



Verzendlijst

**Divisie Defensie
Gezondheidszorg
Organisatie**

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uitnodiging

Omschrijving	Rethinking Resilience: Medicine and the First World War
Datum	23 oktober 2015
Tijd	9:30 – 16.45 uur
Plaats	Breda, Royal Dutch Military Academy

Datum
21 september 2015

Onze referentie
Symposium 23-10-2015,
Breda
*Bij beantwoording datum,
onze referentie en onderwerp
vermelden.*

Rethinking Resilience: Medicine and the First World War

Breda, Royal Dutch Military Academy, 23 oktober 2015

Het is 100 jaar geleden dat de Eerste Wereldoorlog grote delen van Europa verwoestte. Terwijl het aantal soldaten dat sneuvelde dramatisch groot was, en behoefte aan krachten aan het front evenzeer, blonk de medische zorg voor de gewonde soldaat noodzakelijkerwijs uit door volharding en creativiteit. Soms pakte dit verbluffend goed uit, en soms ook niet; in ieder geval vroeg het veel. Niet alleen van de gewonde soldaten, maar ook van de hulpverleners. Ondanks vele hindernissen slaagden zij erin een manier van omgang te vinden met de gewonde soldaat.

Er is inmiddels veel veranderd in de manier waarop medische zorg wordt verleend. We hoeven alleen maar te denken aan de plastische chirurgie, de verpleging, revalidatiegeneeskunde en de psychiatrie. Hoe ontwikkelde de geneeskunde zich in die tijd? En hoe veerkrachtig waren de structuren die werden gebouwd om de massa slachtoffers te ondersteunen. Wat was de 'life cycle' van een soldaat, hoe duurzaam inzetbaar was hij?

Het symposium Rethinking Resilience biedt een manier om te kijken naar de medische zorg vanuit het perspectief van de Eerste Wereldoorlog. Kan deze oorlog vandaag nog inspirerend werken bij het denken over medische zorg? Het symposium Rethinking Resilience: Geneeskunde en de Eerste Wereldoorlog hoopt een antwoord te geven met nieuwe perspectieven van experts in de militaire geschiedenis en geneeskunde.

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Ik nodig u van harte uit om aan dit symposium deel te nemen. Voor het programma en de praktische informatie verwijs ik u naar de bijlage.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'V' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

*Mede namens dr. Leo van Bergen,
Prof. dr. kol. Eric Vermetten*

[Vanwege het internationale karakter van het symposium is onderstaande tekst in het Engels]

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Although the Second World War has left an imprint in memory of many in the Netherlands, it was the war that preceded this war that has dominated many new developments, or at least: so it is often said. Modern warfare techniques used during World War I have led to a number of advancements in the medical field for authorities had to find new ways to deal with the overwhelming numbers of wounded and the terrible wounds that were inflicted by modern weapons. New fields of medicine opened up, and nursing expanded as women rushed to help, never expecting the nearly unbearable conditions that they found on the battlefields of the



Great War. Everything imaginable was tried to keep soldiers physically and mentally fit for service, be it at the front or at the weapons factory, showing that the concept of 'sustainable deployment' is in itself not a modern invention. Disabled soldiers were given technologically advanced prostheses, making them an early equivalent of the six million dollar man. Soldiers not anymore able to meet the hardships of war, were given electric cures in order to make them more afraid of the hospital than they were of the front. Slightly contradictory to this, the conviction was that the war itself had nothing to do with psychological weakness. It was hereditary or inborn. At most the war itself was the spark who set the character logical weakness too light. Medical practice was highly determined by its war circumstances.

Nevertheless, after the war the phrase that the war had been good for medicine became widespread and generally accepted. Because of the war many, soldiers

and civilians alike, would be saved from long-time illness and early death.

This raises several questions: *how did WW1 shape our conception of resilience; how did science contribute to military medicine, nursing, rehabilitation and psychiatry; which advancement of the Great War have been pivotal for medicine;*



what were the 'real' cures; how did the war have its effects outside its medical boundaries; what was the opinion of doctors (and patients) while the war raged?

