



Ministry
of Defence

Our Ref: FOI2019/03054

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Alice Curzon-Hope

14 May 2019

Via: request-559147-5050ee86@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Curzon-Hope,

Further to our last email dated 9th April 2019, we are writing to provide a response to your Freedom of Information Act request to the Ministry of Defence dated 24th October 2018, in which you requested the following information:

“HMS Narvik following a hurried refit at Chatham arrived Christmas Island February 1958 to serve as the HQ for AWRE.

Her other role was to process Film Badges for ionizing radiation contamination. Due to the hurried refit Narvik had not been fitted out with a darkroom although a RN photographer had been drafted aboard by Lee on Solent. Such was the shambles.

A darkroom was further hurriedly constructed, when the requisite chemicals arrived ,at C Site where a very limited number of film badges were processed.

Please advise where the majority of Film Badges were processed.”

A search for the information has now been completed and we can confirm that we were unable to find any information in scope of your request.

Under Section 16(1) of the Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance to requesters, so it may be helpful if we provide some additional clarification. We have reviewed a large number of documents but unfortunately none identify the location where the film badges from Operation Grapple were processed. Some of files we have reviewed confirm that there were a number of darkrooms at the trial, both on HMS Narvik and on Christmas Island itself, however none of the files show whether these darkrooms were used to process the majority of film badges.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, Ministry of Defence Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the independent internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Nuclear Organisation Secretariat