Lecture.

REPORT ON A STAFF TOUR HELD IN THE WESTERN COMMAND BETWEEN APRIL 11 AND 14, 1910.

By MAJOR L. WOOD.
Royal Army Medical Corps.

Directors.
Colonel C. W. Thompson, D.S.O., General Staff.
Colonel R. Porter, P.M.O., Western Command.

Officers taking part in the Tour.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Fallon, R.A.M.C.
Major H. A. Berryman, R.A.M.C.
" W. S. Burch, Royal Irish Regiment.
" J. J. Galloway, Royal Engineers.
" H. J. Russell, Army Service Corps.
" W. H. Holdsworth Hunt, Royal Garrison Artillery.
" L. Wood, R.A.M.C.
" E. P. Connolly, R.A.M.C.

General Instructions.
Rooms have been taken at Long Mynd Hotel, Church Stretton, for all officers, and an inclusive charge of 10s. 6d. per diem for bed, board and lodging will be made.

A paper will be found in the sitting room reserved for officers, and on it they will find the number of their rooms. Officers are requested to sign their names on arrival, on the paper marked for that purpose which will be found in the sitting room.

Dinner will be at 8 p.m., April 11, 1910. All officers will be present by that time.
Officers travelling will claim tickets on Army Book B 205. Each form will be marked on the back "Staff Tour, Western Command, April, 1910."

Applications to bring motor cars (private) should be submitted to the Colonel, General Staff, by April 6.
All travelling claims will be marked "Staff Tour, Western Command, April, 1910," and sent in immediately on completion of the tour.
Sheets 15 and 22 of the 1 in. O.S. Map large sheet series are forwarded herewith.

Synopsis of Events Leading up to War.
That part of the Western Command south of the Mersey, together with those portions of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire west of the
Severn, represent a Republic—Red. The Capital is Welshpool. The remainder of England, South of East and West line through Liverpool, represents a Blue Kingdom—Capital London. North of Red and Blue lies a strictly neutral state—Northumbria. Red has close relations with the Island States of Eren.

Red possesses no fleet, but both Eren and Blue have considerable Naval forces and large mercantile marines. Blue has a slight Naval preponderance on paper, whilst Eren has the advantage of experience gained in a recent and successful Naval War.

Blue’s Naval bases are Plymouth, Devonport and Portsmouth, while Eren’s are at Cork and Waterford.

On April 1, the Foreign Minister of Northumbria allayed public excitement by declaring in Parliament that the clouds which had been gathering lately had dispersed, and that the political horizon was again clear.

The conviction that peace was assured was, however, rudely broken, for, on April 6, Blue declared war against Red, and both States began to mobilize.

On the morning of the 9th, the world was startled by the news that during the night of the 7th and 8th a desperate attack had been delivered by Erenish submarines on Blue ships in Plymouth.

The attackers maintained that they had disabled three Capital ships. The declaration of war by Eren was received in London the same morning.

General Idea.

The Field Armies of the opposing States are as follows:

**Blue.**—Six divisions, 4 Cavalry Brigades.

Mobilization Centres: Aldershot—2 Divisions and 1st Cavalry Brigade.

Salisbury—1 Division and 3rd Cavalry Brigade. London—2 Divisions.

Colchester—1 Division and 4th Cavalry Brigade. The Blue 2nd Cavalry Brigade mobilized at Canterbury.

**Red.**—Two Divisions and 2 Mounted Brigades (Establishment as for Territorial Mounted Brigades).


**Eren.**—Five Divisions and 3 Cavalry Brigades.

Chester, Whitchurch, Shrewsbury, Leominster, Hereford and Newport, are entrenched camps, and adequately held by Red. Birmingham is the only fortress Blue possesses in the West.

The normal mobilization of all three countries required nine days to complete, but Eren started two days later than the others.
Report on a Staff Tour

The rival Blue and Erenish fleets were at sea and a Naval battle was imminent; the allies’ hopes of a successful issue were high.

Special Idea—Red.

The 1st and 2nd Mounted Brigades (Red) had completed mobilization by the 10th, and had arrived by 7 p.m., 11th, as follows:

1st Mounted Brigade by road from Chester at Whitchurch.
4th and 5th Regiments, Horse Artillery, &c., 2nd Mounted Brigade by Central Wales Railway at Craven Arms.
6th Regiment, 2nd Mounted Brigade by road from Welshpool at Craven Arms.

Motor transport for 200 Infantry was also collected at Welshpool.

N.B.—Red Mounted Brigades started on the morning of 11th July rationed. Supply depots are formed at Welshpool and Builth. Local supplies cannot be depended on.

Intelligence agents reported the arrival of the 1st and 4th Blue Cavalry Brigades with some horse artillery at Birmingham, and that the detrainment was completed by midnight 9th to 10th, and also that the 3rd Cavalry Brigade had detrained the morning of the 10th at Stratford-on-Avon. Further, it was stated that the 2nd Blue Cavalry Brigade mobilization was delayed owing to shortage of horses.

