

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Medical units

Item number: 11/2/12

Item: 2 Field Ambulance

Narrative

Annexes

[1-28 Feb 1967]

PART 1

COVERING LETTER

Reference No R707-2-1.

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.

1. I enclose Commanders Diary (AF C 2118) (Adapted) as indicated at Part 2.

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature) [Signature]

Capt

Appointment ADJT 2 FD AMB

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

Recd + fwd
13-4-67
R7.

PART 2

AF C 2119 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

SECRET

ORIGINAL

~~DUPLICATE~~

Strike out where

not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation 2ND FIELD AMBULANCE

From 1 FEB 67

To 28 FEB 67

INDEX

Narrative (AF C 2118)

ANNEXES

- * A Duty officer's log
- * B Messages connected with log
- C Operation orders and instructions issued
- D Operation orders and instructions received
- * E Sitreps issued
- F Orders of battle and location reports issued
- G Intelligence reports and summaries issued; appreciations made
- H Administrative orders and instructions issued
- I Administrative orders and instructions received
- J Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns
- * K Standing orders issued
- L Commander's policy and demi-official letters
- M Action reports (if required)
- N Other papers, eg, maps and diagrams, air photos, reports from sub units
- O Periodical summaries of operations
- Z Top Secret Supplementary Diary

Enclosure Numbers

- to
- to
- 1 to -
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to

* Only to be included during operations.
† Cross out whichever is not applicable.

~~SECRET~~

† Despatched to

on 2 Mar 67

PART 3

COMMANDERS DIARIES INSTRUCTIONS

AIM

1. The aim of a Commanders Diary is to provide data on which to base future improvements in Army training, equipment, organization and administration, and to furnish historians with a record of the activities of units and formations in operational and non-operational periods in peace and in war.

GENERAL

2. Entries are to be made daily on AF C 2118 (Adapted) each entry being initialled by the officer detailed to keep it.
3. Commanders Diaries will conform with the rules for drafting orders given in "Staff Duties (Australia)" Chapter 2, Section 12.

RESPONSIBILITY

During Non-operational Periods

4. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled by commanders of all formations.

During Operational Periods (1)

5. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled in duplicate by:
 - a. Commanders of all formations.
 - b. Each branch of the staff at formation headquarters commanded by a brigadier or above.
 - c. Heads of services not below the rank of lieutenant colonel.
 - d. Personal staffs and officers holding special appointments.
 - e. Unit commanders.
 - f. Commanders of a detachment of a unit when so ordered.

COMPILATION

6. Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:
 - a. Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
 - b. Index as printed on cover.
 - c. Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
 - d. Annexes as shown in the Index.
7. All details of the unit or formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit), period covered and enclosure numbers of the annexes are to be shown on the cover. If there has been a change of command since the last report, the date of assumption by the new commanding officer is to be included.
8. The annexes are to be assembled in the groups shown on the cover. If there are no enclosures for an annex NII, will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are convenient for a particular headquarters, starting at B.

for operations form Annex "Z", "TOP SECRET" the document. It is to be prepared and disposed of as

EVENTS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

and orders given.

the day's fighting, including company movements.

Commander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

potential importance.

of officers, men and equipment.

equipment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to be given. All documents issued and received, routine returns, etc. All and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

the annexes, but need not give a precis of any of them.

DISPOSAL

13. **Original Commander's Diary.** This is to be forwarded monthly, unless otherwise ordered, by the seventh day of the succeeding month direct to AHQ.

14. **Duplicate Commander's Diary.** This must be clearly marked as a duplicate. It is to be sent separately from the original to AHQ one month after the original has been despatched but not before the former has been acknowledged.

15. When overseas, both copies of diaries are to be sent through the Army Records organization in the overseas theatre but at different times.

16. **TOP SECRET Supplementary Diaries.**

a. The documents referred to in Paragraph 9 together with a list of them made out on AF C 2118 (Adapted) must be placed in separate cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted). All details must be filled in and the cover clearly marked in red: "ANNEX Z — OFFICER ONLY". It may be convenient to group the papers by appendices.

b. Supplementary diaries must be forwarded under the normal rules for TOP SECRET correspondence, to AHQ. The inner envelope must be plainly marked:

TOP SECRET

ANNEX Z to

Commanders Diary of.....(Formation or Unit)

From.....to.....(Dates)

c. The duplicate supplementary diaries must be despatched as shown in Paragraph 14 as soon as receipt of the original has been acknowledged.

