

# PAUL FOOT



# reporting

## DEFORMED CHILDREN FATHERED BY OUR N-SUB SAILORS

# Nuclear nightmare

**A**HORRIFYING new theory comes to me this week about deformities in the children of nuclear submarine crews and workers.

Two years ago, I reported the fears of Mrs Pat Davis, whose husband worked on the nuclear submarine HMS Resolution.

Her son Stephen was born with a harelip and a cleft palate.

Pat had found four other children of Resolution crew members who were born with the same rare deformities.

*This was at least 15 times the average rate for these deformities.*



RISK: Cdr Rob Green



FINDINGS: Pat Davis

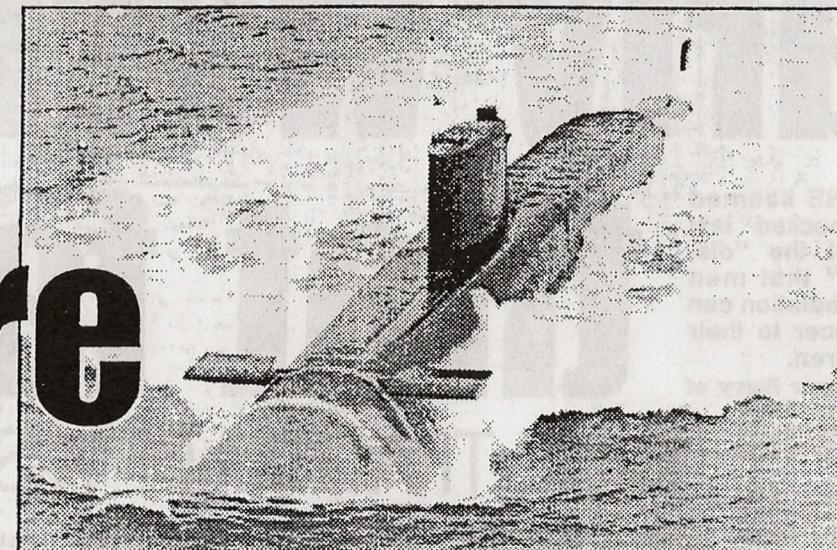
The Ministry of Defence dismissed this as "a very sad coincidence".

Pat thought the deformities had been caused by leaking radiation on the Resolution.

In 1990, an official inquiry concluded that

parents exposed to radiation can pass on cancer to their unborn children. One senior government boffin advised worried nuclear workers not to have children.

Pat, by now re-married, asked Commander Rob



HMS RESOLUTION: Are children of welders' sentries at risk?

Green, a former high-ranking naval officer and a member of Services for Nuclear Disarmament, to investigate.

*Two years later, Commander Green concludes that all children of all nuclear submariners and workers in nuclear dockyards could be at risk.*

"I've come across several deformities in children of junior ratings on other submarines apart from the Resolution," he says.

"My theory is that the danger is most acute for ratings who stand as sentries when the nuclear pipes for the submarines are being welded. The

welders have masks, but the sentries don't. Even a tiny dose of radiation ingested by the sentries can lead to deformities in their children."

When Rob Green discussed this theory in the Mirror's sister Scottish paper, the *Scottish Sunday Mail*, a few weeks ago, the response was astonishing.

Ten nuclear submariners contacted the paper to reveal cleft palates and harelips among their children.

If any submariner's family has had the same experience, I would like to know about it. I promise complete confidentiality.

## FAMOUS 5 GET THE TREASURE

THIS time last year I wrote about seven workers in Southampton who were made redundant after a total of 102 years' loyal service to construction giant Wimpey. Between them they got a total of £35,500 redundancy pay.

I'm sure they will all be delighted at the news that five Wimpey directors have been made redundant since the beginning of this year. Between them the five will have to make do on just £500,000.

**PAUL FOOT** reporting

# Early warning that failed

EVERYONE seemed very shocked last week at the "discovery" that men exposed to radiation can pass on cancer to their unborn children.

