

5. V.D. at WAR

Venereal disease and war have been partners in misery since pre-history. In general, armies of occupation and armies demobilizing have the highest rates of infection.

5.1 EARLY WARS

The poet Horace tells of the 'shameful disease' of Cleopatra's soldiers.

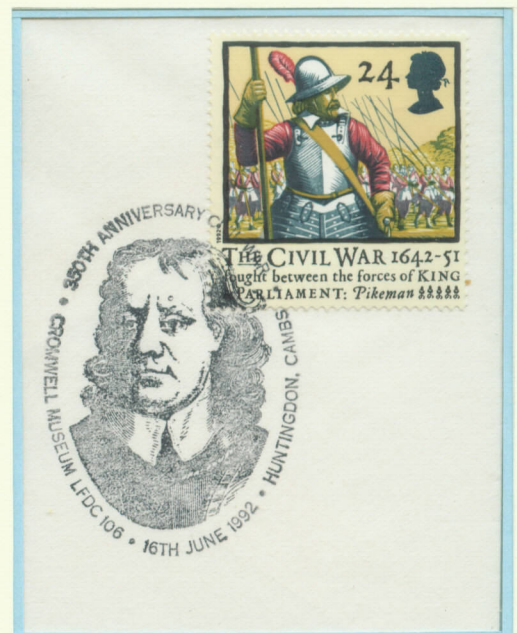


^ English Watermark
< Arabic Watermark

Fifteen hundred years later, the fall of Constantinople and the search for new trade routes East, continuing wars with the Moors, and Europe's own internal wars, revolutions, civil and religious strife all contributed to the frequent spread of venereal diseases.

...loot, pillage, and rape...

A good example is Cromwell's invasion of Scotland which resulted in a major epidemic of syphilis in the north.



5.2 EARLY WARS

VD was no stranger to the British Navy during the age of sail ...

... who until 1794 charged a 'surgeon's fee' of 15' to those seeking treatment for VD.



Napoleon's dream of a Middle Eastern empire was ruined at sea by this same British Navy commanded by Admiral Nelson and ashore by a particularly virulent epidemic of syphilis in Egypt.



LE CAIRE Letter dated 23 Fluviere (1801) to Semenov
Official Cachet of Comm.re des Guerres du Bureau Central Administratif

Philip V of Spain turned loose the whores of Madrid on the besieging English Army to infect them ...

V.D. was no stranger to the new United States of America ...

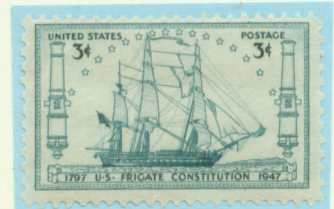


... the city still fell.

1778 - Continental Congress passed bill making members of Continental Army financially liable for V.D. treatment.



War of 1812 - Commonest diseases on the U.S.S. CONSTITUTION's sick list were syphilis & gonorrhoea.



5.1 EARLY WARS

Soldiers on garrison duty were particularly prone to contract VD from camp followers and local prostitutes.

General Lazare Carnot, when in command of the Armée du Nord, complained that the local women caused far more casualties for his troops than enemy fire ever did.



BAU PRINCIPAL ARM. DU NORD Docketed Fort de Liekenshoek 9 Octobre 1809
Red Receiving Mark of Paris 13 Octobre 1809

The 1830 French invasion of Algiers and the subsequent conflicts in North Africa provided new sources of VD for French soldiers & sailors until final French withdrawal in late 1950s.



ARMÉE EXPÉDITIONNAIRE D'AFRIQUE Letter docketed 24 May 1833 Received NIORT 3 Juin 1833
Purifié à Toulon (Disinfection was not for VD.) Due 10 centimes upon arrival.

5.2 NINETEENTH CENTURY WARS

Syphilis was a major problem for invading French and British forces during the Crimean War ...

In June 1855, Lord Raglan (Fitzroy Somerset) Commander in Chief of British forces, died of the mysterious 'Crimean disease' probably a combination of syphilis and cholera.



Free Frank Signature, Fitzroy Somerset, FREE 2 July 1839

... until a cholera epidemic resulted in a 50% casualty rate for the invaders !



Cancelled "48" upon arrival London
AP 20 1855
British Army Post Office
AP 7 1855 Index B

QUARTIER GENERAL
ARMEE D'ORIENT 4 SEPT 1855
AOQG in Lozange
Letter headed
"Devant Sebastopol"

... but of the heroic
defenders, we know little.



5.2 NINETEENTH CENTURY WARS

A significant and well-documented rise in the V.D. infection rate of the French Army in 1864-65 is readily attributed to the ill-fated expedition to Mexico.

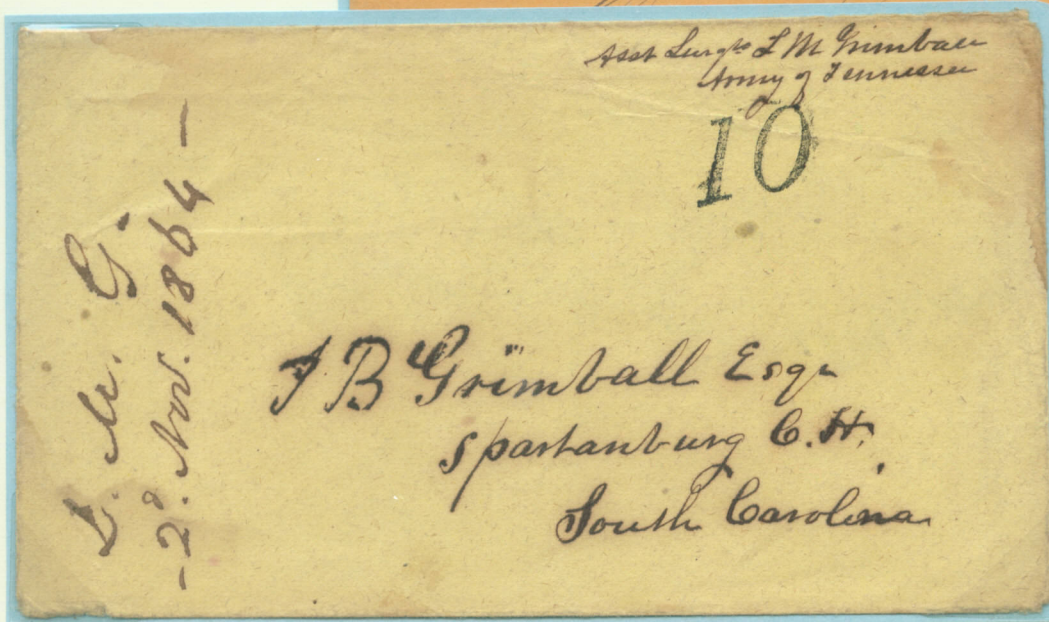


Mexican records are non-existent.



CORPS EXP. MEXIQUE 27 JUIL. 64 CEM A in Lozengé

During the U.S. Civil War, approximately 20% of all combatants were infected with V.D. Union and Confederate medical officers had little to offer those who contracted V.D.



Nashville, Tenn
(Union Occupation)
Sep 22 ca. 1862
3 cents per 1/2 oz.

Docketed Nov 2 1864
10 cents per 1/2 oz

Asst. Surgeon L.M. Grimball, Army of Tennessee, was probably near Johnsonville, Tenn as part of Gen. Hood's army when mailing this letter. Most all of Tennessee was Union occupied in late 1864.

5.2 NINETEENTH CENTURY WARS

Frederick Fellingner, Company A, 54th New York Infantry, was discharged from the Union Army on April 29, 1862 from the Cairo Hospital for secondary syphilis.

CERTIFICATE

TO BE GIVEN TO VOLUNTEERS AT THE TIME OF THEIR DISCHARGE TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE THEIR PAY, &c.

I CERTIFY, on honor, that *Frederick Fellingner (says), a private* of Captain *King* Company (A) of the *54* Regiment of *Infantry* Volunteers, of the State of *New York*, born in *Coblenz*, State of *Germany*, aged *34* years; *five* feet *eleven* inches high: *light* complexion, *gray* eyes, *low* hair, and by occupation a *Engineer*, having joined the company on its original organization at *New York*, and enrolled in it at the muster into the service of the United States at *New York*, on the *fifteenth* day of *July*, 1861, (or was mustered in service as a recruit, by *Capt. King*, at *New York*, on the *first* day of *September*, 1861, to serve in the Regiment) for the term of *three years*: and having served honestly and faithfully with his Company in *Germany*, to the present date, is now entitled to a discharge by reason of *secondary Syphilis*.

The said *Frederick Fellingner (says)* was last paid by Paymaster to include the *31* day of *Dec*, 1861, and has pay due him from that time to the present date, and also pay for the use of his horse, (having been mounted during the time,) and he is entitled to pay and subsistence for traveling to place of enrolment and whatever other allowances are authorized to volunteer soldiers, or militia, so discharged. He has received *seven* dollars advanced by the United States on account of clothing. 100

There is to be stopped from him, on account of the State of _____, or other authorities, for clothing, &c., received on entering service, 100 dollars; also, for expenses of subsistence for traveling from place of enrolment to the place of rendezvous, amounting to 100 dollars; and on account of the United States for extra clothing received in kind from _____ and for other stoppages, viz:

amounting to 100 dollars; and he has been subsisted for traveling to his place of enrolment, up to the 186. He is indebted to _____, *Wm*, 50 dollars. 100 dollars. GIVEN in duplicate, at *Camp Harp*, this *29th* day of *April*, 1862. By *Command of the Provost Marshal* *John* _____ *abt. Surg. 2050* *in Charge of Harp* _____ Commanding Company.

NOTE.—Two of these certificates, (or duplicates,) are to be given to each volunteer soldier who may be discharged previously to the discharge of his company, that he may at once receive from the Paymaster the pay, &c., due him, and the captain or other officer commanding the company, will certify to the act of the delivery of the duplicate certificates; on these certificates the Soldier is "entitled to" his discharge, and should also present his discharge to the Paymaster to have the payment endorsed on it. The discharge is to be given back to the Soldier, by the Paymaster;—the latter only retaining as his voucher the duplicate certificates.

