

# Message for Peace from Sick and Wounded Soldiers and Thier Families

The exhibition showcases the experiences of wounded soldiers and their families and their messages of longing for peace in light of their experiences.

*I want to put an end to such sad and foolish wars in our time. I hope there will be peace forever.*

*On the battlefield, every moment is a matter of life and death. War truly neglects humanity and is sometimes dominated by insane emotions. Today, I have been firmly steeping in the "preciousness of peace" and the "preciousness of human life."*

*Once a person loses a limb, it will never come back. The next time I am born in a peaceful Japan, I would like to be reborn as a person with both arms and legs, a person who is economically and socially blessed as a result of my own wits and effort.*

*I contracted leprosy in the war. I suffered prejudice, discrimination, and persecution in the army. In the future, I fervently hope that no one, no matter who they are, will repeat the pain we experienced.*

*The deep sorrow of the victims of war is shared across borders and races. I pray for the repose of the souls of all victims of war around the world and for peace.*

## Admission and Hours

Admission: Free | Reception Desk (2nd Floor)

Hours | 10:00 to 17:30 (last entry: 17:00)

Closed | Mondays (except national and other holidays, when the museum will be closed the following day), and from Dec. 28 to Jan. 4

Free Services | Wheelchairs Lockers Exhibit Guide

## Visitor Guidelines

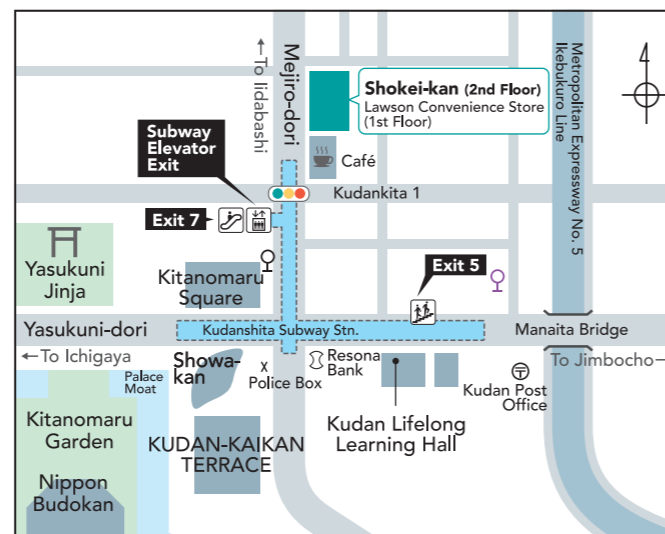
- Please do not touch the exhibits.
- Unauthorized still and video photography, and sound recording are strictly prohibited in the museum.
- Please refrain from speaking on your mobile phone in the museum.
- Please refrain from eating and drinking in the museum.
- Please refrain from smoking in the museum.
- Please refrain from bringing pets into the museum.
- Please refrain from bringing hazardous items into the museum.



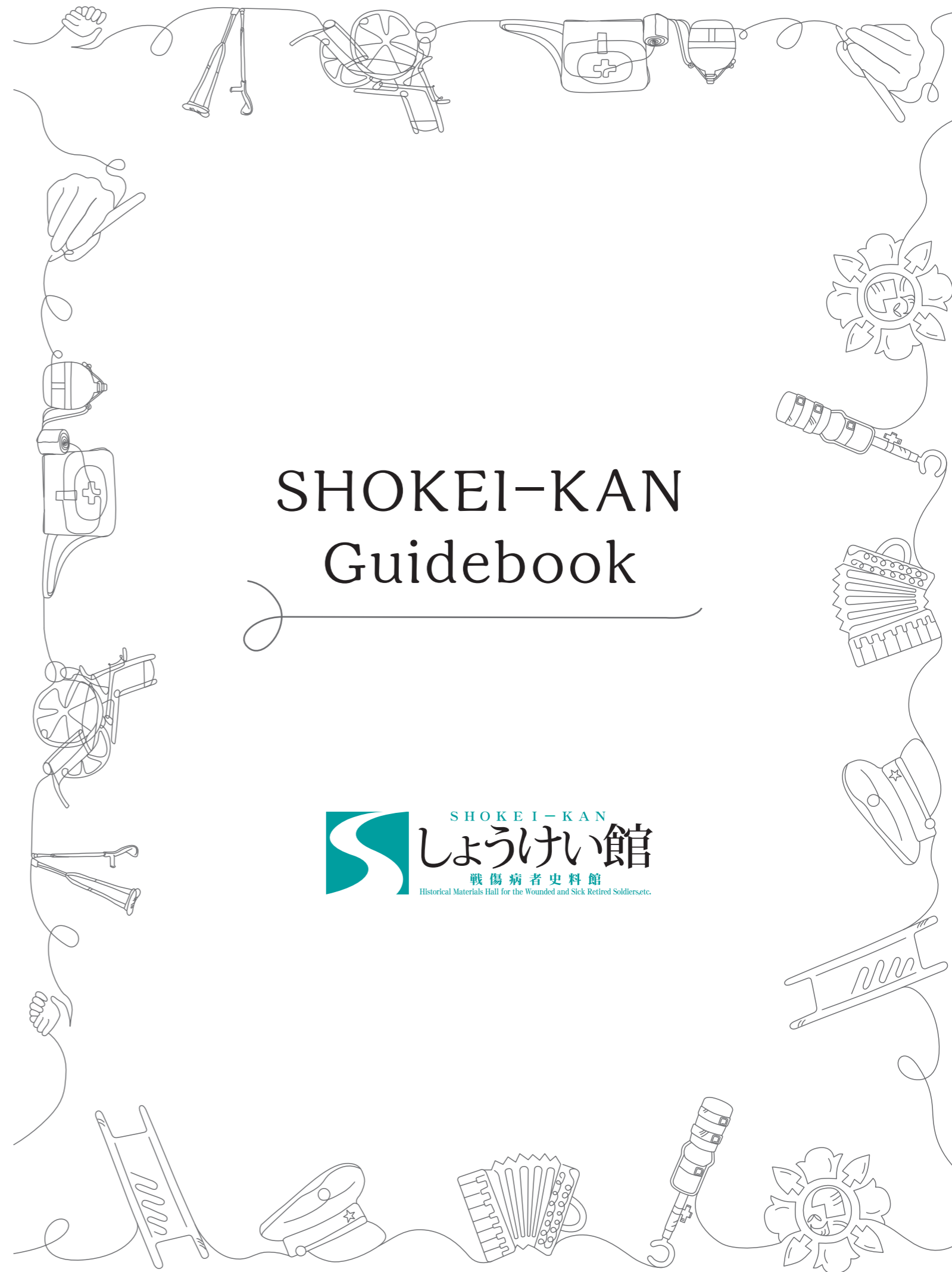
GreenOak Kudan 2F 1-11-5 Kudankita Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102-0073  
TEL.03-3234-7821 FAX.03-3234-7826 www.shokeikan.go.jp

## Transportation Information

- Coming by Subway
  - 3 min. walk from Exit 7 of Tokyo Metro Kudanshita Station on the Tozai or Hanzomon Lines
  - 3 min. walk from Exit 7 / 5min. walk from Exit 5 of Toei Subway Kudanshita Station on the Shinjuku Line
- Coming by Bus
  - ♀ 4 min. walk from the Toei Bus (販64) Kudanshita Stop
  - ♀ 5 min. walk from the Chiyoda Community Bus Chiyoda Hokenjo Stop (Kudanshita Station)



# SHOKEI-KAN Guidebook



# Introduction

## The Shokei-kan

The Shokei-kan is a national museum that was established in March 2006 to provide a greater understanding of the various hardships endured by sick and wounded soldiers and their families in and after the World War II era. The facility collects, preserves, and exhibits oral testimonies, historical materials, books, and other forms of information with the aim of conveying these experiences to future generations.

## The Museum's Name

The word *shokei*, meaning to pass down, was chosen to encapsulate the primary objective of this museum (or *-kan*) - i.e., convey information to future generations regarding the hardships endured by sick and wounded soldiers and their families in and after the World War II era. In Japanese, the word *shokei* has been rendered in hiragana, rather than kanji, to make the name accessible to everyone from children to adults. Moreover, the epithet, "The Historical Museum of Sick and Wounded Soldiers, etc." was added to explain the nature of the facility.

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## Special Exhibition Room, Theater, Library

In the special exhibition room, theater, and library, we present first-hand experiences recounting various hardships endured by sick and wounded soldiers and their families during the war era.



