A DEMONSTRATION OF A CASUALTY CLEARING STATION
(INDIAN ESTABLISHMENT).

BY MAJOR T. B. NICHOLLS,
Royal Army Medical Corps.

One of the great obstacles to field training of officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps is the fact that the units they have to handle in war do not exist in peacetime.

Again, it is difficult to visualize from mobilization tables and lists of equipment exactly how the personnel and material are to be employed. One sees a certain number of men included in the tables, but there is considerable difficulty in knowing to what departments of a unit they would be detailed and how many men would be required for each task.

Last year the Southern Command Exercise, India, included the demonstration of a Casualty Clearing Station, principally for the instruction of staff officers and others attending the exercise, and the opportunity was taken of instructing R.A.M.C. officers in the organization of the unit. All R.A.M.C. officers in the Poona (I) Brigade Area were employed in staffing the Casualty Clearing Station, and other officers, particularly those who were proposing to sit for promotion examinations, attended from districts of the Southern Command.

The demonstration was arranged so that the full tentage was drawn and erected in order that the camping space and the general appearance could be seen, and sufficient equipment was obtained to give a general idea of the working of the unit.

The following personnel were detailed for the demonstration of the Casualty Clearing Station, held on November 18, 1931. They were also required on the 17th, in the afternoon, for a rehearsal.

It was assumed that one surgical team was detailed from a unit in a quiet sector to assist in this Casualty Clearing Station. So the numbers detailed were larger than those shown in War Establishment, India.

(1) Officers R.A.M.C., 5. I.M.S., 4.
(2) I.M.D.: (a) Assistant surgeons, 4. (b) Sub-assistant surgeons, 6.
(3) R.A.M.C.—Serjeant, 1; privates, 9; and 1 for X-ray.
(4) Indian Hospital Corps: (a) Clerical Section: Havildar, 1; Sepoy, 1; (b) Stores Section: Havildars, 2; Naiks, 3; Sepoys, 3. (c) Ambulance Section: Havildar, 1; Naiks, 2; Lance Naiks, 4; Sepoys, 43; total = 50.
(d) Nursing Section: Havildar, 1; Naiks, 1; Lance Naiks, 2; Sepoys, 12; total = 16. (e) General Section: (i) Head cook, 1; 2nd Grade, 7; total = 8; (ii) Bhisties 8; (iii) Dhobies, 8; (iv) Ward servants, 8; (v) Sweepers, 12.
(5) Dental Centre: Officer, 1; Clerk Orderly, 1.
In addition, one medical officer was required to handle the four cars representing the M.A.C. and to dress and label forty casualties which were to be put through the Casualty Clearing Station.

The distribution of the personnel is shown in the following table:

**Table showing Sections of the Casualty Clearing Station and Personnel in Each.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Personnel Details</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Officer Commanding's Office</td>
<td>Commanding Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Havildar Clerk</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Naik, Ambulance Section, O.C's Orderly</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Quartermaster's Department</td>
<td>Havildars 2 (1 i/c stores and clothing, 1 i/c rations)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Naiks 2 (1 i/c pack stores)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sepoys 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Dispensary</td>
<td>Sub-Assistant Surgeon</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Medical Stores</td>
<td>Sub-Assistant Surgeon</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Stretcher Dump</td>
<td>Naik 1; Ambulance Section</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Guard</td>
<td>Naik 1; Sepoys 3; Ambulance Section</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Ambulance Unloading Post</td>
<td>Havildar 1; Stretcher Squads 5; Ambulance Section</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Reception Tents</td>
<td>Medical Officer R.A.M.C.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Assistant Surgean</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R.A.M.C. N.C.O.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R.A.M.C. Private</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clerical Sepoy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ambulance Section (L/Nk. 1; squads 2)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing Section. Havildar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cook for Buffet</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bhisti</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ward Servant (for Buffet)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sweepers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Minor Dressing Tent</td>
<td>Medical Officer I.M.S.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assistant Surgean</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private R.A.M.C.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-Assistant Surgean</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing Section (L/Nk. 1; Sepoys 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bhisti</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sweepers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Pre-operation Wards</td>
<td>Medical Officer R.A.M.C., also i/c X-ray Department</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assistant Surgean</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private R.A.M.C.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing Section Sepoys</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sweeper</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Demonstration of an Indian Casualty Clearing Station

