Instructions were issued to candidates that they should report at the office of A.D.M.S. Poona district at 17.00 hours on October 20, 1925; on arrival there each of them was given the following task, with orders that its solution was to be handed to the president of the examining board of officers at 07.00 hours on Wednesday, October 21, at A.D.M.S.'s office, on which date the practical part of the examination in the field was due to commence.

Task 1 (A).

Draft Medical Orders for Inclusion in 3rd Corps Standing Orders.

It was fortunate for candidates that they had plenty of time (overnight) to prepare these orders, which constituted the beginning of the practical test and formed part of Exercise 2 of this test.

"Abbreviations" state that the object of standing orders is:

(i) To adapt existing regulations to local conditions.

(ii) To save frequent repetition in routine and operation orders.

It is also stated that standing orders must be confined to essentials and that the repetition of existing regulations is to be avoided.

In the framing of medical orders for insertion in the standing orders of a formation, it will be found difficult to avoid repeating existing regulations; a glance at any standing orders of this nature will probably prove the truth of this assertion, and in point of fact it is sometimes advisable to quote existing regulations (especially as regards sanitation) to help to drive home their importance.

The following is a suggested solution of Task 1 (A).

Medical Orders for Inclusion in 3rd Corps Standing Orders.

Copy No. 1.
Date: October 20, 1925.
Place: Poona.

(1) Men falling out sick on the line of march will be seen by unit M.O. If he considers that they will be fit to carry on, but merely require a "lift" to help them along, he will give them a written statement recommending said "lift" for the men and their equipment on any transport available. If no transport is available they should be left in shelter on the roadside to be picked up by the field ambulance. If he thinks that they require admission
to a field ambulance he should attach a field medical card showing their
disability.¹

(2) Sick will be seen under unit arrangements, and units or details
having no M.O. will send their sick to the nearest unit possessing one. All
sick for evacuation from unit aid posts will be ready for collection at 08.00
hours daily.²

(3) All troops will be medically inspected thoroughly at least once a
week; clothing also to be inspected and special attention directed towards
detection of vermin and skin disease. Troops to be instructed under unit
orders to report sick at once if they find vermin on their bodies or clothing.

New arrivals in units or camps to be medically inspected at once;
departures to be similarly inspected.

(4) First field dressings to be frequently inspected and M.O.’s to ensure
that all ranks in their charge are thoroughly familiar with the use and the

(5) All units to be inoculated (T.A.B.) and vaccinated to 100 per cent.

(6) Troops not to partake of food or drink in any shape of form except
from authorized sources of supply.

(7) Hawkers not to be allowed access to troops on any account.

(8) All bivouacs, camps, billets, rest camps, &c., to be kept scrupulously
clean and to be left in a similar condition by units on their departure (vide

(9) Food-stuffs must be protected from contamination by flies by
improved sales of sacking, muslin, &c., and the various methods of
destroying flies and preventing their breeding detailed in Chapter VI of
“Army Manual of Sanitation” should be applied where possible. Fly­
killer solutions are available at “Supplies.”

(10) All tanks containing water for drinking must be clearly labelled
“Drinking-water.”

regarding conservancy on the line of march, in bivouacs, camps, standing
 camps, rest camps, and billets, will be strictly observed. They are in brief
as follows:

Line of March.

(a) Short halts—men easing themselves to be directed to cover
excreta and urine well with earth.

(b) Long halts—(e.g., half hour to two hours)—shallow trench
latrines and urine pits to be provided; ground so used to be
marked “FOUL” by units before quitting.

¹Vide “R.A.M.C. Training,” para. 209 and “F.S.R.,” Vol. II., Section 159, para. 5, as
amended by A.O.’s of January, 1926, which states that “No man will be allowed to ride in
transport vehicles or to place his equipment and arms on them without the written per­
mission of an officer.”

Examination of Majors for Promotion to Rank of Lt.-Col.

Bivouacs.

Improvised pails (biscuit tins, etc.), and incineration, but if this is not practicable the procedure in (b) above to be adopted. The most scrupulous sanitary precautions to be observed in bivouacs as the bivouacs of to-day may be the lines of communication to-morrow.

