

# WAR DIARY.

Unit:-

Commanding Officer:-

No. 66 Home Ambulance

Major E.J. Creais, R.A.M.C.

Month and Year:- June, 1944.

## Summary of Events.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Events.
Winchfield.	16th	20.30	to under-floor repaired. Slight structural alteration has been carried out to the Army Dixie Cooking Range, which has been raised 2 inches above the metal flooring. This allows for a flow of air beneath the fire place.
Winchfield	19th	09.00	The Train proceeded to a Transit Hospital.
Shrivenham		11.50	The Train has arrived at entraining station for conveyance to Base Hospital of recent battle casualties who have been evacuated from Normandy by air transport..
		12.05	Loading of patients begins. A.D.M.S. Salisbury Plain District Hospital and E.M.S. group of Hospitals (Stratton St. Margarets, G.W.R. and the Baths):- Officers Lying 8, Sitting 9. O.Rs. Lying 113, Sitting 120. P.O.W. 1. These included 3 in Thomas' Splint and two in plaster with both thighs abducted. The loading took 2 hours and 15 minutes.
		14.30	The Train departed to Base Hospital.
Selly Oak.		18.30	The Train was 1 1/2 hours late in arriving at detraining station. Thereafter the patients were removed in ambulances to Q.E. Hospital, and Burntwood Hospital, Lichfield. During the journey patients were given dinners and teas. One dose of Penicillin (15,000 Oxford Units) was administered to 1 Officer, and 4 O.Rs. Two Anxiety neurosis cases were given sedatives. Detraining was completed smartly in 1 hour and 15 minutes.
		20.10	The Train left Birmingham.
		01.30	The Train is back at Stabling Point.
Winchfield	20th	13.50	The Train proceeded to Ascot.
	23rd	14.35	The Train is now standing near Ascot Railway platform.
Ascot.		16.10	Loading of patients commenced, and was completed in 90 minutes. The following were entrained from No. 17 Canadian General Hospital, Pinewood: Officers Lying 4, Sitting 15. O.Rs. Lying 116, Sitting 142. P.O.W. Lying 5. Total 282. This is a very full load and an awkward combination of numbers. O.R. lying patients were accommodated in the same coach as the Officers. Five sitting Officer patients had to be placed in a compartment of the coach for mental cases. These five officers were very disgruntled with the accommodation provided. Eventually I was able to find sleeping accommodation during the long journey to Scotland for all 15 Officer sitting patients.



# W A R D I A R Y.

Unit:-

No. 66 Home Ambulance

Commanding Officer:-

Major E.J. Crease, R.A.M.C.

Month and Year:- June, 1944.

## Summary of Events.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Events.
Ascot.	23rd.	18.40	The Train departed for Edinburgh.
Edinburgh.	24th.	08.40	The Train arrived at Waverley Station after a 14 hour journey from Ascot. Detraining of patients commenced 10 minutes later, and was carried out enthusiastically by medical students. It was completed in 80 minutes. D.D.M.S. Scottish Command was present and interrogated many patients regarding the journey, their disabilities and comfort. During the journey from Ascot, 4 patients received injections of Penicillin. Tea, Supper and Breakfast was provided for all patients. The Train left Edinburgh.
Edinburgh.	24th	11.35	Orders having been issued to that effect by War Office, the Train proceeded to Shrivenham on its return journey from Edinburgh.
Shrivenham.	25th	01.50	The Train arrived at Shrivenham, which is the Unit's new stabling site. Water points have already been installed here, and latrines and ablution huts provided, for the personnel.
	26th	09.30	Yesterday was spent in cleaning the Train. At 07.30 hours this morning intimation was received to the effect that the Train will receive patients at 10.00 hours and proceed to Selly Oak.
	10.05		Loading of patients from the R.A.F. Hospital, Wroughton, and E.M.S. Hospital at Stratton St. Margarets, commenced. It was actually carried out at Train site. 7 lying and 1 sitting Officer and 122 lying and 22 O.Rs. were entrained. 10 lying O.Rs. were accommodated in No. 11 coach with Officers. Many of the patients were in poor shape. All were jaded and tired as a result of lack of sleep. 7 patients received injections of Penicillin. One with retention of urine was catheterised. One patient with a faecal fistula needed special attention.
			Hot dinners were provided for all who could eat a meal. Entraining was slow, and the Train was 22 minutes late in leaving. The Train is now at Selly Oak Sidings. Detraining commenced 5 minutes later, and was completed in a workmanlike, efficient manner in 70 minutes. The patients were distributed between Q.E. and Burntwood Hospitals.
Selly Oak.	26th	16.15	The Train departed from Selly Oak.
		17.40	The Train is back at Stabling Point.
Shrivenham.		22.00	Met the Officer i/c Entraining of patients, who in future will handle all patients due for evacuation from Group of Hospitals near Airfields.
	27th	09.30	After very brief notice from the R.T.O., loading of patients began again. 10 Officers on stretchers, O.Rs. 95 lying and 97 sitting, and 3 P.O.W. lying cases were loaded. The time taken was 2½ hours.

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# WAR DIARY.