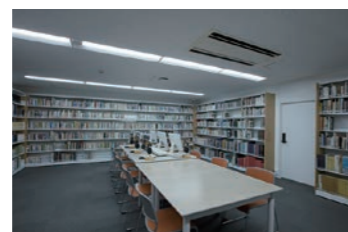
### 1 Special Exhibition Room

In four annual exhibitions, we examine various hardships endured by sick and wounded soldiers during the war era.



### 2 Theater

In video presentations, sick and wounded soldiers relate their personal experiences. Other events include lectures delivered by storytellers.



### 3 Library

The museum contains a collection of books on medicine, welfare, and relief measures as well as memoirs by sick and wounded soldiers, and other first-hand accounts of the war. Books can be freely accessed, but they cannot be borrowed from the museum.



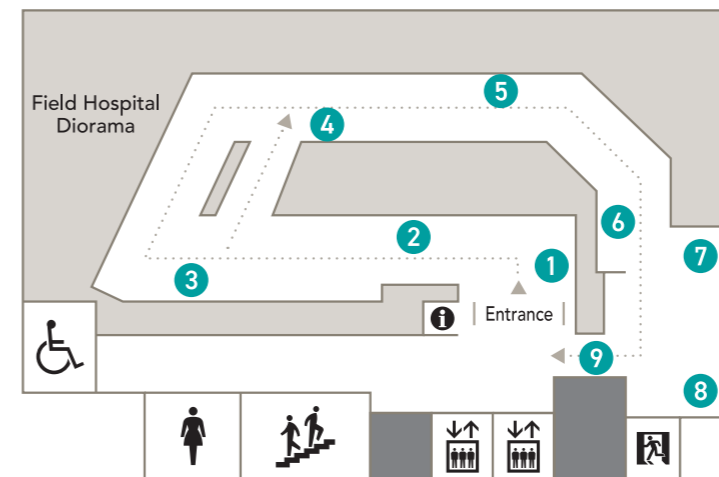
### 4 Computers for Information Searches

The computers in the library allows visitors to search for the following information: 1) reference materials, 2) actual documents, 3) records of sick and wounded soldiers, and 4) personal-experience videos.

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## Parmanent Exhibition Room

Based on actual testimonies, we retrace the lives of those who were wounded on the battlefield in order to convey the hardships endured by sick and wounded soldiers and their families.



### 1 Introduction

In a modern cityscape, a young man is exposed to news about the war. An introductory video to the permanent exhibits is shown, tracing the footsteps of young soldiers who were wounded in World War II

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The Story of a Young Soldier
- 2 Heading to the Front  
The Draft, Enlistment, Leaving for the Front, and Life on the Battlefield
- 3 Pain and Treatment on the Battlefield  
The Wounded and Ill, Relief and Shelter, and Field Hospitals
- 4 Transporting Soldiers to the Hospital and Wartime Recuperation  
Transporting Soldiers Off the Battlefield, Hospital Ships, Wartime Reoperation, and Social Rehabilitation after Hospital Discharge
- 5 With the Help of Family  
Struggling with Poverty, Living with Injuries, and Overcoming Problems Together
- 6 Hands-on Exhibits
- 7 Theme-based Exhibits  
Displays of Gifted Items Arranged by Theme
- 8 Hardships of Mental disorders
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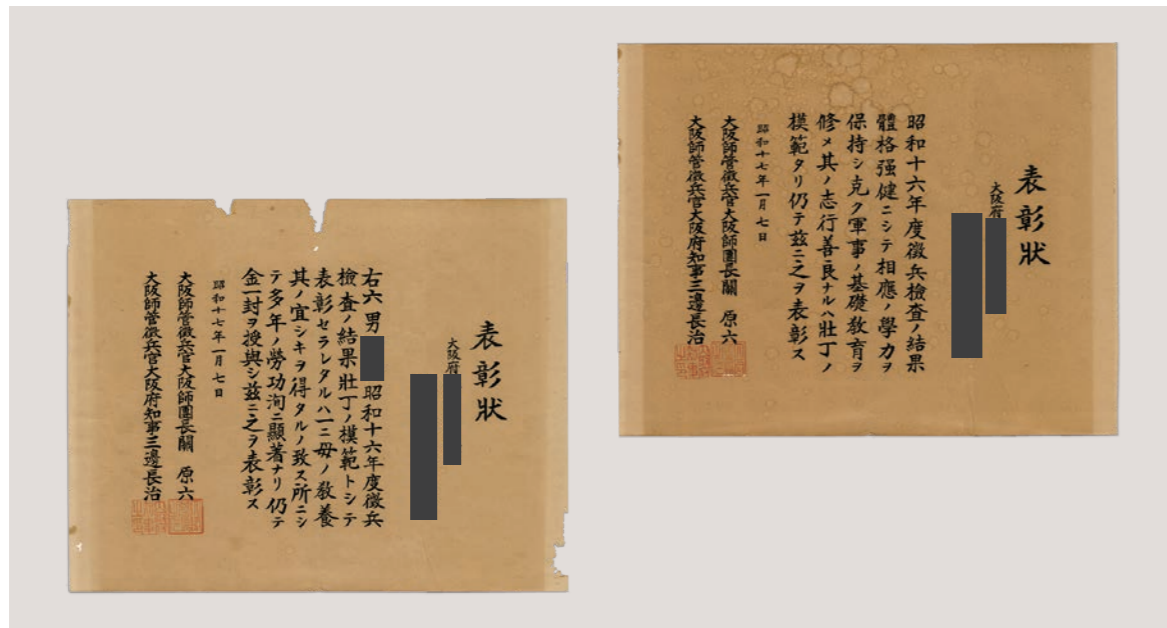
# Heading to the Front



