

out. About six to eight men per body were detailed to transport the bodies from forward camp to Horopito rail-head. The bodies reached Horopito (that is, Cowern's Mill) about 11 o'clock Sunday morning. On the Saturday afternoon quite a number of messages passed trying to ascertain how many bodies had been recovered, and there was considerable confusion as to whether twelve or thirteen bodies were recovered. I did not know till shortly after 5 p.m. that only twelve bodies had been recovered. It was reported at some stage that thirteen bodies had been recovered. I know I myself made out a message stating that thirteen bodies had been recovered, but before it was transmitted I received redirection from an Army signals officer that only twelve had been flashed down from the plane. The message was amended to read "twelve" and was radiod for that number. Apart from the incident between Sergeant Carlyon and the photographer, Mr. Hill, I understood there was some friction or misunderstanding between Sergeant Carlyon and McMillan, of the *Star*. That is the only instance I know of. I have no direct knowledge. In cross-examination he said that the Investigator of Accidents, Wing Commander Kean, who was at the plateau, only requested him not to allow anybody to go near the plane till the arrival of himself or the police. He appeared very much against the pressmen. Asked in cross-examination whether he did not say to the body of pressmen when they arrived words to this effect, "Sorry, old chaps, you can't go any farther forward, you seem to have annoyed Air Department," he answered, "The words I used were, 'Sorry, old chaps, you cannot go farther ahead; you seem to have trodden on somebody's toes.'" To the question, "If men returning from the search plane had said to these pressmen that they had instructions they were to give no information whatever, did those instructions come from you," he answered, "Possibly they did for this reason: there were men who were reporters coming from the direction of the plane that had never been near it. They were a relief body. My opinion was that information should be given to me as I was in charge and I would give information to the press myself as authentic." To the question, "Was that stand taken of your own volition or as an instruction from anyone else," he said, "I received no official instruction from any one."

He says he did not threaten any one with arrest. He gave no instructions that members of parties returning to Cowern's Mill should not give information to the press. He considered that was their own business after they left the camp-site. "Did you at any time give instructions to Constables Auld and Phillips that no information should be given by them?" "Definitely not." "Did you hear Wing Commander Kean give instructions as to withholding information as to time watches of passengers had stopped on plane?" "Yes." When he returned to Cowern's Mill he became aware that pressmen were indignant with some one over instructions which had been given to rescue parties to withhold information; he heard them talking amongst themselves. They were not too happy about it. On the plateau he said there was a certain amount of bottled-up feeling over the difficulty of getting news by pressmen. Certain questions were put to him; he answered, "Certain newspapers run an 8 o'clock edition, and I think the crux of the matter was these pressmen wanted to make a scoop. The information was not there till about 5 o'clock. No way of getting it out other than from radio-grams. I felt that was the whole crux of the matter. The 8 o'clock edition was going to miss."

Sergeant Carlyon, of Wanganui, on instructions, went to Ohakune district to assist in rescue operations and to attend to an inquest and all matters in connection therewith. He says he reached the plateau late on Friday night, after dark. Senior Sergeant Taylor, with the main body, was already there. The following morning—that is, Saturday—the main party went on to the plane; he remained to organize volunteers and make arrangements for provisioning. There was an incident concerning pressmen McMillan which occurred after the body of the child arrived, about 12.30 or 1 o'clock. Some men who had returned from the wreck informed him that stretcher-bearers were coming down a different track from that on which they had gone in, that they were very fatigued