On the evening of the 11th, reports were received that Blue patrols had been encountered at Market Drayton, Wellington, and on the Wenlock Edge. A Blue Officer’s patrol also boldly trotted up to the Town Hall of Ludlow. The officer in charge informed the Mayor that he was part of the advanced guard of an army, and demanded the immediate surrender of the town. Fired upon by some members of the local rifle club the patrol returned north east towards Bridgnorth.

Red patrols had penetrated to Hanley and Stoke-on-Trent without opposition.

Required.—As Director of Medical Services of the Red Forces named in the special idea write a short memorandum giving your views of the situation on the evening of the 11th and probable course of events.

Appreciations should contain recommendations as to:

1. The composition, allotment and general organization of the Royal Army Medical Corps units and personnel of the Red Force.
2. Removal of sick and wounded from the field.
3. The line of communication arrangements for reception, evacuation and ultimate disposal of sick and wounded.

Appreciations to be forwarded to the Principal Medical Officer, Western Command, not later than first post on 6th instant.

April 11, 1910.

On the evening of the 11th, at 9 p.m., a conference was held at the Long Mynd Hotel, Church Stretton, at which the officers’ appreciations were returned to them, together with Colonel Porter’s criticisms.
The chief mistake made by officers in their appreciations was in the location of hospitals, general and stationary. Some of these had been located in entrenched camps and this was not considered to be a good position. It was pointed out that the presence of large numbers of sick and wounded in an entrenched camp would be likely to affect the moral of the troops, and would be undesirable from a medical point of view.

The reasons for selecting certain sites for general and stationary hospitals were in some cases not given by officers. An appreciation being a detailed statement of the situation, the reasons for selecting sites should always be given.

The following is a specimen appreciation:

**APPRECIATION OF MILITARY SITUATION FROM THE MEDICAL SERVICE POINT OF VIEW AS DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES, RED FORCE.**

The points which require consideration are:

1. Strength of troops:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>N.C.Os and men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two divisions</td>
<td>1,196</td>
<td>38,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two mounted brigades</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>3,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army troops</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>1,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, all ranks</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,597</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,770</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. (a) The composition, allotment and general organization of the Royal Army Medical Corps units and personnel for the Red Force.
   (b) Removal of sick and wounded from the field.
   (c) The line of communication arrangements for reception, evacuation and ultimate disposal of sick and wounded.
   (d) General forecast of events from evening of 11th.

3. For a force of the strength detailed as above and operating under ordinary conditions of warfare the composition, allotment and general organization of Royal Army Medical Corps units and personnel for the Red force would be as follows:

**Collecting Zone,** i.e., moving with Troops—
(a) Medical establishment with units—54 officers and 868 N.C.O.'s and men. (b) Six field ambulances (for two Divisions). (c) Two Mounted Brigade Field Ambulances (for 2 Mounted Brigades, T. F.)

**Evacuating Zone.**—Two Clearing Hospitals. Two Ambulance trains.

**Distributing Zone.**—Four Stationary Hospitals. Four General Hospitals, two Sanitary Sections, four Sanitary squads, one Base depot medical stores, one advanced depot medical stores.

Hospital accommodation on line of communication and at base should be provided for 6 per cent of strength, viz., 2,716 beds.

As the Line of Communication is necessarily a short one I should send the two Clearing Hospitals, the four Stationary Hospitals and the four General Hospitals to the base WELSHPOOL, opening No. 1 Stationary Hospital and No. 1 General Hospital there at the commencement of
Report on a Staff Tour

hostilities. No. 1 Clearing Hospital would be ordered to hold itself in readiness to move off at a moment's notice. The remaining hospitals would remain there and await further orders, which would be given when the campaign had developed.

(4) The removal of the sick and wounded from the field will be under the orders of administrative medical officers of divisions, the medical service of regimental units and field ambulances dealing with them in the collecting zones. Dressing stations will be selected by administrative medical officers and published in operation orders. Arrangements are being made for a service of motors and country carts to evacuate casualties from the divisions to railhead so as to enable ambulance wagons to remain intact with divisions.

(5) Line of evacuation of sick and wounded will be as follows: Craven Arms, Church Stretton, Shrewsbury, and Welshpool.

After a short discussion on the appreciations submitted the following orders were distributed to each officer.

Operation Orders No. 1.

By Major-General X

Commanding Red Mounted Brigades.

Craven Arms, April 11, 1910.

Reference in Ordnance Map.

(1) The 1st and 4th Blue Cavalry Brigades (less 1 regiment) left Birmingham at 7 a.m. to-day and marched towards Dudley. A Blue Horse Artillery Brigade, with the one regiment mentioned above as escort, left Birmingham at 10 a.m.

The 3rd Blue Cavalry Brigade left Bromsgrove at 7 a.m. to-day for Kidderminster.

Blue patrols have been met this evening at Market Drayton, Wellington and on the Wenlock Edge. A Blue Officer's patrol after entering Ludlow retired in the direction of Bridgnorth.

