

Ref: FOI2025-006

[REDACTED]

25 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to our previous correspondence regarding your request for the following information:

- *Monthly pathology report May 1956, written by Wing Commander JB Craig and Sergeant WR Close, dated 30/5/1956, file name AustC_Bk17_176.pdf*
- *Monthly pathology report June 1956, written by the same, dated 30/6/1956, file name AustC_Bk18_207.pdf*
- *Monthly Medical Report June 1956, written by Wing Commander JB Craig and Wing Commander NT Quinn, dated 30/6/1956, file name AustC_Bk18_209.pdf*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

We can confirm that AWE holds all of the information in scope of your request.

We are able to release the following information:

Please see attached.

However, we are withholding some of the information under section 40(2) of that act in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. This information has been redacted from the documents attached.

Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise which involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure. This is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions under the Act. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interest's test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified as being within scope of your request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled you have a right to request an internal review within 40 days of receiving this letter, by writing to information.requests@awe.co.uk or our postal address: Information Requests Team, AWE Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR. If you are still unhappy after an internal review has been completed, under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have the right to take your complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. Please note the

Commissioner will generally not consider a complaint until you have exhausted AWE's internal complaints process.

Yours sincerely,

AWE Information Requests Team

R186.002
(c) 30 JUN 1956

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MEDICAL - IN - CONFIDENCE
(PARA 1 ONLY)

13/1/MED(7A)

MONTHLY MEDICAL REPORT - JUNE, 1956.
BASE SICK QUARTERS - R.A.A.F. AMERLEY, Q.

PARA 6.

Radiological Section

1. [redacted], radiographer, having returned from leave, still is not feeling very well and his blood count is slightly abnormal. Confirmatory blood counts and specialist physician advice are being obtained prior to any further radiological duties by this N.G.O.
2. Meanwhile, many Xrays have to be conducted at Brisbane or Greenslopes Hospital with consequent serious loss of man hours.
3. It is agreed by Base Squadron Commander that provision of a separate crash ward of the type now reserved, is unnecessary following cessation of Lincoln flying at this Base. All operational aircraft at this Base now only have a crew of two.
4. A review of the current crash ward with a view to its conversion to a radiological section was therefore done, and it is considered that this area will be very suitable from all points of view, and that only minor modifications of structure will be required. An A.9 is therefore being raised to effect this and it is requested that this matter be regarded as an urgent necessity if radiological service is to be continued at this Base.
5. This proposed site will meet the space and ventilation requirements of A.B.O. "A" 141/55, and an air conditioning system will not be necessary. Ventilation fan systems will be required for the proposed new dark room.

Operation "Bala Legit"

6. The visit of 5 Canberra aircraft from No. 82 (B) Wing to U.S.A. to participate in Armed Forces Day occurred between 11th May and 6th June, 1956. The Senior Medical Officer accompanied this flight and a full report is being forwarded as Aviation Medicine 2 Monthly Report for May-June, 1956.

Staff

7. [redacted] A.A., Medical Orderly, on a six(6) year engagement, has declined to state his willingness to re-engage; this member will be discharged w.e.f. 25th August, 1956. It is advised that a replacement Corporal medical orderly will be required at this Base as from the above stated date.

PARA 1.

(a) Station Strength

Unit:	Officers:	Airmen:	W.R.A.A.F.:	RAAF.N/S:	WRAAF./OFF:
Base Squadron.	41	304	52	3	1
No. 1 N.S.T.U.	5	29			
No. 3 A.D.	13	586			
No. 82 (B) Wing.	47	295			
Att. R.A.F.	4				
Att. U.S.A.F.	2				
No. 23 (F) Sqdn.	6	65			
Totals	118	1279	52	3	1

Grand Total: 1483

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MEDICAL - IN - CONFIDENCE

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(C) 30 JUN 1956

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PART I.

(b) (1) Establishment of Base Sick Quarters

Unchanged.

(11) Strength of Base Sick Quarters

Wg.Cdr. N/Str. W.Off. F.Sgt. Sgt. Cpl. Ac's. Acw's Tot

Med./Officers.	1									1
Nur./Sisters.		3								3
X-Ray Tech.				1						1
Lab./Tech.					1					1
Hygiene Insp.			1							2
Med./Orderlies.					1	2	5	1		9
Clerks Medical.						1		1		2
Totals.	1	3	1	1	3	3	5	2		19

Deficiencies:

Medical Officers	-	3	Flt. Lt's.
Nursing Sisters	-	1	Sect.Off.
Medical Orderlies	-	1	F.Sgt.
			1 Cpl. (W.R.A.A.F.)
Clerks Medical.	-	1	Sgt.

(c) Admissions to Base Sick Quarters during month. 19

(d) Admissions to Outside Hospitals during month. 6

(e) Admissions to No's 3 & 6 R.A.A.F. Hospitals. 511

(f) (i) Total Attendances on H.O. Sick Parade for month. 567
Daily Average. 29

(ii) Total Attendances on Out-Patients' Parade. 578
Daily Average. 26
Daily Average Treatments. 45

(g) Medical Examinations conducted.

(i)	Form P/M. 5.	41
(ii)	" " 8.	1
(iii)	" " 28.	1
(iv)	" " 40.	3
(v)	" " 74.	5

(h) Form P/M. 17 Bears.

