

## II.—Local.

- (a) No soap or water. Clean de-scaled areas with Red Palm Oil.
- (b) Skin generally—
- (i) Remove pellicle with forceps, a little each day, after softening with Red Palm Oil; then apply Calamine cream to dry areas and Calamine lotion to moist areas. No dressings.
  - (ii) Thin and dry scaly areas, (lower abdomen, etc.), Calamine cream.
  - (iii) Moist eczematous areas, Calamine lotion.
- (c) Impetiginized areas (ears, knees, elbows and lips), one per cent H.A.D. paste.
- (d) Bed sore on coccyx. Sulphanilamide paste and then strapping. Air ring.
- (e) Diphtheritic lesions on legs and scrotum, one per cent boric wet dressings on lint, kept moist day and night, the dressings being left *in situ*.

## PROGRESS.

- 22.10.43 :—Feels well. Clinically diphtheritic membrane lower lip.
- 25.10.43 :—Feeling much better. Ulcers of legs and bed sore on coccyx cleaning well. Scrotum also cleaning well. Right arm and both lower legs clear of scales.
- 29.10.43 :—Pneumonia right base. Heart, triple rhythm; pulse 140. Sulphapyridine 0.2 gramme at once, then 1.4 gramme hourly.
- 30.10.43 :—Faint morbilliform rash and itching over abdomen. Possibly due to sulphapyridine, which stop.
- 3.11.43 :—Exfoliative dermatitis clear everywhere. All the ulcers nearly healed.
- 4.11.43 :—Lungs clear.
- 27.11.43 :—Skin clear all over and appears normal. All ulcers and bed sores healed. Walked ten yards with assistance.

He made an uninterrupted recovery and never looked back. There was no further exfoliation. Since then (last seen September 1, 1945), skin has remained clear apart from occasional attacks of "cheiropompholyx" of hands and feet; in this case an epidermophytide consequent upon interdigital tinea of his toes.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRETCHER BED ("HOLMAN") AND ATTACHMENTS.

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A previous article<sup>1</sup> describes the stretcher bed attachments devised by Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Holman, R.A.M.C., which were used extensively by medical units in Burma. The following notes complete the story.

Prior to the "Holman" attachments being put forward, there had been much discussion as to the ideal type of light bed for use in forward medical units; many types, camp and other, had been put forward and rejected for various reasons, such as too complicated in design, not sufficiently robust for field use, too many spare parts, additional weight in already fully extended transport, etc.

It was considered that the "Holman" method of producing a reasonable bed for holding patients in forward medical units, by utilizing stretchers and locally available material, was sound. The disadvantages of the improvisation were that it necessitated modification to every stretcher used and the design

<sup>1</sup> R.A.M.C. Journal, June, 1946, p. 275.

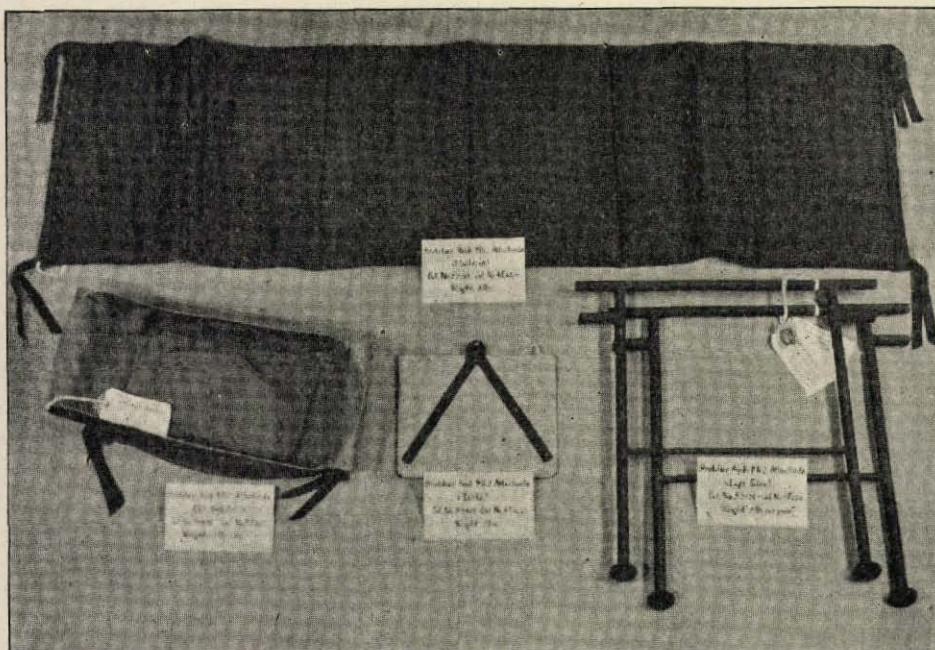


FIG. 1.—Dismantled stretcher bed attachments for Stretchers, Ambulance, Mark II, introduced into equipment scales after development of Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Holman's original field improvisation plus a light mattress to take the "edges" off the stretcher.