(2) The Red Mounted Brigades will concentrate to-morrow to keep Blue East of the Shrewsbury-Hereford railway.

(3) The 1st Mounted Brigade under Brigadier-General Y will march from Whitchurch at 6 a.m. to-morrow via Shrewsbury to Dorrington. The General Officer Commanding will obtain touch with Blue and with the Red Mounted Brigade at Shrewsbury as early as possible. He will pay special attention to his left flank.

(4) The 2nd Mounted Brigade under Brigadier-General Z will reconnoitre from Ludlow to the River Severn (north of Much Wenlock) inclusive. He will ascertain the direction of the enemy's march and will delay him as much as possible without becoming so closely engaged that he might be overwhelmed by the enemy's superior forces before the arrival of the 1st Brigade. He will open communications with the 1st Brigade via Shrewsbury as early as possible.
(5) The main line of resistance against any Blue advance on Welshpool by the Onny Valley will be the Onny River—Norton Camp—Callow Hill.

The line of resistance against an advance up the Severn Valley will be the line of the River Severn and Cound Brook.

(6) The Ammunition Column, 2nd line transport, S. and T. columns of the 1st Mounted Brigade will follow that brigade to Shrewsbury and remain there.

The same units of the 2nd Mounted Brigade will remain at Craven Arms.

(7) Field ambulances will be at Shrewsbury and Craven Arms.

(8) The Signalling Officer of the 2nd Mounted Brigade will establish communication between the Raven, Craven Arms, Callow Hill and Norton Camp.

(9) All reports will be sent to the Raven, Craven Arms, A. B., Colonel, G.S.O.

Copy of telegram at 10 p.m. (cypher)

To Chief of Staff, Welshpool:

Please dispatch 200 Infantry in motor transport to Craven Arms at once.

X Major-General,
Commanding 2nd Mounted Brigade.

The following orders were issued to the several Royal Army Medical Corps Officers:

The Director of Medical Services: On the information at your disposal, please issue instructions to all concerned with reference to Clearing and Stationary Hospitals now at the base (Welshpool) and No. 1 Ambulance Train in neighbourhood Welshpool. Write a draft order for Operation Orders dealing with the following points: General line of evacuation of sick and wounded, any special sanitary requirements of the Army, any necessary notifications concerning position of Line of Communication medical units.

Deputy Director of Medical Services: Please proceed to Welshpool, and report on sites for medical units at base, entraining and detraining facilities, buildings suitable for medical purposes and local supplies and transport.

Officers Commanding Mounted Brigade Field Ambulances: Issue necessary orders and write a narrative of events.

Acting on these instructions the following orders, &c., were submitted by the officers taking part in the tour:

Director of Medical Services: From Director Medical Services, Red Force. To Headquarters, Line of Communication, Welshpool.

(1) Arrange to send immediately No. 1 Clearing Hospital to Craven Arms to open there at 4 p.m. the 12th instant.
Report on a Staff Tour

(2) Arrange to send immediately No. 2 Clearing Hospital to Shrewsbury, there to await orders. It should arrive at 12 noon on the 12th instant.

(3) Arrange for Nos. 1 and 2 Stationary Hospitals to proceed to Shrewsbury and open without delay.

(4) Arrange for No. 1 Ambulance train to be at Shrewsbury at 10 a.m. the 12th instant, ready to move on receipt of orders.

Headquarters, A.B.,
Welshpool, Colonel, D.M.S., Red Force.
10 p.m. By motor cyclist.

Draft for insertion in Operation Orders by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Red Force.

The general line of evacuation will be by the railway north and south to Shrewsbury, thence to the Base Hospital at Welshpool.

No. 1 Clearing Hospital will be at Craven Arms at 4 p.m. on the 12th inst.

No. 2 Clearing Hospital will be at Shrewsbury at 12 noon on the 12th inst., awaiting orders to assist No. 1 Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance.

Special attention is drawn to the fact that due care should be taken by the mounted troops in choosing places for drinking water, which are likely to be numerous. There should be no obvious contamination for a mile above the site from which the water is taken.

Headquarters, A.B.,
Welshpool, Colonel, D.M.S., Red Force.
11 p.m. By Orderly.

The following criticisms were made:

(1) The Director of Medical Services does not send communications direct to Headquarters Line of Communication. All communications should go through the Adjutant-General.

(2) Church Stretton would have been a more convenient place to have opened a clearing hospital than Craven Arms.

(3) The opening of Nos. 1 and 2 Stationary Hospitals at Shrewsbury would be a doubtful measure at this stage, and, moreover, they would hardly be necessary.

(4) A Clearing Hospital open at Church Stretton, one awaiting orders at Shrewsbury and an Ambulance Train would give sufficient hospital accommodation to meet present requirements.

(5) Draft for Operation Orders approved except that the special sanitary measures would seem to be unnecessary, as the Force Standing Orders would include these matters.

REPORT OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES.

Report.

