

**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/41/2

**Title:** 3rd Australian Light Horse Field  
Ambulance

October 1914 - July 1915



AWM4-26/41/2



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Field Ambulance

Date	Place	Remarks Etc.
2/10/14	Melbourne.	Government Gazette shewed Appointments of following officers in A.I.F., who were allotted to 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance:- Commanding Officer - Lieut-Colonel R.M. DOWNES, Captains:- Captain E.R. WHITE " J.H. ANDERSON " M.W. CAVE " G.E.M. STUART.  Unit was formed on this day at Broadmeadows by drawing on Depot for recruits.
23/10/14	Melbourne.	District Order No.54 extract:- "His Excellency the Governor General, acting with the advice of the Federal executive, has been pleased to approve of one Light Horse Brigade being formed of persons who voluntarily agree to serve beyond the limits of the Commonwealth, in the Australian Imperial Force, in addition to the Units referred to in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No.56 of 13th August, 1914, and Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No.74 of 19th September, 1914, and for the appointment of the undermentioned officers thereto:- 3rd Light Horse Brigade - Colonel F.G. HUGHES, V.D., A.D.C. to His Excellency, the Governor General, 7th Light Horse Brigade, to be Colonel and to Command."
3/11/14		2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance forming in (M.O. 575 Unit of this Brigade accordingly became 3rd (transf'g Light Horse Field Ambulance. (from 2nd (L.H. Bgde.)
14/11/14	Melbourne.	Appointment of C. of A. Gazette of:-12/11/14 Capt.K.G. McK. Aberdeen.
14/12/14	Broadmeadows.	Brigade Head-Qrs established at Broadmeadows Camp.
? 20/10/14	Broadmeadows.	Moved unit into lines vacated this day by embarkation of 1st Light Horse Field Ambulance.
20/11/14	Melbourne.	Establishment of 3rd Light Horse Field Ambulance increased from 6 officers & 112 other ranks to 6 officers & 116 other ranks by addition according to Military Order of:- 1 Farrier Corporal 1 Saddler " 1 Wheeler " 1 Shoeing Smith.  M.O. 604/14.
22/12/14	Broadmeadows.	Moved to lines previously occupied by 4th Field Ambulance on their embarkation The unit has now had in its charge the following additional details:-



Date Place

22/12/14 contd:-

Reinforcements 1st L.H.F.A.  
 - embarked 22/12/14.  
 Reinforcements 3rd L.H.F.A.  
 " 2nd F.A.  
 " Clearing Hospital  
 " 1 & 2 Stationery Hospitals.  
 Depot details for A.A.M.C.  
 Previously the A Section R. & F of 4th F.A.  
 had been under this units charge.

/12/14. Melbourne.

Establishment of 3rd L.H.F.A. increased  
 to 6 officers, 118 other ranks by inclusion  
 of 2 drivers for cooks wagon - as in War  
 Establishments 1912. Horses now 108 (64  
 draught) and 44 riding)

M.O.  
620/14.

1/2/15. Melbourne

One horse for farrier added to establishment=  
 109 horses.

2/2/15. Victoria  
 Docks.  
 5.45 pm.

Embarked and left on A.51, T.S.S. Chilka,  
 with 3rd Signal Troop, and 3rd L.H. Brigade  
 Train - O.C. Troops, Capt. S.G. GIBBS. Three  
 officers and 89 men of this unit with 109  
 horses embarked.

2/2/15. Port Melb.

Capt. White with 1 Cpl. of unit and 11 1st  
 reinforcements embarked on A.45. "Clan McGillivray"

Victoria  
 Docks.

Capt. Stuart embarked on A. S.S. Armidale with  
 4 men.

Sydney.

Capt. Cave embarked on A. S.S. Marrere,  
 remaining R & F on transports:-  
 Star of Victoria,  
 Hassen,  
 Pera,  
 Anglo Egyptian & Karoo,  
 2nd & 3rd Reinforcements on Runic.

21/2/15 Colombo.

Arrived at 4.20 and anchored.

22/2/15 Colombo .

Route March through streets of Colombo and to  
 Racecourse.

