



The Apothecary

The David Borthwick Pharmacy, Laboratory & General Medical Materiel Collection

Exhibit Prepared by Wayne Dauphinee

David Borthwick



David (Dave) Borthwick is a retired Canadian Forces Health Services pharmacist and a Royal Canadian Medical Service Association Director and member of the Executive Team serving as Secretary

Dave joined the Canadian Forces in 1960 under the Regular Officer Training Plan (ROTP) as an OCdt Pharmacy student at the University of Toronto. He served 27 years as a military pharmacist retiring as the Commanding Officer, Central Medical Equipment Depot in 1987. Following retirement Dave spent five years as Director of Materiel Management for the Ottawa Civic Hospital and was Ottawa Chapter President of Health Care Materiel Management Society. He spent the next eight years as a community Pharmacist retiring in Aug 2000.

An avid collector Dave has assembled a large and varied collection of medical materiel which he now displays in "The Apothecary" his Ottawa home pub and museum.



The Apothecary

The following pages display some of the more interesting and/or unique items from the Borthwick Collection

Analytical Balance



Date: WWII

Physical Description: An analytical, double pan scale with a 100 Gm. capacity for measuring accurate small quantities of ingredients.

Physical Characteristics: A wood & glass cased, double pan scale with accessory drawer and a rider pick-up arm. It has a solid stone base and adjustable feet for levelling with glass pan covers & sample containers. Measures about 16 1/2 x 9 1/4 x 19 1/2 in.

Provenance: For use in laboratories to weigh minute quantities of samples.

Atropine Self Injector



Date: WWII+

Physical Description: A plastic collapsible tube with a needle for self injection.

Physical Characteristics: A pair of Syrettes for self injection. One contained in a yellow foil pack labelled Sodium Chloride injection 1 c.c. FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY, and the other contained in a white foil pack labelled Atropine Sulphate Injection 2 mg. (1/32gr.) 1 c.c.. Both contained in a plastic sleeve container 3 x 3.5 x 1 in. with labelled instructions for use.

Provenance: For inclusion in Medical panniers and individual issue.

Pharmacy Prescription Balance



Date: WWII+

Physical Description: A Balance for weighing small quantities of ingredients for compounding prescriptions.

Physical Characteristics: A wooden, double pan balance with a marble platform and glass insert in the lid and adjustable feet for levelling. Measures about 13 x 6 x 8 in. overall.

Provenance: For use in pharmacies to measure small amounts of ingredients for prescription compounding

Blood Sample Unit



Date: Pre WW2 &/or during WW2

Physical Description: A sterile glass vacuum container for drawing blood samples.

Physical Characteristics: A sterile, stainless steel 22 Ga. By 1 in. needle with stylus mounted in a friable holder covered in red rubber on an evacuated glass container about 2.5 in. long and ½ in. in diam. Protected by a glass test tube 3.5 in. long by 0.4 in. Diam. with a cotton plug.

Provenance: For inclusion in medical panniers and laboratory kits.

Bone Saw & Drill Kit



Date: WWII+

Physical Description: Portable bone operating kit.

Physical Characteristics: A portable autoclavable bone saw & drill kit in a carrying case about 13 x 13 x 5 ½ in. high with a hinged top with plastic handle and two snap latches. Contains a stainless, autoclavable motor unit which is 110 volt AC/DC with a handle, blade attachment, foot operating pedal, chuck key, spline wrenches, blade arbores, instructions and extra blades & drill bits.

Provenance: For use in Orthopedic operations.

Boric Acid & Zinc Sulphate Compressed Tablets



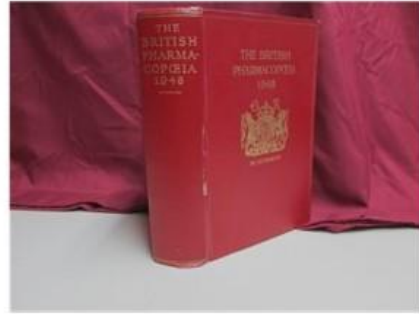
Date: Pre WW2 &/or during WW2

Physical Description: 25 compressed convex tablets contained in an amber, triangular bottle with a waxed cork stopper (Ea 3) one of which is in its original triangular carton. .

Physical Characteristics: Triangular amber glass bottle with waxed cork stopper about 5 Cm wide and 6 ½ Cm tall. Instructions for use and contents

Provenance: obtained from WW2 medical pannier probably from Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

British Pharmacopoeia



Date: 1943

Physical Description: Medical Text Reference. EA 3.

