**HISTORY OF MILITARY MEDICINE OF UKRAINE:**

**THROUGH THE AGES UP TO THE 20TH CENTURY**

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The present highly effective team of professionals of the medical service of the Armed Forces of Ukraine with an important mission to preserve the life and health of military personnel is based on the experience of centuries. Military medicine in Ukraine has passed a long way from the complete decay to the rebirth.

The history of the emergence medical care in the army dates back to the 16th and 17th centuries, the period of struggle of Ukrainian people for the national independence, in which Ukrainian Cossacks had played a great and honorable role.

Zaporizhzhian Cossacks possessed certain methods of self-help and mutual assistance. Information about the organization of medical care and customs of Zaporizhzhian Cossacks of those times can be found in the work of the French engineer and cartographer de Boplan «The Description of Ukraine». He has published his observation in Paris in 1650: «I saw the Cossacks who, in order to get rid of the fever, mixed in a glass of vodka... powder, drank this mixture, went to bed and got up in the morning in good condition. Often, I saw how the Cossacks being wounded with arrows, in the absence of surgeons, filled their wounds with a small amount of ground, which was rubbed before in the palm...» [1, p. 106]. However, it would be wrong to think that the Cossack army was not provided with any qualified medical aid. During the Liberation War of Ukrainian people in 1648−1654 under the leadership of Bogdan Khmelnitsky, almost every regiment had doctors. From historical sources, the names of Lukyan Sultyk, Martin Rhodomsky, Ivan Gladky, Matvii Taborovsky and others are known. In the 16th century for the treatment of wounded Cossacks they began to create hospitals in the monasteries. The first of them located in the oak forest on the island between the rivers Stara and Nova Samara. The buildings and a church were erected at that place. At the request of Sich from Kyiv a hieromonk Paissy arrived at this hospital, but in addition to his spiritual duties he also had to treat the wounded Cossacks. The largest hospitals were functioned on the basis of monasteries in Trakhtemyriv and Mezhyhirya. There wounded Cossacks were treated by monks who were knowledgeable in medicine [5, с. 18]. Academician D.I. Yavornytsky in the list of archival affairs of the history of the Cossacks in 1625−1774 recalled the case of the establishment of the medical office in Sich, the release of medicines and the maintenance of a doctor [7, p. 31−32]. There were some difficulties in the process of organizing the first hospital schools, especially with the set of students, which were subject to rather high requirements: sufficient level of general training and knowledge of the Latin language. Solution was found in the composition of school by students of religious schools. From the middle of the 18th century, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, as well as the colleges of Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Pereyaslav, began to play a major role in this matter.

In 1788 the first hospital school in Ukraine was opened. The reason for the establishment of a medical-surgical school at the Yelisavetgrad Hospital was the need for medical support for the army operating on the Russian-Turkish war. Students for school were recruited mainly from Kharkiv, Chernihiv and other Ukrainian colleges. An important role in the training of staff for hospital schools or medical-surgical schools, as they became known later, was played by Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. An outstanding domestic histologist O. Shumlyansky in 1782 defended his doctoral thesis in Strasbourg, wrote on the title page: «Olexander Shumlyansky – Poltava, Rus». Emphasizing his national independence, Shumlyansky sought to draw the attention of scholarly men of the University of Strasbourg to the fact that science had been developing not only in Western Europe, but also in Ukraine. Ukrainian doctors had distinguished not only in the field of medical science and education, they also put their contribution to the military medicine: S.S. Andriyevsky, P.A. Naranovych headed the St.Petersburg Medical-Surgical Academy which was the main educational institution for training of military doctors; N.K. Karpinsky was the General-Headquarters doctor of the land army; G.F. Sobolevsky was the Chief Doctor of Guards Regiments; S.M. Mitrofanov, D.V. Volchenetskii were senior doctors of Kyiv and Yelisavetgrad hospitals. Many Ukrainians were divisional and regimental doctors. In the army of Suvorov there was Yu.T. Belopolsky, who was famous for his work and he was considered as «the most successful doctor of the staff» [4, p. 13]. Among of the 34 top leaders of Military Medical Academy in St. Petersburg 4 ones originated from Ukraine, headed the Academy in different periods: S.S. Andrievsky, P.A. Naranovych (1867−1869), O.I. Tarenetsky (1901−1905), O.Ya. Danylevsky (1906−1910). Ability to work for their country started to form in the Ukrainian military doctors during the existence of Ukrainian People’s Republic (1917−1920). At that time, the Chief Surgeon of Kyiv military hospital, and later − General-Lieutenant of Health Service of UPR Martynii Galin prepared and published the first «Russian-Ukrainian Medical Dictionary» in 1920, «Medical Latin-Ukrainian Dictionary» was published already in exile in Prague in 1926 (reprinted in 1969 in Detroit (the USA)). «Russian-Ukrainian Medical Dictionary» by M. Galin was republished in 1995 by the Institute of the Ukrainian Language of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, which testifies its extraordinary scientific value [6, p. 126].

The process of creation, formation and development of Ukrainian military medicine during 1991−2004 can be sub-divided into three stages. The first one from November 1991 up to November 1993 was the early stage of preparation and practice of Ukrainian military medicine in the independent state, with creating of Organizational Military Medical Department at the Bohomolets Ukrainian State Medical University, processing methods and techniques of teaching and educational process, curricula and training programmes for students. The second stage started in November 1993 and lasted up to October 1994, continued the process of strengthening of Ukrainian military medicine. In July 1994, Ukrainian military medics got the emblem – the Rod of Asclepius, a snake entwined and embedded in a combined basis emblem of Armed Forces of Ukraine and wreath and viburnum leaves. In October 1994, the third stage of the formation and development of Ukrainian military medicine had begun, which was associated with the further reformation of the national military medical education and science in accordance with the requirements of time [4, p. 40−44]. Unfortunately, in 2010 the decision to liquidate military departments was adopted, just three departments in Kharkiv, Ternopil and Zaporizhzhia medical universities and one at the Ukrainian Military Medical Academy were left for the whole Ukraine. These departments trained officers of the medical reserve. At that time no one could predict that in a few years in the East of the country an anti-terrorist operation would begin, and a hybrid war with huge human losses, and with a big number of wounded people started [2].

Today, Kharkiv National Medical University, V.N. Karazin National University and the National Pharmaceutical University are sending their students to study at the only department of Disaster Medicine and Military Medicine of the KhNMU in the city, where a specialized clinical base is created for the training of military doctors, there is a highly skilled staffing of teachers – they are not interns trained only by theory, and specialists who came from practical military health, participated in hostilities, liquidators the effects of natural or man-made disasters, provide real assistance to the wounded.

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