Canadian physicians, surgeons and medicine in the First World War: Les médecins, les chirurgiens et la médecine à la Première Guerre mondiale

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Doctors attending to patients at Casualty Clearing Station near Arras. Advance East of Arras. August, 1918. Canada. Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-040217

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**Scope Note**

This resource list was created to mark the centenary of the First World War, to recognize the contributions of Canadian physicians and surgeons to the war effort, and as an aid to researchers interested in the relationships between medicine, surgery, and war. The list is mainly limited to items by or about the experiences of Canadian physicians and surgeons in the Great War, the diseases and injuries they encountered, and the effects of war on Canadian medicine and surgery. The resources listed range from those published at the time of the Great War until the present.

The resources are categorized into different formats: journal articles, books, online resources (websites, blogs, other web-based social media), and organizations and scholars. Wherever possible, links to freely available sources are included.

The books listed include in- and out-of-print books with links to WorldCat, where library holdings can easily be checked. The booklist is selective; in particular many more biographies have been written about Canadian physicians and surgeons who went to war.

Journal articles are a significant resource, and are particularly valuable since many journals have been digitized and are easily and fully searchable. The majority of articles listed are from *The Canadian Medical Association Journal*, and were written in wartime. They are available in full text at PubMed Central, the US National Library of Medicine journal archive, and links are provided.

The online resources listed are primarily specific to medicine and surgery, but include selected more general websites about war and Canadian society. A few items apply to other countries as well as Canada.

The list is selective rather than comprehensive, but efforts have been made to collect as many important resources as possible, in a variety of formats. Although time did not permit any subject analysis, we hope this list will provide a useful starting point for all those interested in the Great War. For additional information, please contact the list creators.

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Article List

1914 – 1925


Archibald EA. A Brief Survey of Some Experiences in the Surgery of the Present War. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1916 Sep; 6(9): 775-795 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1584701, PMID: 20310835

Archibald E. Abdominal Wounds as seen at a Casualty Clearing Station. Can Med Assoc J. 1917 April; 7(4): 298–306. PMCID: PMC1584869


Armstrong GE. The Influence of the War on Surgery, Civil and Military. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1919 May; 9(5): 396-405 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1523583, PMID: 20311261

Baker HW. The Treatment of Infected Wounds with Dichloramine-T with special Reference to its Advantages over the Carrol-Dakin Method. Can Med Assoc J. 1918 September; 8(9): 805–823. PMCID: PMC1585227


Connell WT. The Returned Soldier. Can Med Assoc J. 1918 September; 8(9): 797–804. PMCID: PMC1585229


Correspondence From the Seat of War. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1916 Jan; 6(1): 75-79 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1584496, PMID: 20310742

Correspondence from the Seat of War. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1916 Feb; 6(2): 158-160 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1584566, PMID: 20310750


Correspondence from the seat of war. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1916 Jun; 6(6): 562-564 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1584633, PMID: 20310807

Correspondence from the seat of war: No. 3 Canadian General Hospital, McGill. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1915 Oct; 5(10): 930-932 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1584509, PMID: 20310704

Crile GW. Treatment of Four Hundred and Twenty Infected Wounds under Battle Conditions arriving on the Average of Fifty-Eight and one-third Hours after Injury, without previous Surgical Treatment. Can Med Assoc J. 1918 November; 8(11): 961–965. PMCID: PMC1585460

Demobilization of the medical officers. Can Med Assoc J. 1919 March; 9(3): 258. PMCID: PMC1523758


Finley FG. Medical Work at a Base Hospital in France. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1916 Aug; 6(8): 692-694 PMCID: PMC1584648, PMID: 20310822


Gwyn NB. Notes from the Service for Wounds of the Chest Can Med Assoc J. 1919 August; 9(8): 02–708. PMCID: PMC1523520


History of the Great War, Based on Official Documents. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1923 Feb; 13(2): 145 PMCID: PMC1706919


Malloch TA. Correspondence From the Seat of War. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1915 Nov; 5(11): 1030-1040 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1584529, PMID: 20310711


Medical Research and the War. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1916 Dec; 6(12): 1108-1111 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1584687, PMID: 20310884


News, Army Medical. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1918 Dec; 8(12): 1130-1133 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1585481


Official History of the War--Medical Services--Vols I and II; Hygiene of the War--Documents. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1923 Aug; 13(8): 622 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1707136


Pathology of Skin Lesions from Mustard Gas. Can Med Assoc J. 1918 August; 8(8): 750–752. PMCID: PMC1585306

Paul HE. Bone Suppuration the Basic Cause of Renal Calculus in Twenty Cases following War-Wounds. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1922 Sep; 12(9): 638-643 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1524614, PMID: 20314195


Primrose A. Disabilities, including Injuries, caused by Bullets, Shrapnel, High Explosives, etc, as illustrated by cases examined before a medical board at Canadian Headquarters, Shorncliffe, England Can Med Assoc J. 1915 October; 5(10): 853–866. PMCID: PMC1584525


The great war exhibit at the Royal College of Surgeons. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1918 Jan; 8(1): 52-55 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1585018, PMID: 20311047


The medical history of the war. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1923 Feb; 13(2): 144-145 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1706899


The war: Extracts from letter written by Captain G. Shanks, No. 1 British General Hospital in Mesopotamia. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1918 Jan; 8(1): 76-77 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1585017, PMID: 20311052


War Surgery. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1916 Sep; 6(9): 825-827 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1584700, PMID: 20310840