### 11. Theatre
- Officers R.A.M.C.: Surgeon 1; Anesthetist 1...
- Surgeon 1
- Private, O.R.A., 1
- Ambulance Section: L/Nk. 1; squads 3...
- Bhisti (also for Pre-Operation Ward)... 1
- Total 22

### 12. Surgical Division
- Medical Officer I.M.S....
- Surgeon 1
- Sub-Assistant Surgeon...
- R.A.M.C. Private...
- Nursing Section: Nk. 1; Sepoys 4...
- Bhisties...
- Ward Servants...
- Sweepers...
- Total 18

### 13. Medical Division
- Medical Officer R.A.M.C....
- Assistant Surgeon...
- Sub-Assistant Surgeon...
- Private R.A.M.C. ...
- Nursing Section (L/Nk. 1; Sepoys 4)...
- Bhisties...
- Ward Servants...
- Sweepers...
- Total 17

### 14. Dining Hall
- Ward Servant (Bhisti from Medical Wards)...
- Total 1

### 15. Bathing Tent
- (Bhisti from Surgical Wards)

### 16. Kitchen
- Head Cook...
- Second Grade Cooks...
- Bhisti...
- Sweeper...
- Total 9

### 17. X-ray Department
- (Not authorized in War Equipments, India)
- Medical Officer (also in Pre-Operation Ward)...
- X-ray Orderly (also in Pre-Operation Ward)...
- Total 1

### 18. Dental Department
- Dental Officer (to assist in minor dressing or theatre if necessary)...
- Clerk Orderly (to assist in minor dressing or theatre if necessary)...
- Total 2

### 19. Latrines
- Sweeper...
- Total 1

### 20. Dhobi Ghat
- Dhobies...
- Total 8

A demonstration of the handling of patients was made with patients about to undergo the various treatments appropriate to their cases in the several departments. The operating theatre was so realistic that certain non-medical officers had to be led outside on seeing a patient on the table with the surgeon just on the point of performing a laparotomy.

To assist those attending, a type plan of the lay-out of a Casualty Clearing Station was prepared, also a list of personnel as employed on their
various duties, and an extract of standing orders of the unit, showing how patients were to be received, classified, treated and disposed of.

The Indian Casualty Clearing Station differs very greatly from the Home Casualty Clearing Station in many very important particulars, as it is primarily designed for service on the N.W. Frontier, where communications are not good.

Field Service Regulations, Vol. I, Additions for India, 1930, para. 118, lays down that "In India a Casualty Clearing Station is an immobile unit, and has no transport."

It has also no Nursing Sisters and fewer medical officers than the one at home, and its equipment is very much less.

It is realized that the equipment laid down was conditioned by the state of communications on the N.W. Frontier, but as the unit is immobile and will almost certainly be sited on one of the main roads of the frontier, or at a rail head, it would seem that the possibility of adding further equipment to make the unit more efficient should be considered.

The type plan, standing orders, and some notes on the Casualty Clearing Station are appended in the hope that they may be of service to officers studying for their promotion examination. It is to be noted that gas casualties are not provided for in the type plan. It should be realized that this was drawn up principally for the instruction of non-medical officers, and would probably have to be altered considerably as the result of experience in a campaign.

NOTES ON THE CASUALTY CLEARING STATION FOR INDIA.
(See Field Service Regs., 1930, para. 118, & R.A.M.C. Training, paras. 255, 259 and 409.)

1. Mobilized at one per Division. They are Army Troops and not under the control of either Corps or Division.

2. Personnel.—War Establishment (India).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>British</th>
<th>Indian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Officers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Surgeons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.A.M.C.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Assistant Surgeons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.H. Corps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Followers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Army Dental Corps.—1 Officer, 1 British Other Rank as decided by A.H.Q.

Q.A.I.M.N.S.—Not shown in War Establishments, India.

3. Function.—It is the pivot of the whole system of evacuation and is the first unit behind the front line which can provide full surgical treatment and hospital accommodation for the seriously wounded. (R.A.M.C. Training, para. 409.)
T. B. Nicholls

4. Location.—(a) Camp space 250 x 150 yards. (b) 1,200 yards from railway junction, park or dump. (c) 500 yards from main line of railway. (d) Connected by lightrail way or trolley line; or, if practicable, a special siding to be constructed for ambulance trains connected with the main line. (e) Good road for motor transport. (f) Ample water supply. (F.S.R., para. 118.)