Camps

Standing camps (pail removal system plus incineration where possible—otherwise deep trench systems. Large urine pits to be used.

Rest camps

(12) Refuse to be disposed of by incineration.

(13) Waste water from ablution places, kitchens, etc., to be led via grease-traps into soakage pits or suitable drains.

(14) Manure to be burnt or "tight-packed."

(15) Slaughtering places to be at a distance from camps, bivouacs, etc., and, where possible, an impermeable surface with a gutter to be provided on which animals will be slaughtered. Offal to be disposed of by incinerator.

(16) Carcases of animals dying in or near camps, etc., to be disposed of by burning or partial burning and burying.

(17) Antimalarial measures require careful selection of bivouacs and camp sites where possible (vide "F.S.R.", Vol. II, Section 180 (2)). Unit measures involve the establishment of good surface drainage, prevention of collections of stagnant water and clearance of undergrowth. Mosquito nets to be used; anti-mosquito oils, pomades, etc. (available from "Supplies") to be used by men on night duty. Knee flaps of shorts to be worn down between sunset and sunrise.

(18) Troops not to be allowed to be in possession of dogs, or such pets, owing to the danger of rabies. All stray dogs showing any indication of rabies to be shot at once.

(19) E.T. outfits and E.T. rooms to be available in units, camps, etc.

(20) Special precautions to be taken to ensure that all followers, many of whom are undisciplined, observe all orders re sanitation (vide "F.S.R.", Vol. II, Section 144(5)).

F. ....S......R.
Major, R.A.M.C.,
D.D.M.S. 3rd Corps.

Copy No. 1 to "A" 3rd Corps.
2 to File.
3 to War Diary.

On the morning of October 21, 1925, the candidates for the examination reported at 07.00 hours at office of A.D.M.S., Poona, where they met the examining board of officers, who criticized the appreciations sent in by each candidate. The board also criticized the solution of Task 1A. The board's own solutions of the task were also given in accordance with
King's Regulations, Appendix X, which directs that, for instructional purposes, it shall give its solutions to each problem with reasons. After these criticisms the actual practical work in the field was commenced with the issue of the following narrative, associated with Task 2, to each candidate.

NARRATIVE No. 1.
(For issue on the morning of October 21, 1925.)

On 19 October, 1925, Yellow made an attack with two divisions on the Brown position at Khandala and, after heavy fighting, succeeded in dislodging 8th Division from its position and forced it to retire as far as Talegaon-Dabhade. Casualties amounting to about 2,000 were evacuated to the C.C.S. at Talegaon and by hospital train and M.A.C., thence to Poona and onwards by rail to hospitals at Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Belgaum.

Subsequently the C.C.S. was closed and reopened at (place to be selected by the candidates).

9th Division from reserve in Ahmednagar, having detrained at Poona on the morning of October 21, will be ready to march by noon that day.

On the evening of October 20, 8th Division occupied a position astride the Bombay Road from Kinhai (Y. 4520) to Raoat (E. 4786).

The following operation order was issued.

8 DIV. OPERATION ORDER No. 100.
SECRET.

Copy No. 10.
Date: 20 Oct., 25.

Reference Map, Poona District, Sheet 47/F and F/14, one inch to one mile.

Information.

(1) Regarding the enemy.—The enemy, estimated at two divisions, has succeeded in forcing 8 Div. to withdraw from its position at Khandala in an easterly direction.

(2) Regarding our own forces.—8 Div. is now retiring eastwards along main road, Poona-Bombay; 9 Div. will be arriving by train at Poona on morning of 21 Oct., and will be ready to march by noon same day.

Intention.

(3) 8 Div. will take up a position running north and south between Kinhai (Y. 4520) and Raoat (E. 4786) covering the railway Poona-Bombay and the roads to the south of Indrayani river. It will stop the enemy on this line.

Method.

(4) The position will be occupied by 23 Inf. Bde. on the right, and 25 Inf. Bde. on the left, and inter-Brigade boundary will be incl. road Poona-Bombay to right sector throughout.

(a) The position will be occupied in depth on the line Kinhai (Y. 4520)—Chincholi (Y. 5113)—14½ milestone road Poona-
Examination of Majors for Promotion to Rank of Lt.-Col.

Bombay—B.M. 1976 (Y. 4603)—13 milestone old road Bombay-Poona to Pauna River west of Raoat Village (E. 4487).

(b) The line of forward defended localities will be nullah running north and south 400x west of Kinhai—B.M. 1995 (Y. 4108)—14 milestone old road Bombay-Poona, bend of Pauna River (E. 4487).

(5) 24 Inf. Bde. will be in divisional reserve in vicinity of 13 milestone road Poona-Bombay, and will occupy a position covering that road, and the road to the north on the general line Point 1969 (E. 4789)—Point 1944 (F. 0375)—Wireless Station.

(a) 24 Inf. Bde. will carry out a reconnaissance of the country south-west of 13 milestone road Poona-Bombay, with view to a counter-attack.

(6) Arty. Right sector will be covered by 20 Fd. Bde. and left sector by 21 Fd. Bde.

(a) C.R.A. will arrange antitank defence over the divisional front in consultation with O.'s C. Infantry Brigades and C.R.E.

(7) R.E. The following tracks will be made fit for light motor traffic:

(a) Point 1969 (E.8789), Chinchivad Ry. Sta.
(b) Chinchivad, Point 1902 (E.6069).

(8) R.A.F., etc., etc.

Administrative Arrangements.

(9) Supplies, S.R.P. at Kirkee Ry. Sta.

(10) Ammunition, etc., etc.

(11) Medical (to be issued by A.D.M.S.).

(12) Transport, etc., etc.

Inter-Communication.

(13) 8 Div. H.Q. will close at Shelarwadi Rly. Sta. (Y. 4108) at 15.00 hrs. October 20, and open at 11 milestone road, Poona-Bombay, at same time.

(a) 8 Div. Advanced H.Q. will open at road junction Y. 5904 at 15.00 hrs. on October 20.

(b) 25 Inf. Bde. H.Q. at Temple (E. 5897).
(c) 24 Inf. Bde. at 13 milestone main road, Poona-Bombay.

Acknowledge.

S......A.
Colonel, G. S.,
8th Division.

Issued to Sigs., 8 Div., at 14'00 hrs.
Distribution as per list X.1

1 For indicating the units to which operation orders are directed, the General Staff sometimes adopt the words, "Distribution as per list X, Y, or Z, etc."; in this way a certain amount of secrecy is maintained in the event of an order falling into the hands of the enemy. At the examination under discussion, candidates should always indicate at the end of their orders, reports, etc., the recipients individually, as this sometimes constitutes a point on which the examiners desire to test the candidates' knowledge.
A. C. Elliott

Task 2.

As A.D.M.S., 8th Division.

(1) Make a reconnaissance of the area Poona to front, to ascertain the facilities for entraining and detraining casualties, and locations suitable for C.C.S. advanced depots of medical stores and field ambulances.

(2) Draft administrative arrangements medical for 8th Division Operation Order No. 100.

(3) Write R.A.M.C. Operation Orders pursuant to 8th Division Operation Order No. 100.

It will readily be understood that para. 1 of above task comes under Exercise 3 of the examination, while paras. 2 and 3 come under Exercise 2.

Before proceeding to a suggested solution of Task 2, it may not be out of place to direct candidates' attention to the following points regarding operation orders as given in "Abbreviations."

(a) An operation order must contain just what the recipient wants to know, and nothing more.

(b) Operation orders will usually be merged under the six subject headings indicated in 8th Division Operation Order No. 100 above. The paragraphs will be numbered consecutively throughout the order, and sub-paragraphs lettered in such a way as to admit of easy reference. Sub-paragraphs, however, will not be subdivided by further lettering or numbering.

(c) No abbreviations other than those authorized are to be used, and the writer of an order, report, etc., must exercise judgment in the employment of abbreviations, and must not use those with which the addressee is likely to be unfamiliar.

Note.—Abbreviations should be given correctly and used consistently; e.g., write Fd. Amb. (correct abbreviation), but subsequently do not write Field Amb. or Fd. Ambulance.