15

5.2 NINETEENTH CENTURY WARS

Theophile Gautier (1811-1872) writes in graphic detail in *Lettres a la Presidente* of the various venereal diseases that infected the French Army during the occupation of Rome in 1856.

...there is a splendid American pox here, as pure as at the time of Francis I. The entire French Army has been laid up with it; boils are exploding in groins like shells, and purulent jets of clap vie with the fountains ...



CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE D'ITALIE 1. DIVISION 13 SEPT 1856
Due 30 centimes upon arrival

The British continued to have massive problems with V.D. both at home and overseas ...

In 1890 the infection rate in the Navy peaked at 157 per 1000.

1895 - out of 68,331 British soldiers stationed in India, 36,881 hospital cases of V.D. were reported - an amazing 53% infection rate!



H.M.S. SWINGER in Australian waters
2d Sailors Concession Rate
New South Wales postage
canceled London on arrival AU 17 1890



BENARES 11 DEC 1895
1 anna Soldiers Rate to England
Transit Mark SEAPOST OFFICE B Dec 14
Received STAMFORD Dec 28

5.3 WORLD WAR I

At the start of the War, the German Army had the lowest VD infection rate of any major army. As the War progressed, infection rates increased; initial treatment was usually at a Feldlazarett,



... Sanitary Depots and Hospitals also treated VD.

FELDLAZARETT 107
15 Jan 1918 Feldpost



PR. ETAPPEN SANITÄTSDEPOT ARMEEGRUPPE WOYRSOH (WARSAW)
Feldpoststationen Nr. 146 19-1-1915 Captured Russian stamps not required.

The Italian Army's campaigns throughout the War and especially in and during the occupation of Libya resulted in a major increase in venereal infection rates.



Censored upon arrival in Milan - Censor Tape on Reverse -
POSTA MILITARE VERIFICATO PER CENSURA No.4

5.3 WORLD WAR I

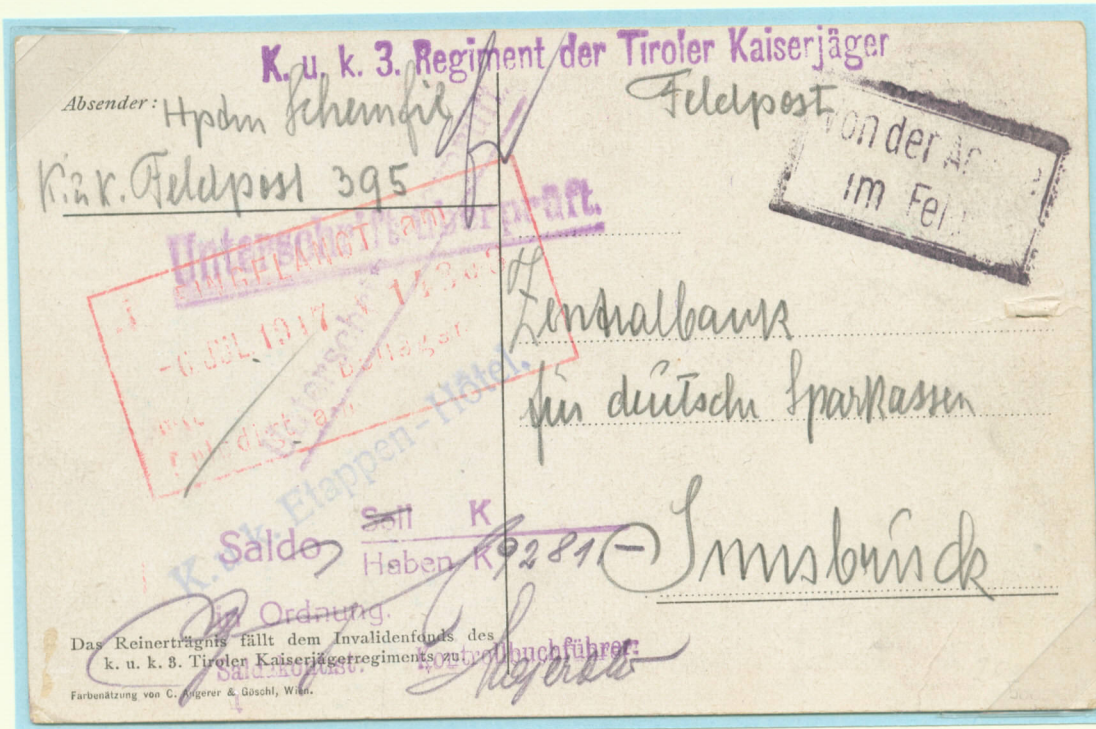
V.D. became a major problem for the Austro-Hungarian Army as the war progressed.

The First Army established and maintained a special hospital for V.D. cases.



8 March 1917 Zentralspital für Ven. u. Syph. der 1. Armee.
Kolozvar (Hungary) 9 Mar 1917 (now Cluj, Romania)

Mobile or field bordellos that serviced rest camps (Etappen-Hotel) contributed to the V.D. problem.