Unit: -

Commanding Officer: -

No. 66 Home Ambulance

Major E.J. Greiss, R.A.M.C.

Month and Date: - June, 1944.

## Summary of Events.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events.
Shrivenham	27th	22.05.	26 of these patients needed maintenance doses of Penicillin, and 6 had morphia injections. Several were severely wounded and in pain. All were jaded and tired.
			The Train moved out of the siding.
Derby.	28th	00.45. 06.45	The Train is now at Derby Station. All the patients were given early morning tea and biscuits. Detraining commenced 10 minutes after arrival, and was completed in 65 minutes in a smart and orderly manner.
			The Train left Derby.
Shrivenham		08.10 12.45 17.30	The Train is back at Stabling Point. Large numbers of inspecting officers have visited the Train and Train Site. These included senior officers of the R.E., R.A.M.C., Col. i/c Administration and a group of senior R.A.F. Medical Officers.
	30th	00.01	After short notice, loading of patients began again. Air-evacuated patients from Normandy are now the only type of patients dealt with. 15 Officers and 131 O.Rs. were entrained. Of these, only 30 were sitting cases. 17 needed maintenance doses of Penicillin, and five received injections of morphia. A few were severely wounded, one officer had a fascial fistula. All were in want of sleep. Loading took 2½ hours to complete.
		02.45	The Train left for Newport (Mon.)
Newport, (Mon.)		05.15	The Train having arrived at Newport, (Mon.) railway station, detraining of patients began 15 minutes later. Patients received early morning tea and biscuits from the B.R.C.S. Orthopaedic cases were sent to Llandough Hospital, Cardiff, the remainder were admitted to Woolaston House, Newport. Detraining took 80 minutes to complete, which is slow considering the facilities in hand.
		06.55	The Train commenced the return journey.
Shrivenham.		09.00 15.00	The Train is back at Stabling Point. Since leaving Aberdare, the Train was stabled 4 days in North Camp, 21 days in Winchfield and 6 days in Shrivenham. It has performed 8 operational journeys since D-day, and carried 1,727 patients of whom 101 were Officers, 1609 O.Rs., and 17 P.O.W.

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W A R D I A R Y.

Unit:-

Commanding Officer:-

Month and Year:- June, 1944.

Summary of Events.

Place. Date. Hour.

Shrivenham. 30th 15.00

The present Stabling Point in Shrivenham is also for loading patients. Patients arrive for entraining from a nearby R.A.F. Hospital and the E.M.S. Hospital in Stratton St. Margarets. I understand that the G.W.Rly. Hospital, Swindon and a Hospital named The Baths also send military patients for evacuation.

Work on this new site with its two sidings is not completed. Water supply is obtained from 8 water points at the side of the track. Bucket latrines have been provided. Bathing shed has been promised.

The Staff, most of whom are of low medical category, are standing up well to the strenuous work which has suddenly been imposed on them.

No. 66 Home Ambulance Train  
Major E.J. Croais, R.A.M.C.

*E. J. Croais*

*Major R.A.M.C.*

*O.C. No 66 Home Ambulance Train.*



Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
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C.2119. If this is not available, and for  
Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be  
prepared in manuscript.

31 AUG 1944  
WAR DIARY

# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit no. 66

Army Form C.

home ambulance

Major M. J. Creais,

Commanding Officer

References to Appendices

Month and Year July, 1944.

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Shrivenham, (Berks.)	1st	11.30	The train is standing on one of the two new sidings near shrivenham, (Berks.) railway station. No. 321 C.B. train is stabled on the adjacent siding.
		12.00	The train is inspected by Mr. A. Henderson, R.C., M.P., under secretary of state for war, accompanied by M.D.M.S., southern Command.
	3rd	12.00	Liaison officer, Southern Region, visited the train. He enquired into my relations with M.D.M.S. hospitals, and about difficulties if any. There being no difficulties, his stay was a brief one.
	4th	10.50	After short notice, loading of patients from a nearby M.A.R. hospital, group of M.D.M.S. hospitals, and a few from no. 107 General Hospital, Oxford began. 100 patients were entrained. These included officers: lying 14, sitting 6. C.B.S. lying 110, sitting 76. Entraining of patients has now been organised into a routine. Penicillin cases are placed in one coach, compound fractures in plaster or Thomas' splints are laid on berths, complete with stretcher and suspension bars. Patients encased in plaster in abduction position are laid on the floor on stretchers near the double doors of the ward cars. The preponderance of stretcher <del>xxxx</del> patients other ranks over number of officers carried, has made it necessary to place some of the former in the special coach for officers only. This matter has been represented to A.M.C. entraining medical officer, who regrets that the matter cannot be remedied.
		13.10	Entraining was completed in 75 minutes, and 5 minutes later the train left entraining site (which is also the stabling point).



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit... NO. 60... 60 Home Ambulance  
Commanding Officer... Major M.S. Cressis,

References to Appendices

Month and Year... July, 1944.