Suggested Solution of Task 2.

Suitable sites for C.C.S.'s in Poona are:

(i) Council Hall.

(ii) Gymkhana Club and grounds.

The above sites are considered good for the following reasons:

(a) Good approach, giving entrance and exit facilities for wheeled traffic.

(b) Good buildings and outhouses.

(c) Plenty of surrounding space for pitching tents.

(d) Good piped water supply.

(e) Electric light and fans.

(f) Convenient to railway station.

(g) In main building good accommodation for wards and reception room with the latter's adjuncts, namely, resuscitation ward, pre-operative ward, operating theatre, etc.
Examination of Majors for Promotion to Rank of Lt.-Col.

(h) Accommodation available for administrative branch, stores, etc.

(i) Sanitary arrangements, these are insufficient but can be enlarged by improvisation.

Site suitable for advanced depot of medical stores is a building opposite and west of the Council Hall. This site has a good roomy yard, good main building and outhouses, all of which are secure.

Facilities at Poona railway station for entraining and detraining sick and wounded are not good for the following reasons:—

(a) There is no platform on broad gauge available for such work except the long main platform.

(b) There is no platform for metre gauge system.

(c) The direct transit of cases from one gauge system to the other would involve their passing across railway lines which would be dangerous.

(d) Ambulances cannot get near the metre gauge system.

Note.—Reasons should always be given in support of solutions. (Vide K. R., Appendix X.)

The candidates made a reconnaissance of the right and left sectors of the defensive position, and selected sites for their medical units. Having selected these sites they were then in a position to write as A.D.M.S. of the division, their administrative arrangements and R.A.M.C. Operation Orders in something after the following manner.

SECRET.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS MEDICAL FOR 8 DIV. OPERATION
ORDER No. 100.

Copy No. 1.

Date: 20 Oct., 25.

(1) A.D.S. for right sector will be at Chincholi at junction of track with main road Poona-Bombay (Y. 5804).

(2) A.D.S. for left sector will be at junction of track and main railway Poona-Bombay at E. 5809.

(3) W.W.C.P. will be at Nigadia (E. 6695).

(4) M.D.S. will be at Chinchivad.

(5) Above medical units will be in position at 05.00 hrs. on 21 Oct.

F......D......S.

Major, R.A.M.C.,
A.D.M.S., 8 Div.

Copy No. 1 to "G."
2 to File.
3 to File.
4 to War Diary.

Unless one is au fait with "Abbreviations," the task of being called upon to write "Administrative Arrangements Medical for insertion in an operation order" may appear somewhat staggering. The task
becomes easy, however, when it is realized that "Abbreviations" state that under the heading of "Administrative Arrangements" in an operation order come paragraphs giving general instructions as regards arrangements for supply, transport, ammunition, medical services; etc. These paragraphs, which are framed in consultation with the branches of the service concerned, will be limited to what it is necessary for all recipients of the order to know. Applied to the medical services the foregoing amounts to this, namely, that a divisional commander issues his order for battle, and all that recipients of that order want to know, with regard to the medical service, is where medical aid can be received; this information is conveyed to them in the medical para. of "Administrative Arrangements."

"Administrative Arrangements" are not to be confounded with "Administrative Instructions"; the latter are drawn up by A.G.'s and Q.M.G.'s branches of the Staff and are corollaries to operation orders; they are separate instructions issued in conjunction with an operation under or as a preliminary to such an order, particularly when major operations are contemplated.

SECRET.

8 DIV. R.A.M.C. OPERATION ORDER No. 82.

Copy No. 1.

Date: 20 Oct., 25.

Reference Map, Poona District, Sheets 47F/10 and F/14, one inch to one mile.

Information.

(1) Regarding the enemy. The enemy, estimated at two divisions, has driven 8 Div. from its position at Khandala in an easterly direction.

(2) Regarding our own forces. 8 Div. is retiring eastwards along main road Poona-Bombay, and with view to stopping the enemy, it is taking up a position on line running north and south between Kinhai (Y. 4520) and Raoat (E. 4786) covering the railway Poona-Bombay and the roads to the south of the River Indrayani.

