

1 hole. Somewhere in the troop compartment.

2 Q How many were of the interior of the troop compartment?

3 A Two or four.

4 Q How about the outside?

5 A Four or five of the aft troop compartment from the  
6 outside.

7 THE COURT: Anything else?

8 MR. DUBUC: No questions.

9 THE COURT: Again, Mr. Edwards, thank you very much.

10 (Witness excused.)

11 THE COURT: Bring back the jury now.

12 (Whereupon, the following took place in open court:)

13 THE COURT: Do you want to call your other witness?

14 MR. DUBUC: I was going to get her right now.

15 I call Harriet Neill.

16 Whereupon,

17 MARCH 31, 1980

18 HARRIET MARY NEILL

19 called as a witness on behalf of the Defendant, having been  
20 first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL

22 FOR THE DEFENDANT

23 BY MR. DUBUC:

24 Q Good afternoon, Mrs. Neill.

25 A Good afternoon.

1 Q State your full name and address for the record  
2 please.

3 A Harriet Mary Neill, [REDACTED], Fairfax,  
4 Virginia.

5 Q What is your present occupation?

6 A Registered Nurse.

7 Q Is that in this area?

8 A Yes, it is. I work for Dr. Julius Fogel, F-o-g-e-l,  
9 of 2201 L Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

10 Q Could you describe for us your educational in nurses  
11 training please?

12 A I went to the University of Evansville in Evansville  
13 Indiana. It is a four-year Bachelor of Science Nursing  
14 Program and I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

15 Q Did you subsequent to graduation work in the field  
16 of nursing?

17 A Yes, I did.

18 I worked for six months before I joined the Air  
19 Force and I was in the Air Force for two and one-half years  
20 approximately. I have worked in the field of nursing since  
21 then.

22 Q Where did you work after you got out of the Air  
23 Force?

24 A I worked in Kansas City, Missouri, at Menorra  
25 Medical Center. I worked there for eight months and then I

1 worked in the United States Army ARMISVAC Hospital in Teheran,  
2 again approximately for two years.

3 Q You mentioned you were in the Air Force. During  
4 what year was that?

5 A January of 1973 to May of 1975.

6 Q What were your duties when you were in the Air Force

7 A For a year I was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base  
8 in Florida and I worked on Men's Surgery and Orthopedics.

9 Then I was transferred to Clark Air Force Base in  
10 the Philippines where I flew AEROVAC for approximately 18  
11 months.

12 Q In connection with the transfer, did you attend  
13 any schools of the Air Force relative to working in airplanes?

14 A Yes, I did.

15 I attended the Flight Nurse Course at Brooks Air  
16 Force Base in Texas for, I believe it was, five to six weeks.

17 Q During that period of time, did you receive any  
18 specialized training: particularly in connection with high  
19 altitude flight?

20 A Yes, we did. We went through the altitude chamber  
21 at least twice that I remember.

22 Q That was while you were at Brooks?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Can you tell us what you did in connection with  
25 that?

1       A    We went through the altitude chamber and we were  
2       taken to altitude in a chamber -- not an actual aircraft --  
3       and then we were allowed to experience a decompression or  
4       a severe drop in atmospheric pressure and were allowed to  
5       find out what the actual signs of hypoxia as brought on by  
6       a rapid decompression were, and we were also allowed to find  
7       out just exactly how we reacted.

8       Q    Was this for the purposes of evaluating yourself  
9       under that condition as well as patients that you might have  
10      on an airplane?

11      A    Yes, it was.

12      Q    You say you did that twice?

13      A    At least twice that I remember.

14      Q    You said you were assigned in the Philippines to  
15      the AEROVAC Squadron?

16      A    Yes, the Ninth Aerovac Medical Group.

17      Q    What was your function in that group?

18      A    I was a flight nurse.

19      Q    On different kinds of airplanes?

20      A    Only on one airplane, the C-9 Nightingale.

21      Q    Did you fly missions on that airplane to different  
22      places?

23      A    Yes, we did. We flew normally two to three missions  
24      a week, each of us did, and we flew missions to all the  
25      places in the Far East: Japan, Okinawa, the Philippines,

1 Thailand, Vietnam.

2 Q Did there come a time in April of 1975 when you were  
3 assigned to a C-5-A flight out of Saigon?

4 A Yes. I was assigned to the flight, but I never  
5 left Clark Air Force Base on the flight. I was subsequently  
6 dropped from the crew when they dropped it from two crews  
7 to one medical crew.