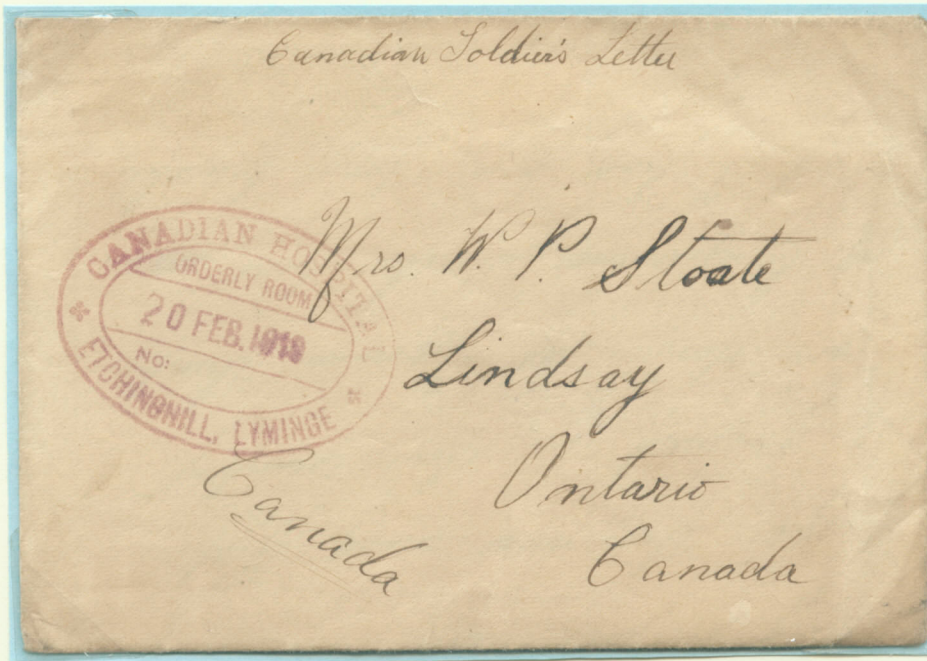


Von der Armee im Feld / Feldpost 395 / K.u.k. 3. Regiment der Tiroler Kaiserjäger
K.u.k. Etappen-Hotel
Boxed Square Receiving mark indicates that card received at Bank on 6 July 1917
Lower marking (Saldo) indicates that the writer had a balance of Kroner 9281 in his account.

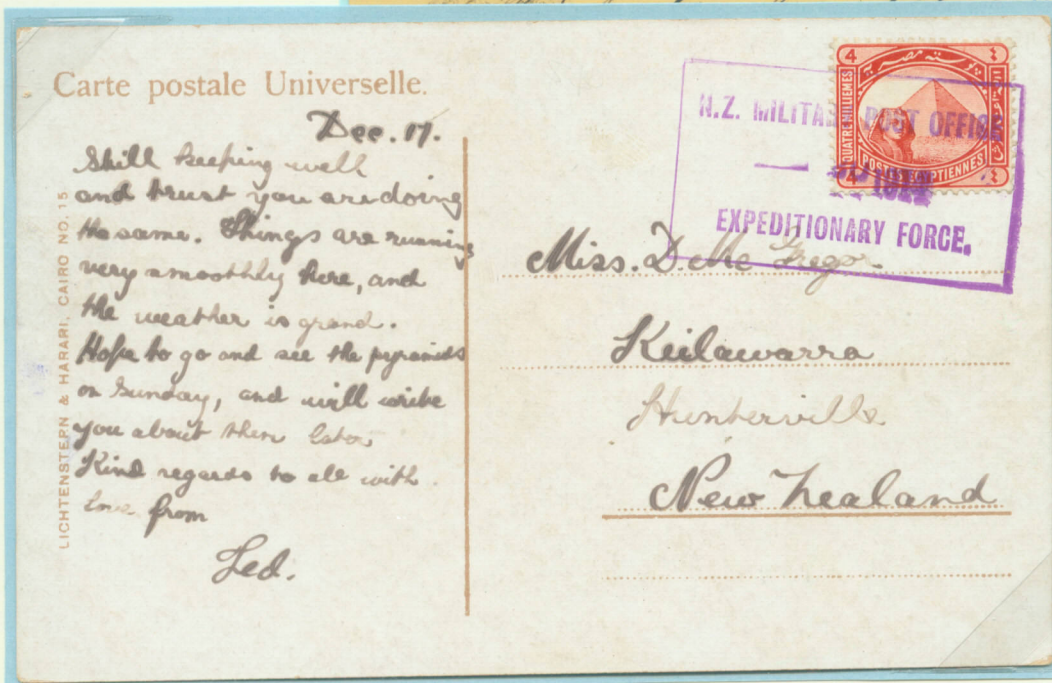
5.3 WORLD WAR I (cont'd)

Commonwealth countries handled the venereal problem in a variety of ways.

The Canadian Army maintained a large specialized VD hospital at Etchinghill, Lyminge.



ANZAC troops who contracted VD, a major problem in Egypt, were normally sent home in disgrace instead of to the front lines.

