

From: [REDACTED], O.B.E., ROYAL NAVY, FA (8)



MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
(ADMIRALTY),
QUEEN ANNE'S MANSIONS,
ST. JAMES'S PARK,
LONDON, S.W.1.

UNCLASSIFIED

28th August, 1958.

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of the 19th August, 1958. I am glad to hear [REDACTED] has arrived safely and that he is getting on well.

With regard to the two points you raise, here are our comments:

- (a) [REDACTED]' return to U.K. Our plans for [REDACTED] are that he should spend some time at either A.W.R.E. or A.E.R.E. on his return to the U.K. and join "a ship" on December 15th. Provided he can be back here by the end of October or very shortly afterwards we will be well satisfied. Will this give him time to relieve [REDACTED]? I have discussed this with [REDACTED] who did not think it was necessary to take it to the Director as the arrangement would be made purely locally. I would be grateful, however, if you could let me know when the timetable is fixed approximately when we can expect him back as there may be some courses for him to catch up with at EXCELLENT or places like that and we would like to know when he will be available for this sort of thing.
- (b) Blood Tests. C.A.F.O. 81 was not re-drafted by this Department, we saw it just before it went to press and as a tri-Service decision on blood examinations for relief personnel had not been agreed at that time M.D.G. felt it was better to let the Order go out and include Grapple personnel rather than to defer it for a further month which would have meant that quite a lot of people would have been missed if eventually the decision to blood test all personnel was taken. It was one of those decisions that was going to be wrong either way.

I have just been speaking to [REDACTED], the Director of Hygiene and Research at the Air Ministry, who tells me that the War Office reply was very similar to our own, namely that if Grapple Task Force Headquarters thought the blood count should be done then the War Office would follow suit. The Service Ministries must be advised by the people planning the trials who alone know what they are exposing the personnel in different areas to. I agree that the decision is a Ministerial decision but the advice on which this decision must be based can only be derived under the present circumstances from the people who know what is going on - your Headquarters! I understand that [REDACTED] view on this matter is likely to be reversed by [REDACTED] and that the Air Ministry will now take the view that reliefs for Grapple should be blood tested before they come out and will indicate this viewpoint to the other two Services. In this case we will fall into line. Do you think it wise to exclude personnel in ships? I note that you have written to [REDACTED] asking him to have the C.A.F.O. amended to exclude temporarily attached ships. I hope the amendment will make it quite clear which personnel in which ships are to have blood tests taken, or some confusion may arise here. I assume this C.A.F.O. does not cover R.F.A. or Store Ship personnel anyway.

I am very glad to hear that you are now satisfied with the medical arrangements on the Island and that you are pleased with the way [REDACTED] has coped. Thank you once again for all your kindly support for the "red stripes".

Yours,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] C.B.E., R.N.,
Office of The Captain Grapple Squadron,
British Forces Post Office 170.

P.S. I have sent a copy
of this to [REDACTED]