8 Q Did there subsequently come a time when you were  
9 again connected or reassigned to that crew?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Where did that occur?

12 A I went to Ton Son Nhut, Vietnam, on the C-141 and  
13 we got to Ton Son Nhut and found that we would not be carrying  
14 any orphans back to Clark.

15 We therefore transferred out medical crew to the  
16 C-5 which was on the ground and loading orphans at that time.

17 Q What, if anything, did you have to do with the  
18 loading of the orphans?

19 A I had nothing to do with the loading of the orphans.

20 Q When you arrived, had they already been loaded?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Where were you assigned in the C-5?

23 A I was assigned to the troop compartment.

24 Q Is that the compartment on the upper deck?

25 A On the upper deck.

1 Q Do you recall where in the troop compartment you  
2 were assigned?

3 A I was assigned to the very most forward part of the  
4 troop compartment, just across from and behind the latrines.

5 Q Were you assigned a certain area or a group of  
6 children to watch or take care of?

7 A I don't think I was actually assigned a certain  
8 group of children, but I was responsible for a certain group.  
9 It was kind of an understood affair.

10 Q When you say "understood," how?

11 Did you receive some instructions or how did you  
12 understand that?

13 A As best as I can recall, we just assume responsibil-  
14 ity for the orphans in the area that we happened to be in  
15 when we initially got on the crew.

16 Q When you say "assigned responsibility," what did  
17 that entail? What were you supposed to do?

18 A It entailed making sure that the infants were secure;  
19 it entailed making sure that those who needed juice and water  
20 got juice and water -- just basic responsibility for people  
21 during flight, be it infants or adults.

22 Q When you arrived on the airplane or were assigned  
23 to the area, you indicated you were in the forward area.  
24 Did you have occasion to observe the infants as to the manner  
25 in which they were seated?

1 A Yes.

2 Q What did you observe?

3 A They were seated two to a seat. They were securely  
4 strapped in an upright position. There was a pillow between  
5 the infant and the seatbelt which was a normal manner we  
6 secured children, even on an Aerovac mission. Some were  
7 crying, some were asleep -- that is just about all I think.

8 Q Can you recall anything about how the children were  
9 dressed that were in your area?

10 A It is very vague. I remember some caps and I  
11 remember a couple of sweaters, but I don't really recall very  
12 many details anymore.

13 Q Did there come a time when the airplane took off?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Were you still in the forward compartment at that  
16 time?

17 A Yes, I was.

18 Q Did you have an assigned seat?

19 A No, I did not.

20 Q Were there other nurses in the compartment?

21 A Yes, there were.

22 Q Do you recall whether you observed any civilian  
23 assistants or civilian child care workers in the compartment?

24 A I did, yes, some ladies.

25 Q Did any of them have assigned seats?

1 A Not that I know of.

2 Q During take off, did you assume any bracing position?

3 What did you do during take off? Where were you?

4 A Okay, I was again still in my forward area. I  
5 don't remember exactly how I braced for take off, but I  
6 don't recall it being any problem standing up at all. I  
7 know I did not sit down and I did not kneel down on the floor.  
8 I stood during take off.

9 Q During the period of time that the airplane was  
10 climbing out, can you describe what if anything you observed  
11 about the children in your area?

12 A I think as soon as the engine started and the  
13 air conditioner came on, they began to fall asleep because it  
14 did get a little cooler. It was very hot on the ground.  
15 They began to get a little cooler and they began to quiet  
16 down and a lot that had been crying previously went to sleep.

17 I really didn't notice anything out of the ordinary  
18 that doesn't occur on any take off in an airplane.

19 Q Was Lt. Marcia Tate also in the troop compartment?

20 A Yes, she was.

21 Q Where was she with respect to where you were located,  
22 fore or aft or middle?

23 A She was rear of my position, but I don't know exactly  
24 where.

25 Q Did you have some other medical crew members in the

1 compartment?

2 A Yes, we did.

3 Q During the take off and after the take off as the  
4 airplane was climbing out, what if anything do you recall  
5 about a rapid decompression?

6 A I remember hearing a loud pop. I remember seeing  
7 some condensation in the air. I remember also looking around  
8 and seeing some fuzzy material in the hair of the other crew  
9 members behind me.