(1) Entraining and Detraining Facilities.—The station, L. & N.W. Railway, is a good stone building, large booking hall where a dozen
stretcher could be placed temporarily, a good refreshment room and two waiting rooms. There are three water closets and six men's urinals. Room alongside main platform for twenty coaches, the platform being under cover the whole length. Water supply from town would meet needs of entraining, &c. Station gas-lit. Approach, there is a wide sweep outside the station, room for at least fifteen ambulance wagons in line if this platform were available. Detraining sick and wounded could be carried out with great rapidity. If this is not available, there is a goods shed in which six coaches can run alongside a large platform 130 ft. long by 50 ft. wide. This shed is under cover, the line running through it. The wagons could be backed into the wagon entrance for loading or unloading. There is a turn-table at the station and ample shunting accommodation. Of course no urinal or water-closet accommodation exists in the shed. This would have to be improvised.

(2) Site for Two General Hospitals (two already open).—The site selected is (map Shrewsbury, sheet 16) 1½ miles from railway station south-east on right bank of Severn. It lies on good grass land south of Welshpool-Buttington Road and parallel to it. West long., 3° 8', lat. 52° 40'. There is abundant water in the river Severn ¼ mile south, which would require to be filtered or boiled. There is more than enough room for two general hospitals and for expansion if necessary.

Produce.—District agricultural. Milk, eggs, poultry, would be easily obtainable.

Transport.—The following wagons are registered in the borough register:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Wagon</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two wheeled</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four wheeled (over 25 cwt.)</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two &quot; (under &quot; )</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Animals for above would have to be reported on by the A.S.C. Smaller vehicles belonging to the town would be few in number.

Buildings.—The Town Hall would be a good building for Base Depot Medical Stores, but not for sick, it being surrounded by other houses. There are nine churches and chapels in all and a small local Infirmary, but none are advised for use if they can be dispensed with.

Drugs, &c.—No reliance can be placed on the local supply of medicines, dressings, &c., as they would probably only suffice for the inhabitants of the town (4,000). Small supplies of bedding and clothing only could be obtained.

(Signed) C—D,

April 12, 1910.

Comments on above report. A clear report.
NARRATIVE OF EVENTS AND ORDERS ISSUED BY THE OFFICER
COMMANDING FIELD AMBULANCE.

Narrative of Events.

On the assumption that the 2nd Mounted Brigade has been ordered to move off at 6.15 a.m. on the 12th inst., the 2nd Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance is ordered to parade at 6 a.m. and to proceed with the 2nd Mounted Brigade. One light ambulance wagon is detailed to march with the three Yeomanry Regiments and one with the Royal Horse Artillery.

As only one Regiment of the 2nd Mounted Brigade has proceeded to Craven Arms by road, very few sick have up to the present been admitted to the Field Ambulance. These sick have been handed over to the Red Cross Society.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS ORDERS BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL E.,
COMMANDING 2ND MOUNTED BRIGADE FIELD AMBULANCE.

CRAVEN ARMS, 10 P.M., APRIL 11, 1910.

(1) The 2nd Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance will parade at 6 a.m. to-morrow morning, and will accompany the 2nd Mounted Brigade.

(2) One light ambulance wagon will proceed with each Yeomanry Regiment, and with the Royal Horse Artillery, and will be held at the disposal of the Medical Officer in Command of the unit.

(3) Each man will be provided with one day’s half cooked rations which he will carry in his haversack.

(4) All sick in the Field Ambulance will be handed over to the local detachment of the Red Cross Society at Craven Arms.

(Signed) E. Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C.,
Commanding 2nd Mounted Brigade,
Field Ambulance.

The following additional information was then given with instructions to the Director of Medical Services, and the Officer Commanding Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance, to issue necessary orders, &c.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING MOUNTED BRIGADES
(RED).

(Cypher Telegram.)

According to trustworthy information the Blue Horse Artillery that arrived at Birmingham on the night 9th—10th consisted of a complete Horse Artillery Brigade, but owing to delay in arrival of the ammunition column the Artillery was unable to leave Birmingham till 10 a.m. this morning. The 1st and 4th Brigades, less one regiment left as escort to Artillery, quitted Birmingham at 7 a.m. this morning, and marched towards Dudley. Also the 3rd Cavalry Brigade from Stratford-on-Avon bivouacked last night at Bromsgrove and left that town at 7 a.m. this morning for Kidderminster. Apparently the enemy intends to make an
attempt to interfere with the mobilization of our forces at Welshpool, and to create a panic in that city. Your primary duty is to protect the Capital and keep the enemy east of the Hereford—Shrewsbury railway line.

Two hundred infantry in motor transport, speed eight miles an hour, are at your disposal if required. Beyond this force no help can be sent to you till the 15th instant.

A telegram has just been received announcing the destruction of the Blue Fleet in a battle in the Atlantic Ocean yesterday.

Welshpool, (Signed) H. B., Brigadier-General, General Staff.
April 11, 1910.
Dispatched at 9.15 p.m.
Received at 9.35 p.m.