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Shrivenham	4th	13.10	D.N.C.B. workers had given the patients a snack, tea, and fruit squash drinks, cherries and tomatoes. En route to Whitchurch 6 patients received injections of penicillin. Later the patients were provided with meat sandwiches and tea.
Whitchurch, (Glam.)	4th	16.00	The train is now at the railway platform. Detraining commenced at 16.05 hrs., and was completed in a smart and efficient manner in one hour.
		17.09	The train steamed out of the station.
Shrivenham	4th	20.15	The train is back at stabling point.
	5th	15.00	Vice Marshall Geoffrey Keynes and party visited the train.
		15.30	D.D.M.B. and Major General Administration, Southern Command inspected the train.
	6th	10.00	Loading of 164 patients ex Casualty Air Evacuation Centre and R.A.F. General Hospital began. The following were loaded in 1 hour 55 minutes. Officers: Lying 5, Sitting 4. Other ranks: Lying 111, Sitting 44. Most of the cases were recent battle casualties.
		12.03	The train left Shrivenham for Wolverhampton.
TETTENHALL		15.40	The train having reached Tettenhall, detraining of patients was completed in 75 minutes. During the journey six patients received intra-muscular injections of maintenance doses of penicillin.
			Three senior medical students were carried for training purposes.
		17.09	The train departed from Tettenhall.
		22.00	The train is back at stabling point.
		23.30	Received notice to prepare to entrain patients in 40 minutes time.



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit..... NO. 66 Home Ambulance Co.  
Commanding Officer..... Major E. J. Creais,

Month and Year..... July, 1944.

Summary of Events and Information

References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour		
Shrivenham	7th	00.05	entraining of patients began. The following numbers were loaded: officers 6 lying cases, other ranks 88 lying and 44 sitting, a total of 138.	Sp.
		02.10	The train left for Leicester.	
		07.50	En route 14 patients received maintenance doses of penicillin. Arrived at destination, where the train was split in sections. One section shunted to a covered station where unloading took place. Detraining was completed in 73 minutes.	Sp.
		09.50	The train having been re-assembled in correct marshalling order left Leicester.	Sp.
		13.10	The train is back at stabling point.	Sp.
	9th	11.00	Under instruction received from Southern Command, censorship of letters of all ranks of the unit is discontinued.	
	11th	22.50	Loading of patients commenced. 170 patients were entrained for Selly Oak (Birmingham). They were: officers 16 lying, 15 sitting. Other ranks: 99 lying, 40 sitting. Loading was slow owing to late arrival of motor ambulances and took 3 hours and 20 minutes.	Sp.
	12th	02.10	The train proceeded on its journey 40 minutes behind scheduled time. 24 patients received maintenance doses of penicillin. Two medical students were carried for instructional purposes.	Sp.
Selly Oak		06.18	The train arrived at destination. Detraining of patients commenced 7 minutes later. It was completed in 1 hour and 25 minutes without incident.	Sp.
		07.52	The train steamed out of sidings.	
Shrivenham		12.00	The train is back at stabling point.	



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Unit..... NO. 66 ..... Home Ambulance Tr  
Commanding Officer..... Major M.J. Creais,  
R.A.M.C.

Month and Year..... July, 1944.

Summary of Events and Information

References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour		
Shrivenham	13th	09.30	Orders having been received for the recall of Captain F.O.M. England, R.A.M.C., he departed to join his unit no. 52 Ambulance Train at Abergale.	Se.
.	14th	01.35	The entraining of a party of Airborne casualties from Normandy commenced. The following were loaded: Officers lying 7, sitting 4, other ranks lying 95, sitting 19, F.O.M. lying 1. Total of 126. The great majority were battle casualties. Entrainment was completed in 2 hours and 10 minutes.	Se.
on route		03.55	The train is 25 minutes late in departure.	Se.
		07.00	Twenty-two patients were given injections of penicillin. Breakfast and tea was served to patients.	
Belly Oak		08.10	The train has arrived at destination. The H.T.O. and detraining party of stretcher bearers, very disgruntled at late arrival of train. The journey time as shown in the "Time table for loaded journeys of ambulance trains" is 2 hours and 30 minutes. The journey to Belly Oak, however, usually takes four hours.	Se.
		08.15	Detraining of patients commenced and was finished in 70 minutes. No assistant M.O. was available for this journey. Assistance however, was received from 2 senior medical students.	Se.
		09.40	The train steamed out of Belly Oak.	
Shrivenham		13.30	The train is now at stabling point.	
		22.15	Transport planes having brought more casualties from Normandy, evacuation from casualty air evacuation centres was arranged. Loading of patients commenced and was completed in 85 minutes. The following were carried: Officers lying 9, sitting 1, other ranks lying 82, sitting 40, Total 132.	Se.



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit 60 66

Army Form C.2119  
Home Ambulance

Commanding Officer Major, E.J. Greaves  
R.A.M.C.

