War, Medicine and Health: General (A&M)

Archive and manuscript sources in the Wellcome Library

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The archives and manuscripts collections cover a broad range of subjects dating from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. This is one of a series of thematic guides designed to assist users of the collections to identify material of particular relevance to their research. For more detailed subject searching, you can run keyword or subject searches in the Archives and Manuscripts on–line catalogue, http://archives.wellcomelibrary.org, from which material can be ordered for consultation in the Rare Materials Room. Hard copy catalogues can be found in the Library’s Rare Materials Room or by request to archs+mss@wellcome.ac.uk.

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NB collections range in size from single items to large personal or organisational archives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manuscripts and collections</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicolaus Falcutius (?): 'De apostematibus et vulneribus', 1449 Latin</td>
<td>MS.558/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masiolo de Meligariis: 'Breve de medicar piaghe', c.1500 Italian</td>
<td>MS.490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anon: 'Delle archibusate, et altre ferite fatte da simili strumenti da guerra', C16th Italian</td>
<td>MS.742 (part)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambroise Paré: 'Epitomé de chirurgie', late C16th French</td>
<td>MS.599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andreas Schweigkofer: 'Artzeneypuech', includes a section entitled 'Von allerley Wunden', 1595 German</td>
<td>MS.735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anon: notes on wound–surgery, with extracts from L Botallus on gunshot wounds, c.1625 Italian</td>
<td>MS.356 (part)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Army Medical Corps Muniment Collection: Reports, diaries, memoirs, photographs and memorabilia given to the RAMC Museum and Library by former officers and men of the Corps. Some date back to Marlborough's campaigns of the late 17th century, material relating to the continuing European and Imperial conflicts of the 18th and early 19th centuries, the Crimean War (1854–1856), the Boer War and the Balkan conflicts of the early C20th, and continuing to the Korean and Falklands wars. See 'Index' under names of conflicts</td>
<td>RAMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Hospital: Miscellaneous papers relating to, 1722–1849</td>
<td>MS.5314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Hospital Society: Minute book, 1764–7</td>
<td>MS.5404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guillaume Sorin, army surgeon: medical and surgical formulary, compiled 1735–7 French</td>
<td>MS.4673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hawkins, army surgeon: Fontenoy campaign journal and account of travels, 1744–7 and 1750–2, compiled in (?1767</td>
<td>MS.2788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anon: memorandum on medical services in the French army, 1746 French</td>
<td>MS.3527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Hall, army surgeon: lecture and other notes, 1752–63</td>
<td>MSS 5876–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herr – von Seitleben: verses composed in honour of the Emperor Joseph II, the Austrian army and its medical services, 1776–93 German</td>
<td>MS.4491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyville Smith, army surgeon: testimonials and miscellaneous papers, 1778–1826</td>
<td>MS.6929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company (later Royal College) of Surgeons, London: Certificates for the appointment of army surgeons and surgeons’ mates, 1787–1826</td>
<td>MSS 5756–76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Olivier Gouraud: memorandum on the reform of the French military hospital service, c.1789 French</td>
<td>MS.1721/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicolas Noël, army surgeon: autograph list of surgeons in the Army of the Alps, 1793; manuscript report from the Army of the Alps to Général St. Remy, n.d. French</td>
<td>MS.7369/6–7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nicholas Bastard Avent, army surgeon: letters, inventory and sale of possessions after his death in Corsica, 1793–4

René Nicolas Dufriveche Desgenettes, Baron Desgenettes: letters and papers, mainly relating to the Egyptian expedition, 1793–1813 *French*

Dominique Jean Larrey, Baron Larrey: letters to his family and letters received, 1797–1840; Leipzig campaign journal, 1813–14 *French*

Thomas Thomson, army surgeon: commonplace book and travel diary, 1799–1852; commissions and diploma, 1800–17

M – de La Tour de la Pommeraye: Book of medical recipes from French military hospitals, late C18th *French*

[Jean Francois] Delpit, chief physician, military hospital, Barèges: correspondence and papers, 1804–28 *French*

Commissions of appointment: to surgical posts in the British army, 1805–77

Real Cuerpo Militar de Cirurgia, Spain: Regulations, c.1805 *Spanish*

Charles d’Isau, army doctor: notebook containing extracts from published medical and other works, incl extracts rel to military hospitals, compiled 1807–14 *French*

