

CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANISATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BLANKETING AND LASHING A STRETCHER

OBJECT

To teach the method of blanketing and lashing a casualty to a stretcher.

EQUIPMENT

Stretcher, Army Mark II.  
2 x blankets (single size) or improvised blankets.  
1 x 40' x ½" manilla lashing.

INTRODUCTION

One of the largest killers, besides injuries themselves, is SHOCK. This information can be gained from any medical man, who will agree that the treatment for shock is warmth.

Before an injured person is placed on a stretcher it should be covered with a blanket lengthwise, so that the patient does not lie in direct contact with the canvas bed portion.

This adds to the patient's comfort and keeps him warm, thus reducing shock. It is more important to place blankets under him than over him.

With two layers of blankets underneath and one on top, a patient is better off than with one layer underneath and two on top.

GENERAL

Two blankets only are required to blanket a stretcher properly, as shown in the diagrams, A, B, C, and D.

- (1) Lay one open blanket lengthwise across the stretcher, with one side close to the head end and one end of the blanket having a slightly longer overlap of the stretcher than the other end.  
(See Diagram 'A')

- (2) Fold the second blanket in three folds lengthwise and lay it on top of the first blanket along the stretcher, with its upper edge about 15 inches below the upper edge of the first blanket.

There will now be four thicknesses of blanket upon which the patient will lie.

Open out the two ends at the foot of the blanket for about two feet (2') to form two flaps. (See Diagram 'B')

- (3) Roll up or pleat in concertina fashion the overhanging ends of the blanket and place them on the edges of the stretcher so that they will not drag on the ground when the stretcher is brought close to the patient.

- (4) When the patient is laid upon the stretcher, wrap the two flaps of blanket around his feet and tuck ends between them.

Open out the rolled up folds of blanket and wrap, first the short and then the long end around the patient and tuck it well at one side.

The patient will now be warmly blanketed. (See Diagram 'C')

A simple blanket lift can be used to transfer the patient from the stretcher to a bed by two persons. One gripping the shoulders and the other the feet.

#### IMPROVISED LASHING

In the improvised method with the 40 ft. lashing line, the only knot used is the clove hitch, which is as simple to tie in darkness as in daylight, and which will never fail.

It is formed by making two loops in the rope, both anti-clockwise, the second loop, which tends to come in front, being placed behind the first.

It can also be formed by making a loop on the handle of the stretcher, so that the running end is imprisoned by the standing part, followed by another loop.

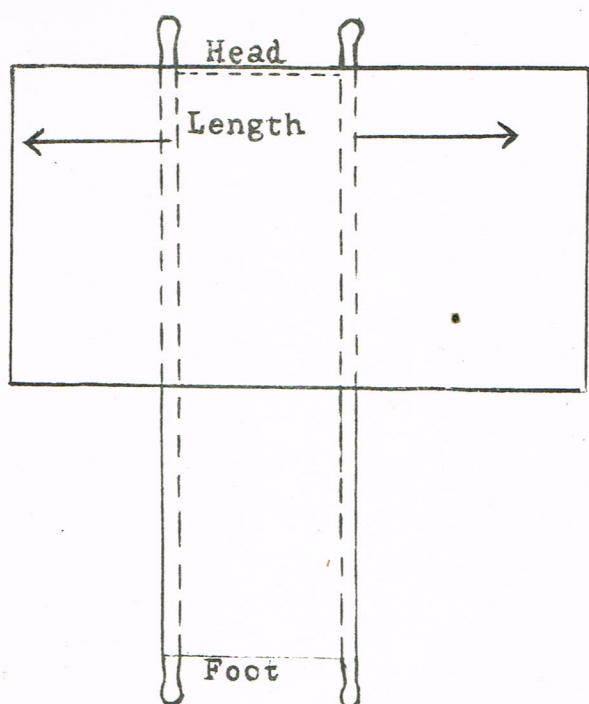
Form the first knot on a handle near the head of the patient, pass the rope down the side of the stretcher, taking a complete turn under the stretcher and back over the patient's chest, forming a half hitch.

At least three (3) turns must be used, two above the knees and one below.

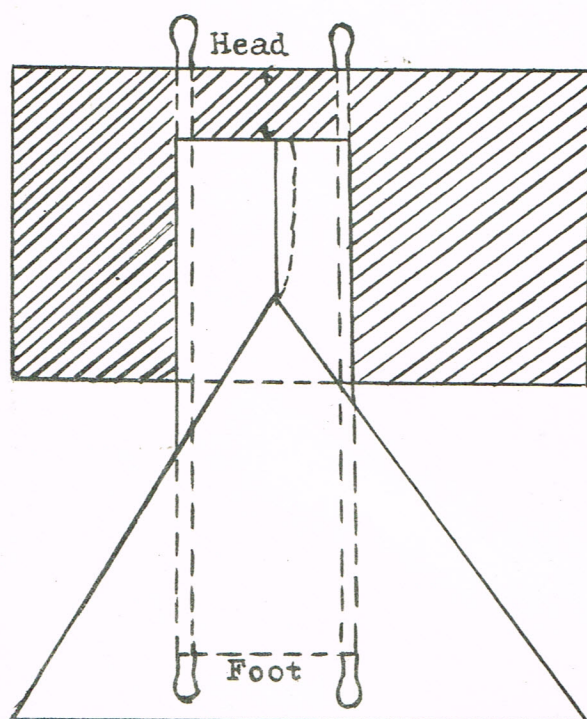
The rope is then passed around the patient's feet, brought up on the opposite side of the stretcher and fastened with a clove hitch on the opposite handle near the head. (See Diagram 'D')

Care should be taken to prevent the turns and the half hitches of the lashing from pressing on the patient's injuries.





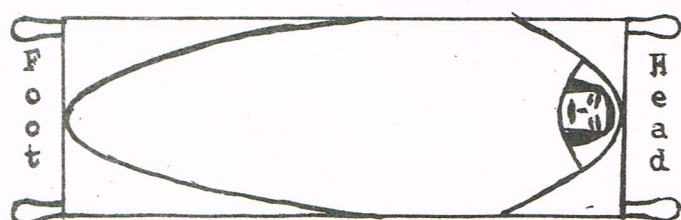
A



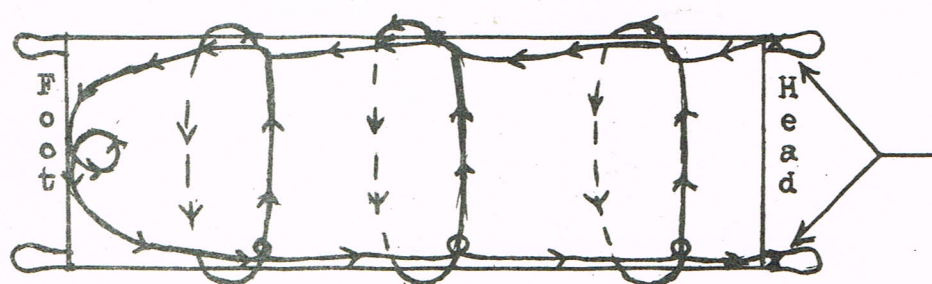
B

N.B.

Shaded portion  
denotes First  
Blanket



C



D

Clove Hitches  
on both handles.