Men who reached the age of 20 are required to undergo a conscription examination to become a soldier. At the time, being a soldier was honorable duty to the state and a point of pride.

## The Draft: The Era of Universal Conscription

Under the principle of universal conscription, being rated as "Class A" by the conscription examination was considered to be the model for young people.



### Certificate of Commendation for a First-grade Conscript

This certificate of commendation was presented to a young man who had passed the conscription examination with superior marks and also had achieved excellent results in basic military training prior to enlisting. Not only were they recognized for their efforts, but their

mothers also received a certificate of commendation for having given birth to and raised an outstanding boy who could attain the highest level of the test.

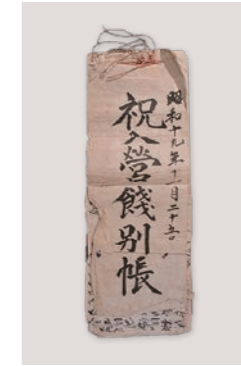
## Enlistment

Men were sent off to the army by their family and members of their communities. Training as a soldier, living under military discipline, being slapped by senior soldiers... In the barracks, a hard and painful life awaited conscripts.



### Makikyahan (Gaiters)

They are designed to protect the wearer's shins, prevent their legs from swelling, and stop the hems of their trousers from getting tangled up.

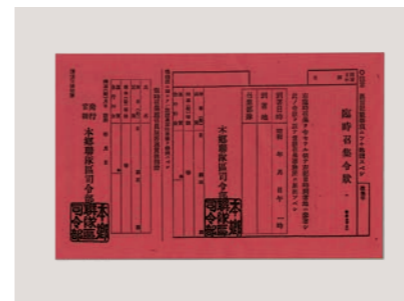


### A farewell ledger

Something given by members of the community upon a conscript entering the service. It contains a list of cash and congratulatory gifts.

## Leaving for the Front with Great Resolve

When war broke out, soldiers left the garrison where they had been trained to head to the front. Pride and anxiety, determination and resolve... New soldiers had varied thoughts and feelings.



### Red Paper

When war broke out and the number of soldiers needed to be increased or replenished, what were known as "red papers" were issued to call up reservists and replacements.



### Amulets

Good-luck charms given to soldiers going to war to pray for their safety. A sen'ninbari strip of cloth and a Japanese flag with an inscription were also given to soldiers on their way to war.



### A Soldier's Hair

Before leaving for war, many soldiers left pieces of their hair and fingernails for their families as keepsakes or for funerals.

## Life at the Front

Far away from the mainland, overseas at the front... Every day, they repeatedly marched and camped. These were the everyday lives of soldiers living in a foreign land, thinking of their families.



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### 1: Comfort Bag

As comforts for soldiers, items such as letters, daily necessities, sweets, postcards, and magazines were packed and sent to the front. Letters were especially appreciated by the soldiers.

### 2: Hango (Rice Pot)

At the front, mess tins were used to cook rice and soup. They were also used to boil fresh water.

# Suffering and its Treatment at the Front



Soldiers were hit with bullets, artillery shells, and bombs. They were hungry due to endemic diseases and a lack of food. In the harsh circumstances and conditions of the battlefield, soldiers were wounded and fell.

