

The Daily Telegraph

Letters to the editor

Re: The missing posters

Date: 12 July 2003

Sir - You report (July 9) that after a four-year inquiry costing more than £2 million the Crown Prosecution Service has decided not to prosecute over the Ministry of Defence's chemical warfare tests on service personnel at Porton Down because a crucial piece of evidence - the poster calling for volunteers to help find a cure for the common cold - has not been found. This beggars belief. Surely the sworn evidence of the 700 service personnel involved carries some weight?

At the beginning of the inquiry, I telephoned the Wiltshire police to report that I clearly remembered the appeal for volunteers appearing in our RAF station daily routine orders (DROs) - an appeal that would have featured on the DROs of hundreds of RAF stations - and that volunteers would be granted extra leave. I also mentioned that one of my airmen had volunteered and been accepted. This evidence I was happy to give on oath. My call was not followed up.

I only hope that the MPs of all the service personnel involved will find it their duty not to let the matter drop, and to determine how so much time and money can have been wasted to so little effect.

From:

Gp Capt G.H. Everitt, Torquay, Devon