

Accessing the online archive for the Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service

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Abstract

Following work by the editorial team, notably Surg Lt Cdr M O’Shea, and with funding from the Wellcome Trust, every edition of this Journal dating back to the first edition in 1915 is available on our website. This article gives details of how to access it.

Introduction

Following work by the editorial team, notably Surg Lt Cdr M O’Shea, and with funding from the Wellcome Trust, every edition of this Journal dating back to the first edition in 1915 is available on our website (1). Originally conceived by Sir James Porter, KCB, the Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service (JRNMS) produced its first edition in January 1915 with the intent of gaining a wider audience for the scientific and medical parts of medical

officers’ reports which were “*hitherto relegated to obscurity*” (2). They led with a report by Surgeon E.L. Atkinson, RN, of Captain Scott’s *Terra Nova* expedition to Antarctica in 1910-1913, discussing conditions that remain relevant today, such as frostbite and snow-blindness (3). In that first edition are colourful accounts of battle (4), prevention of typhoid before widespread immunization (5), and a discussion on whether aeroplane pilots should wear seatbelts (it concluded they should) (6).

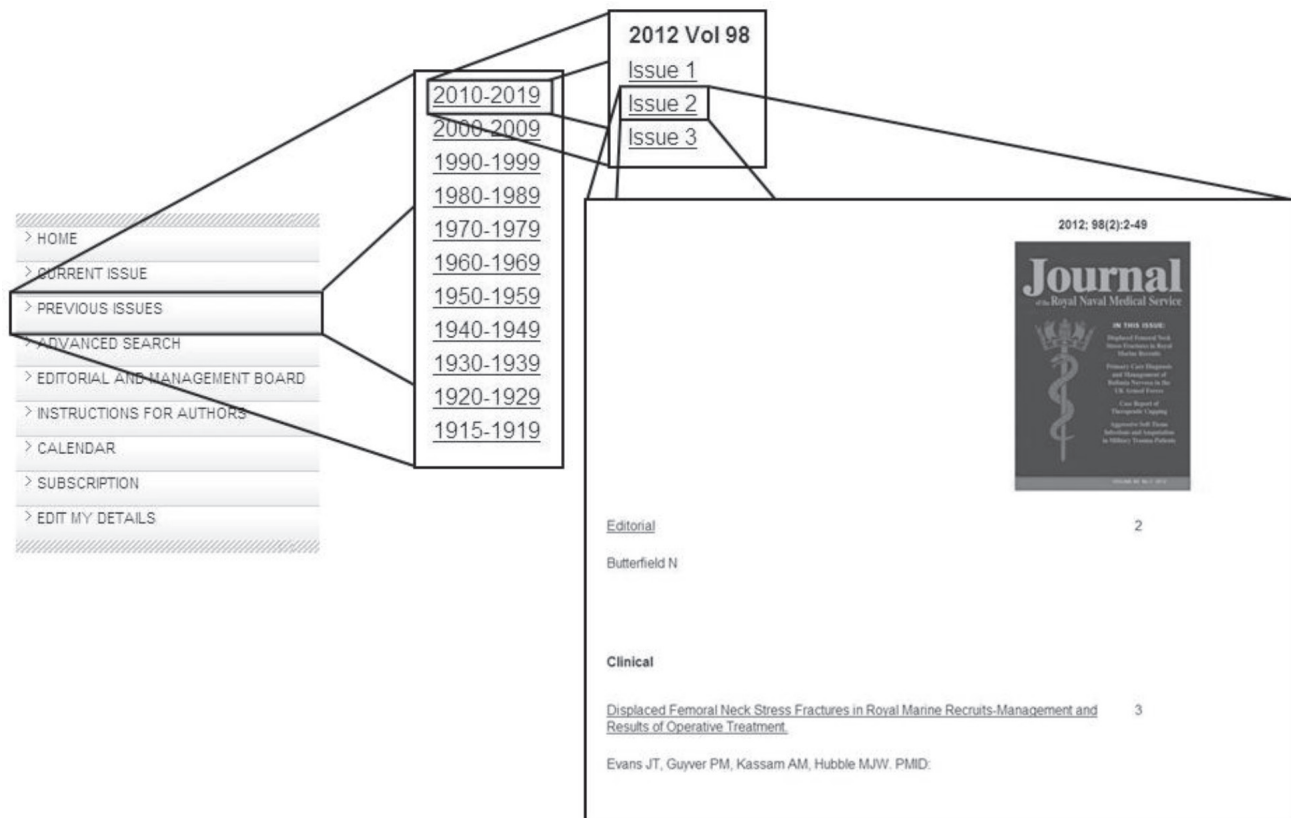


Figure 1. Steps to access recent articles.

Later editions bring contemporaneous reports notably from both World Wars and the Falklands conflict. The INM Historic Collections Librarian, Mrs Jane Wickenden, has identified a particularly interesting series of articles entitled the *'Official history of the medical unit of the Royal Naval Division from its inception to the evacuation of Gallipoli'*, demonstrating the richness of archived material held by the JRNMS (7, 8).

Accessing the archive

Every edition of the journal is freely available from our website (www.jrnms.com), one year after first publication. After reaching the website, select *'Previous issues'* from the left-hand menu, then choose the date range of interest, say 2010 to 2019, then the appropriate issue. For recent editions, this brings you to a list of articles, with direct links to the articles as illustrated in Figure 1.

Some computers will need extra software to show these articles. A link to *'Get Adobe Reader'* is provided from the website and seen in Figure 2.

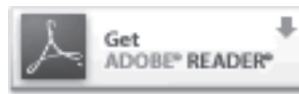


Figure 2. A link to the Adobe Reader software.