Williams EJ. Malaria in the army. Can Med Assoc J. 1918 June; 8(6): 523–529. PMCID: PMC1585184

Williams EJ. Gunshot wounds of the present war. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1916 Dec; 6(12): 1057-1062 PMC [article] PMCID: PMC1584670, PMID: 20310874

Williams EJ. The return of the army medical officer. Can Med Assoc J. 1919 March; 9(3): 221–222. PMCID: PMC1523771

Wright HP. Suggestions for a further Classification of cases of so-called Shell Shock. Can Med Assoc J. 1917 July; 7(7): 629–635. PMCID: PMC1584938


1938 – 2014


Edward, ML. Dr. Mary serves at the front. Maclean's, 01/01/2000, Vol. 112, Issue 52


McCrae's war medals stay in Canada. CMAJ. 1997 December 1; 157(11): 1501. PMCID: PMC1228533


Book List

Biography and Memoirs


Tennyson, BD. (2013). The Canadian experience of the Great War: A guide to memoirs. [WorldCat]
This book is the first attempt to identify all of the published accounts of First World War experiences by Canadian veterans. Accounts by 40 physicians are listed.

That you'll remember me: From one of the Canadian Army Medical Corps. (1920). S.I: Canadian Army Medical Corps. [WorldCat]

Reports and contemporary accounts


Bruce, H. A. (1919). Politics and the Canadian Army Medical Corps: A history of intrigue, containing many facts omitted from the official records, showing how efforts at rehabilitation were baulked. Toronto: W. Briggs. [WorldCat] Retrieved from Internet Archive.


Macphail, A. (1917). The Cavendish lecture on a day's work: Delivered before the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society on June 22, 1917. London?: s.n. [WorldCat]


Nasmith GC. (1919) Canada's sons and Great Britain in the world war; a complete and authentic history of the commanding part played by Canada and the British empire in the world's greatest war. Toronto: John C. Winston Co. [WorldCat] Retrieved from Internet Archive


Snell, A. E. (1924). *The CAMC with the Canadian Corps during the last hundred days of the great war*. Ottawa: F.A. Acland, Printer to the King. [WorldCat]

**Hospitals & Field Ambulances**

Bell, F. M. K. (1917). *The first Canadians in France: The chronicle of a military hospital in the war zone*. [WorldCat]


Hyatt, A. M. J., Poole, N. G., & Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies. (2004). *Battle for life: The history of No. 10 Canadian Stationary Hospital and No. 10 Canadian General Hospital in two world wars*. Waterloo, Ont: Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic, and Disarmament Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University. [WorldCat]


Mackenzie JJ; Mackenzie KC (1933). *Number 4 Canadian hospital; the letters of Professor J.J. Mackenzie from the Salonika front*. Toronto, The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited. [WorldCat]


Moran, H. L. (2009). *Stretcher bearers and surgeons: Canadian front-line medicine during the First World War, 1914-1918*. Ottawa: Library and Archives Canada = Bibliothèque et Archives Canada. [WorldCat]

Noyes, F. W., & Hunter, Rose & Company. (1936). *Stretcher-bearers--at the double!: History of the Fifth Canadian field ambulance which served overseas during the great war of 1914-1918*. --Toronto, Canada: Printed by Hunter-Rose co., Ltd. [WorldCat]

**Histories**


**Online Resources**

**Biography and Memoirs**


**Victoria Cross Medal recipients**


**Physicians, Surgeons, and Medicine**


Paintings include:

- No. 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital at Doullens, Painted in 1918 by Gerald Moira (1867–1959)
- Dressing Station in the Field — Arras, 1915, Painted in 1918 by Alfred Bastien (1873–1955)
- The Stretcher Bearer Party, Painted around 1918 by Cyril Barraud (1877–1965)


International Online Resources


Organizations and Scholars

Organizations

Banting House National Historic Site
http://bantinghousenhsc.wordpress.com/

College of Family Physicians of Canada
http://www.cfpc.ca/Home/

Royal Canadian Medical Service Association
http://www.royalcdnmedicals svc.ca/

Canadian Medical Association
http://www.cma.ca

Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation
  • Artifact Collection Searchable Catalogue, Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation
    (Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum)
    http://collections.civilization.ca/

Canadian War Museum
  • The Canadian War Museum’s Military History Research Centre (includes the George
    Metcalf Archival Collection and the Hartland Molson Library)
    http://www.warmuseum.ca/military-history-research-centre/
  • Life at the Front Photographs, Canada and the First World War

International Society for First World War Studies
http://www.firstworldwarstudies.org/

Library and Archives Canada
  • Lest We Forget: First World War Cenotaph Research
    http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cenotaph/index-e.html
  • Soldiers of the First World War: 1914-1918
    http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-
    war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx
  • War Diaries of the First World War, Archivianet, On-line Research Tool
    http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/020152_e.html (type “medical” into
    unit name to retrieve records associated with medical services)

Maple Leaf Legacy Project
http://www.mapleleaflegacy.ca/wp/
McCrae House
http://guelph.ca/museum/?page_id=186

Mill of Kintail Museum
http://mvc.on.ca/places-to-see/mill-of-kintail/

National Film Board
- Images of a Forgotten War: Films of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in the Great War
  http://www3.nfb.ca/ww1/

Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University
http://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/osler

Veterans Affairs Canada
- First World War (1914-1918)
  http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war

Individual Scholars

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Chris Rutty, PhD
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Whitney Wood
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