

HISTORY OF AMBULANCE

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Abstract: The word Ambulance comes from latin word "Ambulare" which means to walk or move about which is a reference to early medical care where patients were moved by lifting or wheeling. The first recorded use of ambulance harks back to the Islamic conquest of Persia in the mid 7th century where a 17 year old Amina bint Qais led a group of medics to the battle field to tend to the fallen. The modern ambulance - the horse driven version was created by Frenchman. Dominique Jean Larrey in 1792. He can be called the father of Ambulance. Late in 19th century in 1887 the first civilian ambulance by the name of St John's ambulance Brigade was established. Modern ambulances are standard and technology advance saving lives on daily basis in all parts of the world.

Key words: Ambulance, Dominique Jean Larrey, Air Ambulance, Red Cross, St John's.

The word Ambulance comes from latin word "Ambulare" which means to walk or move about which is a reference to early medical care where patients were moved by lifting or wheeling.

From earliest times of human conflict, wounded soldiers were usually left on the battlefield, often for days, to die of thirst, cold or their wounds, being vulnerable to nature or enemy forces. Those who survived were transported when possible

by whatever means were available to carry them. Further loss occurred during transport. Military strategists were the first ones to plan to reduce their human loss by creating ways of safe transport.

The Ancient battlefields were the origin of Ambulances where hammocks or mere mule 'n' cart were dispatched to collect the dead, dying or wounded. In priority of Military plans this was usually lower in the list. Many potential survivors lost their lives due to poor planning.

The first recorded use of ambulance harks back to the Islamic conquest of Persia in the mid 7th century where a 17 year old Amina bint Qais led a group of medics to the battle field to tend to the fallen. They used cage like carts, Hammock carts and house drawn wagon continued on for centuries.

During Crusades of the 11th Century, the knights of St John received training from Greek and Arab doctors. They were the pioneer's of treating and transporting the injured in European battle fields. They transported wounded and also provided treatment to them. This principle of treatment

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in battle field and safe transport became the foundation of modern emergency care. The knights of St John are also known as the knights Hospitalier or knights of Malta. The "Maltese Cross" which is often associated with emergency services derives its name from the cross that the knights wore on their tunics. In addition, the "Red Cross" is also derived from this symbol. This medical order still exists to day in general form.

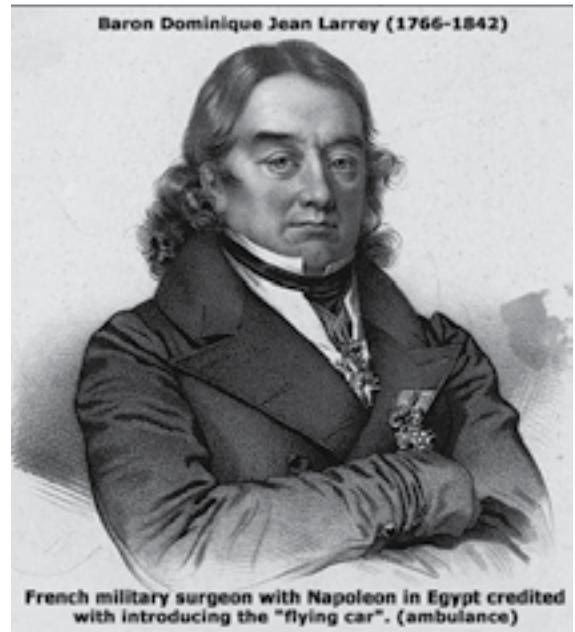


Maltese Cross

The modern ambulance - the horse driven version was created by Frenchman, Dominique Jean Larrey in 1792. He can be called the father of Ambulance. He observed the centuries old way of transporting injured and designed horse drawn "Flying ambulance" to carry surgeons and supplies to the field. He also used ambulance carriages with stretchers to carry the wounded. Larreys Ambulance and Swift Medical attention brought significant rise in survivors leading to boosting of morale of Napoleonic troops.



Larrey also designed four wheeled wagons for transporting wounded on uneven terrain. His Ambulance system of on-site treatment, evacuation and mobile field hospitals became a model for modern ambulance service.



The adverse battle conditions stimulated evolutionary development of ambulance from hammock to horse driven carts equipped with Medical equipment and trained personnel. This development was reserved for war situation for next century.

Late in 19th century in 1887 the first civilian ambulance by the name of St John's ambulance Brigade was established. They were given Royal Charter.

In the late 19th Century the development of automobile led to the first Motor Powered ambulance in Chicago at Micheal Reese Hospital. This was a converted car. The first mass production occurred in 1909 in New York by James Cunningham Son & Company.



James Cunningham

As air travel was born so was the first air ambulance was designed at request of Air vice marshal Sir William Tyrrell in 1902 transport the wounded and injured.

By 20th Century Ambulance services

were part of all developed societies. The ambulances were a motorized, equipped and manned by Medical Staff.

A national academy of science report 1966 standardised the modern van ambulance, with its working space and sophisticated supplies and equipment.

In early days the ambulances used sound produced by gong to alert others on, the road. Later on different sounds were used, However, the flashing light were used to alert people in late 19th century.

Modern ambulances are standard and technology advance saving lives on daily basis in all parts of the world.

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