Month and Year July 44

References to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information			References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour	
Shrivenham	14th	23.55	The train steamed out of Stabling Point.
Derby	15th	05.45	The train has reached its destination. En Route 24 patients received maintenance doses of penicillin. One medical student was carried to assist me. Detraining was completed in one hour. The journey was without incident.
Shrivenham	15th	07.00	The Train left Derby.
		11.50	The train is now at Stabling Point.
	17th	23.00	A party of 109 patients from adjacent R.A.F. Casualty Air Evacuation Centre and the R.A.F. General Hospital. Wroughton, entrained. The party consists of officers: Lying, 7, Sitting, 2. Other ranks, Lying 57, Sitting 4, P.O.W., Lying, 2. R.A.M.C. workers with a mobile canteen are always present during entrainment. They provide patients with light snacks, cake, fruit, tea, cool drinks made with fruit squashes and issue postcards to those who wish to write home.
Worcester	18th		Every patient received for conveyance from Shrivenham has been evacuated by air from Normandy.
		01.00	The train departed for Worcester.
		03.55	The train having arrived at destination, detraining commenced at 5 minutes later, and was completed in 95 minutes. 15 patients received maintenance doses of penicillin. Two medical students of Oxford University were carried for training, and rendered valuable assistance.
		05.40	The train left Worcester.
		08.25	The train is now at Stabling Point.

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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2119  
Unit No. 66..... Home Ambulance Co.  
Major, E.S. Credit  
Commanding Officer.....

Month and Year July 44.

			Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
Shrivenham	19th	23.50	commenced loading 126 patients for conveyance to Selby Oak. Detail, officers lying, 9. Sitting, 2. Other ranks: lying, 63. Sitting, 51. Entainment completed in 1 hour 45 minutes.	Se
	20th	01.50	Train departs on journey.	
Selby Oak.		05.50	The train has arrived at destination, off-loading commenced 10 minutes later, and took 45 minutes, and was without incident. 20 patients received maintenance doses of penicillin. Two medical students were carried, and were of great assistance.	Se
		06.50	The train commenced its homeward journey.	Se
Shrivenham		11.20	The train is now at stabling point.	
		16.30	Received a confused and contradictory message from office i/c Entertainment re the train having to go into workshops, and as regards disposal of staff. Telephoned war office A.M.D. 12. Received explicit and concise orders. The train, with a small holding party in charge, will be made ready to proceed to Swindon workshops for repairs to its brakes. Nursing officers to be billeted. Remainder of staff unit to go into camp in Bourton, with detachment of No 180 Field Ambulance.	Se
		17.00	Necessary orders issued. R.T.O informs me that the train will depart for Swindon "some time to night".	
		19.00	Station master informs me that the train will depart tomorrow morning.	Se
		20.00	1 Sgt and 17 O.Rs go into camp with detachment No. 180 Field Ambulance in Bourton (Berk).	



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit No. 66

Army Postal C. 2  
some Ambulance train

Commanding Officer

Major. E. J. Cressie.  
R.A.M.C.

Month and Year... July 44

			Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
Shrivenham	21st	11.30	The train proceeded to railway workshops, Swindon for overhaul and repairs. 1 G.M.S. and 4 G.H.s accompanied the train. Two nursing officers placed in billets. O.C. train joined personnel in camp in Bourton.	Spl.
Bourton.	21st	12.00	Capt. P.A. Golding. R.A.M.C. reported for duty with no. 66 H.A.T. from C.R.S. (A.A.) Wimbledon.	Spl.
Shrivenham	24th	17.50	The train, having returned from railway workshop is taken into commission again. Brakes have been repaired. Leaky roof repaired.	
		23.05	Entrainment of Air-bourne casualties from Normandy commenced. It took nearly 2 hours to entrain 169 casualties a slow and tedious operation. Detail: officers lying, 13. Sitting 1. Other ranks: lying 117, Sitting 52.	Spl.
Worcester.	25th	02.06	The train departs on its journey.	
		04.50	On arrival at destination, detraining commenced 5 minutes later. The patients were off the train in 75 minutes. 51 had received maintenance doses of penicillin.	Spl.
			Two medical students were carried.	
Shrivenham		0050	The train is back at stabling point.	
	26th	11.10	S.C. "Q" Berkshire <del>and</del> <sup>Spl.</sup> District visited train.	
		22.35	Entrainment of casualties commenced and was completed in 80 minutes. Detail: officers, lying 9. Sitting 1. Other ranks lying 95. Sitting 36. A total of 141.	Spl.
	27th	0105	The train departed for Birmingham.	
Selly Oak		05.30	The train is now at Selly Oak Sidings. Detrainment commenced 10 minutes later, and was completed in 80 minutes. During the journey 39 patients received intra-muscular injections of penicillin. Two medical students were carried and rendered assistance.	Spl.



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Delete heading not required).

Unit No. 66 Home Ambulance  
Commanding Officer Major M. J. Urcas

Month and Year July 44.