10 I remember a very slight feeling of coldness. I  
11 also remember seeing some what I thought were panels on the  
12 inside of the aircraft loose. I didn't see anything come  
13 down, but I saw them loose. I didn't see anything flying in  
14 the air as occurs at a very high altitude if you have a rapid  
15 decompression.

16 Q How would you compare that rapid decompression to  
17 the ones you had in flight school?

18 A Very similar. Very similar.

19 Q Did you recognize it to be what it was?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You mentioned the feeling of coldness. Did that  
22 persist? Did you remain cold?

23 A I think coldness is the wrong word. I think cool-  
24 ness is more like it. I didn't notice beyond the initial  
25 recognition that it was a very slight feeling of coolness.

1 I don't remember shivering. I don't remember how long it  
2 lasted.

3 Q Do you recall feeling this coldness during all the  
4 period after the decompression, or could you tell us how  
5 long a period it took?

6 A I don't remember.

7 THE COURT: There is an objection.

8 MR. LEWIS: I would hope counsel wouldn't lead the  
9 witness in the areas under contention.

10 THE COURT: He is sensitive to that.

11 BY MR. DUBUC:

12 Q Can you tell us how long you felt what you described  
13 as a period of coldness?

14 A I can't remember.

15 Q Was it during the entire descent or could you pin  
16 point it to a period of time?

17 A I think it was just immediately following the rapid  
18 decompression. I don't remember it. It didn't stay in my  
19 mind.

20 Q You mentioned the air-conditioning system had  
21 come on during take off?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Does that system also provide heat?

24 A I don't know.

25 Q Okay.

1                   After the rapid decompression, can you tell us  
2 what if anything you observed as to the children in your area?

3                   A    I don't think there was much of a change. Those  
4 that were asleep, remained asleep and those that were awake,  
5 just looked around. I don't remember any real loud crying.  
6 I don't remember the sound being loud enough to really scare  
7 anyone.

8                   Q    What if anything did you do with respect to the use  
9 of oxygen?

10                  A    I began immediately putting on my mask and I began  
11 pulling them out and extending them to their fullest extent  
12 and passing the oxygen to the babies who were under my care.

13                  Q    How did you do that?

14                  A    I would use mine and then use one for the infants.  
15 Then I would move to another seat and use another mask for  
16 myself and then just passed them down the row.

17                  Q    Were you able to do that for the infants in your  
18 area?

19                  A    Not all of them.

20                  Q    Were you able to do that for a large number of  
21 them?

22                  A    For most of them. I had 18 or 20 under my care and  
23 I am sure I didn't reach them all.

24                  Q    Can you tell us whether you were in any way inter-  
25 fered with or unable to stand and do this task of administering

oxygen during the descent?

A Not at all. I had no problem standing or moving around.

Q Did you have any sensation based on prior flying experience that you were in a descent?

A Yes.

Q Did there come a time during the descent when you removed your oxygen mask?

A Yes.

Q Can you give me any estimate of approximately how long between the time you put it on after decompression and the time you no longer used it?

A I don't have any idea.

Q Was that a decision you made or did it come from others?

A I believe it was a decision I made. We hadn't been flying that long. Again, I don't know how long. But I knew I hadn't been flying very long and I also knew that we couldn't be at a very high altitude and that I wouldn't need it very long.

Q But you have no estimate as to time?

A No, I have none.

Q Now, with respect to the children, you have told us that those who were sleeping, continued to sleep and those that were awake stayed awake. Specifically based upon your

1 training and your experience, did you notice any signs of  
2 hypoxia such as you had been taught in school?

3 A No, I did not.

4 Q You knew what those were at the time?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Is that correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Do you recall any of the other nurses, Mrs. Tate,  
9 Mrs. Wirtz, flight medical people, Lt. Aune reporting any  
10 signs to you?

11 A No, I do not.

12 Q And if any signs had been reported to you, what  
13 would you have done according to your training?

14 MR. LEWIS: Objection.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 THE WITNESS: We would have done or I would have  
17 done exactly what I did. I would have administered oxygen.  
18 Twenty infants is too much for one person to take care of.  
19 Obviously I would only have gotten to a few of them, but I  
20 would have administered oxygen after the first call of the  
21 speaker box.

22 BY MR. DUBUC:

23 Q What would you have observed if you had seen signs  
24 of hypoxia?

25 A I would have observed dustiness, sleepiness out of

1 the ordinary -- grogginess is probably a better word --  
2 possibly paleness. Those I think are the only signs I would  
3 have observed.

