



An Equal Burden: The Men of the Royal Army Medical Corps in the First World War

Jessica Meyer

Print publication date: 2019

Print ISBN-13: 9780198824169

Published to Oxford Scholarship Online: March 2019

DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780198824169.001.0001

(p.vii) Acknowledgements

Jessica Meyer

My first thanks must go to the Wellcome Trust, which provided the funding for the research and publication of this book, both through funding my Research Fellowship, grant number WT094154MA, and enabling this book to be published open access. I would not, however, have been awarded this funding had it not been for the support of a large number of people. Principal among these is Professor Alison Fell, who first encouraged me to apply for funding when she invited me to become part of the Legacies of War project. Her support has been invaluable and without her advice and friendship this book would not exist. Professor Malcolm Chase provided enthusiasm and encouragement from the beginning, while the mentorship of Dr Shane Doyle throughout the project has been of immense benefit to its successful completion, as well as helping me negotiate many of the challenges along the way.

As with any research project, my work was made infinitely easier by the support of many archivists and research professionals, including those at the Wellcome Library, London; the Imperial War Museums; the Museum of Military Medicine, Aldershot; the Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds; the National Railway Museum, York; and the Liddle Collection, Special Collections, University of Leeds. I am particularly grateful to Richard High from Special Collections at the University of Leeds, Alison Kay of the National Railway Museum, and Lauren Ryall-Stockton, formerly of the Thackray Museum, for generously sharing expertise. Lucy Moore's boundless enthusiasm for collaborative work on the medical and social history of the First World War has also been a huge source of support and encouragement. Cathryn Steele, my editor at OUP, has been a valuable source of advice and guidance throughout the publication process.

Permission to quote from their collections is acknowledged with thanks to the Museum of Military Medicine, the Imperial War Museums, and the Liddle Collection. I am grateful to Holly Peel and the Wellcome Library, Sebastian Wainright and the Imperial War Museums, and the staff of Leeds University Library Special Collections for their assistance in preparing the images used in this book. I would also like to thank Alice Handy for allowing me access to her great-grandfather's memoir. Any information which would enable us to trace copyright holders of material used in this volume whose details are not currently known will be gratefully received by both myself and the publisher.

(p.viii) Throughout this project I have benefited enormously from a number of instances of academic collegiality which have improved my writing. I appreciate the thoughtful feedback on drafts provided by the members of the Health, Medicine and Society research cluster and the Legacies of War seminar at the University of Leeds. Working with the Legacies of War project has additionally led to a number of important collaborations which have shaped this book. Across the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures, working with Claudia Sternberg, Ingrid Sharp, and Graeme Gooday has influenced the direction of my research in important ways, and I am also indebted to community-based researchers Dave Stowe, Andrea Heatherington, Richard Wilcox, and Chris Mace for generously sharing information uncovered in their own work. I owe a particular debt of gratitude to the late Sue Light, who provided me not only with information but also large numbers of photographs of primary-source documents relating to the training of nurses and nursing orderlies. Joanne Begiato kindly shared her work on St George as a symbol of masculine heroism before publication, and Jane Potter, John Horne, and Michael Roper all provided encouragement and insight in discussions of my work. The constructive criticisms provided by the anonymous reviewers of the proposal and manuscript are also acknowledged with thanks. They have made this a better book than it would otherwise have been.

I have had the good fortune to present many of the ideas contained in this book at a number of conferences and workshops as they have developed. I am particularly appreciative of the opportunity to present my work offered by the Globalising and Localising the Great War seminar and the Seminars in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology at the University of Oxford; the Great War's Shadow conference, held at Lake Louise in 2014; and the International Society for First World War Studies' Landscapes of the Great War conference, held in Trento and Padua in 2015. Above all, I am grateful to the organizers of and participants in the Passions of War AHRC network, most particularly Philip Shaw, Holly Furneaux, Joanna Wilson, and Ana Carden-Coyne, for the chance not only to present but also to refine the central thesis of this book over the course of the series of workshops held in Belgium and Britain between 2015 and 2016.

This book is my first written since the advent of Twitter. I am grateful to more people on that platform than I can possibly thank individually for the comments, queries, and support that have shaped my research and analysis, as well as their enthusiasm for the topic and my tweeted reflections on it. I would like to particularly thank Paul Reed for sharing references and images with me on several occasions. On other social media, the Women in Academia Support Network got me through the **(p.ix)** final hectic days of manuscript preparation with my sanity just about intact.

My deepest debt of gratitude, however, goes to the friends and family whose care and support have enabled me to complete this project. These include many colleagues who have also been good friends, particularly Sara Barker, Alexia Moncrieff, Laura King, Kate Dossett, and Heather Ellis. The writing of this book has coincided with some extremely difficult times in my personal life, which I could not have negotiated without the patient listening and good advice of Jessamy Carleson and Sally Rose. Dar Williams's music has provided endless comfort and inspiration, while Frank Piotrkowski has, as always, been a rock of support throughout everything. So too have my siblings, Sebastian and Amelia Meyer, who have both helped me face the challenges of these past years with increased clarity and courage. As our family has grown, I have also had the great benefit of drawing support from Jess Benko, Chad Berardo, and Jo France Meyer.

Above all, my thanks go to my husband, Matthew, and my children, Peter and Pippa Daws, for their love and support during the writing of this book. Unwittingly they have been required to live with the stories of the men of the RAMC for the past seven years—in the case of my daughter, a period that covers more than her lifetime—and have done so with humour and kindness. Their love and patience have helped to make all my work as a historian, and this book in particular, what they are today.

This is even more true, and over a far greater period, of my parents, Joanna Anderson and John P. Meyer. Their dedication to humanity, culture, and the intellectual life, and their passion and compassion have been, throughout my life, a source of inspiration and encouragement. It is to them, particularly the memory of my mother, that this book is dedicated, with love and admiration.

(p.x)

Access brought to you by: