



THE BOMBAY CITY AMBULANCE CORPS

(FOUNDED 1930)

(Registered under Acts XXI of 1860 and XXXIX of 1950)

BRIGADE GAZETTE

GRATIS

No.675

July 2021

PART – I

NOTIFICATION

NEWS

Government Recognition and Permanent Grant

The Government of Maharashtra, Medical Education and Drugs Department, has been pleased to accord recognition to the College of Ambulance and to sanction the payment of the recurring TOKEN grant-in-aid of Rs. 30,000/- per year to the Society towards maintenance of the College, on a permanent basis, from the year 1983-84 onwards vide Government Resolution No. GHD-1082/2666/MED, 4-B dated the 28th July 1983. **The grant for the year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 has not been received till date in spite of Government Resolution.**

91st Foundation Day

The Bombay City Ambulance Corps was established on 2nd June 1930. It started with 27 male volunteers. They were students of Arts and Medical College. The junior division of 15 school boys was started a month later. Ladies Volunteer division then known as Nursing Division was started in January 1931.

Due to COVID 19 pandemic we could not organize get-together of BCAC associates. We look forward to meet on some other suitable day if things become normal or on 2nd June 2022.

SERVICE STATION STATISTIC

Year 2021	May	June
Calls Registered	03	01
Removal Services	03	01
Services for which NO donation were received	02	00
Amount of Donations received on account of :		
Removal Services	Rs.500.00	Rs. 1,000.00
Donation to Station Fund April Rs. 20,000/-	NIL	NIL
Run of Ambulance Car (Amb. Car No.12)	32 Kms	56 Kms
Total Services rendered till date	81,126	81,127

PART II

Looking Back

Historical Background of Ambulance service

Ambulances were originally devised to serve the purpose of a military campaign and their use in civil life was a much later development. Baron Larry first contrived "ambulance volantes" for the "Grand Armee" under Napoleon. Originally, they were spoken of as "Hospitals Ambulats", thus indicating the true nature of the service an extension from a base hospital to the site of the casualty on the battle field.

For civilians suffering from infectious diseases, an ambulance service was established about the middle of the last century in London, a leading metropolitan city of the world. The earliest attempt to provide an ambulance service for non-infectious cases was in the year 1882 when the London Horse Ambulance Service was founded. In 1902 the Metropolitan Asylums Board, London, first used a steam ambulance carrying eight patients, and from 1904 a motor ambulance was

introduced. At the same time, Provision for dealing with the sick and injured citizens was made by voluntary philanthropic agencies such as the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps. They maintained hand and stretchers at certain police stations in London and co-operated with the police in dealing with casualties on occasions of public processions and gatherings of large number of persons in the streets. In 1915, an entirely independent accident ambulance service was put into operation under the control of the Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade. The London Ambulance Service, one of the finest in the World, was established in 1930 to which was transferred all the ambulance services previously maintained by the Metropolitan Asylums Board and other voluntary agencies.

Establishment of the Service Station

One of the two principal objects of the Society, as enshrined in its Constitution, is "to establish and maintain an Ambulance Corps and to render First Aid and Medical Relief to the sick and the injured in Bombay and its Suburbs". The Ambulance Volunteers Corps was accordingly established in 1930. Every day among the numerous accidents and serious cases of illness in Bombay and its suburbs, with a population of several million souls, there are some where delays may have dangerous, even fatal, results; and humanity demands that trained aid and transport in such cases be forthcoming immediately, irrespective of whether it is paid for or not and without any distinction of caste or creed. The Managing Committee of the Society therefore established,

On 1st January 1939, the Free First Aid and Ambulance Service Station for round the clock service to the citizens of Bombay and its suburbs (up to Mahim causeway on Western side and Sion causeway on Central suburbs). A full-time resident paid staff was engaged for attending to ambulance calls at all hours, the volunteers being called out for public duty during grave emergencies.

The starting of the Service Station was acclaimed by the public and the press, The Western India Automobile Association in the March 1939 issue of its official organ "Motoring in India" recorded as follows:

"In Cities like New York and London, the Municipalities and various philanthropic public bodies provide free Ambulance and First Aid Service more or less adequate to the needs of the city, but in Bombay the First Aid and Ambulance Station of the Bombay City Ambulance Corps can be said to be the first station of its kind, for it responds to any call during the day or night with up-to-date trained aid and the ambulance".