4 Q If you had observed those signs, would you have  
5 given priority as far as giving oxygen to that child?

6 A Yes, absolutely.

7 Q And you didn't notice it?

8 A No.

9 Q During the decompression, during the descent, did  
10 you notice any sensation or any different feeling in your  
11 own ears?

12 A No, other than what I normally notice in a descent.

13 Q What is that?

14 A Kind of a popping of the ears, a need to clear your  
15 ears. I didn't notice anything out of the ordinary at all.

16 Q Did you observe or was it reported to you by anyone  
17 in your area that any of the children you were responsible  
18 for were indicating or experiencing any such ear problems?

19 A No.

20 Q Were there any children actually crying during the  
21 descent after the decompression?

22 A I don't remember.

23 Q Now, did there come a time during the descent where  
24 some instructions or information was passed along as to the  
25 landing, what would be done?

1 A Yes, I was told, I remember being told by one of  
2 the flight crew members, and I don't know what his position  
3 was, that the aircraft was damaged and that we were going  
4 back to Ton Son Nhut and that we were going to land.

5 Q What if anything did you do with respect to the  
6 children you were responsible for before landing?

7 A Tighten all seatbelts, I made sure the pillows  
8 were supporting them well and braced myself for the landing.

9 Q At that point were some of the children still  
10 asleep?

11 A Yes.

12 Q How did you brace yourself?

13 A Kneeling on the floor between two rows of seats  
14 with my front toward the seat and my back toward the back of  
15 the seat behind me.

16 Q Can you tell us what you recall about the landing?  
17 Was there one impact or more than one impact?

18 A Okay.

19 The first landing that I remember, which I didn't  
20 even consider an impact, was just that. It was a firm landing  
21 I really thought we were on the runway at Ton Son Nhut. The  
22 second impact I remember as being very, very hard and I don't  
23 remember anything after that.

24 Q What did you do following this second impact?

25 A I was thrown forward and I hit the forward bulkhead

1 and I don't remember then what happened exactly until we came  
2 to a stop.

3 Q You say you were braced between the seats?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Did you remain braced or did you move in any way  
6 during the landing?

7 A I did not move.

8 Q Were you injured?

9 A Yes.

10 Q How?

11 A I had a broken collar bone.

12 Q Collar bone?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Were you in any other way injured?

15 A A lot of bruises and some cuts and lacerations,  
16 but other than that, no major injuries.

17 Q Now, during the landing, this second impact, do  
18 you recall seeing any fire of any kind?

19 A No, I do not. I remember a feeling of heat on my  
20 face, but I don't remember seeing any fire.

21 Q How about cinders or something like that?

22 A I remember cinders as well as heat.

23 Q Okay.

24 Do you recall whether there were a lot of them,  
25 whether it lasted a long time?

1 A It did not last a long time. I don't know how  
2 many there were because I was braced and I had my head down.

3 Q All right.

4 Did there come a time when the airplane came to a  
5 stop?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Do you recall how long a period that was between  
8 the impact and when you realized that it had come to a stop?

9 A No, I have no idea at all.

10 Q Can you estimate it in seconds?

11 A No.

12 MR. LEWIS: Your Honor, if she doesn't know, I  
13 don't think she ought to estimate.

14 THE COURT: Overruled.

15 THE WITNESS: I can't. I just have no idea.

16 BY MR. DUBUC:

17 Q What happened after you came to a stop?

18 A I was on the wall upside down as best as I can  
19 remember as there were things that were on top of me that I  
20 could not get out from under. One of them -- I think they  
21 were panels of the aircraft. I never really looked to find  
22 out what was on top of me, but I knew one of the flight  
23 members had to get me out. I could not get out myself.

24 Q Were there any children in that area where you were?

25 A There were babies still in the seats.

1 Q In the seats?

2 A In the seats, yes.

3 Q Not in this area where you had been thrown?

4 A No.

5 Q Did there come a time after you got out of this  
6 area that you had an opportunity to observe the children in  
7 their seats?

8 A Yes, I did.

9 Q What did you observe?

10 A All of the infants that were under my care that I  
11 remember were still strapped in the seats in an upright  
12 position the way they had been before the impact. I don't  
13 remember seeing anything actually any different except that  
14 most of them were dirty. Actually, they were muddy.

15 Q Did there come a time then that you started evacuat-  
16 ing and started getting the infants out of the airplane?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Can you describe what you did in that connection?