Physical Characteristics: Three copies of the British Pharmacopoeia 1948 The General Medical Council of Great Britain. Printed by Constable & Co. London. Stamped inside one copy: RCAF Institute of Aviation Medicine Library, and another donated by LCol (Ret'd) GR Stewart BScP, CD.

Provenance: For use as a Medical reference text.

Mercury Bichloride Antiseptic Tablets



Date: WWII

Physical Description: Transparent amber glass bottle of about 500 ml. with a bakelite screw cap containing 500 tablets of Mercury Bichloride 8 ¾ grains for use in making antiseptic solutions for inanimate objects. Each tablet is formed in the shape of a coffin and embossed POISON. Label has instructions for use.

Physical Characteristics: Bottle embossed on Cap with PD & Co. logo. Bottle by Dominion Glass about 6.5 cm. in width and 19 cm. high.

Provenance: Items used as part of medical pannier set-up and intended for use in sterilizing inanimate objects

Brass Alcohol Burner



Date: WWII +

Physical Description: An alcohol burner for pharmacy or laboratory use.

Physical Characteristics: A brass, alcohol burner of approx. 6-8 Oz. capacity and about 3 ½ in. Diam. Base and 4 in. high with a wick adjustment and a brass flame snuffer attached with a chain.

Provenance: For use in pharmacy & laboratory.

Centrifuge



Date: WWII +

Physical Description: A bench top, hand operated centrifuge for blood & urine samples.

Physical Characteristics: A black painted cast metal body with a table clamp, 4 tube holders and a wooden handled crank. A very highly geared body about 5 ½ in. Diam. And 12 ½ in. overall.

Provenance: For use in laboratories to centrifuge blood & urine samples

Metal Container for Volatile Liquids



Date: WWII

Physical Description: A round metal container to contain and transport volatile liquids up to about 12 oz.

Physical Characteristics: A Khaki painted steel container about 7.25 Cm. in diam. And 15.5 Cm. tall with a knurled screw cap which contains a screw relief valve.

Provenance: For use in field medical panniers.

Chloroform Liquid



Date: WWII

Physical Description: Approx. 100 ml. of liquid in a cylindrical glass vial with a heat sealed top in a protective cardboard sleeve with label.

Physical Characteristics: 3 cm wide & 15.7 cm tall. Labelled as Chloroform for anesthetic use.

Provenance: Manufactured By Duncan, Flockhart & Co. Edinburgh & London. Part of a medical panier content.

Cork Borers



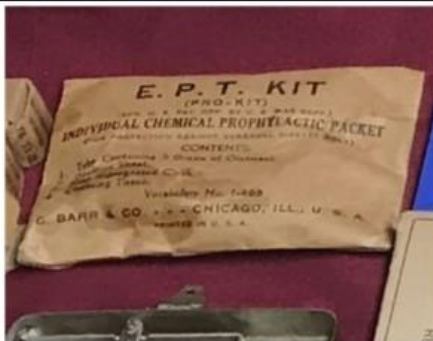
Date: WW +

Physical Description: A set of 6 different diameters of cork borers.

Physical Characteristics: A set of six different diameter, brass, cork borers about 4 in long Ea. Ranging from about 1/8 to 3/8 I.D. with stylus. Numbered 1 to 6.

Provenance: For issue to Pharmacies & Laboratories.

Individual Chemical Prophylactic Packet



Date: WW II

Physical Description: A paper envelope packet, containing a 5 Gm. tube of ointment (probably a mercury-based compound), a sheet of instructions, a soap impregnated cloth and a cleansing tissue..

Physical Characteristics: A labelled, brown paper packet about 8 1/2 Cm. by 5.5 Cm.

Provenance: For individual issue to personnel. Used as a prophylactic procedure (usually at marked ablution stations) after sexual activity, to prevent venereal disease.

Digitalis Leaves for Internal Use



Date: Pre WW II

Physical Description: 35 round pills rolled from macerated Digitalis leaves, containing 0.1Gram each of digitalis in a dark amber bottle with a cork stopper.

Physical Characteristics: Dark amber glass bottle with cork stopper about 2.8 Cm wide and 7 1/2 Cm tall. Instructions for use and contents and an expiry date of Nov. 22 1929.

Provenance: Likely obtained from WW2 medical pannier probably from Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Used to increase the force of heart contractions.

Porcelain Feeding Cup



Date: WW II +

Physical Description: A cup for feeding patients.

Physical Characteristics: A porcelain cup with a spout and spill guard and a handle about 5 Oz. capacity

Provenance: For use in administering food to patients

RCAMC Flag



Date(s): 1959-1960

Physical Description: A Corps flag to be flown by RCAMC Units.