## Summary of Events and Information

References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour		
Selly Oak	27th	07.10	The train departed on homeward journey.	
Shrivenham	28th	12.10	The Train Arrived at Stabling Site.	
		15.00	Major General Hawes, G.O.C. South Midland District, visited the train.	
		22.45	The train commenced entraining 185 patients for conveyance to Selly Oak. Detail: Officers lying, 7: Sitting 3. Other ranks, lying 124, Sitting 51. Every berth was occupied, 5 stretcher patients were placed on the floor of 4 coaches, and the mortuary. 48 needed doses of penicillin under arrangements made by the War Office, Dr. Haden Guest M.P. travelled on the train from Shrivenham to Selly Oak, as an unofficial observer obtaining journalistic copy.	
Selly Oak	29th	05.50	The train arrived at destination. Detraining commenced 5 minutes later, and was completed in 1½ hours.	
		07.40	The train left Selly Oak.	
Shrivenham	30th	12.10	The Train arrived at Stabling Point.	
		02.00	The Train is once again entraining patients. Detail: Officers lying 8. Other ranks lying 78. Sitting 18 a total of 105 only. Of these, no less than 22 had fractured bones. Loading took 85 minutes.	
		03.55	The train departed for Tattenhall (Wolverhampton).	
Tattenhall		07.55	The train, having arrived, detraining of patients commenced 5 minutes later. It was completed in 65 minutes. Penicillin had been administered to 19 patients en-route.	
Shrivenham		14.20	The Train is back at Stabling Point.	



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Unit 66

Home Ambulance Train

Commanding Officer Major R.A.M.C.

Month and Year July 44

References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Shrivenham	31st	21.50	175 patients are being entrained for conveyance to Worcester. Detail: officers lying, 3. Sitting 4. other ranks lying 122, sitting 46. Loading took 1 hour and 50 minutes to complete. 51 patients are due to receive intra muscular injections of penicillin.
		23.59	The train started out of stabling point en-route for Worcester.

See

Major R.A.M.C.  
O.C. No 66 Home Ambulance Train (R.A.M.C.)





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18 SEP 1944

# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit No. 66 ..... Home Ambulance  
Commanding Officer ..... Major E. J. Greaves, R.A.M.C.

Month and Year... August. 1944.

Summary of Events and Information			References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour	
En route	1st.	00.01	Re
Worcester.	1st.	02.45	Re
Worcester.	1st.	05.08	Re
Shrivenham.	1st.	08.30	
(Berks).	2nd.	16.00	Re
"	2nd.	22.00	Re
Selly Oak.	3rd.	04.20	Re
Shrivenham.	3rd.	10.30	
"	4th	00.50	Re
Wombourm.	4th.	06.39	Re
Shrivenham.	4th.	13.20	Re



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Unit. 200th Home Ambulance

Commanding Officer Major E. J. Greiss, R.A.M.C.

Month and Year August, 1944.

References to Appendices

## Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour		
Shrivenham	4th	10.45	A.D.M.S. South Midland District, inspected the train.	Sc
"	"	22.25	Loaded journey to Worcester commenced. Detail: Officers lying, 4. Sitting, nil. O.R.'s lying 84. Sitting, 28. Total 116. Time taken 1 hour, 40 minutes.	Sc
			Departed from rail head 00.20 hrs, on 5.8.44. 23 injections of penicillin administered.	Sc
Worcester.	5th.	02.50	Arrived at destination. Detraining without incident completed in 1 hour 15 minutes. Train departed for homeward journey at 04.40 hours.	Sc
Shrivenham	5th.	07.50	The train is back at stabling point. When approaching the dead end stop, running board of "A" Coach No 6601 was broken against an obstacle on the siding.	Sc
"	"	16.00	Colonel i/c Administration, South Midland District, and his assistant, visited the train.	Sc
"	7th	01.10	Loaded journey to Morriston commenced, and took 75 minutes to complete. Detail:- Officers lying, 2. O.R.'s lying 94. Sitting 14. Total 111. Departed from railhead at 02.45 hours.	Sc
			24 patients subsequently received injections of penicillin.	
Morriston.	7th.	06.45	The train, having arrived at destination, detraining of patients commenced 10 minutes later, and took exactly one hour. No unusual incident occurred. Return journey began at 08.00 hours.	Sc
Shrivenham.	7th	13.10	The train is back at stabling point.	
"	8th	00.04	Loaded journey with patients to Derby begins. Detail: Officers lying, 4. Sitting, 2. O.R.'s lying, 83, sitting 36. Total 125. Time taken to load, 1 hour and 46 minutes.	Sc
			B.R.C.S., is always present at such times, to provide snacks and drinks for patients. Train left siding at 02.08 hours.	



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit No. 660. Home Ambulance Train

Commanding Officer Major M. J. Greiss, R.A.M.C.

Month and Year August 1944.

