; and at the very top on the right-hand side, what appears to be a metal button.

THE PRESIDENT: Can we blow that up, please, on the left-hand side.

Q. Is that a second button there?

A. Yes, possibly. It's not really clear enough to determine whether it is actually a button or a press stud.

CMDR RUSH: Q. And what is the description and date from the War Memorial?

A. At sea, 1941, three members of the engine room staff at work on the Australian-built minesweeper.

Q. 106694 - what is the War Memorial description of this photograph?

A. Melbourne, Victoria, 3 November 1944, a group of smiling ratings on the deck of N-class destroyer *HMAS Nizam*, shortly after arrival at the Williamstown dockyard. Yes, that's 3 November 1944.

THE PRESIDENT: Q. What was the date?

A. 3 November 1944, but, again, it clearly shows

1 a variety of overalls and styles and colours.

2

3 CMDR RUSH: Q. So fourth from the right, the sailor
4 would appear to be wearing what is depicted there as almost
5 grey overalls with buttons?

6 A. Yes.

7

8 THE PRESIDENT: Q. Different buttons from the person
9 adjacent to him.

10 A. Yes. It's difficult to tell, behind that placket at
11 the front, whether they're press studs or whether they're
12 buttons with button holes.

13

14 Q. They look rather more like buttons to me, from the
15 bulk, on the person third from the right and the person
16 fifth from the left. Interestingly, those sailors'
17 hatbands appear just to have "HMAS" on them with no ship
18 identification name.

19 A. I can't comment on that.

20

21 THE PRESIDENT: Is that right or not, or is "Nizam" there
22 somewhere?

23

24 CMDR RUSH: Sir, I think what you're looking at is right,
25 and there is a suggestion yet to find its way into evidence
26 that during the War, sailors' tally bands only bore "HMAS"
27 but not the name of the ship, although we do have some
28 photographs, which will be produced in due course, of
29 sailors from *HMAS Sydney* in I think April 1939 with tally
30 bands having "*HMAS Sydney*".

31

32 Q. If we could turn to 304836, what is the War Memorial
33 description of this photograph, Ms Challenor?

34 A. It says punkah louvre outlets cool engine room staff
35 as they read the pressure gauges in the engine room of an
36 Australian cruiser. No specific ship is mentioned, and no
37 date, either, just a general Second World War date. Again,
38 it was just picked out, I think, to show the variations in
39 colour of overalls in the engine room.

40

41 Q. Just whilst examining this photograph, the overalls,
42 generally speaking, for cleaning were boiled; is that your
43 understanding?

44 A. That's right.

45

46 Q. That process in relation to discolouration or fading -
47 what effect does it have?

1 A. Every time the clothes were boiled or washed, a little
2 bit more dye was removed, yes.

3

4 Q. Just looking at the two different colours that may be
5 detected in that photograph, could that be due to the
6 process that was adopted in those days of boiling, in
7 relation to one set being older, if you like, than the
8 other set?

9 A. It could be, yes.

10

11 Q. 304838 - what is the War Memorial description of this
12 photograph?

13 A. Engine room staff working in the fully equipped
14 workshop adjoining the engine room of an Australian
15 cruiser. Again, no specific ship is mentioned and no
16 specific date, just Second World War. Again, this was
17 picked, I think, because there is an example of white
18 overalls on the left and blue on the right.

19

20 THE PRESIDENT: Q. The blue may be a shirt, is it, or is
21 it overalls?

22 A. It could be a shirt, yes.

23

24 CMDR RUSH: Q. With a Commander's cap of the officer on
25 the left of the photograph?

26 A. Yes.

27

28 THE PRESIDENT: It looks like an engineering workshop.

29

30 CMDR RUSH: Q. 304841 - what is the description for this
31 photograph?

32 A. Engine room staff carrying out their duties in the
33 engine room of an Australian cruiser.

34

35 Q. Here, we have a Commander in uniform?

36 A. Yes.

37

38 Q. And then white overalls?

39 A. Yes.

40

41 Q. And shirt and work pants or overalls?

42 A. They look to me like overalls. The blue ones, were
43 you referring to? Yes.

44

45 Q. And another artificer in overalls?

46 A. Yes.

47

1 Q. P02450.006?

2 A. This is actually an aircraftman, RAAF, dressed in
3 overalls and standing in a cleared area where he was in
4 Canada with the Empire Air Training Scheme.

