

From: Major J G Johnston, FRCS, RAMC

55 Field Surgical Team  
RAF Detachment Salalah  
B F P O 66

Major M Watson QARANC  
Tidworth Military Hospital  
TIDWORTH  
Hants

June 1972

Dear

Re Cpl L HOLDER

This morning a very disconsolate young corporal came to me with a grievance that his leave application has been held up and that you were considering reducing the number of days requested. This is most unfair if true as originally this was a 6 months posting and Holder would have been lost to the unit until November and arrangements would have to have been made for the rest to carry on, the extra two months are a bonus to the unit and should be treated as such.

Again these boys have been on continuous duty day and night for four months, during this time the work load has been heavy as we work in three places and union hours do not apply. I know your other boys also want leave but remember that they have had their families and home comforts while Holder has had neither and also the added risk of being hit by mortars which arrive around our base area. All other units without exception have granted the leave applied for by their people, is Tidworth going to be the nigger in the woodpile, have we no pride left?

I hope you are enjoying life without your favourite boy friend, but of course you've got that nice Capt Smith. I see that Col Pat is leaving and Bill Pryn is replacing him in Feb, he is very nice an old friend of mine. Work here is very interesting, we have beds in our base hospital, in the Sultans Royal Infirmary and at the HQ of the Armed Forces. At times we run up to 50 beds, to date we have done over 200 operations so life is not boring and as thus I know the boys have earned their leave and I know you'll help.

All my very best