## The Wounded and the Ill: the Harsh Conditions on the Battlefield

Extreme stress and fear, fatigue, and injuries from enemy attacks. Appalling conditions where infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria are prevalent. Fighting on the battlefield had various impacts on soldiers physically and mentally. As the state of the war worsened, the number of wounded and sick continued to increase, both on land and at sea.



### Wristwatch and Booklet

This wristwatch and booklet were in a soldier's possession when he was seriously injured by an enemy hand grenade in May 1941. The watch he was wearing has been stopped ever since that moment.



### A removed bullet

A bullet removed from the right thigh. He received it as a souvenir when a soldier had his leg amputated.



### A Japanese flag used to stop bleeding

This Japanese flag was on a soldier when he was injured and was used to stop bleeding instead of bandages.

## Medical Relief and Shelter: First Aid on the Battlefield

Wounded on the battlefield, soldiers went to the aid station with the help of their brothers-in-arms and medics. At the aid station, first aid was given, but providing adequate aid was often impossible on fiercely contested battlefields.

### Battlefield Sketches

These four sketches were drawn in later years by medics who had been deployed to Burma (present-day Myanmar) in 1944.



**救護** 重傷の兵士は、手当てを拒み、一杯の水を求めた。その水を飲み、彼は回復した。  
A severely wounded soldier refused medical aid and asked for a glass of water. He drank the water and died.  
— I don't want medical aid, I want refreshing water.



**マラリア患者** 同僚の軽装を背負い取寄せた。彼は後送先の野戦病院で息絶した。原因は、マラリアによる脳症であった。  
A soldier walked to the field hospital carrying his brother-in-arms from the same town on his back. His brother-in-arms died suddenly at the field hospital. The cause was encephalopathy due to malaria.  
— He was as light as cotton on my back.



**仮営所** 第一線近くの住民が避難した住宅を仮営所として利用した。蟻が傷口に卵を産みつけ、蟻(ク)がいた。  
A house near the front line whose residents had been evacuated was used as a temporary aid station. Maggots laid eggs, infesting wounds.  
— When I poured tincture of iodine into the wound, maggots came out in droves.



**手術** 手術室で腕を負傷した兵士が担架で治療所に運ばれた。適切な止血と軍医の決断が、一命を救った。  
A soldier injured in the arm by a grenade was brought to the aid station on a stretcher. Proper hemostasis and the decision of the military doctor saved his life.  
— I'm going to take your arm off, all right?



### Bandage Compress

A personal portable dressing with antiseptic gauze and a triangular bandage. Each soldier was required to carry one in his pocket.

# Objects indicating the moment a soldier was injured



**Boots**

At the field hospital where the soldier was brought, as soon as his army boots were removed, he lost a lot of blood due to a penetrating bullet.



**Bag**

The soldier was in the jungle and had nothing to stop the bleeding, so he used a ripped loincloth as a bandage.



**Cigarette Case**

The bullet that entered the soldier's body was near his spinal cord and could not be removed.



**Glasses**

He was told by a military doctor, "If you hadn't been wearing glasses, you would have died instantly."



**Cap**

When the soldier placed his hand on the injured site, his fingers entered into it. At that moment he lost consciousness.

## Field Hospitals Without Facilities, Medical Supplies or Medicine

Sick and wounded soldiers overflowing, military doctors at their wit's end, soldiers left to die of serious illness. At the end of the war, hospitals existed in name only.



On the front line during battle, the most important steps to save the life of a wounded soldier were to first stop the bleeding and then clean the wound.

As the state of the war worsened, the number of wounded soldiers increased, but there were not enough military doctors and medics. Sometimes they were also wounded and fell ill.

In the field hospital where food and medicine did not arrive, everyone became malnourished and debilitated.

Debilitated and unable to move, the soldiers called out the names of their parents and wives back home.