The Divisional Field Ambulances have also joined the respective divisions, and one field ambulance with army troops. Line of Communication Medical Units are placed as follows:—

Nos. 1 and 2 general hospitals at Welshpool open and ready to receive sick and wounded.
Nos. 3 and 4 are in reserve at Welshpool.
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, stationary hospitals, and Nos. 1 and 2 clearing hospitals, are at Welshpool ready to move when required.
Nos. 1 and 2 ambulance trains are working on the lines between Welshpool and the Field Army.
No. 1 Sanitary Section is working at Welshpool.
No. 2 Sanitary Section and four sanitary squads are at the same place awaiting orders.

ORDERS, &C., BY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES.
Draft for insertion in Operation Orders by Major General X, Commanding Red Mounted Brigades.

(1) Sick and casualties of 1st Mounted Brigade to be left at Shrewsbury on the march south.
(2) A bearer sub-division of No. 2 Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance has been ordered to Shipton, point 488 on the Craven Arms—Much Wenlock Road to form a rallying-point for the light ambulance wagons and other casualties. Casualties to be evacuated by the same road to Craven Arms. This sub-division will be at point 488 at 11 a.m. to-morrow.

The Raven, (Signed) A. B., Colonel, A.M.O. Red Mounted Brigade.
Craven Arms.
10 p.m., April 11, 1910.

CORPS ORDERS BY COLONEL A. B., ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICAL OFFICER, RED MOUNTED BRIGADES.
To Officer Commanding 1st Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance, Whitchurch.
Report on a Staff Tour

On arrival at Shrewsbury hand over sick and casualties to No. 2 clearing hospital there. Further orders will be sent to you at Dorrington. Craven Arms. (Signed) A. B., Colonel, 10 p.m., 11.4.10. By telegram. A.M.O.

Corps Orders by Colonel A. B., Administrative Medical Officer Red Mounted Brigades.

To Officer Commanding 2nd Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance, Craven Arms.

(1) Use your light ambulance wagons to the best advantage in keeping in touch with the bodies of mounted troops east of line Ludlow — Much Wenlock.

(2) Send a bearer sub-division at 6 a.m. to-morrow the 12th inst. to Shipton at point 488 on the Craven Arms — Much Wenlock Road to form a rallying point for the light ambulance wagons. Sick and casualties to be sent into Craven Arms by the same road. Remainder to stand fast at Craven Arms to await developments. Craven Arms. (Signed) A. B., Colonel, 10 p.m., 11.4.10. By orderly. A.M.O.

To Administrative Medical Officer Mounted Brigades, The Raven, Craven Arms.

(1) No. 2 Clearing Hospital has been ordered to open at 12 noon to-morrow at Shrewsbury.

(2) No. 1 Clearing Hospital has been ordered to be at Craven Arms at 4 p.m. to-morrow.

From Director of Medical Services, Welshpool, 9 p.m. April 11, 1910. By telegram.

From Director of Medical Services. To Headquarters, Lines of Communication.

(1) Reference to order No. 3 of orders issued at 10 p.m. from Director of Medical Services to Headquarters Lines of Communication: This order is hereby cancelled.

(2) No. 2 Clearing Hospital at Shrewsbury will evacuate direct to General Hospital at Welshpool. No. 1 Ambulance train should not be employed for this purpose.

Welshpool, 12 midnight. By cyclist orderly.

From Director of Medical Services. To Deputy Director of Medical Services, Lines of Communication, Welshpool.

Arrange for suitable sites for Nos. 1 and 2 Clearing Hospitals, at Craven Arms and Shrewsbury respectively.

Access to and neighbourhood of suitable railway siding should be considered.

Welshpool. (Signed) A. B. D.M.S. Red Force.

11 p.m. April 11, 1910. By cyclist orderly.
Comments on Orders, etc., by the Director of Medical Services.

The designation Administrative Medical Officer, Red Mounted Brigade, is an incorrect one.

The Officer Commanding Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance would generally be the Senior Medical Officer of the Brigade, and it would be to him that any instructions or information, which you wished to convey, would be sent.

Your message undated WELSHPOOL, dispatched 12 midnight has same error as previous message sent to Lines of Communication. Message should read "From Adjutant-General to Headquarters, Lines of Communication."

No. 2 paragraph of message seems contradictory. How are the sick to be evacuated if not by ambulance train?

When orders are issued they are meant for the troops serving under the officers who sign them.

Instructions or any information you wish to convey should have been conveyed in message form.

Narrative of Events and Orders Issued by the Officer Commanding Field Ambulance.

Narrative of Events, April 12th, 1910.

In accordance with orders received from the Administrative Medical Officer Cavalry Brigades Red Force, one light ambulance wagon was despatched with each unit of the 2nd Mounted Brigade, and was placed at the disposal of the Medical Officer. This was communicated to the various Medical Officers concerned.

The Bearer Sub-division of B. Section was despatched to SHIPTON, in order to keep in touch with the light ambulance wagons, and was ordered to report by telegram any casualties received to the Officer in Command, 2nd Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance at CRAVEN ARMS.