Physical Characteristics: A silk or nylon flag 70 x 35 in. in RCAMC corps colours with the RCAMC Crest centred. The upper right Fly has been repaired.

Provenance: In use at Central Medical Equipment Depot Petawawa ON. till CFMS Tri-Service amalgamation ca. 1964. On Permanent Loan from SGT (Ret'd) William Alexander Borthwick CD.

Monocular Microscope



Date(s): WWII +

Physical Description: A monocular microscope for laboratory use.

Physical Characteristics: A heavy metal based monocular microscope with object lenses of 10x, 42x and 100x and eyepiece lenses of 6x and 10x. contained in a keyed wooden box about 8 1/2 x 8 1/4 x 14 in. and includes an instruction booklet, two 2 well slides and a container of slide covers.

Provenance: For use in laboratory analysis.

Mortar & Pestle



Date(s): WWII +

Physical Description: A large 32 Oz. porcelain mortar with a wooden handled porcelain pestle.

Physical Characteristics: A large 32 Oz. porcelain mortar about 8 in. in Diam. At top and about 4.5 in. high with a 3 in. porcelain pestle mounted into a wooden handle of about 6 in.

Provenance: For inclusion in pharmacy panniers and used for compounding pharmaceutical products.

Poison Bottles



Date(s): WWII +

Physical Description: Standard blue glass poison bottles, the one Oz. is rectangular and has just the embossed poison label while the four Oz. is six-sided with poison on one panel and use with caution on another.

Physical Characteristics: 1 Oz. – 3.5 cm wide & 9.3 cm tall. 4 Oz. 4.5 cm. wide and 14 cm. tall, both with cork stoppers.

Provenance: Manufactured by Dominion Glass Canada.

Physician's Satchel



Date(s): WWII +

Physical Description: Physician's Personal satchel.

Physical Characteristics: A leather, cabin top satchel about 17 x 8 x 10 in high with interior bottle loops and double handle with key lock latch. This one with a red cross on a white circular background.

Provenance: For individual issue to physicians

Sphygmomanometer



Date(s): WWII +

Physical Description: An office desk top sphygmomanometer.

Physical Characteristics: A round base metal stand about 11 ½ in. high with a mercury reservoir and upright gauge measuring 0-260 mm. of mercury pressure with an adult Velcro cuff and inflation bulb and a binaural, bell stethoscope.

Provenance: For use in reading a patient's blood pressure in a physician's office.

Tourniquet



Date(s): WWII

Physical Description: An adjustable webbing tourniquet for stopping bleeding.

Physical Characteristics: A webbing band about 26 in. long and 1 ½ in. wide on a metal, adjustable roller with a knurled knob for adjusting contained in a hinged tin box about 1 ¾ x 1 ¾ x 2 in.

Provenance: For use by forward medics to stop hemorrhage. .)

Metal Syringe



Date(s): WWII

Physical Description: An all metal 2 c.c. syringe in a metal case with two needles of about 22 Ga. X 1 in. Marked on lid Arnold & Sons, London with a Government arrow.

Physical Characteristics: A metal 2 c.c. syringe about 2 ¾ in overall and ½ in. at the collar, set in a bracket in a metal container about 3 in. by 1 ¼ in. by ¾ in high with a hinged latch on the front.

Provenance: For inclusion in medical panniers, probably from the RNfld Regt.

Apothecary Weight Set



Date(s): WWII

Physical Description: A weight set, Apothecary for pharmaceutical use. In the penny style.

Physical Characteristics: A Brass and aluminum weight set in 2 Dr., drams, scruples and grains in a wooden holder 2.5 x 1.5 x 0.75 in. in a plastic box with a clear lid and a plastic cap for the grains well. Labelled Glasco 5 x 1/2 grain.

Provenance: For inclusion in Pharmacy panniers.

Haemometer



Date: WWII +

Physical Description: A portable haemometer testing kit.

Physical Characteristics: A black hinged box with a clip closure containing a bakelite tube holder with standard samples, a pipette, cleaning brushes and a capillary tube with extender and mouthpiece. About 6 x 3 1/2 x 1 1/2 in. overall. Marked Leitz-Bergman Berlin.

Provenance: For issue to Laboratories and physicians clinics for checking blood samples.

Tongue Forceps



Date: WWII +

Physical Description: Forceps for grasping & holding the tongue.

Physical Characteristics: A curved locking forceps about 7 in. overall with red rubber gripping pads about 3/4 in. long. Stamped Stainless.

Provenance: For use in treatment rooms and emergency kits.