5
6 Q. Is there a date for that?

7 A. No, there is no specific date. It just says
8 1942-1945.

9
10 Q. So a different type of design of overall for a pilot
11 in the RAAF?

12 A. That's correct, yes.

13
14 THE PRESIDENT: Q. It looks as though it is designed to
15 fit over ordinary clothes?

16 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

17
18 CMDR RUSH: Q. And colour, blue?

19 A. Yes.

20
21 Q. Finally, at P02550.003?

22 A. This is an interesting photo. It's a group of RAN
23 stokers in overalls on *HMAS Canberra*, circa 1940, at sea.
24 But you'll note the Carley float at the side, in the
25 top-left corner, standing upright near the railings, and
26 also the variety of colours of overalls.

27
28 CMDR RUSH: Sir, I tender that group of photographs.

29
30 **EXHIBIT #215 GROUP OF WAR MEMORIAL PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTING**
31 **VARIOUS STYLES AND COLOURS OF CLOTHING**

32
33 CMDR RUSH: Q. There is a further set of photographs,
34 sir, of Ms Challenor that were provided with a focus to
35 ships' aircraft.

36 A. That's right.

37
38 Q. If we can go to 001273, what is the War Memorial
39 description of this photograph?

40 A. This is March 1940, the storage area for aviation fuel
41 for the Supermarine Walrus amphibian aircraft carried on
42 *HMAS Westralia*.

43
44 Q. *Westralia*?

45 A. *Westralia*. Again, showing white overalls, possibly
46 blue overalls behind, and a paler colour at the front.

47

1 Q. At 029509 - the description of this photograph?
2 A. This is *HMAS Australia* at sea, 1942-1943, an RAAF
3 detachment on board *HMAS Australia*, shipping the landing
4 wheels on the Supermarine Walrus amphibian aircraft prior
5 to its being catapulted from the *Australia*.

6
7 Q. The overalls?
8 A. Again, just showing the different shades of the
9 overalls.

10
11 Q. But the basic colour is blue?
12 A. Yes.

13
14 Q. At 0259510, another photograph?
15 A. That's correct.

16
17 Q. A similar scene?
18 A. Yes.

19
20 Q. What is the description given?
21 A. *HMAS Australia* at sea, 1942-1943, pretty much the same
22 caption as the previous photograph.

23
24 Q. Again, overalls of the RAAF crew?
25 A. Yes.

26
27 Q. In your opinion, Ms Challenor, are the differences in
28 colouration there due to the washing and aging process of
29 the overalls?
30 A. I'd say that's most likely, yes.

31
32 Q. 029520 - the description from the War Memorial?
33 A. Yes, again, *HMAS Australia* at sea, 1942-43, the RAAF
34 detachment and the catapult crew of *HMAS Australia* are
35 preparing the Supermarine Walrus amphibian aircraft for
36 catapulting. It's a bit hard to distinguish whether
37 they're overalls at the top or whether it's two separate
38 pieces.

39
40 THE PRESIDENT: Q. Is that somebody in a white set of
41 overalls bending over in the middle of the picture?
42 A. Again, that could be a pair of white trousers with
43 a blue top. But there could be a pair of white - I think
44 there's a figure in the centre that may have a pair of
45 white overalls on.

46
47 THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's the one I meant.

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CMDR RUSH: Q. At 044440?