(a) The position is being occupied in depth by 23 Inf. Bde. on the right, and 25 Inf. Bde. on the left; inter-Brigade boundary will be inclusive road Poona-Bombay to right sector.

(b) The line of forward defended localities is nullah running north and south 400 yards west of Kinhai—B.M. 1993 (Y. 4108—14 milestone old road Bombay-Poona, bend of River Pauna (E. 4487).

(c) 24 Inf. Bde. is to be in divisional reserve in vicinity of 13 milestone road Poona-Bombay.

Intention.

(3) The evacuation of casualties will be carried out by the formation of:

(a) A.D.S. for right sector.
(b) A.D.S. for left sector.
(c) W.W.C.P.
(d) M.D.S.
Examination of Majors for Promotion to Rank of Lt.-Col.

(4) Motor ambulances will be pooled.

Method.

(5) 23 Fd. Amb. will clear right sector.
    (a) Two sections will form A.D.S. near Chincholi at Y. 5013.
    (b) One section will form W.W.C.P. at Nigadia (E. 6695).
    (c) H.Q. and two sections will be at junction of Chincholi track
        with road Poona-Bombay and assist in transferring cases from
        bullock tongas to motor ambulances.

(6) 25 Fd. Amb. will clear left sector.
    (a) One section will form A.D.S. at junction of track with railway
        Poona-Bombay at E. 5890.
    (b) H.Q. and three sections will form M.D.S. at Chinchivad.

(7) All above units will be in position at 05.00 hrs. on 21 Oct.

(8) 24 Fd. Amb. will be in reserve with the 24 Inf. Bde. near point 2062.

(9) Men of Bearer Unit will report at 05.00 hrs. on 21 Oct., for
duty as follows:
    (a) 60 men to A.D.S. for right sector.
    (b) 100 men to A.D.S. for left sector.
    (c) 40 men to 24 Fd. Amb. in reserve.

(10) 24 Fd. Amb. will detail an officer to take over command of pooled
motor ambulances; it will also detail one N.C.O. and two men to assist
him.
    (a) Fd. Ambs. will despatch their motor ambulances to report to
    above officer at 12 milestone road Poona-Bombay by 06.00 hrs. on
    21 Oct.

(11) Car posts will be established as follows:
    (a) Two cars at junction Chincholi track with road Poona-
        Bombay.
    (b) Two cars at 14 milestone road Poona-Bombay.
    (c) H.Q. and five cars at 12 milestone road Poona-Bombay.
    (d) One car at W.W.C.P.
    (e) O.C. pooled cars will reconnoitre track Nigadia—Railway
        Poona-Bombay for suitable car post for two cars.

Administrative Arrangements.

(12) Supplies for consumption on 21 Oct. will be at Chinchivad
Ry. Sta. at 20.00 hrs. on 20 Oct.

(13) A dump of 400 stretchers and 800 blankets will be available at
Chinchivad Ry. Sta. by 04.00 hrs. on 21 Oct.

Inter-Communication.

(14) Office of A.D.M.S. will close at Shelarwadi Ry. Sta. (Y. 4108) at
15.00 hrs. on 20 Oct. and open at 11 milestone road Poona-Bombay at same
time.
A. C. Elliott

(a) Reports will be sent to A.D.M.S. at advanced D.H.Q. at road junction at Y. 5904 from 17.00 hrs. 20 Oct. onwards.
(b) 23 Inf. Bde. H.Q. at Point 1969 (Y. 6312).
   25 " " " at Temple (E. 5897).
   24 " " " at 13 milestone road Poona-Bombay.

Acknowledge.

Issued by S.D.R. at 14.45 hrs.
Distribution:—
Copy No. 1. to "G."
   2. " " " A."
   4. " " 24 " "
   5. " " 25 " "
   6. " Bearer Unit.
   8. " " 24 " "
   9. " " 25 " "
   10. " D.A.P.M.
   12. " A.D.M.S. 9 Div.

Operation orders issued by any formation, high or low, in any branch of the Service, are to be merged; as already stated, under the six headings indicated, and it is frequently necessary for the operation order of a lower formation to embody under the heading "Information" of that order the substance contained under the headings "Intention" and "Method" of the operation order of its superior commander. In other words the "Intention" and "Method" of the superior commander has to be lifted frequently into the heading "Information" of the subordinate commander.

