

# TM 5-9218

WAR DEPARTMENT TECHNICAL MANUAL

---

**SEMI-TRAILER,  
LOW BED,  
20-TON,  
MODEL 20-T,  
WITH MODEL 20-TD  
DOLLY**



**MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS**

WAR DEPARTMENT TECHNICAL MANUAL

TM 5-9218

---

SEMI-TRAILER,  
LOW BED,  
20-TON,  
MODEL 20-T,  
WITH MODEL 20-TD  
DOLLY

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

---



WAR DEPARTMENT • 25 SEPTEMBER 1944

---

Washington 25, D. C., 25 Sept. 1944

TM 5-9218, Semitrailer, Low Bed, 20-Ton, Model 20T with Model 20TD Dolly, is published for the information and guidance of all concerned.

[A. G. 300.7 (24 Aug. 44).]

By order of the Secretary of War:

G. C. MARSHALL,  
Chief of Staff.

**OFFICIAL:**

J. A. ULIO,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Armies (10); Corps (10); Dept (10); Def Comd (1); Sv C (10); D (2); IC 5 (6); IC & H 5 (2); IC & H 55 (2); Tech Sv (2) except OC of Engrs (10); Arm & Sv Bd (2) except The Engr Bd (5); Gen & Sp Sv Sch (2) except Engr Sch (10); Div Engrs (2); Dist Engrs (2) except Seattle Dist Engr (4); Engr Dep (2) except Albany (7) and Granite City (25); Engr Sec, ASF Dep (2); PE (Port Engrs) (2); T of Opn (2); Base Comd (2).

IR 5: T/O & E 5-21, 5-251, 5-411, 5-511S.

IBn 5: T/O & E 5-215, 5-115, 5-15, 5-35, 5-75, 5-385, 5-415, 5-525S, 5-555S, 5-535S.

IBn 55: T/O & E 55-225.

IC 5: (6) T/O & E 5-247.

IC 5: (2) T/O & E 5-157, 5-357, 5-567, 5-267, 5-377, 5-52, 5-17, 5-22, 5-76, 5-77, 5-252, 5-387, 5-412, 5-417, 5-47, 5-157, 5-247, 5-367, 5-377, 5-557S, 5-538S, 5-539S, 5-500, Maintenance Team, Type 5, DE.

IC 55: T/O & E 55-227, 55-260.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS****PART ONE — INTRODUCTION**

<i>Section</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>		<i>Page Nos.</i>
<b>I</b>		<b>GENERAL</b>	
	1	Scope .....	1
	2	Records .....	1
<b>II</b>		<b>DESCRIPTION AND DATA</b>	
	3	Description .....	3
	4	Data .....	9
<b>III</b>		<b>TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND FIRST ECHELON SPARE PARTS</b>	
	5	Tools, Equipment and First Echelon Spare Parts	10
<b>PART TWO — OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS</b>			
<b>IV</b>		<b>OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS</b>	
	6	General .....	15
	7	Service Upon Receipt of Equipment .....	15
<b>V</b>		<b>CONTROLS AND OPERATION</b>	
	8	Hand Brake .....	16
	9	Supports .....	16
	10	Tire Carrier .....	17
	11	Pintle Hook .....	20
	12	Dolly Jumper Hose .....	20
	13	Draw Bar .....	21
	14	Safety Chains .....	23
	15	Brake Jumper Hose and Dummy Couplings .....	23
	16	Blackout Switch .....	23
	17	Light Jumper Cable and Socket .....	24
	18	Fifth Wheel Lock Lever .....	24
<b>VI</b>		<b>OPERATION UNDER USUAL CONDITIONS</b>	
	19	Coupling Dolly to Towing Vehicle .....	24
	20	Uncoupling Dolly from Towing Vehicle .....	25
	21	Coupling Dolly to Semitrailer .....	25
	22	Uncoupling Dolly from Semitrailer .....	26
	23	Coupling Tractor-Truck to Semitrailer .....	26
	24	Uncoupling Tractor-Truck from Semitrailer .....	27
	25	Transporting from Job to Job .....	27
	26	Braking .....	27
	27	General Operation .....	28
<b>VII</b>		<b>OPERATION UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS</b>	
	28	Climatic and Road Hazards .....	28
<b>VIII</b>		<b>DEMOLITION TO PREVENT ENEMY USE</b>	
	29	Demolition to Prevent Enemy Use .....	29

**TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued****PART THREE — MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS**