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
ed Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEB 67

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA.

UNIT/FORMATION 2ND FIELD AMBULANCE

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col WO. RODGERS

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	1		RAP 25 treatments. WARD - admit 4, disch 10, total patients 56. 36 EVAC 5 patients.	
	2.		RAP 29 treatments. WARD - admit 5, incl 2 VIET civilians wounded in ops in HQ IATF area, disch 5, total patients 56. 36 EVAC 5 patients.	
		1130	2 VC arrived from HQ IATF - both DOA.	
		0730	CO departed with ^{arrange} DGMS ^{to} from ^{the} IATF units for DGMS.	
	3.		RAP 33 treatments. WARD - admit 4, disch 3, total patients 57. 36 EVAC 5 patients.	
		0730	CO departed for HQ AFV to arrange from US Medical installations for DGMS.	
	4		RAP 22 treatments. WARD - admit 1, transfer in from 36 EVAC 1, disch 2, total patients 57. 36 EVAC 5 patients.	
	5		RAP 12 treatments. WARD - admit 3, NIL others, total patients 60. 36 EVAC 6 patients.	
	6		RAP 26 treatments. WARD - admit 16, discharged 10, VSI list 2, deaths 1. 13 Admissions were the result of friendly forces artillery which	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
ed Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEB 67

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA

UNIT/FORMATION 2ND FIELD AMBULANCE

COMMANDING OFFICER LTCOL W.O. RODGERS

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
			fell on D Coy 6RAR. This was the first time 2 Fd Amb have been required to handle a comparatively large number of battle casualties, all arriving within ten minutes. The reception classification and treatment worked smoothly. Two serious cases occupied the theatre for three hours and one case lasted 10 hours. This delayed the ^{surgical} treatment of other casualties although all were comparatively minor. They suffered no discomfort due to the delay.	
	6 7	1200	DGMS arrived SAIGON. Met by Co 2 Fd Amb and escorted to HQ AFV and around US medical installations SAIGON. RAP treatments 28. WARD - admit NIL; discharged 6 AUST, 1 ARVN, 1 VIET child. Deaths 1. Total patients 56 36 EVAC patients 9.	
	8	1730	DGMS arrived at 2 Fd Amb VAMPRE helipad. RAP treatments 34. WARD - admit 1; discharged 4; total patients 53 36 EVAC patients 8.	
	9		RAP treatments 32. WARD - admit 3; discharged 2; total patients 54 36 EVAC patients 9.	
	10		RAP treatments 27. WARD - admit 3; discharged 3; total 54. 36 EVAC 8 patients	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

ed Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEB 67

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA.

UNIT/FORMATION 2ND FIELD AMBULANCE

COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL W.O. RODGERS

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	11		RAP treatments 46. WARD - admit 6; discharged 2; total patients 58. 36 EVAC patients 8.	
	12		RAP treatments 26. WARD - admit 5; discharged NIL; total patients 63. 36 EVAC patients 9.	
	13.		RAP treatments 38. WARD - admit 4; discharged 17 incl 10 for RTA; total patients 50. 36 EVAC patients 5. MEDEVAC 18 incl 2 RAAF 16 ARMY.	
	14		RAP treatments 41. WARD - admit 11; discharged 3 (2 VIET civilians and 1 wounded POW); total patients 58. 36 EVAC patients 5.	
	15		RAP treatments 19. WARD - admit 4; discharged 5; total patients 57. 36 EVAC 5 patients.	
	16.		RAP treatments 21. WARD - admit 5; discharged 2; total patients 60. 36 EVAC 4 patients.	
	17		RAP treatments 15. WARD - admit 18; discharged 8; total patients 70. 36 EVAC 14 patients.	
			12 admissions were battle casualties from 6RAR. Once again 2Fd Amb were able to handle this number without any inconvenience to patients. 36 EVAC received 11 casualties from the same action. Due to the operation all casualties were not evacuated and 2Fd Amb were prepared to accept further casualties next morning.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)
revised Jun, 1965