23/2/15. Colombo.

Sailed.

7/3/15. Suez, 1 pm.

Arrived and departed at 4.20 pm.

8/3/15. Port Said.

Arrived 6 am. Departed 5.20 pm.

9/3/15. Alexandra.

Arrived in morning, disembarked & entrained  
 (in 50 minutes)

10/3/15. Cairo 7 pm.  
 Mena 2.30am.

Arrived Cairo and route marched to Camp at  
 Mena. Carried on with training & equipment.

29/4/19. Heliopolis.

Moved camp from Mena to Heliopolis racecourse.

13/5/15. Heliopolis.

Received orders to leave for service with  
 bearers dismounted on Saturday, April 15th,  
 at full war strength if possible and with  
 first line transport.



Date	Place	Remarks.
17/3/15.	Mena.	Capt. F.T. Beamish attached to unit as Quartermaster by D.M.S. A.I.F. (Surgeon General Williams)
15/5/15.	Heliopolis.	Route from Heliopolis racecourse camp to Palais de Kubbeh station where entrained 5 officers and 66 other ranks - bearer and tent division with batmen - as dismounted unit. Equipment comprising contents of 2 G.S. Wagons for medical stores with other necessary articles taken also. Remainder of unit - 2 officers - Capt. E.R. White and G.E.M. Stuart - and 67 other ranks remained at Heliopolis with all horses and brigade details. Train left at 2320 for Alexandria - containing also 10th L.H. Regt.
16/5/15.	Alexandria.	Arrived at 0530, disentrained and embarked on Transport X 2, Menominee in afternoon. Left wharf at 2015 and anchored in harbour. 8th & 9th L.H., 3rd Signal Troop & Brigade Train and numerous details also on board.
17/5/15.	"	Sailed at daybreak for Gallipoli.
19/5/15.		Arrived off Cape Helles at 1300. Left for Mudros, Lemnos at 1800 arriving at 2145 and anchoring outside boom.
20/5/15.	Mudros.am.	Came into harbour proper: remained on transport.
21/5/15.	"	1130 Embarked on T.B.D. Wolverine after rest of troops and steamed direct for Anzac where arrived at 1545, landing by barges at 1645. Left equipment on beach under guard proceeding to "Light Horse Gully" where commenced to dig in. Became with brigade part of N.Z. and A. Division, having previously been attached to Australian Division till its departure from Egypt.
22/5/15.	Anzac.	On reporting to A.D.M.S. (Col. Manders A.M.S.) informed by him that should not have been landed and that unit was to remain in reserve and not open up.
26/5/15.	Anzac.	Medical equipment removed from beach.
30/5/15.	"	0100. Capt. Aberdeen relieved M.O. of Wellington M.R. at attack being made by them on ridge (later "Old No.3 Outpost") Returned with sprained ankle sustained under heavy fire: transferred No.4 Field Ambulance. 1330. Capt. Cave with A. Section bearers (17) proceeded to No.1 Outpost on request of Wellington M.R. and with sanction of A.D.M.S. to carry wounded with orders only to move on under instructions from A.D.M.S. or G.O.C. N.Z. M.R. following attack by Turks on outpost. 1740. Orders received from A.D.M.S. to be ready at moments notice to move off whole unit with stretchers and portable equipment.
31/5/15.	Anzac.	0100. Capt. Cave & party returned with no casualties; no casualties or evacuation for month.
18/6/15.	"	Capt. Beamish evacuated sick - to Hospital Ship.