At 4.30 p.m. a telegram was received from the Officer Commanding Bearer Sub-division, B. Section, stating that 14 casualties had been handed over to him by the light ambulance wagons, and that the brigade was apparently retiring from the position which they had occupied during the day. He was ordered by telegram to return at once to CRAVEN ARMS bringing any casualties with him. Arrangements were made for the reception of these casualties at No. 1 Clearing Hospital.

Craven Arms.

(Signed) E. F. Commanding 2nd Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance.

April 12, 1910.

Royal Army Medical Corps Orders by Lieutenant-Colonel E. F., Commanding 2nd Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance.

Craven Arms, 10.30 p.m. April 11, 1910.

(1) One light ambulance wagon will proceed with each Regiment of Yeomanry, and with the Royal Horse Artillery at 6 a.m. to-morrow.
morning, the 12th inst, and will be under the orders of the Medical Officer in Command of the unit to which they are attached.

(2) The Bearer Subdivision of B Section will proceed by the CRAVEN ARMS—Much Wenlock road to SHIPTON, where it will be prepared to take over any casualties from the light ambulance wagons with the units. The Officer Commanding will report any casualties received to Headquarters 2nd Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance at CRAVEN ARMS.

(3) A section of the tent subdivision of B Section will remain at CRAVEN ARMS and await further orders.

(Signed) E. F., Lieutenant-Colonel,
R.A.M.C.,
Commanding 2nd Mounted Brigade,
Field Ambulance.

Comments on above Narrative and Orders.

Orders issued are correct in form. It would appear unnecessary to report casualties as they occur. The scale of Ordnance Map referred to should be stated.

On the evening of April 12, after the work which had been performed during the day had been discussed, the following narrative of events was given to all officers:

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS, 7 p.m., APRIL 12.

Combatant Forces.—At 7 a.m. Patrols of the 2nd Mounted Brigade came in contact with the Blue Mounted Patrols on the Wenlock Edge between LONGVILLE and SKIPTON. At 8 a.m.—The main body of the 2nd Mounted Brigade began to engage that of the enemy. A fight ensued, in which Blue appeared in greatly superior numbers; Red was losing heavily. At 9.30 a.m.—Red 2nd Mounted Brigade retired on CHURCH STRETTON via HOPE BOWDLER, and took up a position on the hills RAGLETH—CARR CARADOC. Blue followed up, but finding Red’s position too strong he retired on the line LONGVILLE—RUSHBURY—EATON. The Motor Infantry took up a position on high ground 2 miles north of WISTANGLOW. At 5 p.m.—The 1st Mounted Brigade arrived at BAYSTON HILL, where it encamped for the night.

Medical Units. Clearing Hospitals:—No. 1 arrived at CHURCH STRETTON at 9 a.m., and opened 1½ miles east of Railway Station. No. 2 remains at SHREWSBURY awaiting orders. Ambulance train arrived SHREWSBURY, 8 a.m. and is awaiting orders.

Casualties during April 12, twenty-four killed, ninety-six wounded.

Required.—Each Medical Officer was required to write a short appreciation of the situation as it appeared at 7 p.m., on April 12.
Specimen Appreciation.

Appreciation of the Situation at 7 p.m. on April 12.

Casualties to be dealt with 2nd Mounted Brigade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60% per cent. ride or walk</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% require sitting accommodation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% lying accommodation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% too seriously wounded to move</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2nd Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance, less four light ambulance wagons detached with Brigade, has retired under orders to Hope Bowdler, 2 miles S.W. Church Stretton, here forming collecting station with dressing station in village school.

Bearer Division.—Eight squads are sent forward to co-operate with regimental bearers. Advice is sent to Regimental Medical Officers to direct all wounded able to ride or walk to proceed to Hope Bowdler.

The distance from Wenlock Edge to Church Stretton is about 5 or 6 miles.

All wounded unable to walk will be collected at Hope Bowdler by 1 p.m., April 12, 1910.

Two large ambulance wagons take twenty sitting cases.

Four large ambulance wagons take fifteen lying down cases.

Some of those able to ride may require sitting accommodation from Hope Bowdler. Three light ambulance wagons would be able to convey thirty cases of this description to Church Stretton. Fresh horses could, if necessary, be obtained from the G.S. wagon teams. All wounded should arrive at Church Stretton by 6 p.m.

An ambulance train will convey all wounded able to travel, probably about seventy, to Welshpool, where they should arrive about midnight, 12th—13th. The ambulance train to return as soon as possible to Clearing Hospital at Church Stretton, in order to remove the remainder of the wounded, if possible, next morning. Cases requiring operation will be treated at the Clearing Hospital, and not at Hope Bowdler.

The tent division of the Field Ambulance will make provision for the four cases too ill to move until the morning of the 13th, unless they are in the hands of the enemy.

Comments on Appreciation.

No mention is made of the Clearing Hospital which is at Church Stretton, or of any orders for the ambulance train in case of the railway being cut. Some efforts should be made to remove the Clearing Hospital to a place of safety, and particularly as Red is likely to make a stand on the Long Mynd it would be urgently required.

