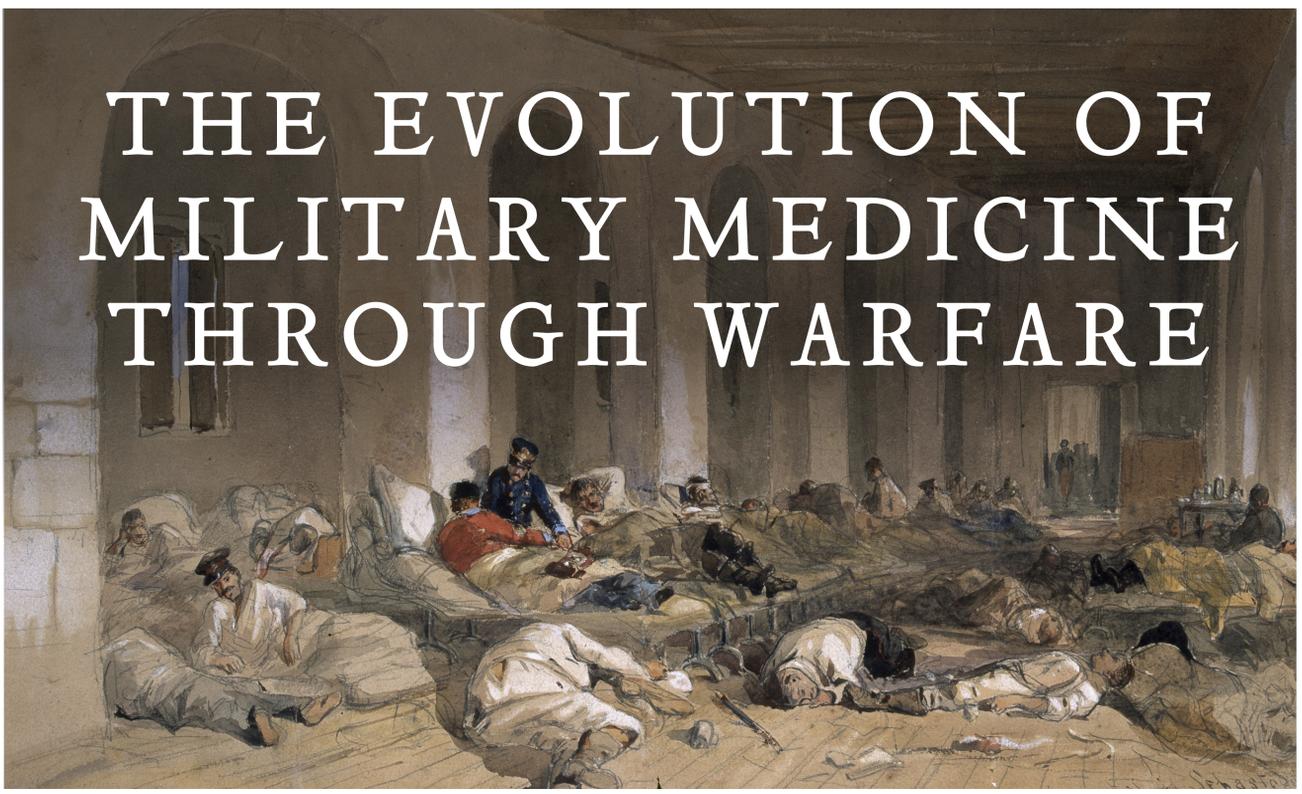


THE EVOLUTION OF MILITARY MEDICINE THROUGH WARFARE



Field hospital – *Siege of Sevastopol (1854–1855), Crimea War*

FORMATION OF THE ARMY

1660

Following the restoration of the Monarchy after the English Civil War, King Charles II was invited to take the throne. Charles had seen the advantages of a standing army and so in 1660 he raised a force of 5,000 men known as the 'Kings Guards and garrisons' and on 26th January 1661, he issued a warrant creating the English Army.

AMPUTATION OF LORD UXBRIDGE'S LEG

1815

During the Battle of Waterloo Lord Uxbridge was shot and his leg shattered from the casings. Due to his injuries Uxbridge had his leg amputated on the kitchen table of a cottage hospital. The prosthetic legs Uxbridge commissioned, which became known as the Anglesey Legs were ground-breaking because they hinged at either the knee, ankle, and/or toe.

JAMES SIMPSON DISCOVERS CHLOROFORM

1847

James Simpson and his assistants spent their evenings in Simpson's dining room experimenting with new chemicals to see if any of them had any anaesthetic effect. On the 4th November 1847 Simpson tried Chloroform and confirmed it could be used to put someone to sleep.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE TRAINING SCHOOL

1860

The Florence Nightingale Training School opened in July 1860 as part of St Thomas's Hospital's pioneering efforts towards the teaching of nursing and midwifery as a recognised profession. The school promoted the practices of its patron Florence Nightingale during her time in an army field hospital in the Crimean War, emphasising ventilation and better sanitation.



Florence Nightingale, 1860

THE RED CROSS

1863

On 26th October 1863 delegates from countries including the UK, France, Italy, and Russia agreed to a set of resolutions calling for international relief efforts for wounded soldiers on all sides. Medical personnel agreed to take as their emblem an inverse of the flag of Switzerland, a white armband with a red cross. This gave the organisation its name: The Red Cross.

FORMATION OF ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

1898

On 23rd June 1898 a Royal Warrant issued by Queen Victoria united medical staff and officers into the Royal Army Medical Corps. The formation of the RAMC meant that officers were granted the same rank structure as the rest of the British Army.



