

DRAFTMONTHLY REPORT # 55 FST - JULY 1972

1. July was a month of frustration, disappointment and heavy work load for 55 FST. 74 Operations were carried out, 32 major and 42 minor. 31 war wounds were treated, of this 31, 23 arrived on the same day having taken part in a major battle on the plains. These included 2 BATT personnel with Mandibulo facial, loin and chest wounds. One other BATT received fatal injuries. 9 of this 23 were captured enemy. The range of injuries were extensive: two thoracotomies, two tracheostomies, three laparotomies and a colostomy together with debridement of back and extremity wounds were carried out. The team worked non stop for 30 hours in the theatre, and our 13 bed FST acquired new wards. Extra nursing help was flown in from PMRAF Hospital Akrotiri and an OTT from Masirah. All wounded are well but will require a lot of further nursing, they have been transferred to our peripheral beds in Salalah and Um Al Gharwif.

2. We had two severe GSW of head and one of chest at the beginning of the month, unfortunately all died, two 4 hours after operation and one at operation, this left us feeling very disappointed and ~~frustration~~ frustrated.

3. Our monthly hysterectomy arrived on time, and was carried out in the Salalah Infirmary where our work load has fallen off.

4. ANAESTHETIC REPORT

Total General Anaesthetics	-	74	
Emergency Anaesthetics	-	37	War wounds - 31
Endotracheal Anaesthetics	-	49	
Don-dep relaxant	-	18	
Neurolept	-	1	
IV alone	-	1	
Blood given	-	13	case
Fluids(Hartmanns)	-	25	

Location of wounds

Extremities - 36	Upper abdo - 7	Lower abdo - 5
Lumbar - 6	Chest wall - 3	Intrathoracic - 3
Tracheostomy - 2	Maxillo facial - 3	Intra cranial - 2

The only point worthy of comment this month is the increase in abdominal and thoracic wounds with their attendant post operative problems.

5. MORALE

Unit morale fluctuated up and down as each new signal referring to our recovery came in, eventually an 'Im shallah' attitude prevailed, maybe we've been too long working with Arabs.

6. BUILDING

Our empire building program proceeds apace. Xray and Laboratory are now fully installed in their new locations, the old Xray tent being used as a bulk store and reception area for mass casualties.

The shower and toilet block for the Twynam work is almost complete, now all that will be required is ~~the~~ to teach the users of it Western hygienic habits.

7. S M C

The work load here has increased greatly for the 'acting' station medical officer. With an increase in building in the camp hygiene conditions become a problem so apart from sick parades, hygiene inspections have become more regular. The present incumbent of the job, Capt N E Cetti, has carried out this job par excellence.

8. This is the last report of 55 FST and despite all our irritations I feel that we all have learnt a lot. We leave feeling that we have done a good job and our journey was really necessary.