April 13, 1910.

On the evening of April 13, the following narrative of events was given to officers:
Narrative of Events up to 12 midnight, April 13-14.

By nightfall (8 p.m.)—1st and 2nd Mounted Brigades had joined hands on Long Mynd, and were preparing a defensive position West of Church Stretton. The motor infantry retired from the Wistanston Hill to Black Knoll (South edge of Long Mynd).

During the day of 13th. Considerable movement of mounted troops has been seen on Callow Hill.

Craven Arms was occupied by strong Blue patrols by 10 a.m., who endeavoured to work Northwards, but were checked by the motor infantry. The hills East of railway (Caer Caradoc, &c.), were occupied by Blue patrols on the retirement of Red.

Information received at 12 midnight. General Officer Commanding Red received the following message from Officer Commanding Shrewsbury:

Shrewsbury,
April 13, 1910. 10.30 p.m.

A shepherd from Cardington arrived here at 10.15 p.m. and stated that at 8 p.m. a large body of mounted troops arrived at Cardington and there bivouacked. Questioned closely as to their exact numbers, he could give no satisfactory replies, but said there was a “mort.” He appears reliable.

Instructions to Medical Officers.

The two Mounted Brigades of Red force retired on to the Long Mynd on the evening of the 12th.

The Director of Medical Services is informed that a battle is imminent.

The O.C. Line of Communication has sent a message to the effect that Blue Cavalry threaten the line South of Shrewsbury, and he is of opinion that it may be rendered unworkable at any moment.

Thirty empty supply wagons will be available for transport purposes. Prepare plan for evacuation of wounded by road to Welshpool from Long Mynd.

Show position of Medical units with Brigades and state how the Clearing Hospital at Church Stretton should be dealt with.

It should be kept in mind that Bishops Castle rail and road is also threatened after 7 p.m. of the 13th inst.

Appreciation of the situation on the evening of April 12th.

The points to be considered are:—(a) The removal of the Clearing Hospital from Church Stretton. (b) The position of Medical units with Brigades. (c) The evacuation of wounded by road to Welshpool.

(A) Immediately on information being received that the Red Mounted Brigades are retiring on Long Mynd, arrangements are made to remove the Clearing Hospital from Church Stretton to Church Stoke. Seventeen of the available thirty G.S. wagons are sent by road to
L. Wood

LYDAMHEATH station, a journey which they should perform in 3½ hours, to await the arrival of the Clearing Hospital from CHURCH STRETTON. This should leave CHURCH STRETTON about 11 p.m. and arrive LYDAMHEATH station about midnight. It would then be loaded on the seventeen G.S. wagons leaving LYDAMHEATH station about 2.30 a.m., and arriving at CHURCH STOKE, a distance of about six miles, at 4 a.m. on the 13th inst.

(B) Position of Medical units with Brigades:
No. 1. Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance—WENTNOR.
No. 2. Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance—MYNDTOWN.
The reason for choosing these two situations, is that they are on a good road to CHURCH STOKE and WELSHPOOL, and that there would be a good water supply in both places.

(c) Evacuation of wounded to WELSHPOOL.
Strength of force:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two mounted Brigades</th>
<th>3,892</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,092</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less casualties</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,972</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As severe fighting is to be expected, the number of casualties would probably be at least 12 per cent. of the troops engaged. Taking the strength of the force as 4,000 this would give a casualty list of 480, of which the condition would probably be as follows:—

20 per cent. killed .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 100
Of the remaining casualties—
60 per cent. able to walk .. .. .. .. .. .. 288
20 ,, require sitting accommodation .. .. .. 96
15 ,, lying accommodation .. .. .. .. 72
5 ,, cannot be moved .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 24

480

After seeing the position it is obvious that the real difficulty to be faced in evacuating wounded would be to get them to the Field Ambulances. The only way in which this could be done would be by the mutual arrangements of positions which should be definitely marked out (flagged), between the Bearer Divisions of the Field Ambulances and the medical personnel with units. As the country is quite impossible for ambulance wagons, it is doubtful if many of the wounded would have arrived in the Field Ambulance by nightfall, and it is probable that the 361 wounded fit for removal would not be collected there before 12 noon on the 14th instant.

The first wounded to arrive in the hospitals would be dispatched to CHURCH STOKE in the ambulance wagons in order that these might be again utilized on their return.
Report on a Staff Tour

Accommodation of Ambulance Wagons.

12 heavy wagons; 48 lying down cases.
8 light wagons; 64 sitting cases.

If the first of the ambulance wagons were dispatched at 12 noon on the 13th inst., it should perform the double journey, eighteen miles, by 8 p.m. on the 13th inst. The ambulance wagons would thus all be available for duty on the 14th inst.

The G.S. wagons would then remove:
5 wagons; 9 lying down cases; and 4 sitting cases.
8 wagons; 64 sitting cases.

This would leave twenty-four sitting cases which would be removed by transport collected locally.