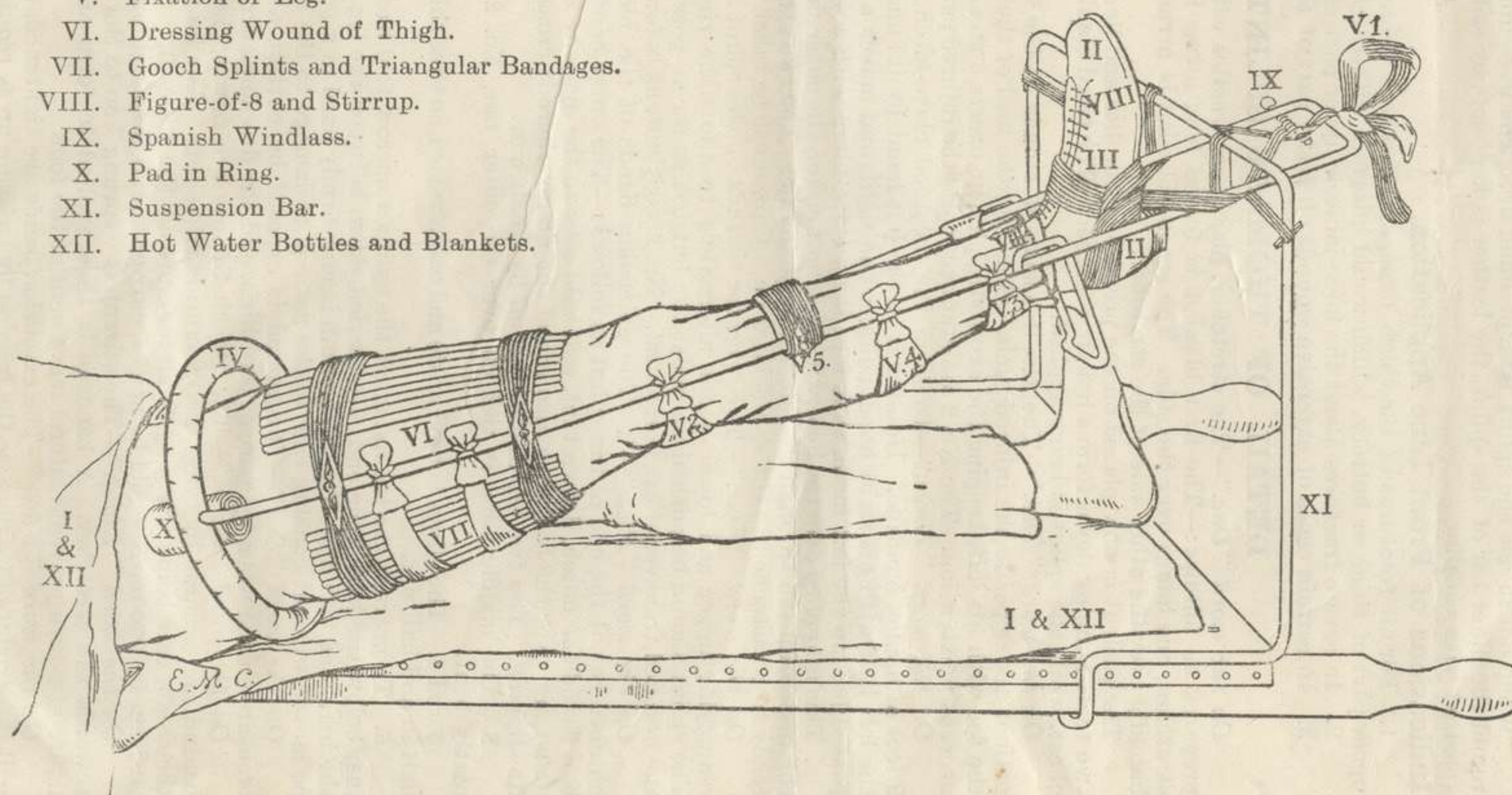


4.		
Date	Place	Remarks.
24/6/15	Anzac.	1200. Orders from A.D.M.S. to prepare to leave for Mudros within 48 hours, awaiting definite orders as to time; one officer to remain to be attached to 13th Btn. temporarily. Capt. Beamish returned from Hospital Ship Gascon.
25/6/15	Anzac.	2000. Orders to embark at 0300 tomorrow for Mudros. Capt. Beamish temp. transferred to 13th Btn.
26/6/15	Anzac.	0230. Left bivouac area and proceeded to Watson's pier. 0530. Embarked on lighter with 2nd L.H.F.A. and 0630, transhipped onto S.S. Prince Abbas. had been 36 days on peninsula under daily shell fire and frequent sniper and stray rifle fire without any casualty.
"	"	1730. left for Mudros: arrived inside outer boom 2015.
27/6/15.	Mudros.	Reported to D.D.M.S. (Col. Maher A.M.S.) on Arragon, receiving orders to disembark and report to Camp Commandant. Unit disembarked in afternoon and pitched camp at Mudros E to N.E. of Australian Pier on hill below 16th S. Hospital and to W. of it.
28/6/15.	Mudros.	Capt. Aberdeen returned to duty. Under orders 6 men sent to P.S.S. Queen Victoria, 20 to No.1 A.S.H., and 10 to No.2 A.S.H. for temp. duty.
29/6/15.	Mudros.	0615. Opened as Stationery Hospital, 83 patients arriving for admission - all Imperial soldiers wounded at Cape Helles. Equipment & tentage of unit is for 50 and unable to obtain any increase on requisition. Party from P.S.S. Queen Victoria returned after trip to Cape Helles.
30/6/15.	Mudros E.	For month 2 officers, 5 other ranks evacuated sick; 2 officers, 2 other ranks returned.
1/7/15.	"	Patients in hospital up to 119: some marquees have been borrowed and a few extra feeding utensils.
4/7/15.	"	83 patients transferred from No.2 L.H.F.A. - going to hospital ship.
5/7/15.	"	Details to Nos 1 & 2 A.S.H. returned to unit.
17/7/15.	Anzac.	Capt. Beamish transferred temporarily to 8th L.H. vice Capt. S.J. Campbell (killed).
24/7/15.	Mudros E.	Capt. Aberdeen evacuated sick.
25/7/15.	"	Patients up to 206 in hospital.
26/7/15.	"	Capt. White with one Sergt. (steward) and 5 other ranks, including 3 reinforcements (1st line) rejoined unit from Heliopolis details.