(j) Form P/M. 5 Bears. 16. Form P/M. 44/45 Bears. Nil. 4

(k) Specialist Appointments. 4

(l) Staff Movements:

- 1.6.56. [redacted] further attached until 7.6.56.
Bgt. [redacted]
- 3.6.56. [redacted] left on leave.
[redacted] departed on attachment to N.S.W. Squadron, A.T.C.
- 11.6.56. Wg.Cdr. Craig recommenced duty as S.N.O.
- 12.6.56. [redacted] returned from leave.
- 14.6.56. [redacted] left on 4 days Recreation Leave.
- 19.6.56. [redacted] departed on cessation of attachment.
W.Off. Ravenscroft departed on attachment to [redacted] of A.P.
- 23.6.56. [redacted] returned from leave.
Bgt. Cross departed on leave.

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(C) 30 JUN 1956

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(PARA'S 3 + 5)

PARA 1. (cont'd)

(1) Staff Movements. (cont'd)

27.6.56. [redacted] returned on completion of attachment

(2) Official Visitors.

Nil Comments.

(3) Visits of Part-Time Medical Officers.

[redacted] Consultant Urologist, visited [redacted] for consultations and treatment.

17.6.56. [redacted] departed on completion of duty.

18.6.56. [redacted] Civilian Practitioner, reported for Medical Officer duties.

PARA 2.

See PARA 6, sub-para 1 - 5.

PARA 3.

Clinical Details

11.6.56. A14122 [redacted] placed on S.I. List at Repatriation General Hospital, Greenslopes.

12.6.56. A14559 [redacted] placed on D.I. List at Ipswich General Hospital.

17.6.56. A14559 [redacted]

21.6.56. A14122 [redacted] removed from S.I. List

PARA 4.

See 1804/10/MED(14A)

PARA 5.

Injuries Requiring P/M. 27 Acties.

- 4.6.56. A14876 [redacted] - Fracture of (L) 8th Rib.
- 5.6.56. A12205 [redacted] - Laceration (R) Eye - brow; conjunctival haemorrhage R eye.
- 8.6.56. A11579 [redacted] - Fractured tip of terminal phalanx of (R) finger.

[redacted]

(N.T. QUINN)
Wing Commander,
Commanding.

[redacted]

(J.B. CRAIG)
Wing Commander,
Senior Medical Officer.

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R 100-002
(c) 30 JUN 1956

1813/3/MED (2A)

MONTHLY PATHOLOGY REPORT-JUNE-1956.

1. The following is a summary of the work carried out by the above Section during the month of June, 1956.

No of Patients. 11
No of examinations 27

Details of Examinations.

Blood Counts 4
Hb 4
E.S.R. 1
Bacterial Smears 4
Micro Urine 4
Urinary Albumin 4
" Sugar 4
" Bile Tests * 2

Staff.

2. All 848 [redacted], Laboratory Technician, was on Recreation Leave from 23rd June until 5th July 1956.

Stores.

3. A large consignment of Reagents and Laboratory Equipment was received this month. Several items were received in a damaged condition due to faulty packing.
1 only R11/301 Dessicator Glass with stopcock -- Broken on arrival
1 only R11/492 Thermometer Chemical 200°C
1 only R11/259 Burners Spirit Complete with Tank- Only the tank received.
A quantity of "C" class Reagent bottles were broken on arrival. S.A.V. action is being taken on these items.

New Tests.

4. Since the arrival of the stores the following tests can now be carried out; Fractional Tests Meals; T.B. Smears and cultures, Serum Total protein (van Slyke's Method) and Serum Icteric Index.
Preparations for the Blood Grouping of the new intake of National Service Trainees have been completed.

Urgent Shortages.

5. Supplies of Methyl Alcohol for staining procedures and Sodium Tungstate for Blood Biochemistry are still outstanding. It would be appreciated if these demands could be expedited.

[redacted]
(J.B.CRAIG)
Wing Commander,
Senior Medical Officer

[redacted]
Sergeant,
Laboratory Technician.

R 186.002

(c) 30 May 1956

1813/3/MED (IA)

MONTHLY PATHOLOGY REPORT-MAY-1956.

1. The following is a summary of the work carried out by the above Section during the month May 1956.

No. of patients. 14
No. of Examinations. 25

Details of Examinations.

Blood Counts. 4
Hb. 1
E.S.R. 5
Bacterial Smears. 1
Micro Urine. 6
Urinary Albumin. 4
Urinary Sugar. 4

Improvements.

1. On 14th May 1956, a laboratory was established at B.S.Q. Amberley in a small room adjacent to the S.M.O.'s office. As this room was much too small for an efficient Laboratory, another room was made available at the rear of the Base Sick Quarters. The initial work of clearing this new room of a considerable amount of stored Medical equipment was completed later in the week.

Arrangements were made with 7 S.D. for any laboratory equipment held in their "R" dump. An electric Bacterial Incubator, an Analytical Balance and weight, and a considerable amount of graduated and volumetric glassware were obtained. A high speed electric Centrifuge to hold 4 test tubes in strength.

An initial demand has been made to 1 S.D. for the balance of equipment required to establish most of the branches of Pathology procedures.

Tests available at the present are - Full Blood Estimations, Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rates, Micro Urines, Urinary Urobilinogen, Occult Blood, Bacterial Smears.

There are numerous improvements required in the present laboratory, which was used originally as a V.D. Prophylaxis Room. New power points, shelves, cupboards and the installation of a sink and draining board are planned to be fitted in due course.

[REDACTED]
J.B. CRAIG,
Wing Commander,
Senior Medical Officer.

[REDACTED]
Bergeant,
Laboratory Technician.

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