In medical operation orders (divisional) we again come upon a constant as we did in appreciations, for the heading "Intention" would appear to boil itself down to a consideration of the number of medical posts it would be necessary to establish to ensure the evacuation of casualties.

For details of the Narratives, etc., concerning the Exercises set at the remainder of the examination, the reader is requested to turn to page 255 et seq. of the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS of October, 1926, as space will not permit of their repetition here.

On referring to Narrative 2, which commences on page 255, it will be seen that an operation order was issued verbally by the General Staff of
8th Division to Brigade Commanders, Staff Officers and Heads of Services. It is important to note that it is customary for operation orders given verbally to assume the same form and sequence as similar orders given in writing. For those studying for the examination it would be good practice to convert the above-mentioned verbal orders into the model form of operation orders required by "Abbreviations," including the numbering of paragraphs and sub-paragraphs and the use of the recognized abbreviations, etc.

Narrative 2 introduces Task 3 which, as set at the examination, reads as follows: "As A.D.M.S., 8th Division (a) attend the Conference of Brigade Commanders, Staff Officers, etc., and be prepared to state how the evacuation of casualties is progressing, and how long it will take to clear the A.D.S.'s; (b) After the Conference write the necessary orders to Field Ambulances in message form." The task set by para. (a) comes under Exercise 4 and that by para. (b) under Exercise 2 of the examination.

For the purpose of this article we shall alter para. (a) to read as follows: "As A.D.M.S., 8th Division, furnish to 'G' by 09.15 hrs. an appreciation in writing of the situation regarding casualties reported up to 09.00 hrs. from the point of view of how their evacuation is progressing and the time it will take to clear the A.D.S.'s." It will be assumed that the A.D.M.S. has been informed of the gist of the verbal orders given in the narrative which "G" is about to issue at 09.15 hours.

To those familiar with Section 25 of "Training and Manoeuvre Regulations," it will be clear that the type of appreciation required here is type (ii)—namely an appreciation of a minor problem in the field, in which rapidity is all important and in which the time available will not admit of, all the factors being recorded, though they should all receive consideration.

The considerations affecting the attainment of the object in this instance, or more briefly the factors, are of two sources, namely those given in the narrative and verbal orders and those based on the A.D.M.S.'s own knowledge and experience. The following are the considerations derived from the first source and are almost self-evident:—

(a) A decision has been made to withdraw 8th Division from its present position and that the withdrawal is to take place by bounds, of which the first is to commence at 10.00 hours on October 21.

(b) A glance at the map will show that, during the first bound, the distance on the right sector to be covered by 23rd Infantry Brigade is greater than that to be covered by 25th Infantry Brigade on the left sector; it is in consequence of this fact that the operation order directs that the withdrawal is to be regulated by the pace of the 23rd Infantry Brigade.

(c) In view of (b) the A.D.M.S. will visualize the problem chiefly from the point of view of the time required to clear the 400 casualties reported on the right sector and, furthermore, his problem will boil itself down to a question of the time required to clear the lying cases among these casualties.
A. C. Elliott

From the second source the following points will suggest themselves to the A.D.M.S.:—

(a) In the front line region on the right sector the country is rough and exposed and the distance from the nearest R.A.P. to A.D.S. is about one mile of such country. The time required to manhandle one stretcher case from the R.A.P. to A.D.S. will be about one hour (including the time for return journey of the bearers) even allowing for well-distributed bearer relay posts.

(b) The onward passage of the stretcher case from A.D.S. to car post on main road—a distance of one and a half miles—will be by bullock tonga, moving at the rate of about 2 miles per hour. The time required for a bullock tonga to do the round trip will be about one and a half hours. There are twelve such tongas in an Indian field ambulance, so that roughly twenty-four stretcher cases reach the car post every two hours, allowing for a certain amount of transport difficulties involving delays, hold-ups on the track and treatment in the A.D.S.