Cap badge of the Royal Army Medical Corp

BLOOD TRANSFUSION KIT

1914
–1918

These kits were used as standard on the front line for the first time during World War One. Transferring blood between soldiers saved lives which would have previously been lost due to lack of suitable storage facilities.

PENICILLIN

1928

In 1928 scientist Alexander Fleming returned from a holiday to find mould growing from a petri dish. Fleming noticed the mould seemed to be preventing the bacteria from growing around it, he named this mould penicillin. Penicillin became the first anti-biotic and would go on to be the biggest life saver for soldiers in the Second World War.

VOLUNTEER BLOOD DONORS IN BRITAIN

1939
-1945

The vast number of casualties during the Second World War meant there was a constant demand for blood supplies to help the wounded on the front lines. With the advances in technology the effective storing of blood became possible. Over the course of WW2 hundreds of volunteer blood banks were set up and donations became an important part of the home warfront effort.

FIRST PARALYMPIC GAMES

1960

1960 saw the first official Paralympic Games in Rome with events no longer only open to war veterans. Over 400 competitors entered from 23 countries. Since then the Games have taken place every four years in line with the Olympic Games programme.

CAMP BASTION HOSPITAL

2008

Logistical adjustments by 'Hospital Squadron 22' pioneered the 'Right Turn Resuscitation' process by bringing the operating theatre to the forefront of the site. Critically injured soldiers could be operated on immediately saving precious minutes in the 'golden hour' post injury trauma and leading to a 98% patient survival rate.

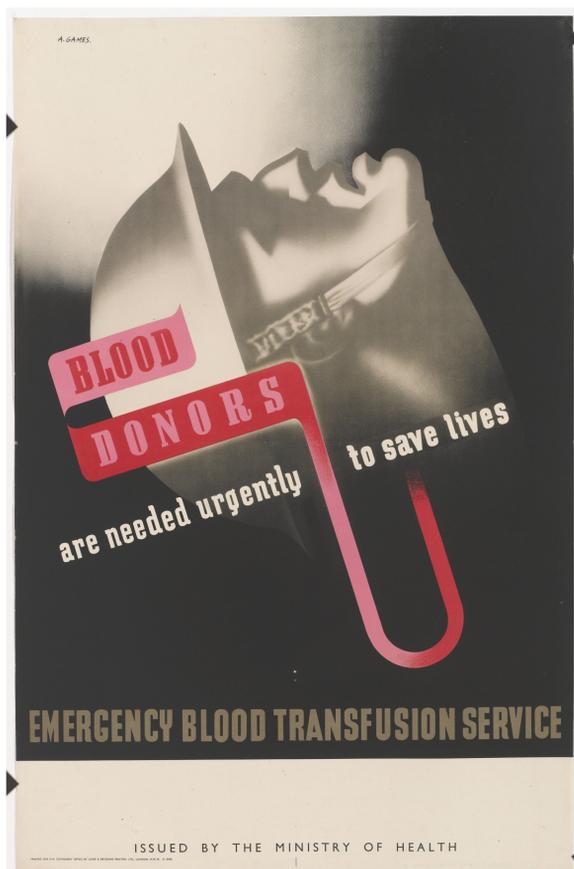
FIRST INVICTUS GAMES

2014

The first Invictus Games brought together over 400 competitors from 13 nations around the world. The Invictus Games use the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect for wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women.



Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel Jedge Lewin OBE of the Blues and Royals in South Sudan, 2020



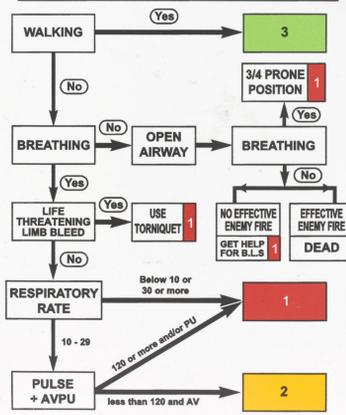
Ministry of Health poster (A. Games) encouraging blood donation in Britain, 1942

PTSD TERM DEVELOPED

1980

In 1980, the American Psychiatric Association added PTSD to the third edition of its manual of Mental Disorders. This classification filled an important gap in psychiatric theory of war and how distressing scenes affected soldiers, taking over from names used in earlier conflicts such as 'shell shock'.

MILITARY ADULT TRIAGE SIEVE



Military triage pack used in Afghanistan prior to patient transfer to Camp Bastion, 2013

THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY AND COVID 19

2020

The Regiment's own Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel Jedge Lewin OBE of the Blues and Royals was in South Sudan supporting the UN mission as the Force Medical Officer when the COVID 19 pandemic broke out. Unexpectedly becoming the mission's primary COVID medical advisor, Surg Lt Col Lewin helped review and adapt the mission's medical support, trying to overcome the ever changing challenges of moving casualties and increasingly limited medical supplies in brutal conditions, for a population of 31,000 staff at the height of the crisis. Surg Lt Col Lewin was awarded his OBE for this work in South Sudan and was one of hundreds of men and women from the armed forces to aid efforts both at home and abroad during the pandemic.

This brief timeline is only a small insight into the fascinating journey of military medicine.

As you can see, since the formation of the British Army in the 1600s all the way up to today, advancements in sanitation, disease prevention, and medical procedures have evolved and will continue to do so in our lifetime and beyond.

See our website or follow this QR code for more in depth content from ourselves and our project partners including enthralling insights by those medical professionals and veterans living and making the medical history of tomorrow.

We would like to thank the Florence Nightingale Museum, the Museum of Military Medicine, the National Army Museum, the Old Operating Theatre, the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust, and the Veteran Covenant Healthcare Alliance for their support with our Evolution of Military Medicine through Warfare project.

SCAN ME