30/7/15.	"	Ceased admissions of new patients.
31/7/15.	"	For month 1 officer 2 O.R. evacuated sick. strength 4 officers 67 O.R.



## FRONT LINE APPLICATION OF THOMAS'S SPLINT.

- I. Warming (Réchauffement).
- II. Extension.
- III. Modified Clove-Hitch over Boot.
- IV. Splint.
- V. Fixation of Leg.
- VI. Dressing Wound of Thigh.
- VII. Gooch Splints and Triangular Bandages.
- VIII. Figure-of-8 and Stirrup.
- IX. Spanish Windlass.
- X. Pad in Ring.
- XI. Suspension Bar.
- XII. Hot Water Bottles and Blankets.



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PRESS A—



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR FRONT LINE APPLICATION OF THOMAS'S SPLINT.

## DRILL BY NUMBERS.

The Thomas's Outfit consists of:—

Stretcher on Trestles.  
Blankets, 3. Primus Stove.  
Thomas's Splint (largest size).  
Reversible Stirrup (Sinclair's).  
Suspension Bar.

Flannel Bandages (6 yards), 3.  
Triangular Bandages, 4.  
Dressings.  
Safety Pins.  
Gooch Splinting (10" × 6" and 8" × 6").

Personnel required:—

Operator 1. No. 1 Assistant. No. 2 Assistant (if available).

When not in use the splint is kept hung up. The five slings of flannel bandage are rolled round the inner bar of the splint, the leather is kept soft by saddle soap, and the iron bars are smeared with vaseline.

## Indications of Front Line Application.

1. For all fractures of the thigh bone, except where there is an extensive wound in the upper part of thigh or buttock, which would interfere with the fitting of the ring.
2. In severe fractures about the knee-joint or upper part of the tibia.
3. In certain cases of extensive wounds of fleshy part of thigh.

## DETAIL OF THOMAS'S SPLINT DRILL.

I.  
Warming  
(Réchauffement).

*On the word "One."*—The stretcher, placed on trestles with a Primus Stove beneath, is prepared as follows:—The first blanket is folded lengthwise into three, two folds lie on the stretcher, one hangs over the side. The second blanket is arranged in the same way, one fold hanging over the other side of the stretcher.