19 A As best as I can remember, it was kind of a bucket  
20 brigade and also people moving back and forth like myself  
21 picking up an infant out of a seat and taking him to the exit  
22 and going back and possibly taking an infant from a crew  
23 member who handed him up front.

24 Q Did you have an opportunity to observe infants other  
25 than those in your immediate vicinity?

1 A Yes.

2 Q What did you observe about the infants being  
3 handed out?

4 A I observed that most were in the condition that  
5 my infants were. I saw one infant that I think was dead.  
6 I saw -- the rest of them I remember were strapped in their  
7 seats. The only time I didn't was when I made my last walk  
8 through and found an infant asleep under the seat.

9 Q What did you do?

10 A Just handed him out the exit.

11 Q What happened when you picked him up?

12 A He woke up and he cried.

13 Q You mentioned you saw one infant that was dead?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Can you tell me anything more about him that you  
16 observed?

17 A The infants were loaded on the aircraft apparently  
18 with little bags of personal belongings pinned to their shirt  
19 or tied around their neck. They also had name tags tied  
20 around their neck. The best that I can recall, I was think-  
21 ing the infant was strangled by the bag of personal goods  
22 that had been tied around his neck. I didn't see any physical  
23 injuries to the child whatsoever.

24 Q How about the other children?

25 Did you observe any other physical injuries to the

1 other infants?

2 A I did not.

3 Q Did there come a time when all of the small infants  
4 had been removed from the troop compartment?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Do you recall whether they were evacuated from that  
7 area of the troop compartment?

8 A As far as I know, they were. I never went out until  
9 I actually left the aircraft after my initial exit.

10 Q Did there come a time before you left the aircraft  
11 when you made a walk through inspection of the troop compart-  
12 ment?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Would you tell us about that?

15 A I walked through just to make sure there was no  
16 one left because I believe I was one of the last members in  
17 the troop compartment. I only found one infant who was left  
18 and this is the one I previously mentioned, the one who was  
19 asleep under the seat.

20 I don't remember seeing anyone else there except  
21 the two people who were on the floor injured.

22 Q Okay.

23 A There were no infants left though. There were no  
24 children left.

25 Q Other than the child you mentioned who you thought

1 was dead because of something tangled around his neck and  
2 the one you found asleep, did you observe or find any other  
3 children unconscious after this accident?

4 A No, I did not.

5 Q Do you recall any of these children crying after  
6 the accident in the course of either evacuating them or what  
7 you described?

8 A Yes, there were several that were crying during the  
9 evacuation procedure.

10 Q You have indicated you were injured. Were you taken  
11 to a hospital?

12 A Yes, I was taken to the Seventh Day Adventist  
13 Hospital.

14 Q Can you tell us anything about the time in which --  
15 I withdraw that.

16 Did you hear during the course of your work inside  
17 any helicopters outside?

18 A Yes, I did.

19 Q Can you give us any indication about the time the  
20 helicopters arrived at the airplane and came to a stop?

21 A It was a very short period of time. I would say  
22 no longer than five or ten minutes.

23 Q How long did it take you to evacuate the children  
24 and get them on helicopters?

25 A I haven't any idea.

1 MR. DUBUC: You may examine.

2 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Lewis.

3 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL

4 FOR THE PLAINTIFFS

5 BY MR. LEWIS:

6 Q Did you have any special pediatric training before  
7 you were detailed on this baby lift operation?

8 A I had three months of pediatric training when I  
9 was in nursing school, but I had never worked pediatrics.

10 Q I am sure you are a competent nurse, but you are  
11 not a baby specialist?

12 A That is correct.

13 Q Did you know Christie Lievermann?

14 A The name does not sound familiar.

15 Q She was on the airplane from Friends For All  
16 Children and spent some time in Vietnam taking care of the  
17 children.

18 THE COURT: She obviously doesn't know her if she  
19 doesn't know her.

20 BY MR. LEWIS:

21 Q Did you talk to anyone like that?

22 A I talked to some civilian ladies, but I don't know.  
23 No one told me what they did.

24 Q As I understand it, you heard the explosive decom-  
25 pression and then you remember certain events that occurred

1 after that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Before the explosive decompression, your group,  
4 which was around 20 you say?

5 A Around 20 approximately. I don't remember exactly  
6 how many seats were there.

7 Q They were asleep or quieted down before the explosive  
8 decompression?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Essentially they remained that way after the explosive  
11 decompression; is that your testimony?

