

Biography of Richard David

Richard David was born in the rural county of Somerset, England on the 1st of September 1954 youngest son of a head dairyman his childhood was idyllic. He was educated at state schools leaving at the age of fourteen in 1969 with barely average grades in any subject but enough to allow him to attain an apprenticeship in the motor engineering industry.

Richard was nicknamed Nibby by his father at a very young age, this nickname remains to this day so much so that almost everyone knows him as Nibby rather than Richard.

On becoming a qualified motor engineer Nibby still resided in a small village with his parents and older brother which was about 20 minutes travelling time to the town where most people worked in that area Yeovil, he remained in the motor industry until 1985 when he commenced employment as a skilled fitter in the military aerospace industry as a fitter assembling machined metal components into complex hi tech assemblies used in military aircraft environmental control systems.

Nibby, enjoyed this challenging work although a factory the work was very varied and batches relatively small, not just assembly, most workers in this industry actually assist in design and developing cutting edge technologies to win new contracts in a competitive market, all aircraft and components are certified to CAA standards which is really is to comply with strict US patents and quality standards all is classified being part of the defence industry, the vast majority of the components were built using imported US materials designed and assembled to US specifications for US built fighter aircraft, indeed the company is a major American owned household name with facilities in the UK and Australia, it was not rare for new development's to be overseen by US representatives of the companies buying UK built components.

Nibby noticed his health deteriorate within one month of starting work within the aerospace industry, it was mystifying to a lifelong non smoker to be experiencing upper respiratory problems, this aspect quickly deteriorated to the point of being a permanent overwhelming throat pain which nobby endured ever since March 1985, no doctor could explain what was wrong or that this was in any way linked to his employment, although Nibby was concerned at the vast quantity and volumes of previously unheard chemicals, substances and solvents which workers were in no way protected from inhaling or coming into direct skin contact seemed a logical point to investigate, he mentioned to the resident Health and Safety manager employee his health concerns, and was assured that all substances were used according to very strict HSE standards.

Nibby was very popular with bosses and colleague alike, he represented the company at two quality seminars and was a union shop steward and also a member of the works suggestion committee, he had also voiced his concerns over substance safety issues with the managing director.

In March 1993 Nibby was approached by the agent of Paddy Ashdown MP with a view to nominate him as a candidate for the upcoming Count Council election, there was a landslide result for the Liberal Democrats and Nibby ended 100 years of conservative control representing the seat of Ilchester.

During 1995 Nibby's health took a nosedive, by July he could barely breath, walk or move and was virtually bedridden with two diseases a lung disease and a form of arthritis but there were also accompanying internal and skin problems. His Lung disease was confirmed in a Path Laboratory following diagnostic surgery and confirmed in late December 1995, as this was life threatening other symptoms were not followed up even though those conditions were noted.

Whilst at home virtually bedridden during August 1995 Nibby was amazed at an ITN news story showing how veterans returning from the 1991 Gulf war were showing signs of a syndrome type of disease, the story centred on a lady major that happened to have identical symptoms to Nibby.

He followed the news story from his MP's office, and was put in touch with the NGVFA, indeed Nibby spoke from the platform representing the Liberal Democrats, although at that time any similarity of ill health symptoms to Gulf veterans could not be explained apart from the military aircraft link. He became a member of the NGVFA and has always kept a keen interest on their situation, his main topic from the platform was for veterans to try to help themselves by taking control of their personal wellbeing, cut out smoking, cut down on alcohol and most importantly seek drug free alternatives to standard NHS treatment of symptoms, as in Nibby's experience Chinese acupuncture had helped whereas western medicine seemed to make matters worse.

In many ways Nibby's situation was more difficult than the Gulf veterans, his medical diagnosis of 1995 was a death sentence by itself, Nibby was exposed to harsh treatment from all authority's doing their utmost to stop any form of personal injury legal claim being made, he was thwarted by the medical profession manipulating the prescribed disease compensation scheme which removed engineering from claimable disablement benefits. He was never able to work again.

Nibby, a union member should have had unstinting support from his union, but with two medico/legal doctors not willing to support in court this failed, he spent thousands on Legal aid to launch a civil personal injuries claim only to find that system be abandoned in aid of the no win no fee type claims, but there was gap in take up of the new process and only simple obvious physical injuries such as broken limbs seemed to be taken on by lawyers.

Nibby, had access to powerful computers at Somerset County Council and also statistical data of area health records from Somerset hospitals, the web site revealed an alarming story of toxicological disease within the aerospace industry and how this was covered up by all authorities in exactly the same way Nibby had experienced, The Boeing story was sited as the biggest mass personal Injury claim that was crushed by order of the US government and was never heard.

Amid deteriorating health, Nibby was having other medical ill health symptoms, now married there were problems regarding roughly 75% impotency and also his wife suffered extreme internal burning directly as a consequence to sexual activity, Nibby was also aware of what could best be described as a feeling of burning semen. He had emotional problems, short term memory problems and felt cut off at Council meetings as he found it impossible to concentrate on any debate, he felt not to be the same person almost as though he had been genetically modified, and made the conscious decision not to father a child, he also decided to stand down from Somerset County Council at the end of his second quadrennium.

In February of 1999 Nibby was invited to an NGVFA open meeting at Portsmouth where a number of experts made presentations one of these experts was Dr Asaf Durakovic of UMRC, well, he had never heard of depleted uranium and within a few hours was amazed at the story coming from Dr Durakovic, Nibby asked lots of questions which eventually led to Nibby being included in the UMRC urine testing programme, March 2000 came the results that Nibby was indeed positive to DU contamination and that his results were to be used among British, Canadian, and US Gulf veterans in the peer review process.