UNIT/FORMATION 2nd Field Ambulance

MONTH AND YEAR FEB 67

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA

COMMANDING OFFICER Lt Col W.O. ROGERS

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	18		RAP treatments 19. WARD - admit 7; discharged 4; total patients 73. 36 EVAC patients 13.	
		0900	A further 4 battle casualties arrived, all cases required surgery and were treated at 2 Fd Amb.	
	19		RAP treatments 8. WARD - admit 8; discharged 4; total patients 77. 36 EVAC patients 13.	
	20		RAP treatments 27. WARD - admit 5; discharged 13 incl 11 for RTA; total patients 69. 36 EVAC patients 13. MEDEVAC to AUST 13. The total MEDEVAC since 1 May 66 is now 438. Direct admissions to — 2 Fd Amb 1963 36 EVAC hosp. 363.	
	21		RAP treatments 17 - WARD admit 14; discharged 5; total patients 78. 36 EVAC patients 24. For the third time this month 2 Fd Amb have been required to accept in excess of 10 battle casualties. 5RAR/3 Cav Regt were involved in an anti tanks and anti personnel mine explosions. 11 casualties arrived at 2 Fd Amb. In all there were 7 KIA and 26 wounded.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEB 67

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA.

UNIT/FORMATION 2nd FIELD AMBULANCE

COMMANDING OFFICER LTCOL W.O. RODGERS

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	22		RAP treatments 25. WARD - admit 1; discharged 8; total patients 71. 36 EVAC patients 23.	
		1100	COMAFV. Maj Gen VINCENT spent an hour visiting patients at 2nd Amb and then went with CO into 36 EVAC hosp.	
	23.		RAP 21. WARD - admit 3; discharged 4; total patients 69. 36 EVAC patients 24.	
		1630	One patient with severe shrapnel wounds to the head was transferred to 4th FD HOSP SAIGON for treatment by the US neuro surgeon. His condition was very serious and he subsequently died in that hospital some time during the morning of 24 Feb.	
	24.		RAP treatments 24. WARD - admit 4; discharged 7; total 66. 36 EVAC patients 23. Because of the large number of patients who are to be evacuated to RVN, the SMO and the RAAF MO made arrangements for a special C130 to be flown from RVN and evacuate from VUNG TAY on 27 FEB 67. This plane would fly to BUTTERWORTH for refuelling and then direct to RICHMOND N.S.W. Anticipated that approximately 50 patients would RTA.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF-C 2119 (Adapted)
revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR FEB 67

REFERENCE MAP XA BINH BA.

UNIT/FORMATION 2ND FIELD AMBULANCE

COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL W.O. RODGERS.

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	25		RAP treatments 20. WARD - admit 3; discharged 3; transfer in from 36 EVAC 1; Total patients 67. 36 EVAC patients 23.	
	26		RAP treatments 4 WARD - admit 1; discharged NIL, Total patients 68 36 EVAC patients 23	
	27		RAP treatments 22. WARD - admit 2; discharged all for RTA 32; Total patients 38. 36 EVAC patients 5 18 patients discharged from 36 EVAC for RTA.	
		1300	A total of 51 soldiers were medevaced on RAAF C130. The move of patients from 2nd Amb and 36 EVAC went very smoothly. A copy of the Instruction produced by SMO RAAF is attached.	ANNEX C.
	28.		RAP treatments 29. WARD - admit 5; discharged 7; Total patients 36. 36 EVAC patients 5.	

ENCLOSURE No 1.

ANNEX C.

To COMMANDERS DIARY
(2 FIELD AMBULANCES).

FEB 67

MOVEMENT INSTRUCTION
FOR
RAAF
AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION 7/67

APPENDICES

- Appendix A. Plan of Airbase, routes and loading area.
- Appendix B. Ambulance movement Ex 2 FD AMB.
- Appendix C. Helicopter movement Ex 2 FD AMB.
- Appendix D. Ambulance movement Ex 36 EVAC .
- Appendix E. Plan of operations area.
- Appendix F. Personnel requirement.
- Appendix G. C130 Load plan.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this instruction is to outline the movement system to be used in the preparation and loading of 51 Australian Army Medevacs on VT 458, on 27 FEB 67.