<b>IX</b>	<b>LUBRICATION</b>	
30	Lubrication Order .....	30
31	Detailed Lubrication Instructions .....	31
<b>X</b>	<b>FIRST ECHELON PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE</b>	
32	Purpose .....	37
33	Before-Operation Services .....	38
34	During-Operation Services .....	39
35	At-Halt Services .....	39
36	After-Operation Services .....	39
<b>XI</b>	<b>SECOND ECHELON ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE</b>	
37	Second Echelon Organizational Maintenance Services .....	41
<b>XII</b>	<b>TROUBLE SHOOTING</b>	
38	General .....	46
39	Braking System .....	46
40	Dolly Suspension .....	48
41	Dolly Axle .....	49
42	Rear Trunnion Axle .....	49
43	Wheels, Hubs and Tires .....	50
44	Fifth Wheel .....	50
45	Electrical System .....	51
<b>XIII</b>	<b>BRAKE SYSTEM</b>	
46	General .....	52
47	Brake Adjustment .....	52
48	Brake Chamber .....	52
49	Relay-Emergency Valve .....	55
50	Air Filter .....	58
51	Tubing, Tubing Fittings, and Hose Couplings.....	59
52	Quick Release Valve .....	63
53	Hose and Hose Fittings .....	65
54	Drain Cock .....	66
55	Cut-out Cock .....	68
56	Exhaust Check Valve .....	69
<b>XIV</b>	<b>INTERNAL BRAKES</b>	
57	General .....	70
58	Brake Shoes .....	71
59	Brake Shoes (Semitrailer equipped with two-piece dust shield) .....	76
60	Dolly Brake Shoes .....	76
61	Slack Adjusters .....	77
62	Cams .....	78
<b>XV</b>	<b>HAND BRAKE</b>	
63	Hand Brake .....	80

**TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued**

<b>XVI</b>	<b>DRAW BAR</b>	
64	Draw Bar .....	84
<b>XVII</b>	<b>DOLLY UNDERCONSTRUCTION</b>	
65	Axle .....	85
66	Auxiliary Springs .....	86
67	Main Spring .....	86
68	Radius Rod .....	88
<b>XVIII</b>	<b>SEMITRAILER UNDERCONSTRUCTION</b>	
69	Trunnion Axle .....	89
<b>XIX</b>	<b>WHEELS, DRUMS, RIMS AND TIRES</b>	
70	General .....	90
71	Wheel and Tire Assembly—Dolly .....	90
72	Wheel Bearing Adjustment—Dolly .....	93
73	Wheel and Drum Assembly—Dolly .....	93
74	Wheel and Tire Assembly—Semitrailer .....	94
75	Wheel Bearing Adjustment—Semitrailer .....	95
76	Wheel and Drum Assembly—Semitrailer .....	95
77	Felt Grease Retainer—Semitrailer .....	95
78	Tire and Rim .....	95
79	Drums .....	99
80	Cups .....	101
<b>XX</b>	<b>ELECTRICAL SYSTEM</b>	
81	General .....	104
82	Wiring .....	109
83	Tail Light .....	110
84	Clearance Lights .....	110
85	Jumper Cable .....	111
86	Coupling Socket .....	113
87	Blackout Switch .....	113
88	Fuse Panel .....	114
<b>XXI</b>	<b>FIFTH WHEEL</b>	
89	Fifth Wheel .....	115
<b>XXII</b>	<b>PINTLE HOOK</b>	
90	Pintle Hook .....	117
<b>PART FOUR — AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>PART FIVE — REPAIR INSTRUCTIONS</b>		
<b>XXIII</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>	
91	Scope .....	119
<b>XXIV</b>	<b>BRAKE SYSTEM</b>	
92	Relay-Emergency Valve .....	119
93	Slack Adjuster .....	122

**TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued**

<b>XXV</b>	<b>INTERNAL BRAKE ASSEMBLY</b>	
94	Internal Brake Assembly .....	123
95	Disassembly of Internal Brake into Sub-Assemblies .....	123
96	Brake Shoes .....	123
97	Spider .....	127
98	Assembly of Sub-Assemblies .....	127
99	Fits and Tolerances .....	129
<b>XXVI</b>	<b>DOLLY UNDERCONSTRUCTION</b>	
100	Dolly Underconstruction .....	128
101	Disassembly of Dolly Underconstruction into Sub-Assemblies .....	129
102	Axle .....	129
103	Main Spring .....	132
104	Auxiliary Spring .....	133
105	Radius Rod .....	133
106	Fits and Tolerances .....	134
<b>XXVII</b>	<b>SEMITRAILER UNDERCONSTRUCTION</b>	
107	Semitrailer Underconstruction .....	134
108	Disassembly of Semitrailer Underconstruction into Sub-Assemblies .....	134
109	Trunnion Axle .....	134
110	Trunnion Axle Mounting Brackets .....	136
111	Fits and Tolerances .....	137
<b>XXVIII</b>	<b>DRAW BAR, FRAME, TIRE CARRIER AND SUPPORT JACKS</b>	
112	Draw Bar .....	137
113	Frame .....	139
114	Tire Carrier .....	139
115	Support Jacks .....	141
<b>XXIX</b>	<b>SHIPMENT AND STORAGE</b>	
116	General Instructions .....	142
117	Limited Storage .....	142
118	Shipment—Loading and Blocking for Rail .....	143
119	Dead Storage .....	144
120	Export Shipment .....	144
121	Publication Reference .....	144

---

# PART ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### SECTION I

#### GENERAL

#### 1. SCOPE.

These instructions are published for the information and guidance of the personnel to whom this equipment is assigned. They contain information on the operation and maintenance of the equipment as well as descriptions of the major units and their functions in relation to the other components of the equipment. They apply only to the 20-Ton Semitrailer which is equipped with a dolly, and are arranged in five parts: Part One—Introduction; Part Two—Operating Instructions; Part Three—Maintenance Instructions; Part Four—Auxiliary Equipment; and Part Five—Repair Instructions.

