



SCIENCE CAFÉ

AT THE

NATIONAL
MUSEUM
OF HEALTH AND
MEDICINE

Thursday, June 22, 2023, 6 p.m.

Smoke 'em if you got 'em: A History of Tobacco in the Military

Join Alan Blum, M.D., from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, and director for the University of Alabama Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society, for a presentation that will discuss smoking in the military during World War I. From 1914 to 1918, the great empires of Europe clashed in a global conflict that involved more than 70 million soldiers and cost over 16 million lives. Tobacco also went to war, packed in every doughboy's knapsack. Through patriotic advertising and stepped-up production, cigarettes would supplant cigars and chewing tobacco as the young men's favorite vice. When the war ended, the soldiers' physical wounds would heal, but insidious diseases brought about by the increase in cigarette smoking would be a lasting legacy.

(Photo courtesy of The Library of Congress)

*"Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag,
And smile, smile, smile,
While you've a lucifer to light your fag,
Smile, boys, that's the style...."*

– World War I marching song by George Henry Powell and Felix Powell



2500 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 319-3300 www.medicalmuseum.health.mil

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [@MedicalMuseum](#)

USArmy.Detrick.MEDCOM-USAMRMC.List.Medical-Museum@mail.mil