

The Spanish Flu of 1918 and its impact in the army

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Summary: A brief presentation of the so called "Spanish flu", the pandemic that killed more people than WWI between 1917 and 1920.

Methods/results: We examined the circumstances under which the viral disease became known and the reasons that led to the spread of the pandemic. Based on US statistics we compare the ratio between war and sickness casualties. The measures taken are presented and a comparison with modern time covid pandemic is attempted.

Conclusions: The Spanish Flu was probably the worst pandemic disease of the century. The war conditions helped it to develop, and all armies were largely affected. More people died of the it than of WWI. Similar measures with nowadays covid pandemic were taken.