The "Bombay Chronicle" of 11th January 1939 reported: "The Station has a constant attendance of a trained Compounder-dresser and the Ambulance Car Driver besides two trained licentiate First-Aiders, who are alert enough to take up the receiver of the telephone before the second ring is recorded, when a call comes through".

Objects

The objects, among others, of the Service Station are (1) to remove helpless patients from their homes to hospitals or from hospitals to homes or from one place to another in the City and its suburbs, (2) to attend to street accidents and other emergencies, and (3) to provide for such medical relief as is possible in times of

disturbances, epidemics, etc.

Location

Since its inception in 1939, the Service Station was located at the old Head Quarters of the Corps in the compound of the Union High School at Khetwadi Main Road, Bombay-4, where a First-Aid Theatre, Office room, dormitory lean-to C. I. sheet garage for one ambulance car were provided.

On 1st March 1956, the Station has been shifted to the new Head Quarters and Service Station buildings of the Society at 21 New Marine Lines, Bombay 400 020.

Since August 1996 the ambulance services are provided during day time only as 1. Problem created by the resident staff the matter went in litigation. The staff recruited then were not provided residence, 2. Numbers of calls for ambulances diminished due to ambulance services started on commercial bases with tie ups with hospitals, 3. Economical not viable.

Besides providing ambulance service for transportation of sick and injured, Ambulance service on request is also made to stand by at events like foot ball / hokey match and public events.

TREATING COLD-CONTACT BURNS

In an event of contact with a liquid or cold gas, e.g., Carbon Dioxide fire extinguisher, a cold contact "burn" may occur. Actually, the skin or tissue freezes.

Medical assistance should be obtained as soon as possible. In the Interim, the following emergency measures are recommended:

- Remove any clothing that may restrict circulation to the frozen area. Do not rub frozen part, as tissue damage may result.
- As soon as is practical, immerse the affected part in warm water (not less than 105F or more than 115F, or 40C to 46C). Never use dry heat. The victim should be in a warm room, if possible.
- If the exposure has been massive and the general body temperature is depressed, the patient should be totally immersed in a warm water bath. Supportive treatment for shock should be provided.
- Frozen tissues are painless and appear waxy and yellow. They will swell and be painful and prone to infection when thawed. Do not rewarm rapidly. Thawing may require 15 to 60 minutes and should be continued until the pale blue tint of the skin turns pink or red. Morphine or tranquilizers may be administered under

professional medical supervision.

- If the frozen part of the body thaws before the doctor arrives, cover the area with dry sterile dressings and a large, bulky protective covering.
- Alcoholic beverages and smoking decrease blood flow to the frozen tissues and should be prohibited. Warm drinks and food may be administered.

Electricity and You

How does Shock occur?

Shock related injuries may occur when the body becomes a part of an electric path by touching a live wire creating an unintentional circuit back to earth.

What determines the severity of the Shock?

The severity of the shock received as a result of an accidental contact with an electric circuit depends on:

- Rate of current flow in ampere and duration of exposure to the current flow.
- Part of the body through which the current flow, severity is more if current flows through vital organs of the body - namely brain, heart, lungs, liver and kidneys.
- Resistance offered by the body. As the skin becomes progressively moist, its resistance decreases and will allow more current to pass through. (Never handle electricity when body is wet)
- Types of current - A.C. or D.C. A.C. (Alternate Current - house hold electricity) is more pronounced in producing a physiological response than are equivalent D.C. (Direct Current).
- At higher frequencies than house hold electricity frequency (which is 50 Hz.), the body experience more heat. Diathermy used in medical treatment uses the same principles.
- Phase of the heart cycle when the electric shock occurs (applies to momentary contact).
- Age, size and physical condition of person.

Possible Effects of the Shock

- Burns
- Asphyxia
- Cardiac Arrest

Edited from Emergency Care workbook

DONATION APPEAL

We have received meager amount as Service Station Fund Donations or General Fund Donations during the year April 2020- March 2021. We had to tap our reserves. Philanthropist are requested to donate.

KINDLY VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO READ BRIGADE GAZETTE - bcac.co.in

Edited and Published by Captain R. J. Lad, D.E.R.E., Dip. Amb. Work, Officer Commanding, The Bombay City Ambulance Corps, at Head Quarters, 21 New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020 and printed by him for the owners of the Publication "The Bombay City Ambulance Corps."

BOOK-POST

To,



**From :
THE BOMBAY CITY AMBULANCE CORPS
21 New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020.
Telephone No. : 2201 42 95**