Responsibilities

2. By virtue of his appointment as Aeromedical Evacuations Operations Officer, the SMO RAAF Vietnam has full responsibility for the following:-

- (a) Final decision as to fitness of patients to be carried in aircraft.
- (b) Organisation of:-
 - (i) Transportation of patients.
 - (ii) Ground control of loading area.
 - (iii) Loading of patients onto aircraft.
- (c) Coordination of Army/RAAF patient movement.
- (d) Director of aeromedical evacuation operations Vietnam.

3. The control of aircraft loading is the responsibility of the RAAF Air Movements Officer in conjunction with the SMO RAAF Vietnam when "medevacs" are involved.

Aircraft

4. The aircraft to be used for Medevac 7/67 is a RAAF E Model C130 serial No. VT 458. This aircraft will only carry patients, patients baggage and the RAAF inflight medical team plus equipment, for this special flight.

Route

5. The route to be followed by VT 458 is; Vung Tau to Butterworth, refuel, Butterworth to Richmond airbase N.S.W., unload all patients.

Coordination

6. The movement of patients from Service Hospitals Vietnam namely 2 FD AMB, and 36 EVAC HOSP, is to be well disciplined, well coordinated and with full realisation that the personnel being moved are medically unfit.

7. Full cooperation between the RAAF, Australian Army, and U.S. Army is expected, in order that the patients will be handled expertly, gently and with the minimum of fuss.

8. The operation of patient movement will occur in three stages:-

- (a) By ambulance from 2 FD AMB.
- (b) By RAAF helicopter from 2 FD AMB.
- (c) By ambulance from 36 EVAC Hosp.

Movements

9. The C130 will be stationed at North Ramp, Vung Tau airbase. This area provides the maximum of space, privacy, and quietness. Appendix A is rough map showing ramp area and ambulance routes.

10. Two Australian Army air conditioned command vehicles will be stationed at North Ramp at approximately 0900 hours on 27 FEB 67. As soon as the C130 has arrived, and is declared serviceable, the patients named in Appendix B will be transported by ambulance and placed in the command vehicles.

.../3

The ambulances will then station at 36 Evacuation Hospital.

11. As soon as the aircraft has been set up with litter stantions, and the baggage has been stowed, patients will be moved from the command vehicles which will be titled truck one and truck two.

12. RAAF helicopters will be despatched to 2 FD AMB, as soon as truck one is empty. 2 FD AMB will despatch patients into the helicopter as according to Appendix C. These patients will be placed in the available empty command vehicle to await loading on the C130.

13. The ambulances at 36 Evac Hospital will transport the patients detailed in Appendix D. to the C130. These patients will be placed onto the aircraft and not into the command trucks. It is important to load each ambulance as listed, and to travel separately to the aircraft, allowing an interval of 10 minutes between ambulances.

Organisation

14. The complete operation depends upon Army/RAAF cooperation. The sole responsible person for the operation north ramp is the SMO RAAF Vietnam, who will detail responsible Army/RAAF personnel to operate the following sections:-

- (a) Aircraft loading - Flg Off GARLAND (RAAF)
- (b) Ambulance loading and transport Cpl CLAYTON (RAAF)
- (c) Ground control - FLT LT LAND (RAAF)
- (d) Helicopter unloading - W OFF AVERY (Army)

15. A responsible Australian Army member will be detailed to control the movement of patients by helicopter from 2 FD AMB.

16. Stretcher bearers and ground bandling personnel will be detailed separate tasks. It is important for the smooth operation of the movement organisation, that these personnel remain at their posts until given permission by SMO RAAF to leave. Appendix E is a plan of north ramp operations. Appendix F details the personnel requirement for the operation.

Communications

17. There will be radio contact between North Ramp and 2 FD AMB. This connection is to be used for coordination of patient movement. The radios will be staffed by two 3 SAS Australian Army Signallers, who will be responsible to the SMO RAAF.