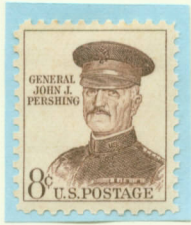


On Active Service
6th Training Battalion,
Australian Expeditionary Force
(in Egypt) 2/7/15

N.Z. MILITARY POST OFFICE
— — 1914
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

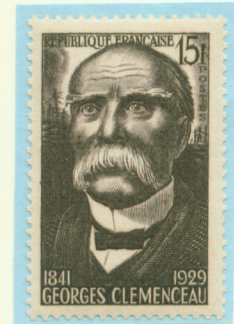
5.3 WORLD WAR I

By summer 1917, the British had 23,000 men in the hospital with VD; the French Army had over 1 million cases of VD since the start of the War. Gen. Pershing was determined that VD not affect the American Expeditionary Force.

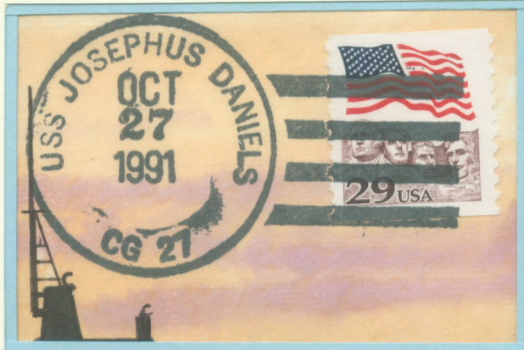


Pershing's General Order #77 placed French houses of prostitution 'off-limits' for AEF troops.

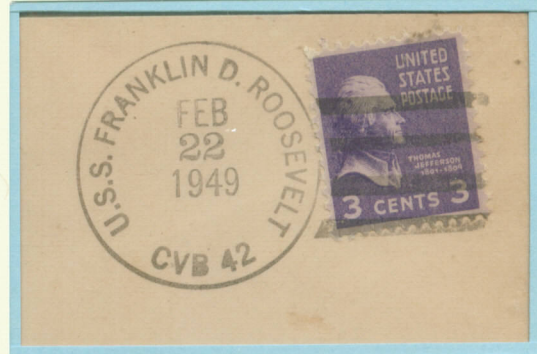
Prime Minister George Clemenceau protested...



Prophylaxis was mandatory for U.S. soldiers; pro kits were banned from U.S. Navy by Sec. of Navy Josephus Daniels as *immoral* but later approved by Ass't Sec. of Navy Franklin Roosevelt when Daniels was on vacation.

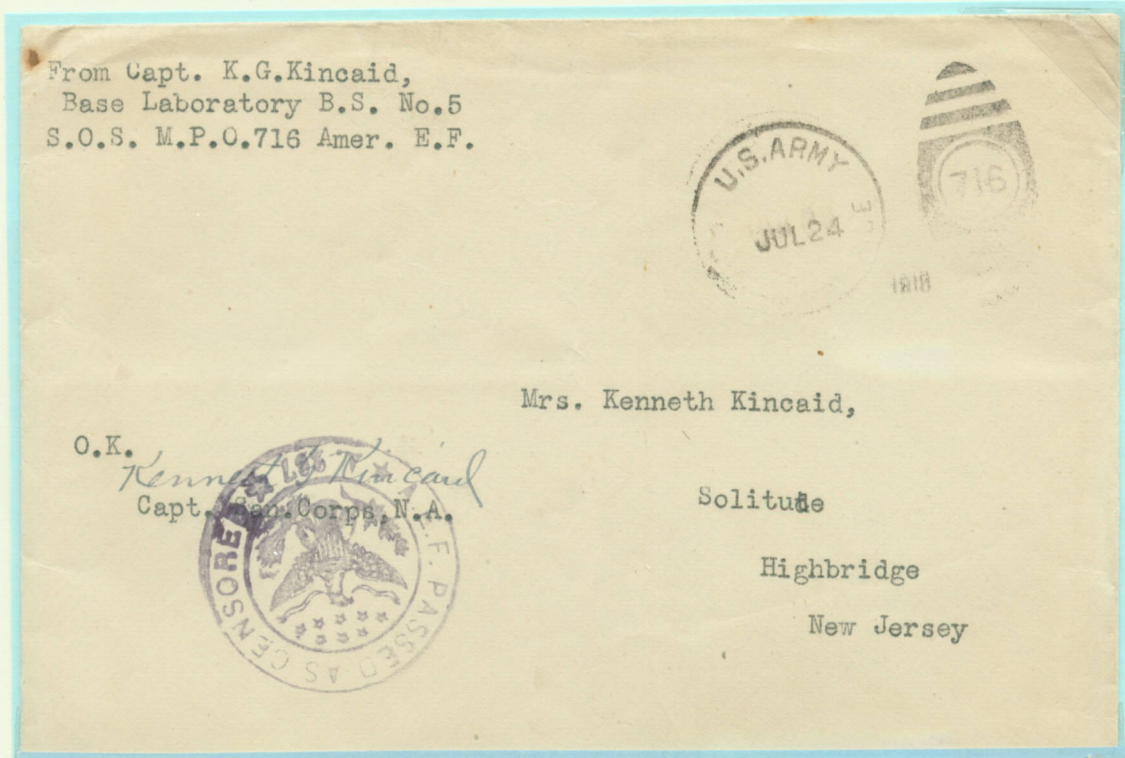


USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS CG-27



USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT CVB-42

APO 716 handled mail for Base Laboratory No.5 and the VD Camp at Kerhoun. The Base Laboratory handled a variety of medical tests including serological testing for syphilis.