For Nibby this was amazing it either proved that everyone is contaminated with DU or that his employment linked illness was exposure to some form of radioactive metal dust thought by all to be used only in anti tank munitions.

During early 2000 Nibby alerted the HSE to his bizarre results and requested a full investigation of this large site occupied by two aerospace companies, he also had the first known civil legal claim set up using No Win No Fee to be solely for Depleted Uranium poisoning, he also with co-operation of his lawyers got a local TV station to commission a documentary regarding depleted uranium exposure incidents in the UK.

In September of 2000 Dr Durakovic was to present his DU findings of which Nibby's results were among, to a scientific conference held in Paris, Nibby knows his MEP asked if he could attend this

conference, the MEP could not but he kindly offered the possibility of umrc re showing the presentation at the EU parliament in Strasbourg, France.

This offer was keenly taken up by Nibby and put it to UMRC and the NGVFA. On the 24th October 2000 Ray Bristow, Bob Shakesby, Denise Shakesby, Jane & Nibby David travelled to Strasbourg, France. Mary Ripley Guzman, Stella Gresham represented UMRC Dr Durakovic could not attend as he has a prior engagement in Brussels. Damacio Lopez also attended this the first EU presentation of the unfolding horrors of depleted uranium, Damacio showed his video documentary "invisible war" which left everyone awe struck. For Nibby this was an incredible experience as by chance Invisible war showed the processed metal Depleted uranium as sold onto the arms market, this metal appeared to resemble a metal commonly used at Nibby's former workplace.

During November 2000 Nibby and his wife were invited to the CADU conference in Manchester, where Ray Bristow, Damacio and other experts attended.

Early 2001, the HSE investigation revealed that Nibby's ex employers denied ever using depleted uranium, this also coincided with the showing of the HTV documentary "Serpent In our Soil" in which Nibby featured this was fascinating as hi lighted a contradiction of the HSE investigation, the file that HTV had built up was very much representative of the aero industry use of depleted uranium, which even now in general has been ignored as the main industry of which workers would have been exposed to radiation, they too have all been lied to in their thousands trying to find answers to an industry rife with poor health and early deaths. The other company sharing the same site issued a statement which was read out on TV admitting to using depleted uranium ballast from 1966-1981, where DU was replaced with a tungsten alloy.

Nibby checked with the environment agency and discovered that the site was indeed licensed to handle radioactive metals between 1966- 1981, the replacement supposedly safe metal was visually identical to the material shown in "invisible war" as depleted uranium.

Nibby's medical health has continued to decline, he now has a kidney tubule defect leaking potassium, his legal case insurers arranged for him to go to Berlin with some NGVFA members to take part in Chromosomal aberration testing carried out by Bremen University, the results proved chromosomal damage due to excessive internal exposure to ionising radiation.

Nibby has never received appropriate state ill health pension to prescribed disease, on checking the benefit agency handbook, the very first PD on the list is A1 covering diseases and injury by exposure to magnetic and ionising radiation. Nibby applied for this benefit which was immediately turned down as he did no work in an industry associated with any radiation exposure possibility. He appealed against this decision using some of the literature he had gathered over what was a number of years, the Benefit Agency manager agreed that he should be allowed to go to a tribunal in an attempt to win a state industrial injury pension (not unlike a war pension indeed, managed by the same agency)

There were in fact three tribunal hearings lasting throughout 2002, at the second a man representing the government (secretary of state) made the announcement that the Secretary of State for Social Security had studied all evidence and concluded that Nibby's evidence did include the aerospace industry in an industry capable of exposing workers to depleted uranium oxides. This was hugely significant and should mean that this amendment ought to be included in future legislation.

The downside was that the rules had changed from the old form that was filled in, medically only basically terminal cases of cancer were included as the claimable industrial disease, Nibby has lumps and bumps all over especially in wrists and forearms which limit dexterity and wrist rotation one of these lumps was removed in February 2003 and found to be not cancer, but clearly they are a sure sign that Nibby's lymphatic system is effected, but the tribunal accepted that all other conditions were met including the worrying thought that Nibby has double the risk of developing cancer.

The rarity of the kidney tubule disorder caused the specialist to have Nibby's DNA checked as this is classed as a rare genetic disorder, and although nobody seems to have diagnosed this named syndrome in known cases of uranium poisoning kidney disease, the very same area of the kidney seems to be effected in those cases.

In April 2002 the results came back proving positive to two gene mutations, although nobody is able to specifically state that he has not inherited the condition it would seem highly unlikely as none of Nibby's living or dead ancestors have this chronically low potassium wasting condition which in itself is potentially very dangerous, there is also the fact that lowered potassium was first noticed and recorded at the age of 40 during the acute stage of Nibby's lung disease.

Nibby was well on the way to being the only civil legal personal injury case of depleted uranium poisoning anywhere on earth, the claim was put into court in early 2003 but on hiring a barrister it became clear that no such case precedent has ever been set, No win No Fee cases are not funded to allow a potentially expensive lawsuit court hearing, they are usually fairly simple insurance claims from the defendants insurers, lawyers do not like taking on any toxicological claims but Nibby has decided to carry on unrepresented as he has the best prepared case which is ever likely to reach the courts, he would welcome some financial support to enable him to feed his family while he concentrates on the most daunting of legal cases which for many peoples sakes and the only clear way to bring about a total ban on depleted uranium needs to be successful.

Watch this space!

Nibby David

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