Summary

18. This instruction details briefly the overall plan of operation for the movement and loading of 51 Australian Army casualties and medically unfit personnel onto RAAF Courier VT 458.

19. The SMO RAAF is indebted to Lieutenant Colonel Rogers, Commanding Officer of 2 Field Ambulance, Australian Army, for his cooperation and assistance in this operation. The services of the two 3 SAS signallers is greatly appreciated.

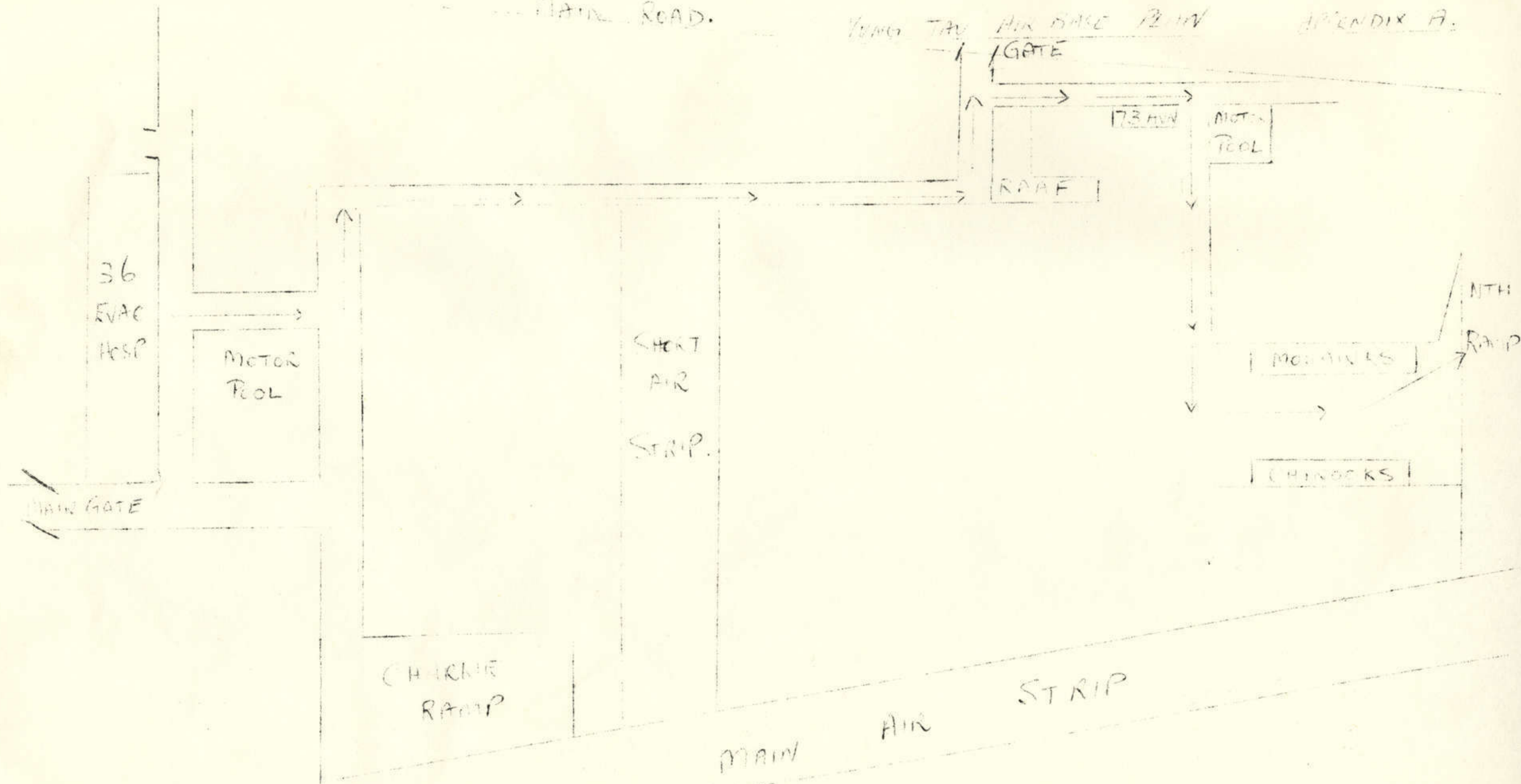


(I. FAVILLA)
Flight Lieutenant
Senior Medical Officer
RAAF VIETNAM

MAIN ROAD.