5.3 WORLD WAR I

The value of venereal prophylaxis was finally recognized and prevented many cases of V.D. during and immediately after the War.

Pvt. Louis A Griffith was treated at General Hospital #32 in Chicago, IL after a night on the town in 1919.

Prophylactic stations were established for AEF troops throughout Paris and other French cities.

VENEREAL PROPHYLAXIS

Name *Griffith Louis A.*
(Surname) (Given name.)

Rank *Pvt.*

Company _____

Regiment or Staff Corps } *Med. Det.*

Date of exposure* *June 10*, 191*9*

Hour of exposure* *12 M.*

Date of treatment *June 10*, 191*9*

Hour of treatment *1 A.M.*

Signature of attendant:
E. Peters
Rec. Sta., U. S. Army.

* As given by the patient at the time of treatment.

STATION OR COMMAND
G. H. #32
Chicago
Ill.

Form 77
 MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, U. S. ARMY
 (Authorized Feb. 15, 1915.)

C3-3784

PROPHYLACTIC STATIONS

The value of venereal prophylaxis for the prevention of disease has been proven.

STATIONS

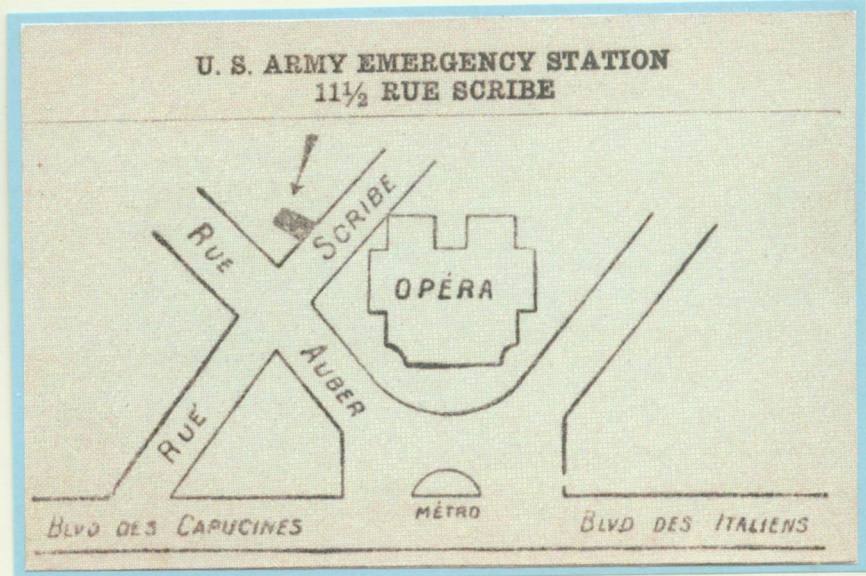
11½ Rue Scribe
 Alexandria Hotel, 29 Blvd. Bourdon
 Bosquet Barracks, 59 Ave. Bosquet
 72 Rue Flandre
 Y. M. C. A. Hotel, 31 Rue de l'Echequer
 88 Avenue des Champs Elysees
 P. L. M. Shops, Rue Charolais
 10 Rue Ste. Anne
 Casual Hotel, 71 Blvd. Pereire.

Diagram on opposite side indicates the most central station.

(OVER)

C.P.P., A.E.F., 3335, 2-28-19-300M

Copy of Reverse Side



5.3 WORLD WAR I

The YMCA provided a variety of recreational services and educational pamphlets for doughboys at home and overseas to keep them from participating in any sexual recreation and catching VD.



Y. M. C. A. Buildings are Open to You!

to write that letter HOME TO MOTHER,
ask for paper, envelopes, pens, ink, etc.

IS FREE, AND LOTS OF IT!

Stamps at actual cost and if you desire it, you can
have them "licked" for you.

You.



COME IN,

TRY IT OUT!



COPY - But who "licked" the stamp ???
Cancelled: Louisville, Ky. Taylor Branch Nov 19, 1918

5.3 WORLD WAR I

The massive demobilization right after WW I required Surgeon General Rupert Blue, USPHS, to address the physicians of the USA concerning the problems of VD in this form letter and circular.



OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

IN REPLYING
ADDRESS THE SURGEON GENERAL
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF
THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
WASHINGTON

December 26, 1918

To the Physicians of the Country:

There is danger of an alarming spread of venereal



Unfortunately, Dr. John Norris received his copy rather late ...

Letter dated December 26, 1918
Received- Chicago, Ill. Feb 21, 1919
Warm Springs, Tex. Apr 8, 1919
Waco, Tex. McArthur Br. Apr 10, 1919
Forwarded to Brock, Texas

... is awaited with interest.

... tfully,

Rupert Blue
Surgeon General

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
DIVISION OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

AN APPEAL TO PHYSICIANS FOR COOPERATION IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST VENEREAL DISEASES.