On arrival of the wounded at the Clearing Hospital all cases would have first aid rendered, and those requiring it would be detained. The remainder would be dispatched in transport obtained from Welshpool via Chirbury and Edderton Hall to Welshpool.

Comments on above Appreciation.

No. 1 ambulance train running between Church Stretton and Welshpool seems to have been forgotten.

Instructions should have been sent to Headquarters Line of Communication, notifying them of the move of the Clearing Hospital so that the Deputy Director of Medical Services could have given orders to the train to remain at Welshpool.

After performing the above work on the 13th inst., the following alterations were made:

One officer appointed Administrative Medical Officer of the Cavalry Division.

Remaining officers: Officer in Command of the Cavalry Field Ambulances.

The following orders were issued to the Administrative Medical Officer:

You are appointed Administrative Medical Officer of the Cavalry Division operating against Red.

Required.—Plan of medical arrangements for to-morrow’s battle which should contain:

(a) A short appreciation of the situation, mentioning the conditions affecting evacuation of sick and wounded, and the evacuation of wounded during the battle.
(b) Royal Army Medical Corps orders.
(c) Draft order for insertion in Divisional Orders.
APPRECIATION OF MEDICAL SITUATION FROM POINT OF VIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICAL OFFICER, CAVALRY DIVISION, BLUE FORCE.
April 13, 1910, 7 p.m.

(1) The Cavalry Division is 7,200 strong and about to attack.
(2) A half clearing hospital has been ordered to LONGVILLE.
(3) The road journeys from the front to this clearing hospital are short.
(4) An ambulance train and some ordinary coaches and a number of fitted-up trucks, have been promised to arrive to-morrow afternoon at LONGVILLE.
(5) The general line of evacuation for the wounded is LONGVILLE—MUCH WENLOCK—SHIFNAL—WOLVERHAMPTON—BIRMINGHAM, along which are the necessary Lines of Communication medical arrangements.
(6) The number of casualties is anticipated to be roughly 720, of which 570 will be wounded and the remainder killed. The ambulance wagons of the three Cavalry Field Ambulances will not be able to get all the wounded to LONGVILLE by evening without the assistance of G. S. wagons. Twenty of these will be required to carry 160 sitting cases and are being arranged for.

Signed Colonel,
A.M.O. Cavalry Division.

DRAFT FOR CAVALRY DIVISION OPERATION ORDERS, No. 23, DATED, APRIL 13, 1910.

(1) No. 2 Cavalry Field Ambulance is allotted to the troops in the centre about CHURCH STRETTON.
No. 3 Cavalry Field Ambulance is allotted to the troops on the left flank about LITTLE STRETTON.
No. 1 Cavalry Field Ambulance is allotted to the troops operating on the right flank about ALL STRETTON.

(2) Dressing stations will be established at ALL STRETTON, CHURCH STRETTON and LITTLE STRETTON.

(3) Roads allotted for removal of wounded by railway line are as follows:—
No. 1 Field Ambulance, via COMLEY and CARDINGTON to LONGVILLE.
No. 2 Field Ambulance, via HOPS BOWDLE and WALLSBANK to LONGVILLE.
No. 3 Field Ambulance as for No. 2.

CADD CARADAC, (Signed) Colonel,
April 13, 1910.
A.M.O. Cavalry Division.

CORPS ORDERS BY COLONEL, COMMANDING ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS CAVALRY DIVISION.

With reference to Cavalry Division Operation Orders No. 23, dated April 13, 1910.
(1) Dressing stations will be opened at 8 a.m. to-morrow.
(2) One tent sub-division of No. 2 Cavalry Field Ambulance will not be opened till further orders.
(3) One tent sub-division of No. 3 Cavalry Field Ambulance will not be opened until further orders.
(4) A half clearing hospital will be opened to receive wounded at LONGVILLE at 11 a.m. to-morrow.

By cyclist orderly to Officer Commanding Nos. 1, 2, 3, Cavalry Field Ambulances.

Signed,
Colonel A.M.O. Cavalry Division.

CAER CARADOC, 8 p.m.
April 13, 1910.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS ORDERS BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R.A.M.C. COMMANDING 2ND CAVALRY BRIGADE FIELD AMBULANCE, BLUE FORCE.

RAGLETH HILL,
10 p.m., April 13, 1910.

(1) Reveille to-morrow morning 4 a.m., breakfast 5 a.m.
(2) The Field Ambulance will march off at 6 a.m., and will proceed as follows:—
Bearer Division and tent sub-division of A section with the troops to CHURCH STRETTON.
Tent sub-division of B Section to HOPE BOWDLER where it will await further orders.
(3) The tent sub-division of A section will form a dressing station at the "Hotel," CHURCH STRETTON.
(4) The Bearer Division will keep in touch with the troops engaged from CHURCH STRETTON.
(5) Route of evacuation for sick and wounded HOPE BOWDLER—WALLSBANK—LONGVILLE.

Signed, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding 2nd Cavalry Field Ambulance.