

The following comments are extracted from reports written by Medical Officers recently engaged in combat experience.

"The collecting company attached a squad of litter bearers initially to each battalion aid station. Ambulances could not be used. Litter jeeps were used as much as possible during the day. Night evacuation was accomplished by trucks, ambulances and litter jeeps."

"A modified ammunition car was used to carry medical supplies to aid stations, enabling the battalion aid stations to keep farther forward."

"Slit trenches had to be dug for patients as well as personnel."

"Seventy-five additional litter bearers were attached to one Regiment and sixty to another to aid in the difficult evacuation in this mountainous area. This proved the value of, and the necessity for, litter bearers in forward units."

"Litter jeeps were invaluable. Study should be given toward making the 1/4 ton truck used for litter carrying easier riding. Heavier shock absorbers may be the answer."

"Night evacuation by vehicles requires complete silence. The squeaking of brakes repeatedly drew enemy fire."

"Exhaustion states in officers seemed to have an infectious effect upon the men."

"Large dressings seldom used -- small Carlisle and compress (4 x 4 - 4 x 6) were more efficient."

~~"Kits should be constructed to make all articles immediately available without having to unpack the entire kit to get at something on the bottom. Should be revised so that it can be carried on the pistol belt."~~

"Plasma units should be included in all equipment of all medical units."

"Marking of all tentage, trucks, etc., with the Red Cross should be mandatory."

"Folding litters were valuable in night recovery in difficult terrain."

"An insufflator should be provided for getting sulphanilamide into deep wounds."

~~"Bandages should be O.D. in color." (The Germans have them)~~

"The average time was one hour from the time a man was wounded until he arrived at a Clearing Station."

"Plasma saved many lives. It was routinely given in collecting companies and in many instances in aid stations."

"Medical officers coming in to front line installations should be trained in first aid to the injured with special emphasis on handling fractures, shock, chest and abdominal wounds. Dental officers should also have this training. It is surprising how many Medical officers are lacking in this knowledge."