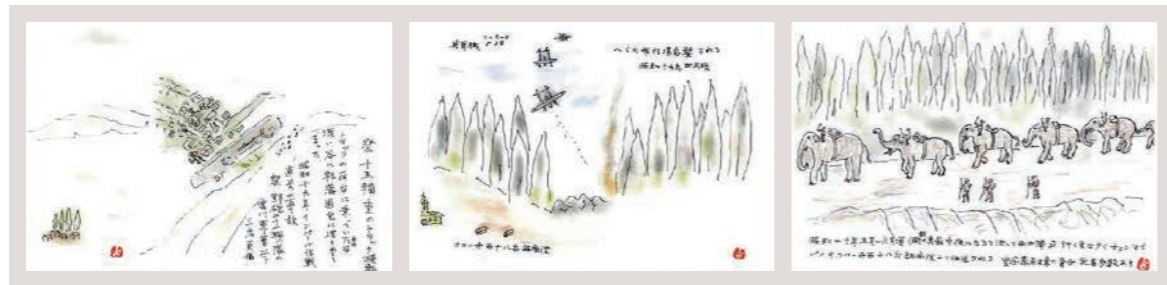
# Transporting Soldiers to Hospital and Wartime Recuperation



Traveling from the front to a hospital back on the mainland, while under attack from the enemy. However, the soldier's body was not what it once was. With medical care and livelihood assistance from the government, he began his days of reintegrating into society.

## Retreat and Transportation from the Battlefield

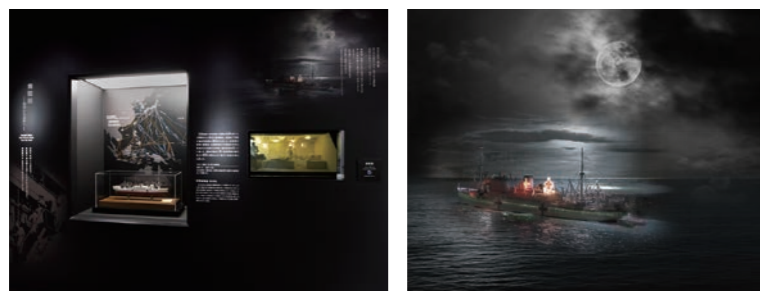
Seriously injured soldiers were taken to a line of communications hospital far from the battlefield. But even that was no longer a safe place, as the hospitals were attacked by the enemy and forced to close down or pullback.



**Sketches** Wounded soldiers were transported to hospitals by trucks or other vehicles, but the former soldier who drew this painting depicts his experience of being transported by elephant.

## Hospital Ships: Returning to Japan from the Front

While in transit, a hospital ship that had been converted from a merchant ship was attacked by aircraft and submarines. The hospital ship was full of wounded soldiers.



A hospital ship with a stark white hull, a green band, and a large Red Cross insignia. It sailed at night with its red-green lights on.

## Wartime Health Treatment: Daily Rehabilitation and Therapy

Treatment and rigorous rehabilitation at an army and navy hospital, training to get used to the prosthetic limb and training to work. The days of regaining independence began.

### 1: A Prosthetic Leg

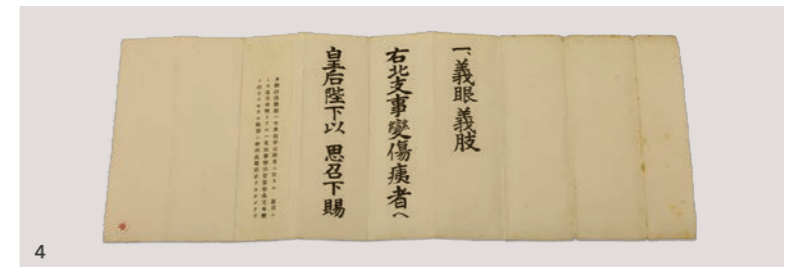
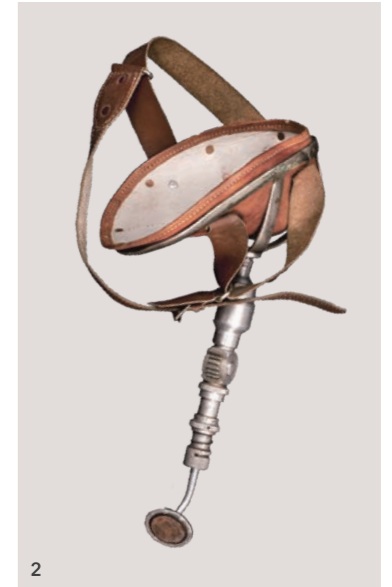
Soldiers whose hands and feet had been amputated were given "artificial limbs" by the Empress.

### 2: A Prosthetic Arm for Working

A prosthetic hand provided for drafting work. A flat portion is attached to the tip of the hand to hold down paper.

### 3: A Prosthetic Eyes, 4: Satasho

These artificial eyes were given to a soldier who had lost both eyes. The gift also includes a "notice" indicating that it was given by the Empress.