Finding answers to these historical questions could have its benefits for answering certain questions raised nowadays on the boundaries of soldiers' health without (too much) endangering medicine's integrity.

We will and cannot pretend to give all the answers to questions like these on this day. But we certainly think it could be a valuable contribution to the discussion.

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Program

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- 9.30 – 9.45 **Opening Symposium**
(to be announced)
- 9.45 – 10.00 **Opening Key Note**
Drs. Gielt Algra: On the importance of history for military
medicine
Veterans Institute, the Netherlands
- 10.00 - 11.00 **Part 1: Mental Health**
Major drs. Erik de Soir: The French treatment of war neuroses
Koninklijk Hoger Instituut voor Defensie, Belgium
Prof. dr. Christine van Everbroeck: Belgium and the soldiers
suffering from 'd'n klop'
Royal Museum of the Army and History of War, Belgium
- 11.15 - 12.15 **Part 2: Disability**
Dr. Julie Anderson: The medical care for the British disabled
University of Kent, United Kingdom
Dr. Ana Carden-Coyne: World War I and the body
University of Manchester, United Kingdom
- 12.15 – 12.30 Prof. dr. Desiree Verweij: synthesis part 1 and 2
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch
- 13:30-14.30 **Part 3: Care for Combat Casualties**
Prof. dr. Christine Hallett: The British nurses on the Eastern
Mediterranean front
University of Manchester, United Kingdom
Dr. Kerry Neale: On the disfigured (life video contribution)
Australian War Memorial, Australia
- 14.45-16.15 **Part 4: Military medicine, a bird's view**
Dr. Leo van Bergen: The alleged goodness of war for medicine.
The Dutch example
Independent researcher
Pieter Trogh: Military medical dilemma's
In Flanders Fields Museum, Belgium
Joost Pollmann: The Art of Gore. Drawing doctors, nurses and
their patients in the Great War (video contribution)
Comic book critic. Independent researcher
- 16.15-16.30 **Summary** Col. Wynand Korterink
Head of Strategic Military Health, Netherlands
- 16.30-16.45 **Closing remarks:** Prof. dr. Col. Eric Vermetten

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Chairs: Dr. Leo van Bergen and Prof. dr. Col. Eric Vermetten

Faculty

Drs. Gielt Algra, *Veterans Institute, Doorn, the Netherlands*
Dr. Julie Anderson, *University of Kent, Kent, United Kingdom*
Dr. Leo van Bergen, *Independent researcher, Nijmegen, The Netherlands*
Dr. Ana Carden-Coyne, *University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom*
Dr. Christine van Everbroeck, *Royal Museum of the Army and History of War, Brussels, Belgium*
Prof. dr. Christine Hallett, *University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom*
Prof. dr. Edgar Jones, *King's College London, London, United Kingdom*
Col. Wynand Korterink, *Staff Military Medicine, Utrecht, the Netherlands*
Dr. Kerry Neale, *Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia*
Erik de Soir, *Koninklijk Hoger Instituut voor Defensie, Belgium*
Pieter Trogh, *In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres, Belgium*
Joost Pollmann, *Independent comic book researcher, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
Prof. dr. Col. Eric Vermetten, *Military Mental Health/Leiden University, Utrecht, the Netherlands*
Prof. dr. Desiree Verweij, *Royal Dutch Military Academy, Breda, the Netherlands*

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Accreditation cluster 1 and 3 have been requested
For accreditation: €45,- (gratis voor defensiemedewerkers)
Others: free

Registration
ms. Joke Geluk (jwc.geluk@mindef.nl)
Registration sincerely recommended.

This conference was made possible by Netherlands Ministry of Defense with support from the SSMP. *Stichting Studiefonds Medische Polemologie* (Foundation Researchfund Medical Polemology), section of the NVMP-Gezondheidszorg en Vredesvraagstukken.