#### 2. RECORDS.

a. "Maintenance instruction forms and record forms listed and briefly described in the following subparagraphs will be used in the maintenance of this equipment.

b. WD AGO Form No. 6—Duty Roster. This form slightly modified will be used for recording operation and scheduling lubrication and preventive maintenance services at the proper intervals on individual items of equipment.

c. WD AGO Form No. 48—Driver's Trip Ticket and P. M. Service Record. This form will be used by equipment operators for reporting the accomplishment of daily preventive maintenance services and for reporting any deficiencies observed on the equipment during operation.

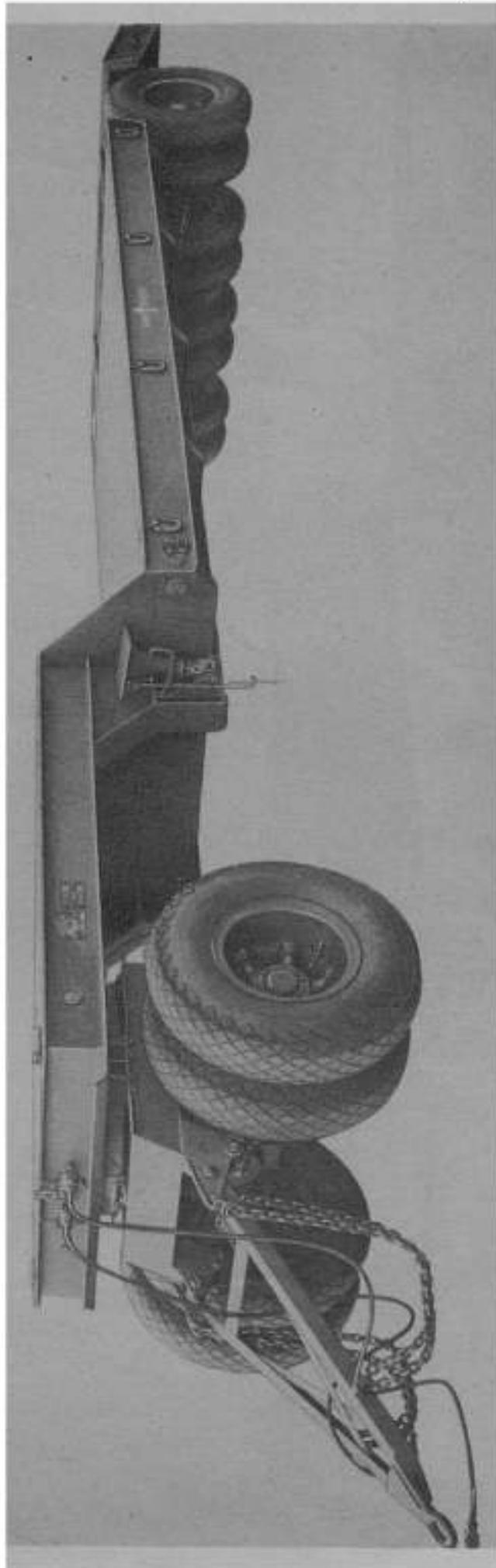
d. War Department Lubrication Order. This is a maintenance instruction form and is intended to instruct operators and personnel of the using organization as to the proper lubricants to be used and intervals to follow in lubricating individual items of equipment.

e. War Department Preventive Maintenance Services Engineer Equipment. This is a maintenance instruction form and prescribes daily maintenance services to be performed by the operator as well as the weekly and monthly services to be performed by mechanics of the using organization in providing proper maintenance on individual items of equipment.

**f. WD AGO Form No. 464—Preventive Maintenance Services and Technical Inspection Work Sheet for Engineers Equipment. This form is used by personnel of the using organization and higher echelons for reporting the results of preventive maintenance services, command, and technical inspections.**

**g. WD AGO Form No. 7353—Spot Check Inspection Report for All Motor Vehicles. This form may be used as a check list for items to be inspected during spot check inspections in lieu of WD AGO Form No. 464.**

**h. WD AGO Form No. 478—MWO AND Major Unit Assembly Replacement Record. Major repairs or rebuilding, the replacement of major unit assemblies and the accomplishment of equipment modifications will be recorded on this form.**



**FIGURE 1. SEMITRAILER WITH DOLLY— $\frac{3}{4}$  FRONT VIEW**