Professor Roger Berry of British Nuclear Fuels even advised concerned nuclear workers not to have children.

But something very similar happened years ago in the Navy, where Professor Berry is a scientific adviser.

Pat Davis's husband worked on the nuclear submarine Resolution. In 1973, she went to see a friend in hospital who had just had a baby.

The father also served

## BABY TRAGEDY OF A-SUB FAMILIES

on HMS Resolution. The baby was born with a hare lip and a cleft palate.

Four months later, a baby of another Resolution submariner was born with a hare lip and a cleft palate.

Two months later,

Pat Davis herself gave birth to a baby son with a hare lip and a cleft palate.

In January and September, 1974, Pat Davis found two other babies whose fathers served on Resolution. Both were born with hare lips and

cleft palates. In 1985, Yorkshire Television producer James Cutler confronted the Ministry of Defence.

He pointed out that one in a thousand babies are born with these deformities - which had occurred five times in 18

months in a crew of only 300.

He produced Japanese research which showed that low doses of radiation on male mice produced a high rate of deformities (including cleft palates) and cancers in their offspring.

The Ministry said



**PAT DAVIS:** Suffered

their advisers had told them there was "no evidence" that deformities could be passed on in this way. They dismissed the Resolution cases as a "very sad coincidence."

One of their advisers at the time was Professor Roger Berry.

A British Nuclear Fuels spokesman says: "Professor Berry was not consulted by the Navy about the Japanese research."

UK ministry sued in deformity test case

# MI5 'WAGING WAR OF HARASSMENT'

By BERNARD PHELAN

A WEST of Ireland family claims to have received death threats from MI5 since taking legal action against the British government.

Mrs Patsy Dale is suing the Ministry of Defence on behalf of her son Stephen (22), who was born with a cleft palate and brain damage.

She believes the defects were caused when his father, Danny Davis, was exposed to radiation while serving on a British nuclear submarine.

The accident is alleged to have occurred in 1971 at Rosyth naval dockyard in Scotland, during a refit of the sub HMS Resolution.

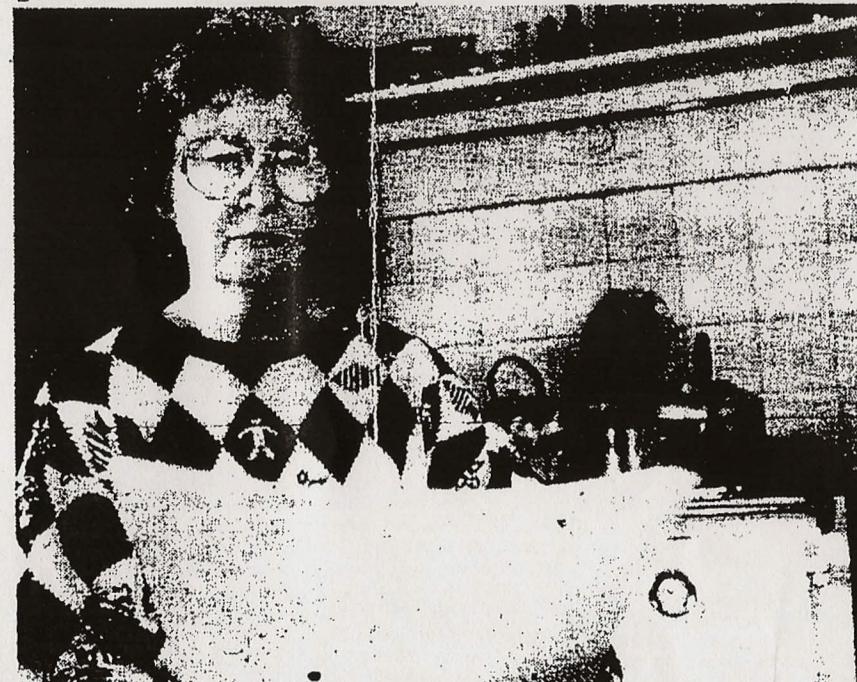
Mrs Dale, who now lives in Lifford, Ennis, Co Clare, with her second husband Gordon Dale, believes many other naval families have been affected by radiation.