## Summary of Events and Information

## References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour		
Derby.	8th.	07.09.	Along journey of 5 hours. Patients slept soundly. 33 received maintenance doses of Penicillin. Detraining took 55 minutes. Return journey commenced at 08.13 hours. The train is now at Stabling Point.	Re
Shrivenham	8th.	13.29.	Loaded journey of Air-borne battle casualties from France commenced. Detail:- Officers, lying, 6. Sitting, 5. O.R.'s, 1. U.R.'s lying, 102. Sitting, 48. Total 162 Patients. Entraining completed in 75 minutes. 22 patients to receive injections of Penicillin. Proceeded on journey to Newport at 02.10 hours.	Re
"	14th.	00.30.	Arrived destination. Detraining completed in 90 minutes. Nothing unusual occurred. Return journey commenced at 06.15 hrs. Train is now standing in its siding at Air Vac	Re
Newport (Mon)	9th	04.35.	Nothing unusual occurred. Return journey commenced at 06.15 hrs. Train is now standing in its siding at Air Vac	Re
Shrivenham	9th.	08.08.	Mail-head. Train journey to Selly Oak, with Patients. Entraining was completed in 1 hour and 50 minutes. Detail, Officers lying 9. Sitting, 1. O.R.'s, lying, 112. Sitting, 12. Total 134 Patients, 56 will receive Penicillin during the journey. Left siding at 02.35 hours.	Re
Selly Oak.	10th.	06.20.	Arrived at destination. Detraining took 70 minutes. Nothing of incident occurred during journey. Left Selly Oak 07.40.	Re
Shrivenham.	10th.	12.00.	The train is now at Stabling Point.	
"	22.	05.	The train commenced entrainment of 245 Patients for Leicester. Detail. Officers, lying, 16. Sitting, 1. O.R.'s lying, 103. Sitting, 135. Time taken was 1 hour, 45 mins. 8 belong to the Polish Army. 59 will receive maintenance doses of Penicillin during the journey. B.R.C.S., continue to serve hot or cold drinks and snacks for the patients. Departed from Siding at 00.10 hours.	Re



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# WAR DIARY

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit.....NO.....66.....hamp Ambulance Tr

Commanding Officer .....Major.....M.A.D. Wreath.....R.A.M.C.

Month and Year...August...1944.

References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Leicester.	11th	05.10.	Here the train is divided into three parts. 25 minutes delay in consequence. Detraining later is completed in 70 minutes. No unusual occurrence. Train departed on homeward journey at 07.35 hours.	2c
Shrivenham.	11th	12.06.	The train is now at Stabling Point.	
"	"	19.30.	Loaded journey to Whitchurch commenced. Detail:- Officers lying, 7. OR's lying 113. Sitting, 89. Total, 209. Sixty-two for Penicillin injections. 11 Polish patients being carried. Time taken to load, 2 hours. Depart at 21.40.	2c
Whitchurch(Mon)	12th	00.30.	The train has reached its destination. Detraining smartly completed in 85 minutes. No unusual occurrence. Homeward journey begun at 02.05 hours.	2c
Shrivenham.	12th	05.00.	The train is back on its siding at Railhead.	
"	"	10.00.	Loaded journey for Selly Oak commenced. Detail:- Officers lying 20. OR's lying 97. Sitting, 4. P.O.W., 2. Total 121. This includes 7 Polish soldiers. 21 patients received Penicillin injections. There was considerable delay in loading, owing to late arrival of ambulances at Railhead. Eventually entraining was completed in 2 hours and 20 minutes. Train moved out at 12.30 hours.	2c
Selly Oak	12th	16.00	The train has arrived at destination. The Patients were detrained in two hours. No unusual occurrence. Return journey commenced at 17.10 hours.	2c
Shrivenham	"	21.00.	The train is back at Stabling Point.	
(Berks)	13th	01.18.	The train has to proceed again on another loaded journey to Wombourne. Entraining completed in 1 hour and 42 minutes. Detail:- Officers, lying, 15. Sitting, 4. OR's lying 106. Sitting 66. Total, 191. Patients, including 9 Poles, and 1 Czech. Train moved out at 03.10 hours. 37 Patients received Penicillin injections.	2c



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit NO. 66 ..... name Ambulance  
Commanding Officer ..... Major, M.A. Crease, R.A.M.C.

Month and Year AUGUST 1944.

## Summary of Events and Information

References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Wombourm.	13th	06.45.	The train is now in a suburb of Wolverhampton. Detraining took 1 hour and 45 minutes. Patients were in good fettle. Nothing unusual to report. Return journey commenced at 08.40. back at Stabling Point. Train Crew cleaned out coaches after breakfast, and were then sent to bed for the day. Dinner at 6. p.m.
Shrivenham.	13th	13.37.	Loading air-borne battle casualties again for Worcester detraining completed in 1 hour and 55 minutes. Detail:- Officers, 6. Sitting, 4. O.R.'s, 12. Lying, 12. Sitting, 66. Total, 200 patients, including 28 Polish Officers and men. 23 received Penicillin injections. Train departed for destination at 01.50 hours on 14.8.44.
Worcester.	14th	04.45.	The train having arrived, detraining was completed without a hitch, in two hours. A Civil Defence Ambulance Driver drove his car against one of the double doors of a Ward Coach for Lying Patients, and took it off its hinges. Matter reported to R.T.O. Return journey began at 07.00 hrs. back at Stabling Point.
Shrivenham	14th	10.45.	The damaged Ward Coach for Lying Patients is removed to Swindon workshops for repair. A special W.D. Ward Coach No. 2784., from Westbury, with one Nursing orderly in charge, has been incorporated into the train for duty.
Shrivenham (Berks)	14th	21.55.	Loading of patients for a journey to Leicester commenced. Detail:- Officers, 7. O.R.'s Lying, 13. Sitting 38. Total, 158 patients, including 14 Poles and 1 Hollander. Forty patients for Penicillin. Many patients with fractures B.R.C.S., as usual present to distribute light snacks, and hot and cold drinks to the casualties. Train moved out at 23.59 hours.



