War, Medicine and Health, World War II (A&M)

Archive and manuscript sources in the Wellcome Library

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World War II (A&M)

(see also Antibiotics, Blood, Refugee Scientists and Medical Practitioners, War and Psychiatry for other material of relevance)

This guide includes the following sections:

- RAMC
- Research and observations
- Policy
- Active Service
- Miscellaneous

### RAMC

**The 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 includes a substantial amount relating to the various theatres of war, 1939–45

### Research and observation

**J V Bates (1918–1993)**: Research on visual tracking in gunnery and control design in tanks, 1943–9

**Carlos Paton Blacker (1895–1975)**: Observations on ‘eugenic’ experiments conducted by the Nazis on human subjects, 1951–2

*Now available online as part of the Codebreakers: Makes of Modern Genetics digitisation project*

**Capt George Blair**: Copy of his thesis, "Malnutrition among Prisoners of War in the Far East", based on his own experiences as a POW

**Dame Harriette Chick (1875–1977)**: Material relating to her nutritional research during World War II

**Leonard Colebrook (1883–1967)**: Diaries and research notebooks, World War II, when Consultant Bacteriologist to the army in France, 1940, and researching septic element in burns and scalds, 1940–2

**Professor James Craigie (1899–1978)**: Notes and reports re typhus research for the Canadian National Research Council, 1940–6

**Henry Edward Crooks**: Papers re work as radiographer, Shaftesbury Military Hospital, World War II

**Charles Enrique Dent (1911–1976)**: Notes on experiments on the treatment of starvation conducted at Belsen in 1945

**Captain David Noble Dobbie, RAMC**: Notes on tropical medicine, 1943

**Sir Charles Lovatt Evans (1884–1968)**: Correspondence re service at Porton Experimental Station, 1939–45

Professor Forrest Fulton (1913–1971): Research with the Medical Research Council on scrub typhus, 1942–6  

Professor Ronald Hare (1899–1986): Reports on scientific value of bacteriological experiments in concentration camps in Germany during World War II, 1947–8  

Professor Henry Albert Harris (1885–1968): World War II papers re the organisation of talks on welfare to the Forces, lectures on first aid to RAMC schools and advice to RAF on effects of cold and design of laryngophones and flying helmets; correspondence, mainly with serving medical officers  

James Randal Hutchinson (c.1880–1955) and William Henry BRADLEY (1898–1975): Typhus in medical students who visited Belsen, 1945  

Sir Thomas Lewis (1881–1945): Correspondence during World War II on cardiac cases, injuries suffered by shipwrecked sailors, design of tourniquets, etc  


Sir Robert Macintosh (1897–1989): Correspondence, diaries, clinical and research notes re work on anaesthetics, oxygen deprivation during parachute descent, escape apparatus for submarines, testing of life–jackets, etc., World War II  


Professor Rudolph Albert PETERS (1889–1982): Research on British Anti–Lewisite (for defence against gas warfare), 1941–53  

Research Board for the Correlation of Medical Science and Physical Education (f.1942, closed 1956): Records of research into health and rehabilitation, including in the armed forces, 1943–4  

Percy George Shute (1894–1977): Correspondence with Sir Rickard Christophers re mosquito repellents, World War II  

Strangeways Research Laboratory: Provision of foodstuffs for research animals under rationing, 1943–53; World War II research on the biological action of toxic gases used in chemical warfare, 1939–51, and a little material relating to their wound–healing research, 1943–44  


TYBURN Project: scrub typhus vaccine production, World War II: Report by Marinus van den Ende of production by laboratories of Wellcome Foundation Ltd of scrub typhus vaccine for armed forces, 1945, with additional papers of Dr Helene E Bargmann, 1944–5  

Air Marshal Sir Harold Whittingham (1887–1983): Papers relating to his research into military aviation medicine during service in the RAF, 1920–45, and World War II. Includes notebooks, case notes, drawings, photographs, reports, published papers.
British Medical Association: Files on nutrition and control of tuberculosis in wartime, and on the consequences of the employment by military authorities of civilian doctors; also minutes, etc, re examination of recruits to territorial and volunteer reserve forces, 1908–50

British Social Hygiene Council (formerly National Council for Combatting Venereal Diseases) (f.1914): This body was a provider of VD education and propaganda as well as a pressure group influencing policy


Lord Dawson of Penn PRCP (1864-1945): File relating to his concerns over the importance of milk and eggs in the context of food rationing, 1941

James Randal Hutchinson (c.1880–1955) and William Henry Bradley (1898–1975): Large collection of files of these Senior Medical Officers at the Ministry of Health, include the years of World War II. Section D contains reports of the British Mission on Epidemic Control in Germany and Austria, 1947–8

Lister Institute: The Lister Institute was engaged in research relevant to food rationing, blood transfusion, etc., during World War II: see minutes and annual reports

R A McCance (1898–1993) and Elsie Widdowson (1908–2000) : see above under Research and observations for their influential work on rationing

Medical Women's Federation: Collection on war work and the status of women doctors under the War Office, 1939–45

National Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease: Correspondence etc, 1937–45, particularly re wartime risks of VD; the NSPVD advocated preventive measures rather than just treatment of those already infected

Society of Medical Officers of Health: Material relating to wartime responsibilities of Medical Officers of Health, including Air Raid Precautions, World War II

Active Service, Second World War

Carlos Paton Blacker (1895–1975): Files on his activities, Regimental Medical Officer, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, 1940–2, and re his book Notes for the RMO of an Infantry Unit (1943 ) Now available online as part of the Codebreakers: Makes of Modern Genetics digitisation project

Professor Donald Blacklock: Account of malaria control, West Africa, 1940s

Capt George Blair: material relating to his war service in RAMC, predominantly his period as a POW in Japanese hands, 1942–5

John Bowlby (1907–1990): material on his sisters’ service in Women’s Land Army, 1939–44

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

Herbert Davies Chalke (1897–1979): Papers relating to his service as ADMS to the Allied Forces in North Africa and Italy include diaries, reminiscences, minutes and related papers re typhus and malaria control, notebooks re health and hygiene measures and army procedure, as well as post–war articles and addresses re the Army Hygiene Service
Surgeon Captain 'Peter' Thomas Latimer Cleave: Lecture notes and advice to naval personnel and relating to his career in the Royal Navy, include the World War II years

Pamela Mary Clewett: Memoirs of service as probationer nurse at St George's Hospital Hyde Park, 1939–45

Diana Blanche Bellenden Cooke (née Clarke): Recollections of her nursing career during and shortly after the Second World War


Eric Kennedy Cruickshank: Material pertaining to his time as a camp doctor in Changi POW camp during World War Two with some case notes, 1939–89

Letitia Fairfield (1885–1978): A little material including photographs re service in RAMC


Vernon F ('Sam') Hall (1904–1998): Account of the development of anaesthesia in the Far East Campaign

Lt-Col Desmond R Hanbury, IMS (1913–1996): maps, with notes, of Malaria Survey of Iran and Iraq, 1942–3, while he was serving with PAIFORCE, and some additional documentation relating to his career during the War

Harold Burnett Hewitt (b. 1915): biographical memoir includes wartime experiences in Army medical service, 1940s

Dr (Thomas) Rowland Hill (1903–1967): Notebooks compiled during RAMC service in Africa [1941–3], one admission details of troops in an unnamed military hospital, the other clinical notes, draft letters re patients and essay on 'malignant malaria in the army'

David Hutchison (b.1920): Tape memoirs include re RAF Medical Service in South East Asia

Dr Thomas Hunt (1901–1980): Diaries, notes, memoranda, etc., of service in West and North Africa, 1940–4, including charge of Medical Division of 96th General Hospital, and as Consultant Physician, Persia and Iraq Command (PAIFORCE), 1944–5

Kathleen Mary "Kay" Jackson: letters from India where she was working as a physiotherapist for India Command, 1943–46

Sister Margaret Lewis QAIMNS: memorabilia, correspondence and photos while serving in Egypt and North Africa, c. 1940–7

Medical Women's Federation: Accounts of service of some individual women doctors, including in prisoner of war camps; files on women doctors and war work, women doctors in the armed forces


Muriel "Molly" Newhouse (1912–2000): Memoir of her service in the RAMC during World War Two, including at the Normandy landings and later in India


Maurice Henry Pappworth (1910–1994): Papers include reminiscences of his time served in the RAMC, during which he rose to lieutenant colonel and saw service in North Africa, Italy and Greece, 1941–45

Richard Philips (b.1914): 'Prisoner Doctor', account of experiences as an RAF Medical Officer during the Japanese occupation of Indonesia, 1942–5
**Peggy Violet Rosenhain:** typescript memoir 'A Physiotherapist at War' concerning her service during World War II, and photographs with friends and colleagues

**Sir Ronald Bodley Scott (1906–1982):** Diary of RAMC service, 1941–3, with 43 General Hospital in the Middle East

**John Antoine Simons (1900–1971):** Memoirs of service as senior medical officer, 1 Tank Brigade, and later C.O., 220 Field Ambulance, in North Africa, Sicily and Italy

**Dr John Simpson:** papers relating to his war service in the Far East, including period as Prisoner of War in Java and Thailand, 1939–99

**David Stafford–Clark (1916–1999):** material, including diaries, relating to his service as medical officer in RAF, 1940–5

**Captain Archibald Mathison Stewart (1917–1985):** Papers relating to service in the Royal Army Medical Corps during World War Two, including some course notes, surgical case records and medical standing orders, c. 1938–45

**Robert James Stout (b.1917):** Notes and record cards of cases anaesthetised in Normandy, 1944, and Burma, 1945

**William F J M Thom (1915–2007):** photographs of DDT Airspray, Kaban Valley – Burma, 1944

**Bernard Williams (b.1910):** Casebook and photographs of No. 6 Field Surgical Unit, Middle East, 1942–3

**Cicely Delphine Williams (1893–1992):** Notes and memoirs of Changi Jail, Singapore, 1942–5

**Miscellaneous**

**Norman Ashton (1913–2000):** material re work as pathologist, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, 1941–5, includes correspondence with Central Medical War Committee, and on his service in the RAMC, 1946–7

**John Fulton Barr:** diaries of retired doctor of Unsworth, nr Sheffield, 1939–48

**Capt George Blair:** letters to him from his family, 1942–5, give some indication of life on the home front; his sister was Kitchen Supervisor at King’s Cross Hospital Dundee, and a female cousin was a doctor


**Sidney Chave (1914–1985):** Transcript of his 'War Diary' while with the Emergency Public Health Service, 1939–42

**Edward Elkan (1895–1983):** Memoir, “Sketches of My Life” includes account of being interned early in the War and medical work following his release

**Eugenics Society:** Correspondence and application forms re 'Homes in Canada', evacuation of children during World War II, also minutes

Now available online as part of the [Codebreakers: Makes of Modern Genetics](https://www.bl.uk/science/content/2022/03/codebreakers-makes-of-modern-genetics-digitisation-project) digitisation project

**Harrison-Howell Blood Transfusion Collection:** memorabilia, photographs, and ephemera relating to blood transfusion and donation, including the Army Blood Supply Depot

**Peter Karl Lewin (b. 1935):** Memoir, 'A Chameleon of Sorts: Autobiographical Vignettes', includes account of his adolescence in Alexandria, Egypt, during World War II and his father’s medical war work

**Sir Thomas Lewis (1881–1945):** files as First Aid Commandant, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, 1938–42
Major John Percy Litt, RAMC (1887–1947): material, including photographs, relating to service in Turkey and the Caucasus, 1918–23, and letter on release from service in 1945

George Cuthbert Mura M’Gonigle: His papers include material on Air Raid Precautions, 1939


Melville Douglas Mackenzie: author of Medical Relief in Europe (1944); letters to his family during period when he was working for UNRRA, 1943–7

Guy Frederick Marrian: letters from his wife and daughters during evacuation to Canada, 1940–3, and related documents; a little material relating to his Home Guard activities

Louisa Martindale: papers as President of the Medical Women's International Association during World War II

Brenda Morrison (b.1916): Memoir of her education and career, 1933–56, covers World War II

Frederick Parkes Weber (1863–1962): Notes, cuttings, etc on fascism and World War II (including problems of the German Hospital, London)

Prof Thomas Parsons (1892–1961): Air raid precautions and civil defence notices, World War II

Pioneer Health Centre, Peckham: Some material on the evacuation of Centre members during the War, 1939–45

Hugo Rast (1891–1982): Swiss national domiciled in UK: material on German Hospital during World II, including bomb damage; neutral member of Mixed Medical Commission inspecting Prisoner of War and civilian internee camps under Geneva Convention, 1941–5

Reminiscences of London Medical Students, 1930s–1950s: Letters and personal accounts, 2002–6, several of which cover the war years

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene: Files relating to Prisoners of War and Internees: subscription problems and member/fellowship status, 1942–5; war damage of its premises in Portland Place, rationing, etc, 1940–52; telegrams from Moscow scientists re crimes of German doctors, 1944

Alice Mary Stewart (1906–2002): A little material relating to her work on industrial health issues relating to war productivity, 1940s

Wellcome Historical Medical Museum: Effects of World War II on staffing and operations generally of the Museum, Official History of War, 1939–49

Robert George Ranyard West (1900–1986): Diary notes, correspondence and writings re his conscientious objection during World War II

See Medical Archives and Manuscripts Survey for relevant material in other London repositories. 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 http://wellcomelibrary.org/node265.html. For material on military hospitals in the Wellcome Library see sources leaflet Hospitals: Military and Naval

Impact of War on local medical services and health provision can be seen in Medical Officer of Health reports: MOH Reports for London are available online: London’s Pulse: Medical Officer of Health reports 1848-1972

http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/

Attention is also drawn to the Moving Image and Sound Collection playlist of films relating to war, most of which are from World War II