

DEMONSTRATION OF FIRST AID FOR
CASUALTIES CAUSED BY ATOMIC WEAPONS.

- Stand No. I. Lorry overturned by blast waves.
1,200 yards from G.Z.
- Stand No. II. BRICK WALL blown down by blast waves.
2,000 yards from G.Z.
- Stand No. III. TRENCHES:- protective value of
800 yards from G.Z.
- Stand No. IV. COOK-HOUSE:- Blown down by blast and set
alight by secondary fire.
2,500 yards from G.Z.
- Stand No. V. PAY PARADE:- Troops attending pay parade
sustain flash-burns.
3,000 yards from G.Z.
- Stand No. VI. TENT:- bowled over by a tree itself knocked
down by blast.
2,500 yards from G.Z.
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The scene is set in the United Kingdom in a sub-area which includes many training Units.

At Stand No. 7 is a Medical Centre 2,000 yards from Ground Zero. Here the Medical Officer-in-charge has himself become a casualty and we see Combatant Officers who are studying first-aid being instructed in first-aid measures which can be applied to casualties caused by atomic weapons.

UNIT INSTRUCTORS FIRST AID COURSE.

First Aid Demonstration on 14th April 1955.

"You are now outside Ewshot Sub Area Headquarters, waiting for transport to take you to visit some A.E.R. Units training in the district. A telephone call has just come through from the Army Liaison Officer at the Section Operations Centre, No. 6 Fighter Group R.A.F."

(Another voice on r.a.)

"Hello. Is that Ewshot Sub Area? Will you put me through to the G II Intelligence please. This is a Priority Call. Hello. G.II? This is Jack here from Ops Centre. This is just to let you know that there are some unidentified aircraft flying north towards Reading. We don't want to send out a warning in case it is a false alarm - they are well to the West of you anyway. As soon as they are identified I'll let you know, but you had better stand by in case we have to send out a general warning. They are flying at 30,000 ft. and are over Basingstoke now."

"Hello. You still there? They have just spotted a single plane that has broken formation and is heading due East. This may be trouble."

B A N G ! (Bomb explodes).

"Good God! What was that?"

(Silence for about five seconds)

"Hello. Are you still there GRAHAM? They have dropped an Atom Bomb somewhere to the north of you. Are you alright there? I'll let you have all the gen as soon as I can."

(Original commentator).

"The explosion that you have just seen was caused by an atomic bomb. It was about eight miles away from where you are standing, but was very much nearer to the Units that you intend to visit. We will keep to the original programme, and visit these A.E.R. Units, and see what damage they have suffered."

(Commentary in demonstration area)

"You will now see six demonstrations, each representing a small part of a larger incident that has occurred in the area of damage produced by this atomic bomb. These incidents took place in military units at varying distances from Ground Zero - the actual distances are shown at each of the demonstrations."

"In anticipation of an emergency of this sort, the A.D.M.S. of this District had nominated a number of medical Units to have First Aid parties ready at short notice, and at all times, to go to the assistance of Units affected by an explosion. These first aid parties contain medical officers as well as nursing orderlies, and one of them was on its way to the afflicted area in the transport you have just seen."

"You will see this party rendering first aid to casualties that they find in Units within the area of damage."

Stand No. I.

1,200 yards from G.Z.

Overtaken lorry, with seven men lying around, all severely injured.

"Six men were travelling in the back of this lorry which received the full force of the explosion approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mil. away. Partly due to the uneven ground over which it was travelling at the time, the blast was sufficient to overturn this vehicle. One man is still in the cab of the truck and two badly injured men are trying unsuccessfully to get him out."

Although there is no sign of it now, the back of this lorry was covered by a tarpaulin, which protected the men in the back from the terrific heat of the Flash given off by the explosion. If they do survive, this will have been what has saved their lives. This tarpaulin of heavy canvas will not, however, have protected them from the effects of radiation. The symptoms from this will manifest themselves later.

"The man that is now being lifted out of the cab was sitting next to the driver and had his window down. One side of his face and his left shoulder were therefore completely unprotected, and as you see are severely burnt. He is probably the most severely injured of them all. The others are, however, all extremely shocked, and in addition some of them are seriously injured. These men are suffering from all the three effects of the atom bomb - burns from the heat flash, traumatic injuries such as broken bones from the effects of the blast and radiation."

"The driver was crushed as the result of the vehicle overturning, and although he has few signs of external injury he looks as though he may well have internal haemorrhage. The driver's mate, who was still in the cab when we arrived, has been given morphi. and is having a special burns dressing bandaged on to his shoulder and upper arm. This sterile dressing is applied directly on to the burnt area.

"Amongst the other injured men one has a broken arm, and another a broken leg. The remaining casualties have only cuts and bruises." Stand 11. 2,000 yards from G.Z. Time 11 plus 10 minutes.

Some men of a Field Hygiene Section are building a wall and this has collapsed on top of them. Two other men, caught out in the open have been blown over and are unconscious; they have also been badly burnt.