## Discharge and Social Reintegration: Local and National Support

Employment, marriage, and a family to support. Despite concerns about their altered bodies, soldiers were discharged from the hospital. The government and the community supported them as wounded soldiers.



### A military decoration

This decoration was awarded to wounded soldiers. The reverse is inscribed with "battle wound" to indicate that the wound was sustained in combat or "injury on duty" to indicate that the injury was sustained in the line of duty.



### A pocket watch for the blind

The dial of the watch has bumps so one can tell the time by feeling them and the watch hands.

### A "Rehabilitate in the Light of Aid" poster

This was created to build momentum for wounded soldiers to reintegrate into society.

# With the Help of Family



On August 15, 1945, the end of the war was announced. However, the hardships of wounded soldiers were not over. Along with their wives and families, wounded soldiers overcame their hardships in a new society.

## Destitution: The Loss of Governmental Support

Immediately after the war, everyone was struggling to survive. The Occupation forces halted measures to protect military personnel. The sight of wounded soldiers walking the streets moved society to revive the measures as a means of relief.



**Pawn Ticket**  
Due to the wounds he sustained, a former soldier was unable to work enough, and he was indigent. This pawn ticket was created when he pawned his *futon*.

## Life with Disabilities in an Affluent Society

Japanese society is growing richer in the postwar era. Amidst these circumstances, wounded soldiers and their wives, families, and friends strove to live their lives while enduring wounds and illnesses sustained in the war.



**Oxygen cylinder**  
This canister was used in everyday life by a person who suffered from silicosis due to drilling rock in a coal mine during his internment in Siberia.



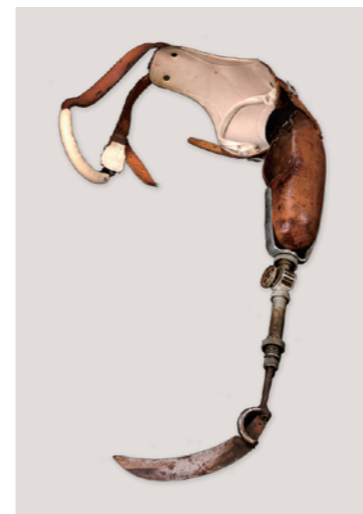
**Seizure log book**  
This notebook documents how a wounded soldier suffered from traumatic epilepsy and severe seizures until his death.

## Overcoming Difficulties Together: Transmitting the Hardships of the Wounded and the Ill

Wounded soldiers lived through various hardships. There were as many hardships as there were wounded soldiers and their families.



**Hakone style wheelchair**  
This wheelchair was manufactured by the Hakone Sanatorium, which specialized in taking people with spinal cord injuries. The backrest is made of cloth and it has a spring to prevent pressure ulcers and to allow the user to sit for long periods of time. The wheelchair is sturdy but weighs approximately 30 kilograms.



**A modified prosthetic hand for work**  
A sickle was attached to the end of the prosthetic hand to allow the user to do farm work.



**A single-pedal bicycle**  
This bicycle that has been modified so that it can be pedaled with only one leg since a prosthetic leg does not move.



**Leather Orthopedic Shoe**  
This orthopedic support shoe. His wife recalled, "This shoe was like a part of his body."

## Hands-on Exhibits

These are prosthetic limbs, modeled after the prosthetic hands and feet used by wounded soldiers, that visitors can touch. Feel the weight and texture of the prosthetic limbs and think about how you would feel losing part of your body in a war.



## Theme-based Exhibits

Donated materials in the *Shokei-kan's* collection are presented on a given theme.



## Hardships of Mental disorders

Mental disorders caused by combat experiences and life in the armed forces.

The hardships of psychiatric and neurological illness were borne not only by the patients themselves, but also by their families.



Items made by war-wounded patients

## To learn more

### Corner Guidance

“A Soldier’s Memoir” is displayed in each portion of a permanent exhibit. Even people who have yet to study the societal context for World War II and the postwar period can easily understand the situations depicted in each portion by viewing the Portion Guide.

\*Japanese only



### Experience Story

In each portion, there is a memoir you can look through to read about a person who experienced a given situation. You can read about the situation and how the person felt in that situation.

\*The memoir booklet is available at the reception desk.



### Touch Monitor

More detailed information and related materials for each portion can be viewed on the screen.

\*Japanese only