LONG TAY AIR BASE PLAN

APPENDIX A.



AMBULANCE MOVEMENT EX 2FD AMB

1. The following patients will be transported by ambulance from 2 FD AMB and will be placed in the command vehicles.

Ambulance 1. WORTH
SCULLIN
CROMPTON
McDONALD

Ambulance 2. HILLIER
SAVAGE
LEASK
TURNER

Ambulance 3. McKENNY
SHANNON
KESTERTON
SUTTON

Ambulance 4. BRIGGS
HOARE
DOCHERTY
BRYANT

2. It is essential that the ambulances arrive at the command vehicles in order. Ambulances 1 and 2 will place their patients in command vehicle 1. Patients in ambulances 3 and 4 will be placed in command vehicle 2.

HELICOPTER MOVEMENT (H.M.) EX 2 FD AMB

1. The following patients will be despatched from 2 FD AMB in the priority stated.

H.M. 1.(a) CHAD
(b) GEORGE

H.M. 2.(a) DARBY
(B) BETTS

H.M. 3.(a) OTWAY
(b) BENSON

H.M. 4.(a) WESTON
(b) BUFFY

H.M. 5.(a) HENDERSON
(b) PANDEL

H.M. 6.(a) FORAN
(b) GEE

H.M. 7.(a) COPEMAN

H.M. 8.(a) BENTLEY

2. These patients will be off loaded from the helicopter and placed in the command vehicle.

AMBULANCE MOVEMENT EX 36 EVAC HOSPITAL

1. The ambulances will be loaded in order of number, i.e. ambulance one first, and will be despatched immediately it is full.

Ambulance 1. Top HOOPER
NIKOLJEW

Bottom STRACHAN
McKENZIE

Ambulance 2. Top WEAVER
VIBERT

Bottom JONES
TAPE

Ambulance 3. Top CLARK
OLDFIELD

Bottom HARRIS
WOOLEY

Ambulance 4. Top BOCKISH
ANTHONY

Bottom FERGUSON
VICKERS

2. Ambulance 1 will return to 36 Evac after it has emptied to collect the following two patients:-

(a) COGSWELL

(b) BRETT

NORTH RAMP

APPENDIX E.

LZ

PSP Matting

SHELTER
SHED

CT
2

CT
1

WC.

AMB

1
Ramp.
T

AMB

C130



PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

1. This list contains the numbers of personnel required to handle litters at North Ramp:-

(a) Litter runners

Total number of 12 comprised as follows:-

- (i) 2 litter runners for each command truck (total 4).
- (ii) 4 litter runners for helicopter unloading.
- (iii) 4 litter runners on C130.

(b) Litter Handlers

Total number of 12 comprised as follows:-

- (i) Two litter handlers inside each command truck.
- (ii) Two litter handlers outside each command truck.
- (iii) Four litter handlers in C130.

C130 LOAD PLAN FOR LITTERS

	A	LEFT	B	C	RIGHT	D
1	HILLIER		SAVAGE	LEASK		TURNER
2	*STRACHAN		WORTH	SCULLIN		CROMPTON
3	*McKENZIE		McDONALD	BRIGGS		HOARE
4	*JONES		DOCHERTY	BRYANT		*HOOPER
5	*TAPE		McKENNY	SHANNON		*NIKOLJEW
6	*HARRIS		KESTERTON	SUTTON		*WEAVER
7	*WOOLEY		CHAD	GEORGE		*VIBERT
8			DARBY	BETTS		*CLARK
9			BENSON	*ONDFIELD		
10			OTWAY	*FERGUSON		
11	W		DUFFY	*VICKERS		W
12	H		WESTON	PANDEL		H
	E					E
	E					E
	L					L
13			*BOCKISH			
14			*ANTHONY	HENDERSON		
15			*GRESWELL	GEE		
16			*BRITT	FORAN		
17						
18						
19			COPEMAN	BENTLEY		
20						