A. 1938, RAAF Base Richmond, group portrait showing flying officer with his crew of a Supermarine Seagull 5 Walrus.

Q. What is depicted in that photograph would seemingly be flying overalls?

A. Yes, summer-weight flying overalls.

Q. Are they zip fasteners rather than button or press stud fasteners?

A. It's a combination of zips and buttons, yes.

Q. There is no suggestion of a zip in the relics located in the grave at Christmas Island?

A. No.

Q. 044888 - the description of this photograph?

A. 1938, Point Cook, Victoria, RAAF armourer class 2, warrant officer class 2, adjusting a bomb sight on a Walrus amphibian aircraft.

Q. The overalls - is it possible to tell, are they buttons or a zip?

A. I'd say it's more likely to be buttons, and I'm not --

THE PRESIDENT: Q. It may not be an overall.

A. It may not be an overall, that's right.

CMDR RUSH: Q. 078719?

A. 1940-1947, 43 Squadron Leader, Commanding Officer of No. 8 Squadron RAAF, in white overalls.

Q. MED0033 - the description of that?

A. North Africa, 1942, the observer of a Walrus amphibian aircraft. Just note the fact that he's wearing a life-preserver on top of either overalls or a shirt.

Q. There is no ship identified?

A. No.

Q. MED0037?

A. North Africa, 1942, inside the Walrus amphibian aircraft. This is a wireless operator. Again, he has his life preserver over a short-sleeved either shirt or overalls.

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Q. And OG1989?

A. Madang, New Guinea, 1944, a flying officer and a flight sergeant. Again, it's hard to tell whether that's actually overalls or shirt and trousers underneath the life preservers.

Q. P00279.027?

A. Admiralty Islands, Pacific Ocean, 1944, a pilot on the far right wearing flying boots and a shirt and trousers. There's one person who appears to be wearing blue overalls. They don't state who that person is.

Q. P00279.029?

A. 1942, replacing a four-bladed propeller on a Walrus amphibian aircraft on board *HMAS Australia*. Standing on the deck, wireless operator, air gunner and leading aircraftman.

Q. They all appear to be in blue overalls?

A. He could be wearing a belt over blue overalls, yes.

Q. P02308.001?

A. Weymouth, England, 1935-1939, Walrus amphibian aircraft on the water being prepared for hoisting aboard *HMAS Sydney II*. The RAN lieutenant is wearing a life preserver, kneeling under the engine, and the No. 9 Squadron RAAF pilot is the one standing on the seat, again with life preservers.

Q. The final one, P03016.072?

A. At sea, 1942, group portrait of members of No. 9 Squadron, the RAAF group aboard *HMAS Westralia* responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Walrus amphibian aircraft. Just note the assortments of the various styles of overalls, blue overalls.

Q. The person on the right may be Navy, judging by the cap?

A. Yes.

Q. And perhaps a press stud, at least one shown there, or a button?

A. It's hard to tell, but it could be a press stud, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Could we have a look at the cap band, please? It has much more than "*HMAS*" on it.

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CMDR RUSH: It certainly does.

Q. The year of that, Ms Challenor?

A. 1942.

THE PRESIDENT: Q. Did you say that's at sea?

A. Yes.

CMDR RUSH: I tender those photographs, sir.

**EXHIBIT #216 SECOND GROUP OF WAR MEMORIAL PHOTOGRAPHS WITH
A FOCUS ON SHIPS' AIRCRAFT**

CMDR RUSH: Q. Ms Challenor, just asking generally as to the fabric, as I understand, there were eyelets, there were press studs, and the eyelets belonged to a different type of fabric from the press studs?

A. That's correct.

Q. What was the nature of the difference?

A. The fabric that was attached between the eyelets was of a coarser thread and a heavier-weight fabric, and they were all found in a different position in the grave compared to the press studs.

THE PRESIDENT: Q. The suggestion is that it is likely to have been a piece of canvas with eyelets in it onto which the body was placed for ease of lifting?

A. That's correct. That's right, yes.

Q. That sounds reasonable to me, if I may say so.

A. Yes. They certainly wouldn't have come from any clothing.

CMDR RUSH: Q. In relation to the shoes that you have pointed out in a couple of photographs, what is the significance of the white sandals with the shoes that were identified at least in some of the reports for the Christmas Island body?

