

Section II. INSTRUCTION IN AMBULANCE LOADING AND UNLOADING

87. GENERAL. a. Ambulance loading as done by formal commands is for instructional purposes only, to teach men to work smoothly as a team, each knowing exactly what his particular job is. In these instructions formal commands are given and the men are numbered so that you can see what each man does. Details of the actual loading and unloading will vary slightly, depending on the number of bearers, presence or absence of ambulance orderly, and type of ambulance employed. Demonstration of the steps in ambulance loading, followed by application is the recommended method of instruction.

b. General rules. (1) *Berths and order of loading.* The four longitudinal spaces formed within an ambulance, when loaded litters are in place, are known as berths and are designated right (left) upper (lower). When loading two litter and one or more sitting cases, the right berths are used for the loaded litters, the order being right upper, and right lower. When loading two litter and no sitting cases, the lower berths are used, the order being right lower, and left lower.

(2) *Patients with splints.* Patients with cumbersome splints will be loaded in lower berths, when the situation permits.

(3) *Position of patient in ambulance.* Unless otherwise indicated, litter cases will be loaded head first. Prior to loading, litters will be grounded three paces to the rear of, and with the patient's head toward, the ambulance.

88. TRUCK, AMBULANCE, $\frac{3}{4}$ -TON, 4x4, KNOCK-DOWN. A squad of three men is needed to load or unload this ambulance. Four loaded litters should be available in the immediate vicinity of each ambulance. The squad being in the vicinity of the ambulance, to assemble prior to loading or unloading the commands are: 1. AMBULANCE, 2. POSTS. At the command POSTS the members of the squad move rapidly by the shortest practicable route to the ambulance and align themselves in numerical sequence from left to right, one pace in the rear of and facing the ambulance.

a. To load ambulance. The squad being at AMBULANCE POSTS the command 1. PREPARE AMBULANCE FOR, 2. LOADING is given. At this command No. 1 performs the following duties (figs. 144, 145, 146, 147, and 148):



Figure 144. Opening doors.



Figure 145. Lowering rear step (seat).



Figure 146. Raising backs of seats to form upper berths.

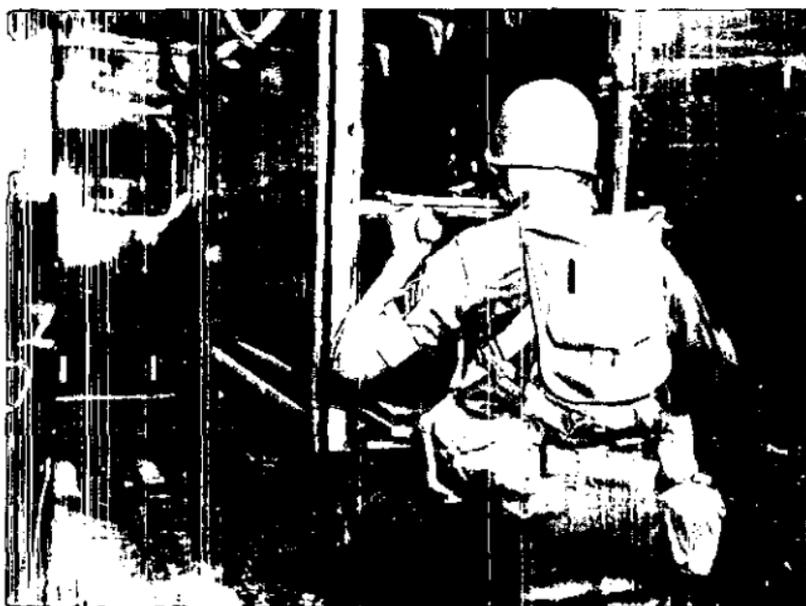


Figure 147. Squeezing rods together to lower upper berths.

