



+ NAVY HOSPITAL CORPS LEGENDS +

"DEVIL DOCS" OF BELLEAU WOOD

- From June 1 to 26, 1918 (in World War I), U.S. Marines from the 4th Brigade (5th Marines, 6th Marines and 6th Machinegun Battalion) pushed back the German offensive at **Belleau Wood (Bois de Belleau)**.
- The Battle of Belleau Wood is where Marines earned their legendary moniker "**Devil Dogs.**"
- For Navy Medicine, Belleau Wood is where our connections to the "green side" first took root and Marine Corps medicine came into maturity. Throughout the battle, hospital corpsmen served alongside the Marines, **rendering medical aid, keeping them in the fight and managing casualty evacuation.**



BRUMBELOE



⚓ CASUALTIES AT BELLEAU WOOD ⚓

- There were **616** members of the **4th Marine Brigade** killed in action at Belleau Wood with an additional 332 later dying from their wounds.
- An estimated **2,468** were wounded in action and over 900 were exposed to poison gas.

On June 6, 1918, during the attack at Belleau Wood, Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class Algernon Brumbeloe, a corpsman with the Fifth Regiment (Marines), American Expeditionary Forces, demonstrated extraordinary valor. Amidst a dense fog, his company was mistaken for enemy forces and subjected to intense friendly fire. Disregarding his own safety, Brumbeloe traversed a fire-swept field to deliver a critical message. He then returned to the same exposed area, treating wounded Marines under relentless machine-gun fire and personally evacuating them to safety. The following day, while searching the battlefield for casualties, he sustained a sniper's wound.

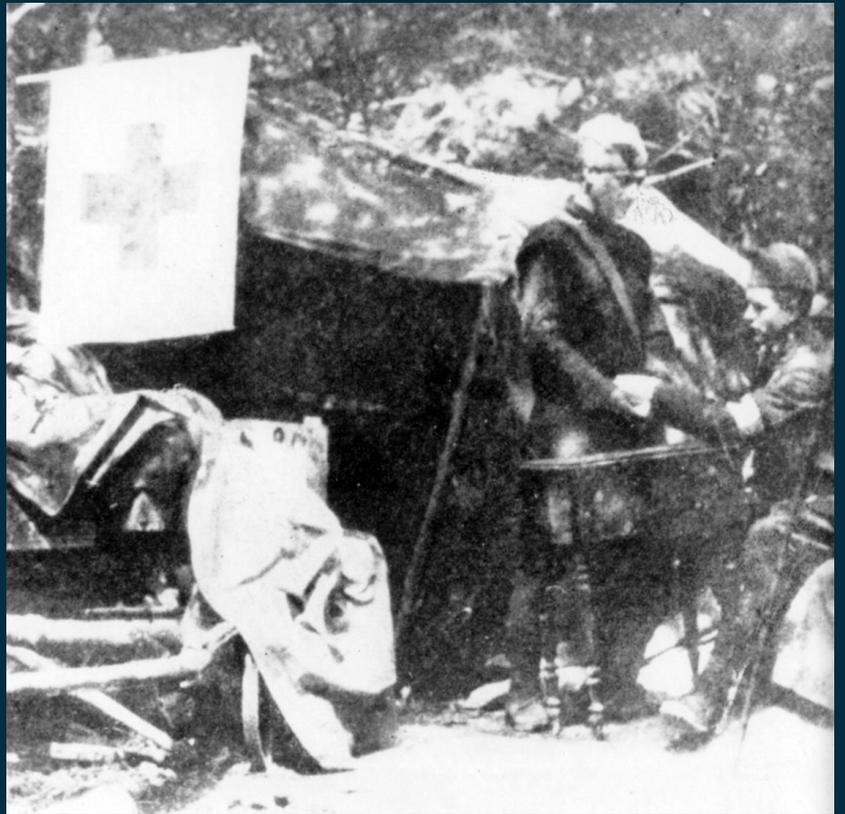


NAVY MEDICINE *FAST FACTS*



FIELD HOSPITALS

- When not alongside the Marines, medical personnel **operated makeshift dressing and aid stations** in wine cellars, farmhouses, and culverts just beyond the frontlines—anywhere that offered a modicum of protection. From an old farmhouse outside of Belleau Wood, Navy medical personnel operated a regimental aid station where they helped **control hemorrhaging, bandaged the wounded and even performed debridement** by “flickering candlelight.”
- To prevent shock, **morphine was applied through syrette** and patients were kept as warm as possible with blankets and “canned heat.”
- There were **no antibiotics or plasma**, and there was an ever present risk of infection from contaminated soil and dirty clothing.



Did you know?

8 Navy Crosses were awarded to hospital corpsmen for their actions at **Belleau Wood**



THE FINAL ACT OF PHARMACIST'S MATE 2ND CLASS FRANK WELTY

"Bois de Belleau is an almost impenetrable tangled forest with rock formations admirably adapted for defense. The surrounding country is dotted with woods and fields of ripening wheat, with red patches of wild poppy. The terrain is favored by the enemy to sweep the roads and open-country with machine-gun fire. The attacking troops, moving across the open wheat field, were subjected to murderous flanking fire from machine guns, and many men went down. Welty was swamped with many wounded while in this open field, about 130 yards short of the woods. He had dressed four wounded Marines, calmly writing their tags, and had started on the fifth when he was struck in the back and right heel, while kneeling over his patient. . .He continued dressing his patient and filled in the diagnosis tag . . .when struck by a machine gun-bullet."

-Excerpt from Navy Battalion Surgeon Log, June 6, 1918