Will frequently be grouped, so that one Casualty Clearing Station can be receiving while another is evacuating. Surgical teams are sometimes sent from other medical units in times of pressure. (R.A.M.C. Training, paras. 255 and 257.)

5. Transport.—Is a unit that has no transport.

If required to move, application is made for M.T. from “Q.”

6. Capacity of a Casualty Clearing Station (India).—200 patients, but can be expanded to take many more.

EXTRACT FROM STANDING ORDERS, NO. UMPTEEN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION. BY MAJOR T. B. NICOLLS, O.C., R.A.M.C.

I. ADMISSION OF CASUALTIES.

(1) On arrival of ambulances at the unloading post, the N.C.O. in charge will cause all cases to be taken to the reception tent.

(2) After unloading, the ambulances will proceed to the stretcher dump where the orderly will draw the same number of stretchers, blankets, hot-water bottles, splints, &c., as were handed in with the patients.

II. RECEPTION TENT.

The medical officer in charge will classify the casualties as follows and dispose of them as under:

(a) Walking Cases.

These will be directed to either the minor dressing tent or to the medical wards.

(b) Stretcher Cases.

(1) Minor wounds:

To minor dressing tent.

(2) Serious wounds not requiring immediate operation:

Direct to surgical wards.

(3) Serious wounds requiring immediate operation and those cases that are collapsed:

To the pre-operation wards.

(4) Medical cases:

To the medical wards.

(c) Infectious Cases.

To be sent immediately to the infectious wards.

(d) Venereal Cases.

To venereal wards.
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(1) The medical cases will either walk or be carried to the appropriate medical wards. The infectious and venereal disease cases will be immediately transferred to their appropriate wards.

(2) The particulars and diagnosis of each case will be entered by the clerk in the A. and D. books.

(3) All patients fit to receive them will be given hot drinks, sandwiches and cigarettes while awaiting attention.

III.—MINOR DRESSING TENT.

All wounds will be dressed and anti-tetanus serum given, if this has not already been done in the field ambulance. Care should be taken to see that the presence of a tourniquet is not overlooked.

After attention the wounded should be directed to the minor surgical wards.

IV.—PRE-OPERATION AND RESUSCITATION WARD.

(1) Those cases requiring an operation will be prepared for it and their clothing changed for pyjamas. The clothing will be handed into the pack-store and a receipt obtained and handed to the patient. Patients' valuables will be placed in small bags which will be handed to the patients.

(2) Those requiring resuscitation will be revived either with the hot-air warming apparatus, saline infusions, or by any method which may be necessary to suit the individual case.

V.—THEATRE.

All operations will be done here after the use of X-rays if necessary. After operation the cases will be carried to the major surgical wards, avoiding exposure en route.

VI.—SURGICAL WARDS.

(a) Major Surgical: For after-care of operation and serious cases. Those who have not been through the theatre will be changed into pyjamas and their clothing handed into pack-store and a receipt obtained.

(b) Minor Surgical: For the after-care of minor cases. If any such cases become worse they will be transferred to the major surgical wards.

VII.—MEDICAL WARDS.

(a) Major: Patients to be changed into pyjamas.

(b) Minor: For less serious cases some of which may have to be later transferred to the major wards.

VIII.—INFECTIOUS WARDS.

The usual precautions for infectious cases will be observed.
IX.—EvACUATION.

The ambulance train will arrive on the spur line at 12.00 hours daily. Medical officers will classify patients who are fit to be evacuated in time for them to be ready to be moved by 11.00 hours.

X.—RATIONS.

Will be drawn at the rail head from rail head supply detachment at Hardapsur (Indents on I.A.F. F.1024) at 16.00 hours. Enough rations and medical comforts will be kept in reserve to deal with an unexpected influx of casualties.

XI.—MEDICAL STORES.

Will be drawn from No. 1 Advanced Depot of medical stores.

XII.—RETURNS.

The following returns will be rendered:

(1) I.A.F. W. 3006:—Daily Strength Return to Officer i/c 2nd Echelon.
(2) A.F. W. 3015: Daily Hospital Return (casualties) to the officer i/c 2nd Echelon and War Office.
(4) A.F. A.36: Daily to units concerned.
(Note.—This not a complete list of returns).