

- Q. It is obvious both your answer to Mr. Leicester and statement in Press Association message could not both be correct?
- A. So it appears.
- Q. You now desire to say that it was Flight Lieutenant Jacobsen who stated it was on instructions from Prime Minister's Department that what you call a system of almost wartime secrecy was instituted?
- A. Flight Lieutenant was only one who referred to Prime Minister's Department to me that day.
- Q. That is not a complete answer to my question. Do you say it was Flight Lieutenant Jacobsen who informed you that the Prime Minister's Department had given instructions which resulted in what you call a system of almost wartime secrecy?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Although not more than twenty minutes ago you had overlooked or forgotten that?
- A. I have said, and I still say, that at this distance of over two months I do not know exact position and do not recall exact wording of conversations, but the original message was correct.
- Q. You cannot recall exact conversation. Can you on your oath to-day tell this Commission it was Flight Lieutenant Jacobsen who told you that the Prime Minister's Department had given instructions for what you term a system of almost wartime secrecy?
- A. Jacobsen was only person I spoke to at airfield.
- Q. Just address your mind to precise question I asked you. Do you, giving evidence to-day, say that it was Flight Lieutenant Jacobsen, who informed you that under instructions from Prime Minister's Department this system of "almost wartime secrecy" was instituted?
- A. Flight Lieutenant Jacobsen's words to me were not framed in same way as that message. Said he had had his instructions and said information to go to Prime Minister's Department. I took it that was where his instructions came from.
- Q. Is statement in Press Association message "on instructions it was stated from Prime Minister's Department" an assumption you made?
- A. No, it is not an assumption.
- Q. Follows from your last statement.
- A. No, it is not an assumption.
- Q. I will go on with the message: "To-day when the Press Association representative called at the Karioi landing-ground he was informed . . . all press representatives were to be excluded from ground and no information given to them."
- A. Yes, that is right.
- Q. Did Jacobsen at any stage specifically refer to press representatives?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did not Jacobsen say that the Karioi field was closed to all civilians?
- A. No; said out of bounds to press. I recollect it was a phrase he used.
- Q. "Any information," it was stated, "will be issued through Publicity Section of Prime Minister's Department." Do you attribute that also to Jacobsen?
- A. Yes.
- Q. I want you to pause for a moment, Mr. Wall. Do you say that Flight Lieutenant Jacobsen referred to the Publicity Section of the Prime Minister's Department?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Were you present here when Mr. Jacobsen gave his evidence?
- A. No.
- Q. Read a report of it?
- A. No, not other than newspaper reports. They are accurate, of course—not necessarily complete.
- Q. I want to put to you one passage in Flight Lieutenant Jacobsen's evidence at page 110. [*Counsel reads from page 110 of evidence.*] "At the same time I would like to mention that until such time as I was called to this inquiry I did not know there was a Publicity Section of the Prime Minister's Department." Flight Lieutenant Jacobsen has told us that. I was going on to put to you what appears in more than one passage of Mr. Jacobsen's evidence (page 110, middle of page: "I think I referred him to either the Air Department or the Prime Minister's Department"). Did Flight Lieutenant Jacobsen make any reference to the Publicity Section of the Prime Minister's Department?
- A. If that is contained in the Press Association message, Sir, he must have.
- Q. Otherwise the message is wrong, isn't it?
- A. But the message is not wrong.
- Q. But if he didn't, the message is wrong?
- A. It would be if he didn't.
- Q. You know, or do you, that the reference in your Press Association message to the Publicity Section of the Prime Minister's Department was taken up by quite a number of newspapers in their editorial comments; strong indignation was expressed that news should be channelled through the Publicity Section of the Prime Minister's Department?
- A. I have not read leading articles specifically referring to Publicity Section of Prime Minister's Department.