But she is the only one, so far, to bring an action against the authorities.

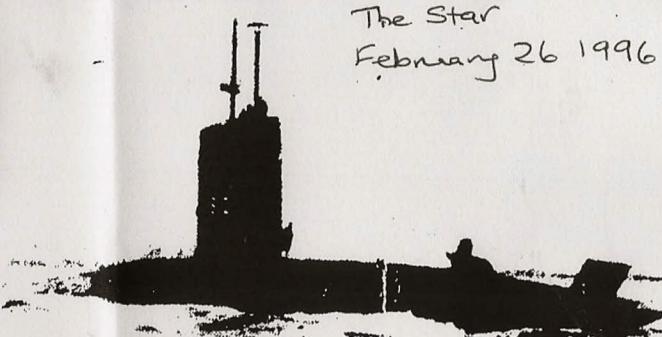
*The historic case could open the floodgates to hundreds of similar claims.*

But since starting proceedings in the late 1980s, Mrs Dale claims she was forced out of Britain by an MI5-backed campaign of harassment.

## Family tell of death threats



LEGAL FIGHT: Mrs Patsy Dale with her case papers



N-LINK: A Polaris sub, blamed for son's deformities



The Star  
February 26 1996

## Ransacked

And since resettling in Co Clare, she and Gordon say they have endured death threats, burglaries and assaults.

Mr Gordon alleges that in the last fortnight:

- Their house was ransacked twice;

- Research papers compiled by Mrs Dale were stolen — and later returned;

- Three death threats on paper were pushed through the letterbox;

- Mrs Dale's elderly mother, who lives with them, was also targeted.

*"Last year my wife was confronted at gunpoint by a man in the garden," said Gordon Dale.*

"We have been unable to identify this person but believe he is acting on behalf of British intelligence in order to intimidate us into dropping our case."

"There has also been banging on the windows, day and night for the past

few months. This has frightened the life out of my mother-in-law," said Mr Dale.

Gardai are investigating the claims but have so far failed to substantiate them. "We have spent a considerable amount of time on the case," said one detective.

The Dales have been supported in their court claim by a former top naval intelligence officer.

Commander Rob Green

has uncovered a horrifying gap in safety procedures on British nuclear subs, dating back to the early 1970s.

He says crew members are still being put at risk.

## Deformities

Commander Green says his evidence shows that the ratio of deformities among their children is 100 times higher than average.

Stephen Dale's father



MEDICAL CLAIM: Patsy with her son Stephen

was a chief petty officer on the Polaris sub when she underwent a refit at Rosyth in 1971 and 1972. Other mothers were having babies with similar deformities."

His mother Patsy — she and Danny have since divorced — said: "When Stephen was born I was distraught.

"Then I discovered

other mothers were having babies with similar deformities."

Top London legal firm Leigh Day and Co are handling Stephen's case.

British MEP Alex Falconer and nuclear analyst John Large also support the move.

# Hereditary cancer link discovered

GUARDIAN: 22 JUL 98

Martin Weinwright

**S**CIENTISTS have proved for the first time that exposure to radiation can increase cancer risk in the next generation. Laboratory tests have isolated a mechanism which could explain child leukaemia clusters like the one at Seascale, Cumbria, close to the Sellafield nuclear plant.

A team at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research in Manchester has shown that sperm cells exposed to radiation can produce offspring vulnerable to a second "cancer attack". Inherited damage to bone marrow "factory" cells — those which manufacture other cells — in mice, left them more vulnerable to a second carcinogen.