Claude Francois Deveille, army surgeon: pharmaceutical formulary, 1807; medical notebook, 1818–36 *French*

Anon: draft of an article on French military hospitals, with suggestions for reform, compiled c.1810 *French*

Stratford Canning, 1st Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe: letters received, 1812–88, mainly while Ambassador at Constantinople during the Crimean War

Unidentified army surgeon: report on typhus at Mainz, 1814 *French*

— Dufay, (?) army surgeon: papers on typhus at Mainz and pulmonary catarrh, 1814 *French*

Sir George Ballingall, Professor of Military Surgery, Edinburgh: correspondence and papers, 1808–52

Sir John MacAndrew [later Macgregor], Inspector General of Military Hospitals: miscellaneous documents, 1808–59

Anon army surgeon: journal, Iberia, France, America, 1813–15

William Knott, army surgeon: certificates, 1813–34

Thomas Burn Catherwood, clerk in the army purveyor’s dept: narrative of events in the Peninsular campaign, compiled 1816–18

John Davy, army surgeon and Inspector of Hospitals: travel journals, 1816–47, including as medical inspector in the West Indies

Charles Thomas Haden MD: journal, containing observations on the military hospital, Gibraltar, 1823–4

William Thornton(?): diary of yellow fever epidemic at Gibraltar, 1828

Florence Nightingale: letters to various correspondents, including William Farr and Sir John Henry Lefroy, 1829–1905

— see also Florence Nightingale: a guide to selected sources in the Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine (PDF 26.14MB)

http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/assets/wtl039832.pdf
Sir James McGrigor, 1st Bt, army surgeon: autobiography, compiled c.1835

Dinapore division, India: letter book with details relating to medical services, 1840–1

Sir John Hall: copy letter book of letters sent and a few received, 1843–59, covering service in South Africa, India and the Crimea, and including opinions on Florence Nightingale; correspondents include Sir James McGrigor and Dr. Andrew Smith

Antonio Leyda y Munoz, army surgeon: medical recipe book, with autobiographical details, compiled c.1850–67 Spanish

John William Mudge, army surgeon: journal including service in 2nd Burmese War, 1852–5

WH Banister: letters as agent re supply of surgical lint for Crimean War, 1854–5

Alfred Bowyer Barton, medical officer with the P&O Steam Navigation Company: diaries include service transporting sick and wounded during Crimean War, 1855–6

Hector Gavin, Sanitary Commissioner in the Crimea: biography by his father, c.1855

Henry Piers, naval surgeon: journal includes account of treating sick and wounded in Peru during insurrection by General Manuel de Vivanco, 1857


Thomas Young Baker, army surgeon: diary including record of service in India, 1861–2

Thomas Weldon Trench, medical volunteer, Franco–Prussian War: letters and other documents recording humanitarian work with Dr Christopher James Davis during the Franco–Prussian War, 1870

Albert Lee Ward, US diplomat and Red Cross volunteer: letters and papers during siege of Paris, 1870–1

Frederic Freeman Allen, army surgeon: drafts of his report on the Lushai expeditionary force, 1872

Thomas O'Farrell, RAMC Surgeon General: case and other notes, scrapbooks etc, India, Sudan and elsewhere, 1873–1906

Richard Henry Havelock Charles, surgeon, Indian Medical Service: diary as medical chief of the military escort for the Afghan Boundary Commission, 1885

James Cantlie: [incomplete] preface to a proposed history of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, 1891

Sir David Bruce: Research notebooks, including re dysentery and plague in South Africa in the Boer War

Colonel Frederick Smith: manuscript of a novel, "Yemma: a Story of 'The White Man's Grave' in '98", n.d., undated, based on his experiences in Sierra Leone during the rising of 1898

Sir Anthony Alfred Bowly: Papers and photographs concerning the work of the Portland Hospital, a civilian hospital, during the Boer War, 1899–1901

Unidentified nurse serving at the Scottish National Red Cross hospital, Kroonstad, South Africa: Notebook containing extracts from letters, 1900–1

Humphry Davy Rolleston: Photograph album of (1862–1944), with photographs of military hospitals and medical personnel, South Africa, 1900–1
John Fulton Barr: diaries, 1900–2, photographs, c. 1900–1, and a little correspondence, relating to his service in South Africa PP/JFB