The war turned the spotlight on many things heretofore neglected or avoided. No disclosures were more startling than those showing the destructive inroads of venereal disease on the health and efficiency of the Army and Navy.

From the time the United States entered the war in April, 1917, to September, 1918, the loss to the Army from venereal disease represented 2,295,000 days of service.

Now the war is over!

The Nation is on its way to a peace basis.

Interest begins to turn from the fighting efficiency of the Army to the reconstructive power of industry; and as it turns, this striking fact stands out: **All venereal diseases in the Army were caused by conditions in civilian life. The Army and Navy, as organizations, do not tolerate prostitution.**

TESTIMONY OF THE ARMY.

Immediately following the declaration of war, the Army Medical venereal disease sized by its Surg case must be tre vision until cure points.

1. The ineff use of s
2. The dang treat so

Nineteen mon the value of pr cases in the Arm

MAINTAI

For the prote return home, an efficiency, venere lation mu necessity t the servic

R

Physici of protect their best disease cas medical o The respo Each m understand

Clause 3 on the postal card inclosed applies only to the dispensing of those medicines pre such medicine offices or in cl which have o diseases with

It is felt gerous. Drug stores are consenting to discontinue their sale and are agreeing to direct to competent physicians all customers who call for venereal disease remedies without a physician's prescription.

Pledge card for MD's to properly treat VD.

made that a majority of physicians refuse to treat venereal diseases, and that many of those who do treat them are careless in their methods of treatment.

This is probably one reason for the continued spread and existence of venereal disease, for which the medical profession must assume responsibility. As a result of the refusal by a large part of the profession to give the problem proper study and attention, venereal diseases have become a headliner for quackery and self-treatment, neither of which is safe or effective.

Venereal disease is a scourge which menaces the industrial efficiency of the Nation, and the United States Public Health Service believes that physicians should understand the seriousness of the situation

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
RETURN AFTER FIVE DAYS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
DIVISION OF VENEREAL DISEASES

228 FIRST STREET NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SPECIAL

ent be permitted to venereal disease infec-

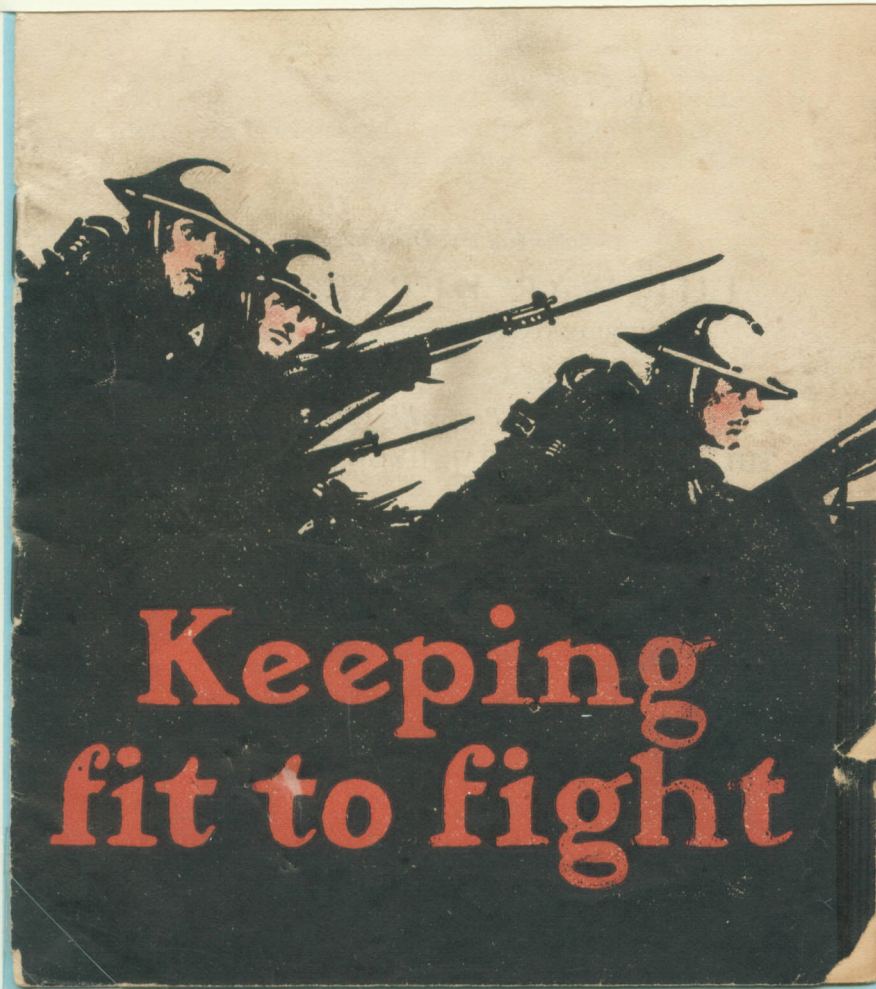
profession to these ques- whether venereal dis- tion are to be brought

RUPERT BLUE,
Surgeon General.

ic Health Service.

5.3 WORLD WAR I

A wide variety of pamphlets were produced that warned of the dangers of loose women, whores, and V.D.



others—boys and girls, men and women—to avoid misery. Self-interest, decency, patriotism, regard for others, all demand clean manhood.

