

# Nuclear study professor gets OBE from Queen after Government dismiss work

12 Jun 2011 00:00

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Professor Al Rowland led a groundbreaking study which proved men present at the atomic blasts in the 1950s were left with serious genetic damage which could have caused the legacy of cancers and rare diseases they now suffer from.

Faced with a multi-million-pound payout the Ministry of Defence tried to damn his work, insisting the research proved nothing. This has left thousands of vets fighting a lawsuit for compensation. Dozens have died waiting for it to come to court.

But this week Prof Rowland, 65, was told the Queen has given him the equivalent of an OBE in her birthday honours list – for the research her Government dismissed. He said: “The citation specifically mentions the work on the veterans.

“It's recognition from the establishment that my research is credible and I hope this honour will add some weight to the veterans' cause.”

Prof Rowland, who lives in Palmerston, New Zealand, has been made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit and will receive his medal from the Queen's representative, the Governor-General, later this year.

His pioneering research led the New Zealand government to accept that its men were harmed and they agreed to pay for treatment.

The British Government still denies there is any need. An MoD spokesman said: “We don't fully accept the findings.”