

*Harry Allen Read*

1,500 feet and, owing to the fact that the outer covering of his parachute was caught up in the shroud lines, he could not control his direction of landing, and therefore hit going backwards and rolled over four or five times.

I shall now ask the first of a series of questions:

1. What evidence can the government adduce to disprove the statements in this report?

It is reliably reported to me that after landing, W/O Read walked about four miles, with a painful leg injury, which was treated by a doctor in the small town to which he was taken, and that in full view of some one hundred curiosity seekers his bomb aimer had to assist him to rise, to sit down and to walk, and that his bomb aimer continued to help him around for a few days, after which he managed on his own. My second question is:

2. What evidence can the government adduce to disprove the statements in this report?

Again, it is reported to me, reliably, I believe, that up to March 5, 1951, never in the years before the war or since, had W/O Read been hospitalized or treated by any doctor for a fracture of any kind, or a spinal injury of any sort.

3. What evidence can the government adduce to dispute the statement in this report?

The three statements I have made thus far appear to constitute a serious arraignment of the government.

Again, it is reported to me, reliably, I believe, that W/O Read was invalidated home from overseas.

4. Is this true?

5. If so, upon whose recommendation was the decision made to invalid W/O Read home?

6. And if so, upon whose diagnosis was the recommendation made?

7. And upon what evidence was based the diagnosis of W/O Read's case that resulted in the said recommendation?

May I draw to the attention of the house the fact that evidently this airman was considered unfit for service. He was invalidated home. There is no evidence whatsoever that he received any effective treatment for the maladies or injuries that caused his being invalidated home. If the government can produce evidence to the contrary, it would be well for it to do so. Otherwise it looks to me

as though someone in the government who had to do with W/O Read has gravely offended this nation.

It is further reported to me, reliably, I believe, that after being invalidated home W/O Read had to wait four months in England before there was space available on a ship, and then a further four months while awaiting posting for discharge at Ottawa, all this time suffering from a painful neck condition, and without any kind of treatment.

8. What evidence can the government adduce to disprove the statements in this report?

9. If the statements referred to in question 8 are true, who made the decisions upon which such apparent gross neglect was based?

10. Upon what principles of government policy were made those decisions referred to in question 9?

11. On what date did W/O Read first report for hospitalization after his discharge?

12. To what agency of the Department of Veterans Affairs?

13. Who was the doctor to whom W/O Read was turned over for diagnosis?

13(a). Who turned him over?

14. Was that doctor a psychiatrist?

15. If so, why should a man having had a physical injury be turned over to a psychiatrist?

Again, it is reported to me that on that occasion, as on previous occasions, no X-ray was taken of W/O Read's spine—which fact, if substantiated, is most astonishing.

16. Can the government adduce evidence to show that the statement in this report is untrue?

17. If not, how does the government explain such apparent callous neglect of ordinary common-sense precautions in dealing with a case such as that of W/O Read, who had suffered a physical injury while landing in a parachute after jumping from an aircraft fifteen hundred feet from the ground?

It is reported to me that in 1947, in Regina, W/O Read, faced with the task of caring for himself in his injured condition, as well as his wife and two little children, approached the Department of Veterans Affairs and begged for care and treatment, and some kind of assistance, but met with absolute refusal.

18. What evidence can the government adduce to disprove the statements contained in this report?

It is reported that W/O Read approached the Department of Veterans Affairs for treatment on at least three occasions in Regina, but was refused, under humiliating circumstances.