(c) Fighting commenced at dawn—say 06.00 hours; it is extremely unlikely, therefore, that the first stretcher case will have reached the A.D.S. much before 07.00 hours, so that by 09.00 hours it is possible that twenty-four such cases will have reached the car point on the main road, whence their further evacuation will be rapidly effected by motor ambulances.

(d) Of the 400 casualties reported up to 09.00 hours in the right sector, twenty per cent. at least will be stretcher cases, so that about eighty such cases have to be evacuated, and this does not take into consideration the strong probability that further cases will occur after 09.00 hours.

(e) With the transport at present available, namely twelve bullock tongas in the field ambulance clearing this sector, it will be about 14.00 hours before all the stretcher cases have reached the car point. Bearing in mind the above considerations, the A.D.M.S. would then proceed to write his appreciation in something after the following manner:—

SECRET.

Urgent.

Appreciation of the situation regarding 800 casualties reported up to 09.00 hrs. on 21 Oct. in 8 Div. from the point of view of how their evacuation is progressing and the time required to clear the A.D.S.'s.

Reference Map, 47 F/10.

Object.—The clearing of all casualties by 10.00 hrs. to-day.

Factors.——(1) As the 800 casualties in question are about equally distri-
Examination of Majors for Promotion to Rank of Lt.-Col.

Buted over right and left sector this appreciation is based on the time required to clear the stretcher cases in right sector, as the intended withdrawal, due to commence at 10.00 hrs. to-day, is to be regulated by the pace of 23 Inf. Bde. in that sector.

(2) Of the 400 casualties on right sector twenty per cent are stretcher cases, so that eighty such cases have to be cleared. With transport at present available in this sector, twenty-four cases can be cleared every two hours and, at the moment of writing, it is calculated that that number of such cases have been evacuated. Wounded in this sector will not be cleared therefore till about 14.00 hrs. to-day, with present transport arrangements.

Plan.

Withdrawal at 10.00 hrs. to-day from present position will involve the abandoning of about fifty lying cases unless assistance can be given during the next hour to manhandle these cases by the troops themselves in this sector.

F........D.........S.

Colonel,
Copy No. 1 to "G."
2 to File.
3 to War Diary.

The foregoing is an attempt to furnish an illustration of a type (ii) appreciation in writing and, having done so, we shall now revert to the original task in which it was required of each candidate that he, as A.D.M.S., should attend the conference.

The notes in Task 3, given by Colonel Sewell on page 257, etc., show that the board, being in the position of 8th Division Staff, required to all intents and purposes from each candidate a verbal appreciation of the situation in question.

Those who have attended Staff Exercises will remember that the directing staff nearly always insisted that appreciations of situations given verbally should take the same form and sequence as those given in writing, just as they do with regard to the issue of verbal orders. Occasions arise, however, when time demands that the plan or conclusion be rapped out at once, and the frills, so to speak, i.e., the object, factors, etc., avoided. In this case the candidate would be given credit for stating the object, factors and plan as in the written appreciation above, but it is probable that the board would be more pleased with the candidate, who, going straight to the point, states as follows: "The casualties on the left sector can be cleared, but the question at issue is the time required to clear the lying wounded on right sector, of which it is calculated there are about eighty. I estimate that at this moment (09.15 hours) twenty-four of these cases have been cleared, but the balance cannot be evacuated till about 13.30 hours with the transport at present available there. A retirement at 10.00 hours will
involve the abandoning of some fifty lying wounded." A suggestion could be added, as in the written appreciation, to the effect that the troops themselves might lend assistance. The possibility of bringing forward the tongas from 24th Field Ambulance in reserve would only receive consideration to be put out of court, as the time required to do so would be some two hours or more.

We shall now turn to para. (b) of Task 3 in which the candidates were required to write the necessary orders to Field Ambulances in message form. This Exercise constitutes a test of the candidate's knowledge of Appendices A and B of "Abbreviations"; being allowed access to the "Field Service Pocket Book," the candidates would be in a position to refer to "Abbreviations." Appendix A, para. v, sub-para. 9 states that reports and messages should always be arranged in the same sequence as that given for operation orders.