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit No 66.

Army Form G. 2119

Commanding Officer Major E. J. Greiss. R.A.M.C.

Month and Year August 1944.

Month and Year August 1944.			Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
Leicester.	15th	06.10.	Having reached destination, the train is divided into 3 parts. Half an hour delay ensues. Detraining thereafter is completed in 70 minutes. No unusual occurrence. Train departs for home station at 08.30 hours.	Re
Shrivenham	15th	13.55.	Train is now at Stabling Point.	
"	"	23.25.	More Air-borne casualties from France for Evacuation. Detail of Patients entrained:- Officers lying, 8. OM's lying, 64. Sitting 42. Total 114. This includes 11 Belgians, Dutch, and Poles. Entraining took 1 1/2 hours. Train proceeded on journey at 01.20. hours.	Re
Worcester.	16th	04.05.	The train has arrived at destination. The detraining of 72 Stretcher Patients was slow and tedious, and took 400 minutes to complete. Train departed at 06.00 hrs.	Re
Shrivenham	16th	09.25.	The train is back at Stabling point. The Ward Coach damaged on 14.8.44 returned from Swindon, and W.D. Ward Coach NO. 2784, was returned to Westbury.	Re
"	17th	23.15.	The Train crew had a night in bed last night, and are feeling refreshed. Loading of Patients for Selly Oak commenced, and took 85 minutes. Detail. Officers, lying, 5. Sitting, 1. OM's lying 80. Sitting, 22. Total, 108 Patients, including 6 Poles. 38 Patients for maintenance doses of Penicillin. Many with fractures or amputated limbs. Train moved out at 01.00 hours on 18.8.44.	Re
Selly Oak	18th	05.05.	The train has arrived at destination. Detraining commenced 5 minutes later and was completed in 75 minutes. An A.R.P., Ambulance driver drove his car against a door of a Ward Coach for lying Patients and partly unhinged it. Matter reported to M.T.O Selly Oak. Train left here for home siding at 10.30 hrs.	Re
Shrivenham.	18th	0.00.	En route from Selly Oak. The driver of the empty train drove furiously, and the train swayed in an alarming manner. Articles of equipment were shaken down from shelves and broken.	Re



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit... HQ. 55. .... Home Ambulance Train

Commanding Officer ... Major E.J. Creais R.A.M.C.

Month and Year... August. 1944.

## Summary of Events and Information

References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Shrivenham	18th	16.00	/broken. Matter reported District loco. Supdt., G.W.R. Bristol.	Re
"	"	23.15	Broken door repaired. Loading of patients to Selly Oak commenced. Detail: Officers, lying, 9. Sitting, 4. O.R.'s lying, 84. Sitting, 6. Total, 100, - which is the minimum number of patients to be carried, before an ambulance train is provided by Q.M.(4). Included in the number were 8 Polish casualties. 21 patients received penicillin. Train moved out at 00.56hrs. 19.8.44.	Re
Selly Oak	19th	05.12	Arrived at destination. Detraining followed in 8 minutes, and was completed in 1 hour. Nothing unusual occurred on the journey. Departed from Selly Oak at 06.35 hours. Train back at Stabling point.	Re
Shrivenham	19th	10.50	Another loaded journey, this time to Wombourm.	
"	"	19.45	Detail: Officers, lying, 12. Sitting, 1. O.R.'s lying, 107. Sitting, 69. P.O.W. 2. Total 191 Patients, including 16 Poles, Belgians and Hollanders. Loading completed in 1 hour and 50 minutes. Moved away at 21.55.	Re
Wombourm	20th	01.40	Arrived at Wolverhampton. Detraining completed in 1 hour and 45 minutes. Nothing unusual to report. Homeward trip commenced 03.35 hours.	Re
Shrivenham	20th	09.00	The train is now at Stabling point.	Re
"	21st	10.00	Major E.J. Creais R.A.M.C., proceeded on Privilege Leave during his absence Capt. L.A. Golding R.A.M.C. will officiate.	
"	"	11.20	After a night in bed last night, loading with patients for Whitchurch(mon) commenced. Detail: Officers, lying, 10. O.R.'s lying, 87. Sitting 18. P.O.W. 1. Total, 116 Patients, including 8 Poles. Entraining completed in 80 minutes. Departed at 13.00 hours.	Re



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit NO. 66

Army Form C. 21

Home Ambulance

Commanding Officer

Major. B. J. Cresis. RAMC

Month and Year. August, 1944.