"We cannot use this laboratory research definitely to explain the Seascale cluster, or other incidences of leukaemia in a non-lab environment," said Brian Lord, leader of the team and an expert on the effects of plutonium on the development of blood cells. "But what it does show us, for the first time, is a potential way — a mechanism — in which paternal irradiation can lead to a leukaemia risk for the next generation."

"It shows us how DNA defects can be passed from generation to generation."

Previous attempts to find a link between Sellafield and the striking Seascale cluster in 1990 were widely criticised by other scientists because of data collection mistakes. Major studies of children of radiotherapy patients and families of atomic bomb survivors have also failed to show a pattern suggesting any hereditary pattern in cancer.

The Manchester team is cautious about translating

the laboratory experiments into day-to-day life, because of the highly-controlled test environment, but Dr Lord described the results as showing "a very marked increase in leukaemia after the second cancer attack". Weapons-grade plutonium was used for the initial irradiation and second generation mice were then exposed to the carcinogen nitro-urea, which can be a by-product of food preservatives.

The findings, published in the latest issue of the British Journal of Cancer published by the Cancer Research Campaign, were described as an "important step" by the campaign's director, Gordon McVie. He said that it promised to move the medical debate on from the concept of hereditary cancer to inherited vulnerability to an unrelated second attack.

"It is evidence of damage being passed on by fathers in that way," he said. "It is the first evidence that the next generation can be more at risk to a second 'hit'."

Data from the tests shows the leukaemia risk almost doubling in mice with "factory" cells damaged by paternal irradiation. The risk was not passed on maternally in the same way because similar plutonium concentration did not occur in the ovaries.

Prof McVie said that the mechanism complemented work commissioned by the CRC from Leo Kirilen, which suggests that clusters like the Seascale example may follow "population mixing" in the Cumbrian case, an isolated community receiving an influx of Sellafield workers. In such cases, unidentified viral infection could form the second attack fingered as the cause of second generation leukaemia by the Manchester experiments.

# Irradiated sperm link to cancer

INDEPENDENT: 22 JUL 98

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research shows that in mice exposed to low levels of radiation an increased vulnerability is passed down the generations — but the cancer only developed if they were subjected to a second trigger.

Studies in animals show that the offspring of those exposed to radiation were nearly twice as likely to develop leukaemia when dosed with a cancer-causing chemical as those whose male parents were not exposed to radiation.

The finding by scientists in Manchester may reopen the debate about the risks to nuclear power workers. It adds to the growing evidence that leukaemia is the result of a "double hit" — initial damage caused by radiation which increases vulnerability to a second attack, such as infection with a virus, triggering the cancer.

The new study by a team at

"But what it does show us, for the first time, is a potential way in which paternal irradiation can lead to an increase in leukaemia risk for the next generation. It shows us how DNA defects can be passed from generation to generation."

Sunday Press, DUBLIN 29 MAR 92

# Ennis woman will sue Britain over son's birth defects

By Howard Rose

AN ENNIS woman is to sue the British government, claiming that physical defects her son was born with were caused by his father's exposure to radiation while serving on the nuclear submarine HMS Resolution.

Solicitors for Patsy Dale in London have started compiling evidence of the radiation contamination Mrs Dale claims her former husband, Danny Davis, suffered during a refit of the Resolution at Rosyth naval dockyard in Scotland in 1970-71, the first time a British Polaris sub had been refitted.

Lawyer Martyn Day last month won the first stage of the courtroom battle by obtaining on appeal legal limited aid to pursue the claim against the Ministry of Defence.

An appeal to find other naval families who may also have experienced similar problems among their children has already produced five new cases.

Most of the new cases involve families whose children, like 19-year-old Stephen Dale, were born with a hair lip and cleft palate. Another five cases are also known, as well as children who had been born with hydrocephalus or spina bifida.