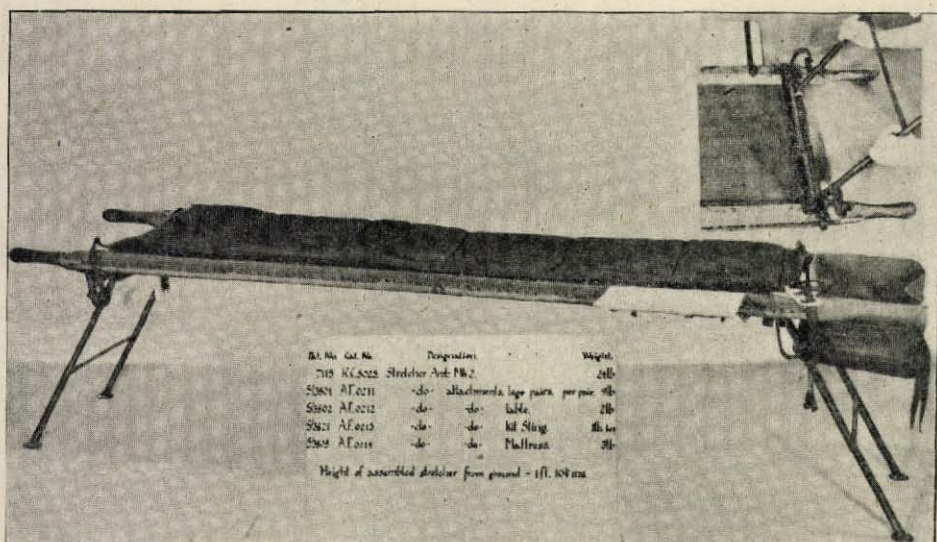


FIG. 2.—Stretcher bed and attachments developed from Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Holman's field improvisation, assembled for use on Stretcher, Ambulance, Mark II.

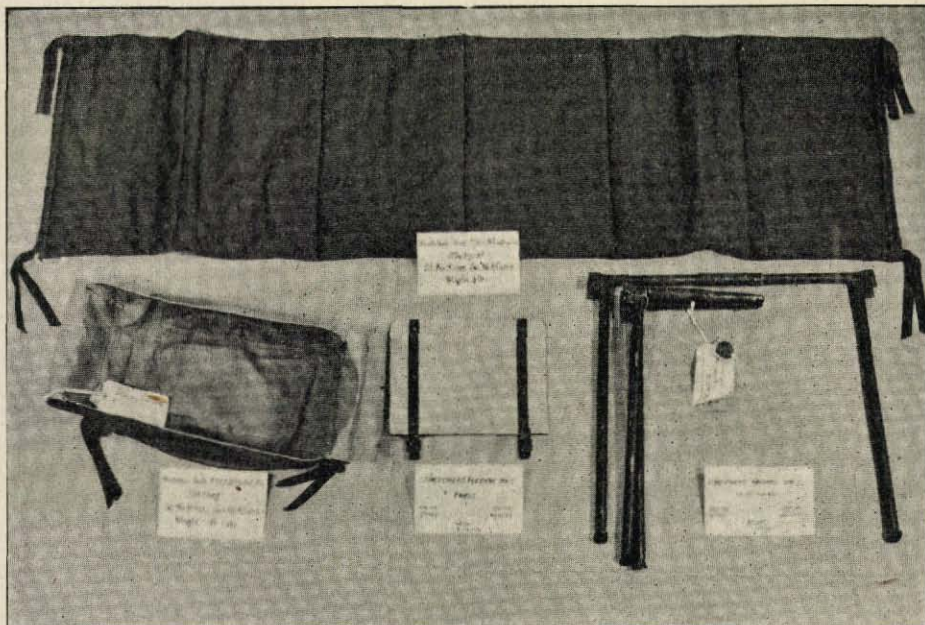


FIG. 3.—Dismantled stretcher bed attachments for Stretches, Folding, Airborne.