A. This isn't really my area of expertise, but Jane pointed out that the white canvas shoes that we have been seeing in the photographs appear to be the same type mentioned in that initial Christmas Island report.

THE PRESIDENT: Q. The cloth found attached to the press studs was, as I understand it, of plain weave?

1 A. That's correct, yes.

2

3 Q. Either a coarse cotton cloth or a very light duck; is
4 that right?

5 A. That's correct, yes.

6

7 Q. Is that the sort of material which was used in those
8 times in Naval clothing?

9 A. No. The Navy sailors' overalls, the pattern was
10 a twill fabric, which is quite visually different from
11 a plain weave. Actually, in the report, there are some
12 photographs of RAN pattern overalls, and they also had
13 metal buttons as opposed to press studs.

14

15 Q. So that means that these press studs came either from
16 an officer's uniform, if the uniform was custom made --

17 A. If they were overalls, possibly, yes.

18

19 Q. There doesn't seem to be any doubt they were overalls.

20 A. No.

21

22 Q. Arising from the fact that there were four press studs
23 found starting from the waist and going to the neck.

24 A. That's right.

25

26 Q. So assuming that they were overalls, and assuming that
27 it was not standard Naval clothing, standard ratings
28 clothing, that leaves either standard officers equipment or
29 custom-made officers equipment or custom-made ratings
30 equipment?

31 A. That's correct.

32

33 Q. The probably of custom-made ratings equipment with
34 press studs is probably more remote than the other two
35 possibilities?

36 A. I couldn't say for certain that that's the case,
37 again, specially if the sailors had been at sea for
38 a number of years. I couldn't draw that conclusion.

39

40 Q. Is it correct that in 1940-41, press studs were
41 comparatively new and comparatively expensive?

42 A. Again, I couldn't answer that. They possibly would
43 have been more expensive, but I'm not sure when press studs
44 first became available to be used on items of clothing.

45

46 Q. But is it correct to say that there is no standard
47 issue for either officers or ratings in 1940-41 which

1 involved press studs?

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3

4 Q. So this must have been custom made?

5 A. Yes.

6

7 CMDR RUSH: Q. I think you were in the Commission of
8 Inquiry when Mr Bailey provided information concerning the
9 X-ray of the press studs, the "CA" and the "AU". Have you
10 kept informed of the investigations?

11 A. Yes, that's right.

12

13 Q. And do you agree with the comment that was made by
14 Mr Bailey concerning the origin of the overalls and the
15 likely origin of the press stud?

16 A. I haven't actually seen the photographs of the actual
17 letters on the studs, but if one compares that to the Carr
18 studs that we have on other items in our collection, not on
19 clothing but on other items like packs and flying helmets,
20 then that would seem to be likely, yes.

21

22 Q. Ms Challenor, the shoes, you say, are not your area?

23 A. No.

24

25 Q. However, you have pointed to it on the screen and you
26 would be aware of the comments that are made in the
27 report --

28 A. Yes.

29

30 Q. -- about the white shoes, and I think you also
31 referred to the initial description of the shoes. Perhaps,
32 sir, if we could have SPC.001.0035, and if we could go down
33 to the middle of the page to the paragraph that reads:

34

35 *The canvas shoe found on the float was*
36 *branded either "McCOWAN" or "McEWAN" also*
37 *"PTY" followed by a crown and/or a broad*
38 *arrow.*

39

40 The broad arrow was a marking put on Naval shoes at the
41 time, was it not?

42 A. That I couldn't say, but the broad arrow generally
43 refers to Government-issue clothing.

44

45 Q. By that, you're talking about Australian
46 Government-issue clothing?

47 A. Yes, yes, and the British Government.

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Q. Just to read on:

The corpse was clothed in a boiler suit which had originally been blue, but was bleached white by exposure. There were four plain press buttons from neck to waist.

That description of four plain buttons would be consistent with overalls that were worn at the time by Navy personnel?

