

P1. POSTER

125 Years Evolution of Portuguese Military Field Medical Equipment

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INTRODUCTION: The medical materials and equipment used in portuguese field hospital deployment infrastructure have different characteristics from those typically used in so-called fixed hospital infrastructures, with desirable characteristics being robustness, compactness, portability, safety, tactical capability, and all-terrain capability.

OBJECTIVE: The objective is to compare the evolution that some of the field medical equipment used by the Portuguese Army has undergone over the last 125 years.

METHODOLOGY: Illustrative comparison of the evolution of materials used in field medical support, as described in 1900, and those currently existing in the Portuguese Army Medical Task Force.

RESULTS: In 1900, Cunha Bellem, in his book, “Le Matériel Sanitaire de L’Armée Portugaise”, demonstrated interest in Field Medical Support, valuing the development of military medical materials and equipment. The figures in the Table I illustrate a comparison of some equipment from that time, which was

used during World War I, with the ones used currently in the Portuguese Army Medical Task Force.

CONCLUSIONS: In the illustrative comparison, we can understand how some equipment has evolved over time. In tents, there was already a concern for the existence of windows for ventilation and light entering. In the medical equipment, many similarities can be seen, despite the evident changes in the type of materials used (from wood, iron, canvas and leather, it evolved to the use of plastic, stainless steel, aluminum, carbon fiber, synthetic fibers). The major modifications were in the means of vehicle evacuation and the use of container-type structures for the projection of field medical support.



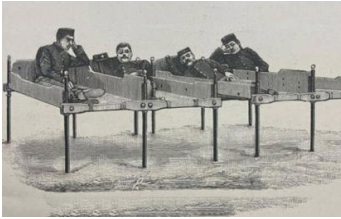











In the recent context of war in Europe, investment in new materials and equipment for military field medicine continues to make sense.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PORTUGUESE MILITARY FIELD MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

TABLE I. Comparison of field medical equipment: early 20th century (1900) and the current Portuguese Army Medical Task Force.

	1900	Currently
Hospital tent		
Fixed stretchers		
Surgical stretcher		
Organizing materials		
Bag/Backpack		
Pharmacy		
Wheeled stretcher		
Ambulance	