12 A As much as I can remember.

13 Q So they appeared to you essentially very quiet and  
14 asleep after the explosive decompression, didn't they?

15 A Yes.

16 Q They remained that way until after you started  
17 taking them out of the airplane; isn't that true?

18 A They remained that way at least until we impacted.

19 Q All right.

20 The baby that was asleep under the seat, he had  
21 either been thrown or fallen from the seat, is that right?

22 A I don't know how he got there.

23 Q The pilot told us there were no children left in  
24 the upper troop compartment that were large enough to unbuckle  
25 the seatbelt.

1                   Do you agree that is true?

2                   A    I don't understand the question.

3                   Q    Well, when the pilot, Captain Traynor -- now  
4                   Major Traynor -- came to testify, he told us the selection  
5                   process put the smallest babies upstairs where you were and  
6                   only those children not large enough to unbuckle their seat  
7                   belt themselves were left up there and the others were taken  
8                   downstairs.

9                   Do you agree that was the situation?

10                  A    That is not what I remember. There were a few  
11                  children that I believe would have been old enough to get out  
12                  of the seat if they had chosen to do so.

13                  Q    Was this baby one of them?

14                  A    No. This was an infant.

15                  Q    So this infant couldn't have manipulated the seat  
16                  belt buckle; is that correct?

17                  A    That is correct.

18                  Q    So one of two things happened, either he wasn't  
19                  fastened in tight or he was thrown out by the force of the  
20                  accident; do you agree?

21                  A    I would imagine yes.

22                  Q    Did you see before the accident people going and  
23                  tightening the belts for all the little babies?

24                  A    I know I did, but I didn't see anyone else do it  
25                  because my back was to everyone else.

1 Q Was the seat that that baby was in, was it actually  
2 uprighted?

3 A I don't remember that.

4 Q You saw some seats that were actually torn from  
5 the floor and bent over?

6 A I saw one that I recall, actually two, that I saw  
7 were bent at a certain angle. They were not completely loose  
8 from the floor of the aircraft.

9 Q The metal in the seat was bent?

10 A I don't remember any longer. I just remember they  
11 were not in their initial position, but I don't remember  
12 exactly how they were bent.

13 Q The baby that was under the seat might have been  
14 unconscious or groggy, mightn't it?

15 A No, not that I remember because the child cried  
16 when I picked him up and took him to the exit.

17 Q Wouldn't that be what would happen if he were  
18 unconscious and your action brought him to consciousness  
19 and then he -- wouldn't that be the same?

20 A I don't know that.

21 Q Okay.

22 The explosive decompression was a very loud booming  
23 noise, wasn't it?

24 A That isn't what I recall. I recall a pop, a loud  
25 pop, but I don't recall a boom.

1 Q You say it wasn't -- I don't want to characterize  
2 it. I am trying to get the volume of noise, not how you would  
3 describe it.

4 It was loud, wasn't it?

5 A Yes, it was loud. Yes.

6 Q It was very loud, wasn't it?

7 A I don't remember it being very loud.

8 Q Okay.

9 I want to ask you about some of the signs of  
10 hypoxia.

11 The altitude chamber that you were in, ma'am, do  
12 you know the rate of decompression?

13 A No, I do not.

14 Q You do know it makes a great deal of difference  
15 how fast it was, do you not?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And an explosive decompression where it happens  
18 like in a third of a second, like in this one, can do a great  
19 deal more damage than one that is slower? Don't you under-  
20 stand that?

21 As a general principle, isn't that correct?

22 A Yes.

23 Q So you don't know whether you ever experienced an  
24 explosive decompression before this?

25 A We were told that we did.

1 Q Can you tell us how fast they said it was?

2 A I don't remember that.

3 Q Can you tell me some more signs of hypoxia?

4 Do you know what the heart rate would do in a baby?

5 A I don't remember that.

6 Q What about respiration? What would the respiration  
7 of a baby be like in a hypoxic state?

8 A Again, I don't remember.

9 Q Okay.

10 Did you take the pulse of any of the babies that  
11 were under your care?

12 A No, I did not.

13 Q Did you check the respiration of any of the babies  
14 under your care?

15 A Grossly.

16 Q Pardon?

17 A Grossly, just a quick observation.

18 Q Now what was the rate of respiration that you  
19 noted?

20 A I didn't count them.

21 Q So you didn't do a nursing examination of the  
22 respiration, did you?

23 A I did a nursing observation.

24 Q I mean examination.

25 A I did not do a physical examination.

1 Q I am not asking you that. I am asking you, did  
2 you check percisely the rate of respiration of any of the  
3 20 babies under your care?