A. The types of buttons that were on the RAN overalls, the RAN-issue overalls, could have been described as four plain press buttons, but they could also imply press studs. It's a little ambiguous, the way that it has been written.

Q. If what is being referred to there is press studs, that would be consistent with the issue to RAN personnel at the time?

A. No.

Q. No?

A. No.

Q. Four?

A. The RAN overalls did not have press studs. They had buttons.

Q. But from what we've seen of the photographs, it would appear that some sailors are in buttons and some are not?

A. Possibly.

Q. You say "possibly", because the overalls that do not show buttons have a cover, if you like, over either the button or the press stud?

A. That's correct, yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Q. Do you know when press studs were introduced into RAN-issue clothing?

A. No, I don't, no.

Q. Can we find out or not?

A. I can certainly find that out.

Q. Would you mind doing that?

A. Yes, yes.

1 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

2

3 CMDR RUSH: Q. You indicated in one of your answers,
4 Ms Challenor, that the Carr Australia press studs were on
5 items of clothing held by the War Memorial?

6 A. That's right, yes.

7

8 Q. What sorts of items are they and what are, generally
9 speaking, their dates?

10 A. I had a look at some flying helmets, Second World War,
11 UK pattern leather flying helmets with press studs, and
12 some gas bags.

13

14 Q. Some, sorry?

15 A. Gas bags. It sounds a bit strange. The enclosures
16 were held down on to the pack with press studs. Sorry, to
17 go back to your previous comment, they obviously were using
18 press studs during the Second World War, but I haven't seen
19 any on clothing.

20

21 THE PRESIDENT: Q. It's the clothing I'm interested in.

22 A. Yes, that's right.

23

24 CMDR RUSH: Q. From the location of the press studs in
25 the grave site, it would tend to suggest, firstly, that it
26 was an item of clothing that they were on?

27 A. Yes.

28

29 Q. And also suggests, where are they were found, that
30 they fitted in, generally speaking, with press studs doing
31 up items of clothing for the upper part of the body?

32 A. That's right, yes.

33

34 THE PRESIDENT: Q. And there weren't any buttons found,
35 so they had to be the closures for the boilersuit?

36 A. That's right, unless, of course, they had been plastic
37 buttons, in which case they probably would have
38 disintegrated.

39

40 THE PRESIDENT: It's unlikely to have both plastic buttons
41 and press studs, I should have thought.

42

43 CMDR RUSH: I tender SPC.001.0035, sir, which is a report
44 of CAPT Smith --

45

46 THE PRESIDENT: Is this the document of 25 February?
47 CAPT Smith's report I think was dated 25 February 1942.

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CMDR RUSH: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: There is one of the 23rd and one of the 25th.

CMDR RUSH: Yes, 25 February 1942, and I will tender other one, sir, which is dated 23 February 1942.

THE PRESIDENT: NAA.018.0228, which is a shipping intelligence report of 25 February 1942, from CAPT Denne, will be exhibit 217.

EXHIBIT #217 SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE REPORT OF 25/2/1942 FROM CAPT DENNE, BARCODED NAA.018.0228

CMDR RUSH: And, sir a shipping intelligence report of 23 February 1942, COI.005.0264, which records an account of Mr Baker, who was an official at Christmas Island, concerning his description of the body and Carley float washed up on Christmas Island.

EXHIBIT #218 SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE REPORT OF 23/2/1942, BARCODED COI.005.0264

THE PRESIDENT: That is also found at NAA.018.0230.

CMDR RUSH: I have no further matters for Ms Challenor, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Ms Challenor. If you wouldn't mind making some inquiries about press studs on clothing, thank you very much.

<THE WITNESS WITHDREW

CMDR RUSH: Sir, there is one further witness today, CAPT Timothy Snow, who will give evidence from a forensic ballistics point of view as to the piece of metal found in the skull of the body on Christmas Island, but he is not due here until 2 o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT: Very well. I will adjourn until 2 o'clock.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT