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A Trilogy of Refection: Military Medicine

Major Brendan Wood¹

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Abstract

Evolution of military healthcare can be measured by the milestones marking the progressive engagement in combat from World War I to the contemporary operations in Afghanistan. During each conflict, a specific and often salient evolution can be recognised and attributed to that time and place. The ANZAC's have stood side by side in each of these conflicts, often contributed to the advancement of military medicine. Military conflict has taken place during every year of the 20th Century. There were only short periods of time that the world has been free of war. The total number of deaths caused by war during the 20th Century has been estimated at over 187 million.

This calendar of events commences with World War One (1914-1918) to the Second World War (1939-1945). Followed by the Korean War (1950-1953), the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), The Vietnam War (1963-1975). The Gulf War (1990-1991), the War in Afghanistan (2001-2014) which concluded a century of conflict and service. A trilogy of posters will explore the Medicine, the Medic and the Art of Military Medicine in a pictorial portrayal of significant events.

The Medicine: The WW1 saw the evolution of Triage, the introduction of X-ray, and the introduction of Physiological medicine. WWII commence the journey of global access to antibiotic, delivery system for pain relief by combat soldiers and access to Blood. Forward surgery in an M.A.S.H. and the use of the helicopter for evacuation was the hallmark of the Korean War. The "Golden Hour" of resuscitation the controversial evolution of the Vietnam conflict. The Gulf War had forces configured for the management of casualties resulting from the use of chemical weapons, while the signature weapon of the Afghanistan campaign, the improvised explosive device (IED), necessitated the reintroduction of the tourniquet, hemostatic agents and hypotensive resuscitation.

Where possible, the involvement of ANZAC's in the evolution will be identified and explored.

Biography

Brendan has been a member of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for over 35 years and hold the rank of Major in the RNZAMC. Brendan currently serve's in the NZ Army Reserve.

Brendan commenced his practice as a paramedic and ambulance sector manager in 1990, gaining his Advance Care certificate in 1996. He is trained as an Intensive Care Paramedic and is employed in 2014 by the Auckland University of Technology as a Programme Leader and Senior Lecturer. Brendan holds a BHSc (Paramedicine), a Grad Dip in Emergency Management and a Post Grad Cert in Education and a Post Gard Diploma in Health Science.

Brendan currently serves on the National Clinical Governance Committee of St John New Zealand.

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A Trilogy of Refection: The Art of Military Medicine

Major Brendan Wood¹

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Abstract

Evolution of military healthcare can be measured by the milestones marking the progressive engagement in combat from World War I to the contemporary operations in Afghanistan. During each conflict, a specific and often salient evolution can be recognised and attributed to that time and place. The ANZAC's have stood side by side in each of these conflicts, often contributed to the advancement of military medicine. Military conflict has taken place during every year of the 20th Century. There were only short periods of time that the world has been free of war. The total number of deaths caused by war during the 20th Century has been estimated at over 187 million.

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of conflict and service. A trilogy of posters will explore the Medicine, the Medic and the Art of Military Medicine in a pictorial portrayal of significant events.

The Art of Military Medicine: The glorification of War has often been the theme of Military Art. However, occasionally, the work and compassion of military medics and the suffering, devastation and personal cost of combat is captured by War artists. This poster will explore the art of military medicine with a small number of representations. From Horace Moore-Jones portrayal of Simpson (Henderson) and his Donkey to John Weeks "the ambulance paintings", to Peter McIntyre's Forward Dressing Station. Matt Gaudie's painting to commemorate the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps centennial captures the medic in contemporary operations. These paintings and others will highlight the evolution of military health care from the Armistice (or just before) to Afghanistan.

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A Trilogy of Refection: The Medic

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Abstract

A trilogy of refection: The Medic.

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The Medic: In each conflict, the enlisted personnel of the medical services have been the unsung heroes of first-line care. From Simpson and Henderson of Gallipoli, the Stretcher Bearers of the Somme and Passendale, the medivac medics of Vietnam to the Gallantry and loss of life in Afghanistan. The bravery and commitment of the men and women who are our combat medics will be explored.

The equipment, weapons and protection afforded them has evolved at each stage of the journey in 20th-century combat and will be portrayed in this conference poster presentation.

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