In Case of Exposure

If a soldier yields to temptation and "falls for" a whore or a loose girl, he must take early (prophylactic) treatment.

He ought to take it as soon as possible—within two or three hours after exposure.

By taking this early treatment he will greatly decrease his chances of getting gonorrhoea, syphilis or chancroid.

If he fails to take it and later develops a venereal disease, he will be court-martialed for disobeying General Order No. 17 of 1912.

If in spite of early treatment venereal disease develops, his pay will be stopped during the time he is off duty.

The Government regards sexual intercourse as unnecessary and diseases contracted thereby as not in the line of duty.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE
WHORES

15

COPY 80% Reduction

Corporal E.B. Coyle either read and paid attention to the advice above or received prophylaxis in time. Soldiers who were not VD free were not returned to the U.S. with their units but were detained until cured.

Infirmery, Camp No. 3,
Post Montierchaume,
APO 738, AEF, France.

CERTIFICATE OF PHYSICAL INSPECTION.

1. I certify that I have this date (4/28) 1919)
examined (Coyle E.B. Cpl. Co A 55th Regt)

and found him not affected with any venereal disease infection or contagious disease.

TCL/b

T.C. Liddell
T.C. Liddell.
Capt., M.C., U.S.A.

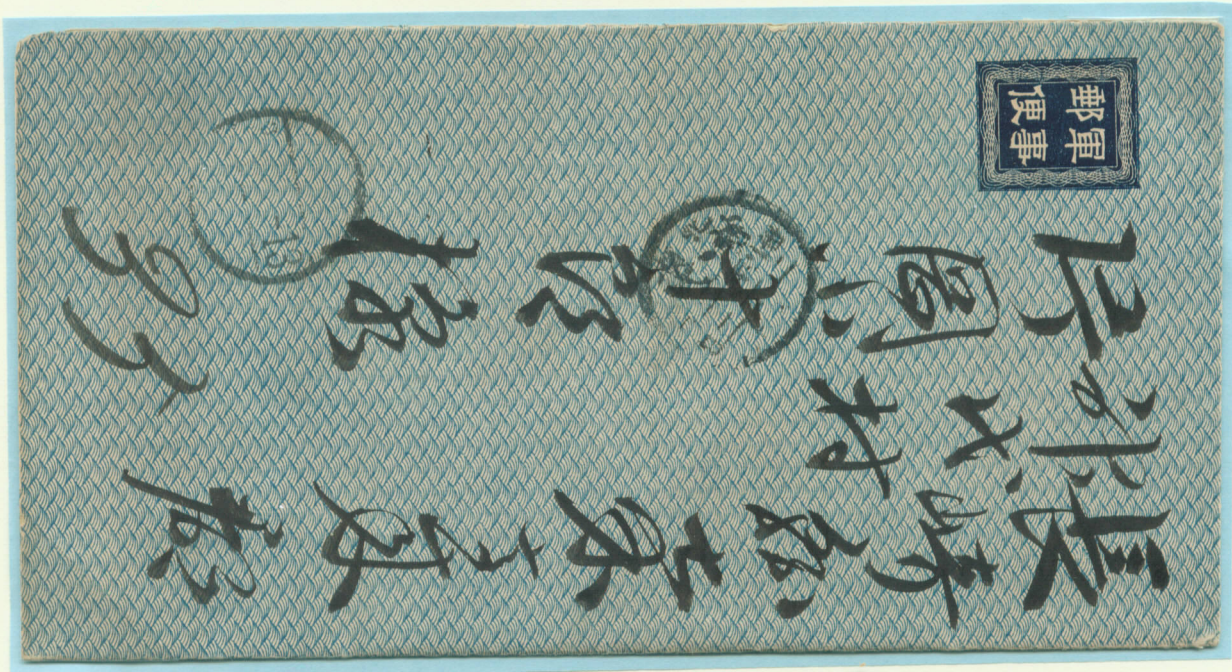
5.4 FAR EASTERN WARS

During the Russo-Japanese War ...

M. Trepow M.D., Head Doctor of the 53rd Principle Reserve and who mailed this letter while on active duty in Vladivostok, had little to offer his troops who suffered a **reported** infection rate of 60 per 1000. The rate is suspiciously low since carloads of prostitutes were shipped East into exile for the gratification of the troops.



Whereas the Japanese soldier who used this letter sheet would have had access to brothels inspected and controlled by the Army to reduce the V.D. infection rates.



5.4 THE FAR EAST

Promiscuous soldiers and sailors contributed to high VD rates during long deployments in the Far East.

VD was no stranger to French forces in Viet Nam from 1890 onward.



HOPITAL D'HAIPHONG CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG 6 DEC 1888

By the time of American involvement, penicillin resistant strains of gonorrhoea were common in Southeast Asia.



QUAN-BUU (MILITARY POST), VIET NAM SEP 11, 1974
From Postal Sector (KBC = Khu Buu Chin) 3338
to SaDec in Mekong Delta



A World Health Organization study conducted at the end of the Viet Nam War showed four of five South Vietnamese soldiers had been infected with VD.

