



Lecture 11 military nursing



Credits: www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/Biographies/Nightingale.html

History of nursing intervention in military nursing:

The history of modern nursing started in 1849, when Florence Nightingale began her first formal nursing training at the Institute of St. Vincent de Paul, in Alexandria, Egypt. After further trainings in Germany and in France, she voluntarily served as Superintendent at the Establishment for Gentlewomen during Illness in London. The knowledge and skills Nightingale gained from these experiences equipped her to take the challenges in tending to the British military victims when the Crimean War broke out on 1854. The British medical facilities were in bad need of improved sanitary conditions when Florence Nightingale and 38 nurses entered the military hospitals in Scutari. Wounded and sick soldiers had to share and go through unhygienic

operations, resulting to cholera and typhus epidemic, as well as quick spread of other diseases. Mortality in military hospitals was 7 times higher than in the actual battlefields, but dropped with Nightingale's help. She introduced multiple sanitary items such as surgical caps. Using her mathematical competency, Nightingale collected data and made calculations on mortality rate change as sanitary methods .

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Some old photo





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Responsibilities Military nurses in war:

1. Provide treatment of wounded soldiers and other military personnel.
2. Set up military active nurses in war zones, as needed.
3. Provide emotional support to soldiers and families.
4. Treat civilians, as needed.
5. Provide treatment to service members' families and dependents.
6. Administer vaccines to soldiers and their family.
7. Provide assistance in any humanitarian relief efforts, as needed
8. Assist victims of natural disasters.
9. Provide medications
10. Function in pre-operative settings, as appropriate.

Modern Military Nursing

Began after the September 11, 2001 attack on the U.S. Nurses were again called to setup DEPMEDS and care for the men and women serving in the campaign. This war brought increased numbers of armed forces members with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the need for more availability of access to psychological care. [Nurse case managers](#) were instituted to assist this affected community with healing and moving forward to re-enter civilian life. Throughout history, nurses have made a tremendous impact to the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, the United States of America. From the War of 1812 to modern day campaigns, the stories of military nurses' achievements, continue for today. It is vital for nurses to know

what to do when faced with an emergency. We should all know what to do with a victim of a road accident or someone with an injury as simple as a burnt finger. These cases happen every day, and most of the time, nurses are expected to provide first aid care. We should learn not only how to stay as calm as possible, but also what to do while waiting for help to arrive.

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First Aid Nursing Yeomanry the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) was founded in 1907 by Captain Edward Baker. Those who joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry were sent to battlefronts in both World War One and World War Two. Baker's idea was that women who joined FANY would not only be first aid specialists, but would have skills that would allow them to take care of injured on the battlefield itself. Therefore, the original members of FANY were trained in cavalry work, signaling and camping out.

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First Aid Nursing Yeomanry

The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) was formed in 1907 as a first aid link between the field hospitals and the frontline. The women not only treated injured soldiers, but they rescued the wounded from the battlefield as well. Thus providing a vital link between the front line and the field hospital.

Women in the FANY were described as “one of the most picturesque, as well as useful and organization of women” during the war. FANY offered these women the opportunity to take an active part in the war effort during both [World War One](#) and [World War Two](#).



Duties on the front lines

While in service, nurses carried out a number of critical functions outside the usual realm of nursing. Their presence served not only as a strong medical force but also as a source of emotional care and an all-hands-on-deck approach to fighting the fight.

Nurses treated patients near or just behind the front lines at field hospitals, evacuation stations, or clearinghouses—even in churches that were turned into hospitals. They could be found at base stations, which were generally far removed from battle; however, they also served in troop transports and transport ships. Some nurses even drove ambulances.

These nurses treated numerous types of wounds, as well as infections and mustard gas burns. They were also faced with soldiers suffering from emotional injuries, including shell shock. Some were trained in social work, including psychiatric training, in order to help current soldiers and those returning home deal with their experiences. According to the [American Red Cross](#), “many of the Red Cross nurses and well over 2,000 nurse’s aides, physicians, and dieticians served in military and veterans hospitals.”

In contrast to the services provided in the field, nurses in America picked up the slack despite so many nurses and medical professionals leaving for the war. Some of them filled regular positions at hospitals while others worked within emergency services and natural disaster efforts. This was just one small aspect of the role women played in the war, which also included organizing recreational activities for soldiers and taking on roles previously completed by men, such as transportation and machinery work.

It’s impossible to discuss nurse’s duties without acknowledging the calming presence these women gave to the soldiers. In one nurse wrote in her [journal](#), “One very quiet man told me swearing was not his habit but he swore as much as any man when shells were coming over. ‘It helps one to bear it quite wonderfully,’ he said.” The woman on the medical front lines got an inside look at the perils of the war and witnessed first-hand the impact of this global conflict.

The nurses of WWI provided care beyond their original call of duty. Their contribution to the front lines, and at home, helped shape the unity and strength our country gained during the war.

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References:

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3. Mulley, Clare (2012). *The Spy Who Loved: The Secrets and Lives of one of Britain's Bravest Wartime Heroines*. Pan Books. [ISBN 978-1-4472-0118-2](#).