RAMC detachment orders: Newcastle Barracks, 1903–5 MS.8209

Wellcome Historical Medical Museum: material on war, military and naval medicine, etc, over a lengthy historical period; includes material relating to Spanish Civil War, 1930s WA/HMM

Major John Percy Litt, RAMC: material, including photographs, relating to service in Turkey and the Caucasus, 1918–23 MS.8480

Margaret Ida Balfour: her letters home from India during 1919 contain several mentions of the 3rd Anglo-Afghan War PP/MIB/B/23

George Cuthbert Mura M’Gonigle: commentary on report on physical condition of men of military age, 1920 PP/GMG/C/3

Frederick Parkes Weber: Notes, cuttings, etc on war as a phenomenon, atrocity myths, propaganda, fascism, Spanish Civil War, etc, 1920s–50s PP/FPW

Surgeon Captain ‘Peter’ Thomas Latimer Cleave: Lecture notes and advice to naval personnel and relating to his career in the Royal Navy, 1920s–60s PP/TLC

Air Marshal Sir Harold Whittingham: Papers relating to his research into military aviation medicine during service in the RAF, 1920–45, including RAF Sandfly commission, 1921–3 PP/HEW/B–C

Sgt John Cairns, RAMC: small group of papers relating to his service as a nursing orderly, 1926–50 MS.8139

Robert George Ranyard West: Diary notes, correspondence and writings re world peace, 1930s–50s PP/RRW

Sir William Drummond Paton: Copious materials relating to his consultancy work for the Royal Navy on underwater physiology and pharmacology, in particular with regard to deep diving and submarine, 1930s–91, and including files of work with Royal Naval Personnel Research Committee and its sub-committees, 1930–81, and Royal Naval Physiological Laboratory, 1953–82 PP/WDP/D

Robina Addis (1900–1986): Papers from her participation in Semaines Internationales d'Etudes pour l'Enfance Victime de la Guerre, 1945–51 PP/ADD/E/1

Miscellany: Radiation: includes papers on physicians in an atomic war, 1949 MS.8950

Edward Peter Sharpey–Schafer: Scrapbook ‘Fainting and Syncope’ relating to his work on fainting by soldiers on parade, 1950s MS.8429

Sir John McMichael: photographs of 8055th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, c. 1950s PP/JMM/L/8

Research Board for the Correlation of Medical Science and Physical Education (f.1942, closed 1956): analysis of findings of the National Service Medical Boards, 1952–5 SA/RBC/E.6–8

Professor Sir Alexander Haddow: correspondence re world peace, scientific responsibility, etc, 1953–70 PP/HAD

R A McCance: some material on his work with MRC Survival at Sea subcommittee, 1956–87 GC/97/D.2/3

Peter Karl Lewin: Memoir, ‘A Chameleon of Sorts: Autobiographical Vignettes’, includes his later career in the Canadian Army Medical Service MS.8369

Sir Robert Macintosh: Honorary Civil Consultant in Anaesthetics to the RAF, 1960s PP/RRM
Carlos Paton Blacker: files relating to his work as consultant to Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, 1962–74  
Now available online as part of the Codebreakers: Makes of Modern Genetics digitisation project  

Sir Harold Perceval Himsworth: papers relating to his work with committee investigating the use of CS gas by the British Army in Londonderry, 1967–73  

Robert Henry Steward Thompson: research work on chemical warfare, including the Himsworth inquiry on the use of CS gas in Northern Ireland and the Gulf War, 1969–91  

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health): material on health education and anti-smoking programmes among armed forces, 1970s–90s  

Alice Mary Stewart: Papers include material on her research into the long-term effects of atomic bomb explosions in Japan and the Marshall Islands, 1970s–90s, and her involvement with the Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp, 1980s  


Hugh Freeman: material on his research on terrorism and responses to it, 2006–9  

Researchers’ attention is also drawn to the Medical Archives and Manuscripts Survey of materials 1600–1945 in repositories in the Greater London area http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/node265.html, which includes items of relevance. The Wellcome/National Archives Hospital Records Database http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/ includes some information on the present location of records of military and naval hospitals. For material on military hospitals in the Wellcome Library see sources leaflet Hospitals: Military and Naval