## Summary of Events and Information

References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Whitchurch (MON).	21st	15.35	Arrived at destination. Detraining of Patients took 55 minutes, and was done in a smart and orderly manner. Return journey began at 16.50. hours.	Re
Shrivenham.	21st	19.34	The train is in its siding.	
"	24th	00.05	After a welcome rest for the Train crew of 75 hours, loading of Patients for Selly Oak commenced. It was completed in 75 minutes. Detail of Patients. Officers, lying, 3. Sitting, 2. O.R.'s lying, 60. Sitting 39. Total, 104. Two Naval Officers, and one Rating and 8 Poles were carried. B.N.C.D., supplied snacks and non-alcoholic drinks to the patients. Train steamed out at 01.50. hours.	Re
Selly Oak.	24th	05.55	Having arrived at Selly Oak, detraining commenced soon after and was finished in 45 minutes. Nothing unusual occurred, train departed at 06.50.	Re
Shrivenham.	24th	10.20	Train is at stabling point.	
"	"	16.40	Under instructions received from the War Office, an additional coach for lying Patients was incorporated into the train. This coach is a converted bogie goods truck, with racks to hold stretchers. These stretchers are, however, provided with hair mattresses, so that every patient carried will have to be lifted on to them. The Coach is officially numbered W.D. Ward Coach no 4190.	Re
"	25th	01.20	Loading of patients commenced, Detail, Officers, lying, 1. Sitting, 1. O.R.'s lying, 100. Sitting, 13. Total 115 Patients loading completed 85 minutes. 1 Belgian and 13 Polish O.R.'s carried. Train departed 01.45 hours.	Re
Leicester.	25th	07.45	After a long journey of 6 hours, the train is now at Leicester, where it is divided into 3 parts. This caused a delay of 30 minutes. Thereafter detraining proceeded, and took 1 hour to complete.	Re



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# WAR DIARY

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2119  
Unit...NO. 66...HOME Ambulance Coy.  
Commanding Officer...Major. E. J. Crease. R.A.M.C.

Month and Year...August...1944.

### Summary of Events and Information

### References to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Leicester	25th	07.45	Nothing unusual occurred on the journey. Departed homewards at 09.45 hours.	See
Shrivenham	25th	14.50	Back at Stabling Point	
"	"	22.20	Commenced entraining 180 Patients for Whitchurch (Mon) Detail: Officers, Lying, 7. O.R.'s Lying, 120. Sitting 53. These included 29 Belgian Poles, French and Dutch. Maintenance doses of Penicillin administered to 29 Patients. Several fractures and amputations. B.R.C.S., as usual was present to provide snacks and drinks. Train moved out at 00.20 hours. 20.8.44.	See
Whitchurch (Mon)	26th	03.15	Detraining commenced 10 minutes after arrival, and was completed in 85 minutes. Nothing special to report on journey.	See
Shrivenham	26th	08.10	Home ward journey began at 04.55 hours.	
"	"	17.50	Return to Stabling Point. Commenced loading Patients for journey to Selly Oak. Detail:- Officers, Lying, 7. Sitting, 3. O.R.'s Lying, 111. Sitting 47. P.O.W.'s 1. Total 169, including 2 R.N. Ratings, and 18 Poles. Time taken to entrain, 2 hours 10 minutes. Departed from Siding at 20.10 hours. 25 Patients for injections of Penicillin.	See
Selly Oak	27th	00.05	Arrived at destination. Detraining of Patients took 50 minutes. No unusual occurrence. Departed for home at 01.50hrs	See
Shrivenham	"	05.00	Arrived at Stabling Point.	See
"	"	19.25	Entraining of 190 Patients for another journey to Selly Oak commenced. It was completed in just under 2 hours. Detail:- Officers, Lying, 7. Sitting, 4. O.R.'s Lying, 136. Sitting, 43. These included 20 Dutch and Polish soldiers. 30 with fractures were entrained. 32 Patients will receive maintenance doses of Penicillin. B.R.C.S., mobile canteen workers, provided hot and cold drinks, fruit and snacks for the casualties.	See



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# WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit... No. 66...

Army Form C. 2119

Home Ambulance Train

Commanding Officer... Major B. J. Creais R.A.M.C.

Month and Year... August, 1944.

References to Appendices

## Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Selly Oak.	28th	02.00	Train moved out of siding at 21.45 hours. The train has reached detraining point. Patients evacuated to Motor Ambulance Cars in 1 1/2 hours, without a hitch. Nothing special to report. Train departed on homeward journey at 03.35 hours.
Shrivenham	28th	07.45	The train is back at Stabling point.
"	29th	20.50	Commenced entraining Patients for Wombourm. Detail:- Officers lying, 14. Sitting, 5. O.R.'s lying, 82. Sitting, 48. Total 149. Time taken 1 1/2 hours. Amongst the Patients were 13 French, Poles, Belgians and Hollanders. 23 Patients received maintenance doses of Penicillin. Many patients with fractures and amputations. Train departed at 22.55 hrs.
Wombourm.	30th	02.50	The train has arrived at destination. Detraining is completed in 1 1/2 hours. Train departed on homeward journey at 04.45 hours.
Shrivenham	"	09.55	Back at Stabling point.
"	"	19.00	Major Creais R.A.M.C. returned from leave and assumed command of the unit.
"	31st	09.30	The train has completed 101 loaded train journeys since it was commissioned in May, 1940. Since D. Day, 45 loaded journeys have been made. During August 1944 (the month under report) 3792 Patients, air-borne from France, have been carried. The health of the personnel is satisfactory. Though the majority are in low medical categories, they have stood up to the heavy work of recent weeks in an excellent manner. Leave has been re-opened and is very welcome. Some have had no leave for 8 months.



Major Creais - Major R.A.M.C.  
OC No 66 Home Ambulance Train.