

# Military Medicine

The medical care of soldiers is important to the Army because the health and capability of soldiers can determine the success of a campaign.

Improvements in military medicine, particularly during conflicts, has often acted as a catalyst for the improvement of healthcare in general society.

Follow the trail to find out more about combat medicine, survival and rehabilitation.

Conflict in Europe Gallery

Begin in the **Conflict in Europe gallery** and go to the section on the **Napoleonic Wars**.

Find these artefacts and write down what you think this equipment was used for.



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Conflict in Europe Gallery

Amputation without anaesthetic was often the only hope for soldiers who suffered badly damaged bones. It could prevent the spread of disease and often led to a rapid recovery. A leather tourniquet was tied above the place where the cutting would be done. A knife was then used to slice down to the bone, arteries pinned out of the way so the surgeon could begin his work with the bone saw. The arteries were then sewn up and linen bandages were applied.

Now go to the **Crimean War** display. This surgical kit dating back to 1850 is the oldest on display in the museum. List the items you recognise. What kind of injuries would this kit have been used to treat?



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Conflict in Europe Gallery

Continue to the **First World War** section. Find these two items and read the descriptions. Before the introduction of the Gas Hood, what were soldiers using to protect them from a gas attack?



How was the Box Respirator an improvement on the Gas Hood.

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Now look for the Thomas Splint, this was a major development during the **First World War**. How did it work? To what extent did it improve the survival rate for soldiers suffering from broken thigh bones?



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# Global Role Gallery

Go to the **Global Role Gallery** on the second floor of the Museum. Survival is a key component of military medicine. Kits like the **Jungle Survival Kit, 1950** were created to cope with different environments, this one was used during the Korean War. **Choose two items** which you think would be most useful for a jungle-based mission. Explain your choices.



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Find the electric intraosseous drill. This is used to inject fluids straight through the bone and into the marrow of an injured soldier. What can it be used to treat?

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# Global Role Gallery

Close to this drill you will find a shock pack and a trauma pack. Read the descriptions.

What were shrimp shells used for?  
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Why is 'Golden Hour' important?  
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# Soldier Gallery

Make your way down to the **Soldier Gallery** on the ground floor. Here we will be focussing on rehabilitation and prosthetics, located near the end of the gallery. Prosthetics have been issued to soldiers since the First World War and were made of wood before light metals and man-made materials were used. How could a prosthetic replacement help with rehabilitation.



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# Soldier Gallery

Find the painting called **Convalescent Soldiers Arriving by Boat on the Thames**. The soldiers are wearing a special uniform called Hospital Blues, given to them when they arrived at hospital because the uniform they arrived in was often damaged and dirty from combat. Give two reasons why you think it was important for soldiers to still have a uniform while they recovered in hospital?

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Find the Champagne and a tea cosy nearby. How were these items used to help soldiers recovering in hospital?



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You have now finished the trail. Did you know that it is possible to find out more about our collections online at [collection.nam.ac.uk](http://collection.nam.ac.uk)