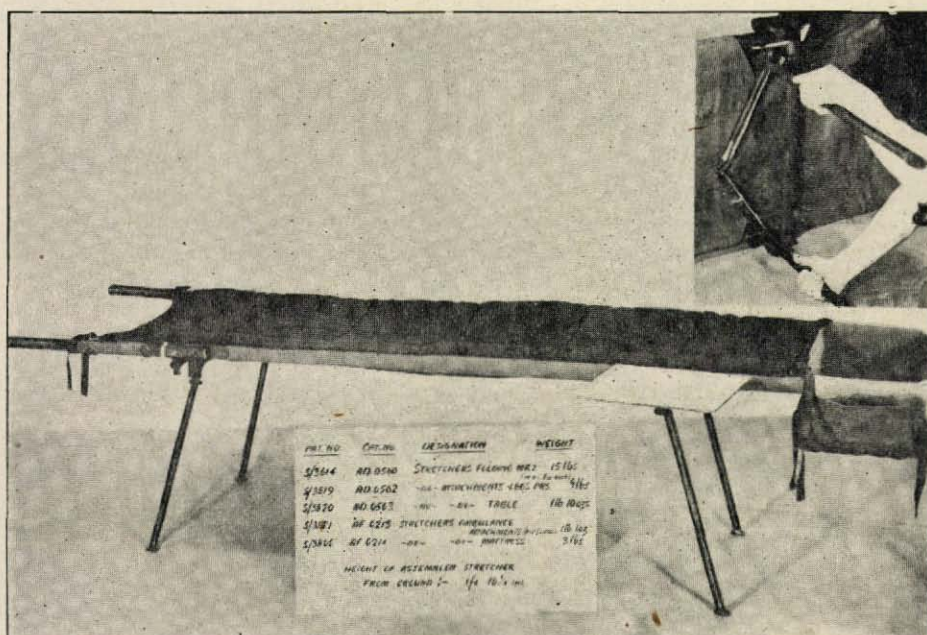


FIG. 4.—Assembled stretcher bed and attachments for Stretches, Folding, Airborne.

was essentially unstable when brought up to a height of approximately 23 inches—desirable for nursing patients.

Samples of the "Holman" attachments were handed over to the Ordnance authorities with a request for the development of attachments to provide :—

(a) Detachable legs for Stretchers, Ambulance, Mark II, which could be attached without modification of the stretchers; would raise the stretcher to a height of approximately 23 inches from the ground, and remain stable at that height.

(b) A table on the lines of the "Holman" pattern but, again, requiring no modification of the stretcher for fixation.

(c) A kit sling.

(d) A mattress, light and compact, after the style of those used with camp kits, to provide additional comfort to the patients accommodated thereon.

The attachments developed were given field trials, modified as a result of criticism and finally approved for inclusion in War Equipment Scales. These finally approved attachments are shown in figs. 1 and 2. The metal legs can be affixed quickly and easily into the runners of any and every Stretcher, Ambulance, Mark II, allowance having been made for the degree of splay normally found in stretchers which have been in use for extended periods, are self-locking and have no movable parts.

The kit sling follows the design of the "Holman" pattern with the addition of a pocket at each side which can be used for documents whilst patients are retained. Although not designed for this purpose the kit sling could, if necessary, be used as a canvas wash basin.

The table is secured by means of two wing clamp screws.

The mattress is of layered kapok.

Both the kit sling and the mattress can be used with Stretchers, Ambulance, Mark II, and the Stretcher, Folding, Airborne, but, owing to the different construction of the latter, special leg and table attachments are necessary. These were subsequently developed and are shown in figs. 3 and 4.

These attachments have now been introduced into equipment scales of Casualty Clearing Stations, Field Ambulances, Field Dressing Stations and Light Casualty Hospitals. They are compact, easily stacked and have displaced the cumbersome trestles previously included in these scales.

#### DETAILS AND WEIGHTS.

##### STRETCHER, AMBULANCE, MARK II.

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Weight</i>
A.F. 0211	Attachments, legs, pairs	per pair, 9 lb.
A.F. 0212	Attachments, table	2 lb.
A.F. 0213	Attachments, kit sling	1 lb. 1 oz.
A.F. 0214	Attachments, mattress	3 lb.

Height of assembled stretcher from the ground 22½ inches.

##### STRETCHER, FOLDING, AIRBORNE, MARK II.

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Weight</i>
A.D. 0562	Attachments, legs, pairs	per pair, 9 lb.
A.D. 0563	Attachments, table	1 lb. 10 oz.

Height of assembled stretcher from the ground 22½ inches.