



MILITARY WELFARE HISTORY NETWORK

The Spring 2026 Military Welfare History Network Symposium

‘Healthcare, Disability, Non-State Actors and So Much More’

Date: Monday 2 February 2026 Venue: Online, via UCD Centre for War Studies
Duration: 1100-1730hrs (Dublin time)

1100-1115hrs: Welcome coffee

1115-1245hrs: Panel 1

Dr Margarida Portela (University of Lisbon)

‘Aurélio da Costa Ferreira’s “Moral Patch”: An Innovative Approach to the Treatment of Portuguese Soldiers in the First World War’

Dr Louise Bell (University of Leeds)

“It’s always been a good fitting leg because I made do myself”: Adapting prostheses in the aftermath of two world wars’

Cormac Keenan (Dublin City University)

‘Caring for IRA veterans: Family challenges after the Irish Civil War’

1245-1315hrs: Lunch

1315-1415hrs: Panel 2

Dr Catherine Beck (Lund University)

‘Seafaring impairment, eighteenth-century European naval welfare and constructions of disability’

Dr Laura Robson-Mainwaring (UK National Archives)

“When he awakes he will remember everything”: Stories of Healthcare from First World War Medical Case-sheets’

1415-1430hrs: Screen break

1430-1530hrs: Keynote

Prof Jennifer Mittelstadt (Rutgers University)

Why Does Military Welfare History Matters?

1530-1545hrs: Screen break

1545-1715hrs: Panel 3

Dr Anotida Chikumbu (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)

‘Out of the Horrors of War: The Politics of Medical Welfare and Care of Military African Veterans after the Second World War in Southern Rhodesia (Colonial Zimbabwe), c.1945-1980’

Dr Rachel Lea Heide (Department of National Defence, Canada)

‘The Long Road Back from the Thousand Yard Stare: The Legacy of the Great War’s Treatment of Shell Shock’

Dr John Alan Boyd (US Army Chaplains’ Corps)

‘Fellow Travellers: US Army Chaplains and the Medical Corps in World War One’

1715hrs: Close of proceedings

This event is three of the three-part 2025-26 Military Welfare History Network series, which is generously supported by the Wellcome Trust through the Social History of Medicine. It is also kindly hosted via Zoom by UCD Centre for War Studies



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