The A.D.M.S., having decided upon the tactical method of handling the Field Ambulances during the retirement (see notes to Task 3 on page 258 for same), would then proceed to write his orders in message form. The issue of orders in this way involves a point which frequently appears to present difficulty, namely, how much information is to be conveyed to those concerned? A further point for consideration in this instance is—should the A.D.M.S. embody in the message his orders for the whole retirement, or should he issue separate messages dealing with the necessary bounds? It is suggested that in this case more than one message will have to be issued, of which the first would be as follows (see Appendix B of "Abbreviations" for message form A.F.C. 2128).

To 23—24—25 Fd Amb

Originators Number Date
M.84. 21

Ref map F 10 8 Div is retiring to line BM 1835 eight milestone road POONA BOMBAY Pt 1944 west of BHAVSARI AAA 24 Inf Bde is occupying this line 14.00 hrs AAA 23 and 25 Inf Bde are retiring at 10.00 hrs first line Pt 1969 Y6312 Pt 2342 bridge river PAUNA at RAOAT second line Pt 1969 E8789 CHINCHIVAD Ry Sta AAA 24 Fd Amb will move to DAPURI and open M.D.S. by 12.00 hrs AAA 23 Fd Amb will conform to movements of 23 Inf Bde route road WIRELESS

Note.—As co-ordination is all important in the movement of troops, especially during a retirement, these orders of the A.D.M.S. would be subject, of course, to the approval of "G."
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STATION POONA AAA left A.D.S. remains open AAA
M.D.S. will evacuate wounded and prepare to retire AAA
Orders for subsequent moves will be issued to 25 Fd Amb
later AAA addsd 23 24 25 Fd Amb

Time of origin 09.40 hrs.

If sent by wireless the message must be in CIPHER.
If by some other method it may be sent as WRITTEN.

F. D. S.,
Colonel,
A.D.M.S., 8 Div.

The above message should meet the situation involved during the withdrawal to the first line. The time at which the next message should be issued by the A.D.M.S. seems somewhat difficult to decide, as the operation order does not indicate the time of withdrawal from first and second lines. A reference to Narrative 3 will throw some light on the difficulty, as it will show that the final line was reached at 18:00 hrs. by 23rd and 25th Infantry Brigade. The distance covered by these brigades during the retirement was roughly eight miles as the crow flies, so that the withdrawal would be carried out at approximately one mile per hour. The first line would be reached at about 12.00 hours and retirement from same would commence say about 13.30 hours.

A second message would be issued by A.D.M.S. somewhat as follows:

To — 23 — 24 — 25 Fd Amb.
From A.D.M.S.
Originators Number Date
M85 21
Ref M84 retirement is continuing at 13.30 hrs AAA
Close left A.D.S. AAA Send all wounded DAPURI AAA
25 Fd Amb less two sections will move to DAPURI route
road POONA BOMBAY AAA Two sections open A.D.S.
KASARVADI by 13.30 hrs AAA addsd 25 Fd Amb rptd
23 and 24 Fd Amb.

Time of origin 12.15 hrs.

Exercise 4 of the test (vide Appendix X, King's Regulations) involves the working out of medical arrangements required to meet various military situations. In Tasks 2 and 3 of the scheme under discussion the medical arrangements required were those associated with a retirement. A perusal of Narrative 2 shows that the medical arrangements at issue under Task 4 are those associated with troops holding a defensive position;
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similarly Task 5 shows that the requirements in this respect are those associated with troops making a successful attack followed by an advance. The various recognized military situations with the exception of the encounter battle were therefore fairly well dealt with.

It is unnecessary to discuss in detail Tasks 4 and 5, as their solutions are given in Colonel Sewell's article. To those interested, however, it would be good practice to write in modern form (as required by "Abbreviations"), the various orders, messages, drafts, etc., based on these solutions.

The essence of successful map-reading is rapidity, which, as pointed out by Colonel Sewell, can only be acquired by practice.

The writer hopes that this article has thrown some light upon the examination in general, and particularly upon the stumbling-blocks of standing orders, operation orders, administrative arrangements, reconnaissance and the issuing of orders in field message form. With regard to appreciations, his only hope is that he has not left the confounded more confounded.