4 A I did not.

5 Q Okay.

6 And I am speaking of after the explosive decompre-  
7 sion.

8 From what you could see, all of the crew members  
9 and the medical people, nursing staff and so forth, put on  
10 their oxygen masks very promptly?

11 A I did not see anyone at all. I put mine on, but  
12 I had my back to everyone else so I did not see what anyone  
13 else did.

14 Q Well, you did state in your statement, and you  
15 remember giving a statement to the military people shortly  
16 after the accident?

17 A Yes. I did.

18 Q I want to read you just this one section.

19 MR. DUBUC: May we have the page please?

20 MR. LEWIS: Yes, page 2 of 7 of this lady's state-  
21 ment.

22 It says in part, "I think every crew member kept  
23 their own oxygen mask on because that is one thing we always  
24 learned. If you are no good, you can't help anyone else."

25 Now, you did say that?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 BY MR. LEWIS:

3 Q And it is your recollection that everybody that  
4 you saw, crewmemberwise and nursing memberwise, had their  
5 oxygen mask on; is that right?

6 A Yes, I don't remember specifically at this stage.

7 Q Yes, I'm not asking specifically. I'm just trying  
8 to understand the general situation as you can help us.

9 That was your general impression at that time?

10 A Yes.

11 Q You haven't heard anything since to correct that;  
12 is that correct?

13 A No, that is correct.

14 Q After the decompression, none of your children were  
15 crying? All of them were asleep or quiet; is that right?

16 A As far as I can remember, yes.

17 Q Now, you remember when your deposition was taken  
18 about the dead child? Have you read that since your deposi-  
19 tion was taken?

20 A Yes, I have.

21 Q You didn't tell us at that time about anything  
22 around the child's neck, did you?

23 A I don't remember. I would have to read the deposi-  
24 tion.

25 Q I would like to do that, if I may. This is the

1 deposition of Harriet Goffinet Neill taken on November 24,  
2 1978.

3 MR. DUBUC: May I have a moment?

4 So we don't get too far afield, I believe this is  
5 mentioned in her statement. May be she should have a copy  
6 of her statement.

7 THE COURT: We will stand fast in place until you  
8 have a chance to check.

9 MR. LEWIS: This was in the middle of the page.

10 THE COURT: Let us have a moment of silence in  
11 place while Mr. Dubuc finds the statements.

12 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, if you want to  
13 stand up in place and stretch a minute, you are welcome to  
14 do so. Don't be bashful if you are stiff and tired.

15 MR. DUBUC: I can't find it. You might as well  
16 go ahead so that we will not hold you up.

17 MR. LEWIS: Page 90 at the bottom of the page  
18 under questions by Mr. Dubuc.

19 MR. DUBUC: I will furnish her one.

20 MR. LEWIS: If you let her have yours, I will  
21 appreciate it.

22 BY MR. LEWIS:

23 Q Have you found page 90?

24 A Yes.

25 Q See where you are asked a question by Mr. Dubuc,

1 and I am going down to the bottom and read that last sentence  
2 which I take to be the question:

3 "Did you see any injured babies, any injured  
4 infants in the troop compartment at the time of the accident  
5 or who were in the troop compartment?

6 "Answer: I saw one baby while we were evacuating  
7 that I felt was dead.

8 "Question: Is that the only one?

9 "Answer: As far as I remember. I didn't see any  
10 injuries. I didn't see any blood."

11 You can look over the rest of your testimony on  
12 that subject. You didn't mention anything about the baby's  
13 name, did you, ma'am?

14 I mean, anything strangling him at that time?

15 A No, not that I see here.

16 Q Ma'am, did you get together in Mr. Dubuc's office  
17 with some other witnesses after the start of this trial?

18 A Yes, we did.

19 Q Who was present at that meeting?

20 A Mr. Piper was present, Mr. Dubuc, Mr. Jones, Dr.  
21 Stark, Captain Tate, Captain Aune, Captain Harp and Captain  
22 Malone, Major Malone.

23 Q Can you remember if Dr. Stark was there?

24 A Yes, he was.

25 THE COURT: She mentioned Dr. Stark.