"Here again we have an example of the force of the blast from an atomic explosion and the type of casualties it produces. These men who are serving in an A.E.R. Medical Unit, a Field Hygiene Section, were building a wall, and although almost a mile from the explosion the wall has been blown over on top of them. Although they were to some extent protected from the heat wave, they have also been burnt. Two men who were assisting the bricklayers received the full force of the blast. They have been knocked unconscious, and also received moderately severe burns. They will also have received a severe amount of radiation. When they recover, as one of them is doing now, they must be kept under close supervision to see if they later develop signs of radiation sickness."

Serial 3. Trenches (protective value of)

This party was revetting a personnel trench when the bomb was dropped. Those inside have escaped; one man was caught in the open and has been killed by joint heat and radiation effects. This stand shows the value of improvised air raid shelters.

Stand No. 4. 2,000 yards.

A corrugated iron building - a cook-house - is on fire, and also it is severely damaged. This is a secondary fire caused by the blast blowing the fire out of an open range. Pots of boiling water are also upset.

"This cookhouse that you see on fire is a "Secondary fire". It was not caused by the heat of the atomic explosion, it is too far away for that. The force of the blast, however, was sufficient to blow the coke fire in the open range right out into the building where it set fire to sacks and boxes and furniture. It also upset pots and pans that were on the stove. The cooks are suffering from scalp and flame burns, but one of them is still trapped inside under fallen boxes and packing cases. The first aid party are now getting him out - he appears to have a broken leg."

Serial No. 5. BAY PARADE 3,000 yards from G.Z.

One officer was sent back to the flash; he was burnt only on the back of the neck and the back of the right hand. 20 other ranks; burnt on the left of the face and left

hand. Two or three are mildly upset and will require sedation etc. The first aid team arrives and is busy applying some soothing creams etc. to the face and hands. Two men with fair complexions have already developed blisters on the hands and plastic gloves are being applied. Two men who took immediate protective action by correctly throwing themselves to the ground, sustained only mild burns of the back of the neck. They can now assist others with First Aid.

Stand No. 6. 2,500 yards from G.Z.

Time H plus 20 minutes.

A tree has collapsed on to a tent. About eight men are outside rescuing others from inside.

"At the time of the explosion these men were having a lecture in this tent. They are a mile from Ground Zero, and although extremely frightened and shaken, they are not severely hurt. They will have received some radiation, because a tent is no protection against this, although it has completely protected them from the heat flash and none of them are burnt.

(Will spectators all now please turn about)

Stand No. 7. 2,000 yards.

MEDICAL CENTRE.

A Medical Centre is struck by Blast waves; the Medical Tent is partially blown down; the Medical Officer and some of the patients waiting for treatment are injured; as the Medical Officer is injured the patients receive First Aid from Combatant Officers trained in First Aid.

FIRST AID DEMONSTRATION

Ewshott - 14 April 1955

The demonstration you are going to see today consists of six scenes depicting various first aid actions to succour casualties resulting from the burst of an atomic bomb. It is important that all concerned should know the reason why these demonstrations are being staged in this Command.

Up till the present time the Army has largely relied in war on the Royal Army Medical Corps for the care and evacuation of casualties, although all ranks of all arms have always been given a certain amount of training in first aid.

With the advent of nuclear warfare and the possibility of massed casualties, the necessity for all ranks in the active or Reserve army being able to render first aid has become of paramount importance. In addition to the normal range of wounds a large proportion of casualties will probably suffer from radiation or burns. In the former case it is a matter for skilled medical attention by the RAMC, but in the latter early first aid is essential. Any officer or soldier must be able to render competent first aid to his comrades, civilians or himself. In fact it is the normal Christian duty of any individual to help his fellow mortals in distress.

As a result, first aid training for officers and other ranks is now regarded in this Command as of comparable importance to weapon training and field craft. As the RAMC cannot cope with the increased demand for instructors to train all personnel in this Command, they are running a series of specialised courses for unit instructors from other arms of the service. Today one such course consisting of 28 young officers from various Corps and Regiments (RA 7, Highland Light Infantry 3, Devonshire Regiment 3, RA5C 2, RAOC 3, REME 4, etc.) is now taking place, and these demonstrations are part of their programme. They themselves are learning how to give first aid and how to instruct in first aid so that they can run similar courses when they return to their own units. Each course lasts five days.

The demonstrations are being held by the order of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Ernest Down. Colonel A.N.T. Menece, Commandant of the RAMC Field Training Centre, is in charge of the courses, and it is worth noting that this officer himself has visited both Hiroshima and Nagasaki to study the medical effects of nuclear explosions. The personnel carrying out demonstrations belong to four units of the AER who are now in camp doing their 15 days annual training. These are:-

6th General Hospital, AER
1 Casualty Clearing Station
24 Field Ambulance
5 and 6 Hygiene Sections.

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