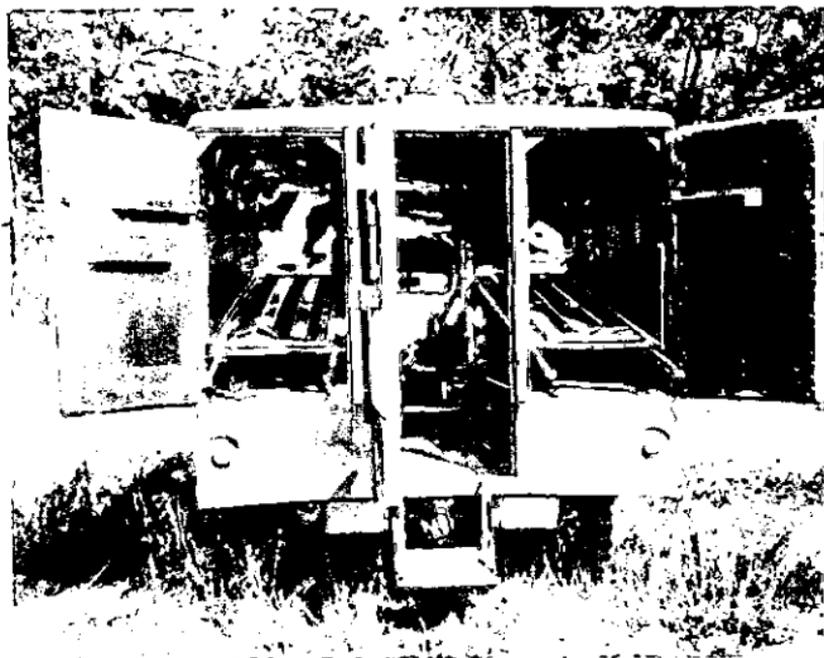


Figure 148. Ambulance ready for loading.

- (1) Opens all three rear doors,
- (2) Lowers the rear step,
- (3) Raises the backs of the seats to form the upper berths,
- (4) Pulls out rods, squeezes them together and lowers the rear end of both upper berths.

The ambulance is now ready for loading and No. 1 re-assumes his place at **AMBULANCE POSTS** (Fig. 149). To proceed with loading the command is:

1. **RIGHT UPPER BERTH PREPARE TO LOAD**, 2. **LOAD**. At the first command bearers take positions as follows: No. 2 at foot of litter facing patient, stoops and grasps handles; Nos. 1 and 3, one on each side of the litter facing patient's shoulders, grasp the left and right poles respectively (fig. 150). At the command **LOAD** the litter is



Figure 149. Squad at "AMBULANCE POSTS."



Figure 150. "RIGHT UPPER BERTH PREPARE TO LOAD . . ."



Figure 151. LOAD.

lifted and carried to the ambulance. The front stirrups are placed in the grooves of the inclined upper berth (fig. 151) and No. 2 slides the litter up onto the berth (fig. 152).

He then grasps the berth rods and raises them so that the upper berth with its litter is level (fig. 153). No. 1 man then enters the ambulance and secures each litter handle with the strap attached to the berth for the purpose. He also fastens the roof straps to the upper berth (fig. 154). The squad then reassembles without command at **AMBULANCE POSTS**. The right lower berth is then loaded at the command **1. RIGHT LOWER BERTH PREPARE TO LOAD, 2. LOAD**. The litter is slid into place (fig. 155) and the handles secured by straps as before. The left side of the ambulance is then loaded in similar manner. Four litter patients is the normal capacity of the ambulance. However two additional litter patients



Figure 152. No. 2 sliding litter onto right upper berth.



Figure 153. No. 2 raising right upper berth into place.



Figure 154. No. 1 fastening straps to secure handles of litters



Figure 155. Loading right lower berth.



Figure 156. Four-litter ambulance showing how six-litter cases may be arranged (in emergency only).



Figure 157. Two litter and four sitting cases in ambulance.



Figure 158. Two litter cases in ambulance.

may be carried on the floor (fig. 156). When both litter and sitting cases are to be carried, they are loaded as in figure 157. When only two litter patients are to be carried, the lower berths are utilized (fig. 158). When loading is completed No. 1 raises the rear step (which forms a seat) and closes the rear doors. The loading squad then resumes positions at **AMBULANCE POSTS** without command.

b. **To unload ambulance.** To unload ambulance the command is: 1. **PREPARE AMBULANCE FOR,** 2. **UNLOADING.** At this command, No. 1 opens the rear doors, lowers the rear step, and releases the front straps securing the litters. Meanwhile Nos. 2 and 3 release the rear straps securing the litters. When this is accomplished, the squad resumes its position at **AMBULANCE POSTS** without command (fig. 159). To proceed with unloading the command 1. **RIGHT LOWER BERTH PRE-**



Figure 159. Squad at AMBULANCE POSTS ready to unload ambulance.



Figure 160. RIGHT LOWER BERTH PREPARE TO UNLOAD . . .



Figure 161. UNLOAD.



Figure 162. Depositing patient 3 paces to rear of ambulance.



Figure 163. No. 2 lowering upper berth preparatory to unloading.

PARE TO UNLOAD, 2. UNLOAD, is given. At the first command No. 2 grasps the rear handles of the litter in the right lower berth while Nos. 1 and 3 take their places on either side (fig. 160). At the command UNLOAD No. 2 pulls the litter from the berth while Nos. 1 and 3 grasp the litter poles toward the head end as it slides out (fig. 161). The three men then remove the litter at least three paces from the ambulance and deposit it on the ground (fig. 162). The squad then resumes its position at AMBULANCE POSTS without command. When the command RIGHT UPPER BERTH PREPARE TO UNLOAD is given, No. 2 man steps forward, pulls out the rods of the upper berth, squeezes them together, and lowers the berth to unloading position (fig. 163). At the command UNLOAD No. 2 pulls out the litter, Nos. 1 and 3 grasping it as before. The left side is unloaded similarly.