For some older editions, the direct links are still being populated. Until these links are working, the articles are accessible through the *'Free access to the 19## edition in its entirety'* link, which displays the start of that year's journal, as in Figure 3.

The four-way arrow, highlighted in Figure 3 with a white hexagon, enlarges the figure to make reading easier and gives access to the controls shown in Figure 4.

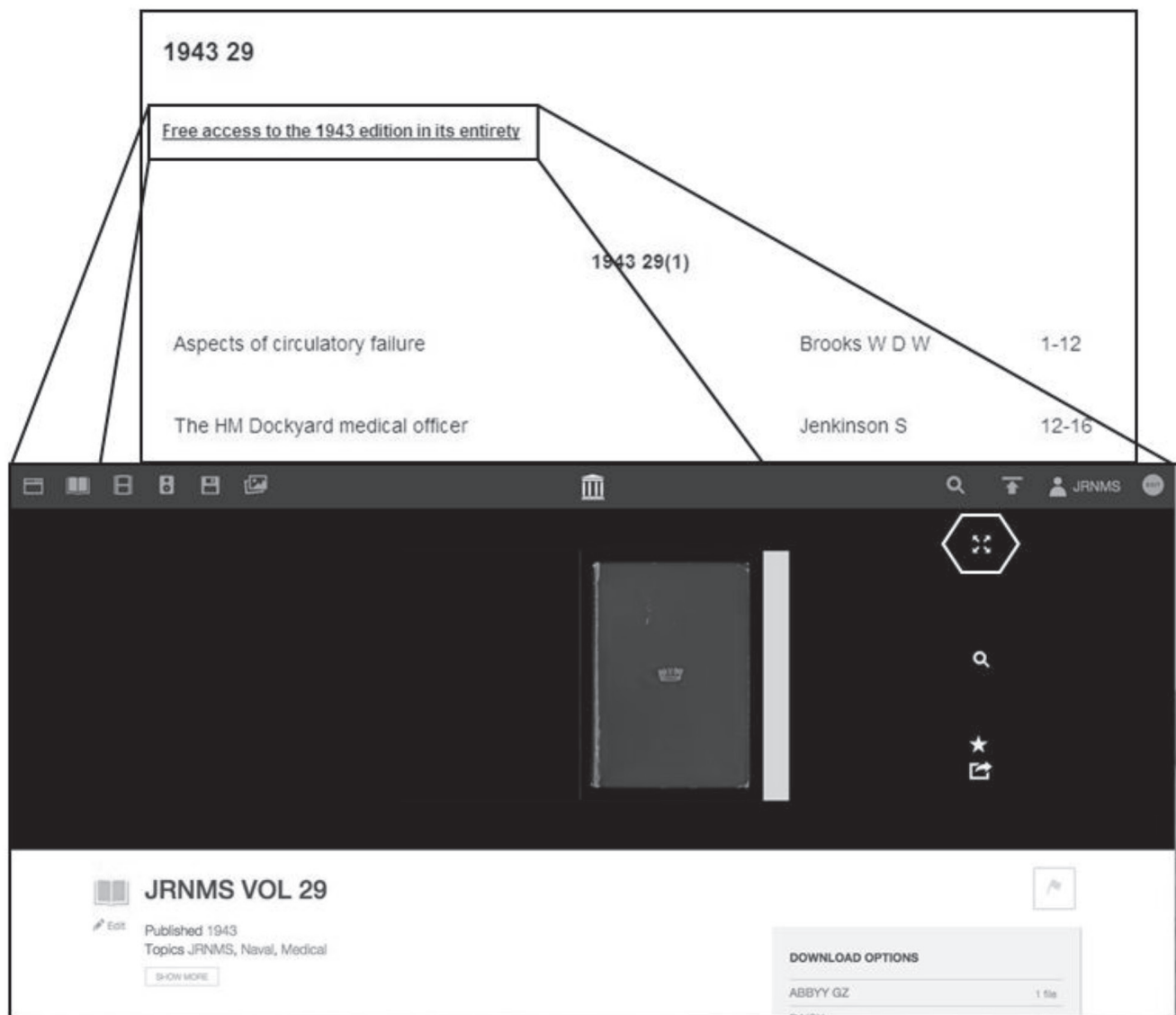


Figure 3. Access to older articles.



Figure 4. Controls.

These controls work as follows:

1. Click this line to jump forward or backwards in the current year's journal.
2. Magnifying glass to make the text larger.
3. Reverse magnifying glass to fit more on a screen.
4. Go backward one page.
5. Go forward one page.

Once finished reading, either the keyboard button marked 'Esc' or the browser's 'Back' navigation button may be used to exit.

References

1. www.jrnms.com (accessed Oct 15).
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5. Bassett-Smith PW. Typhoid and its prevention. *J R Nav Med Serv* 1915;1:49-54.
6. Wells HV. The flying service, from a medical point of view. *J R Nav Med Serv* 1915;1:55-60.
7. Gaskell A. Official history of the medical unit of the Royal Naval Division from its inception to the evacuation of Gallipoli. *J R Nav Med Serv* 1925; 193-208, 275-291.
8. Gaskell A. Official history of the medical unit of the Royal Naval Division from its inception to the evacuation of Gallipoli. *J R Nav Med Serv* 1926; 36-57, 121-140, 219-227.

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Summary

This JRNMS's archive now stretches back over a century, with some captivating accounts of historical medicine and warfare. While there has been vast change in the medical world since the first publication, many things remain surprisingly similar. Readers are encouraged to sample some of what is available at www.jrnms.com