II.  
Extension.

The patient is now placed on the prepared stretcher and lies on four folds of blanket; the two folds hanging down form a hot air chamber. The third blanket is placed across the patient's chest, while the splint is being applied.

III.  
Modified Clove-  
Hitch.

*On the word "Two."*—The No. 1 assistant stands at the foot of the stretcher facing the patient and opposite the injured limb. Grasping the heel of the boot with his right hand and the toe with his left, keeping the arms straight, he exerts a steady pull, thereby producing the necessary extension. The No. 2 assistant supports the injured part above and below the fracture.

*On the word "Three."*—To form the modified clove-hitch, the operator takes a length of 9 feet of flannel bandage. Holding it in the left hand by its mid-point, he grasps the centre of the left half with his right hand, palm to the right, and makes a loop which is carried up and passed behind the left hand, thus forming a clove-hitch with a diameter of 10 inches.

This is applied over the boot, with the short end on the outer side; the long end is carried under the instep, up and through the loop round the ankle. The two extension bands thus produced are ready to be attached to the splint later on. Care must be taken not to constrict the ankle.

IV.  
Splint.

*On the word "Four."*—The operator threads on the splint; No. 1 assistant removing and reapplying upper and lower hands alternately to allow the ring to be passed over the foot. The splint should be pushed up under the buttock as far as possible, care being taken to keep the notched transverse bar horizontal. No. 2 assistant, as before, steadies the thigh.

V.  
Fixation of Leg.

*On the word "Five."*—1. The extension bands of the clove-hitch are tied round the notched bar at the end of the splint as follows:—The outer band is passed over and under the bar, round the notch, drawn taut, and held over to the opposite side. The inner band is passed under and over the bar, then also round the notch where it crosses the first band and prevents its slipping. The two are finally tied off by a half bow.

2. The middle sling is tied off over the outer bar, No. 2 assistant keeping the knee partly bent.

3 and 4. The slings behind ankle and calf are tied, so that the leg rests in a shallow trough, half in and half out.

5. To prevent the leg rising off the splint a narrow fold bandage is placed across the leg, just below the knee; the ends are carried down between the leg and splint, brought up outside the bars, and tied off. The lower limb is now firmly fixed in a position of extension and it may be moved without causing pain to the patient or damage to the injured part.

VI.  
Dressing Wound of  
Thigh.

*On the word "Six."*—The wound is exposed by cutting away the overlying portion of trousers on the wounded part of the thigh, and the dressings are applied.

VII.  
Gooch Splints and  
Bandages.

*On the word "Seven."*—The Gooch Splints are now applied. The short piece is placed behind, and secured by tying the remaining two slings. The long piece is placed on the front of the thigh, care being taken to avoid pressure on the knee-cap. The whole is now retained in position by two narrow fold bandages, carried round the thigh outside the bars of the splint.

VIII.  
Stirrup and Figure-  
of-8.

*On the word "Eight."*—The stirrup is "sprung" on to the splint above the ankle, its foot towards the stretcher. A bandage is then applied to form an additional sling, which by a figure-of-8-turn prevents lateral movement of the foot.

IX.  
Spanish Windlass.

*On the word "Nine."*—The extension bands are tightened, and a small piece of wood or a nail is introduced to increase the tension by twisting up as required.

X.  
Pad in Ring.

*On the word "Ten."*—A pad is placed inside the ring on the outer side of the thigh to act as a wedge and prevent undue movement.

XI.  
Suspension Bar.

*On the word "Eleven."*—The suspension bar is fitted to the stretcher with the "grip" away from the rackets. The splint is slung up not less than a hand's-breadth from the horizontal part of the suspension bar. To damp down the side movements, lateral tapes are tied to the uprights; they should not be tight. For the journey in the motor ambulance an additional band may be passed from the splint round one handle of the stretcher; this prevents excess of vertical movement.

XII.  
Hot Water Bottles  
and Blankets.

*On the word "Twelve."*—Hot bottles are applied. The third blanket is folded into two lengthwise, and laid over the patient. The hanging folds of the first and second blankets are brought up over this so that the patient is evacuated with four folds of blanket on top as well as underneath.

[P.T.O.]

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