The normal incidence of hair lip and cleft palate in Britain is 1:700 but in the case of the Resolution crew, Commander Rob Green, a former Royal Navy intelligence officer who is now a leading anti-nuclear author helping in the case, says it was 1:28. "The cases can all be tracked back to refits or repair work during which the fathers were in the nuclear reactor compartment, near pipes that contained radioactive coolant and which were being cut, ground or welded."

Many of the fathers involved, including Danny Davis, who is taking no part in the compensation claim, were non-technical

ratings on welding sentry duty.

The Royal Navy has consistently denied its safety regulations are at fault but Scottish Euro-MP Alex Falconer, a former Rosyth worker, is demanding an EC inquiry.

Mrs. Dale and her husband, Gordon, also believe they are victims of a long-running dirty tricks campaign by British intelligence aimed at dissuading them from pursuing the case.

They say the intimidation started in 1985 after Mrs Dale appeared in a Yorkshire TV documentary about Britain's nuclear deterrent. They say that:

- Their Middlesex home was burgled and research notes, including details of other possible contamination cases, stolen.
- Mrs Dale was repeatedly threatened face-to-face and over the phone by a posh-sounding Englishman.
- In April last year — with the family now in Ennis, where Mrs Dale's mother and aunt live in retirement — Mrs. Dale was attacked in the toilets of the community centre after attending a bingo session and again warned off the story.
- In January this year Mrs. Dale was threatened with a gun after being dragged down an alley near her Ennis home.

They claim the intimidation is non-stop, with the man's VW Scirocco car often parked outside their home for hours on end and mail being intercepted.

Police in London and gardai in Ennis have investigated the intimidation but have been unable to find any third party confirmation of the attacks. Cmdr Green believes the attacks are real and that the lack of witnesses shows the care with which the attacks are planned.

Ennis gardai say their investigations are continuing.

Cole told reporters of his fear that someone might be withholding information. At the same time police issued this description of the wanted man: aged about 30, 5 ft 6 in to 5 ft 7 in tall, slim with fair hair. On 2 April 1984, less than a fortnight after the discovery of Miss Murrell's body, police issued this photo-fit picture:



The picture was accompanied by this description. Police said the wanted man was 'white, aged between 25 and 40, well-built and with broadish shoulders. He has medium to dark brown collar-length hair, neatly groomed, with a slight fringe. He is clean shaven and has a narrow face and sallow complexion.' The killer was scruffily dressed in either a grey suit or blue-grey jacket and wore light-coloured, but dirty, training shoes.

By this time more than 120 police officers were involved in the murder hunt, looking, they believed, for a man seen running along Sundorne Road and in the Heathgates Island area.

Two days after releasing the photo-fit pictures and description, detectives themselves donned grey suits and re-enacted the part of the 'running-man'. Hundreds of people were questioned about the man and Det. Chief Supt Cole told reporters: 'It is difficult to understand why he has not come forward if he is an innocent party.' Police said later that he'd further sightings of the 'running-man' heading back along Telford Way 'disappeared' somewhere - 'it may be that he's been scared off.'

described the anorak.<sup>13</sup>

In July police issued a new photo-fit picture:



The wanted man was described as being 30-35, of medium to large build and broad shoulders. He had dark brown hair, which may have been showing traces of grey, with deep-set, dark eyes. He was wearing 'blue-top' clothing, presumably an anorak.<sup>14</sup>

By this time the police had gathered an enormous amount of information about Hilda Murrell's killing. They had also been in touch with Interpol (International Police Liaison Organisation). The Shrewsbury public were asked to forward information about a red Ford Escort car seen in the vicinity of Miss Murrell's home on the day of her abduction and later in the area where her body was found. Police did not know if it was in any way connected with the murder, but wanted the driver to come forward so that he could be eliminated from inquiries.

But perhaps one of the more intriguing moves was the police appeal to America's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in September 1984. They had alerted the FBI to the fact that at the time of the killing, a man had been seen

Came through door  
in 1991

DEATH