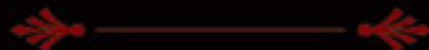


EYES THAT DO NOT SEE



EYE LOSS AND PROSTHETIC RESTORATION
DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR YEARS



Michael O. Hughes
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Artificial Eye Clinic of Washington, D.C.

Ocular Injuries
in
Warfare

Why is the eye so vulnerable?

- Preferential exposure of the face in warfare
- Aiming weapons



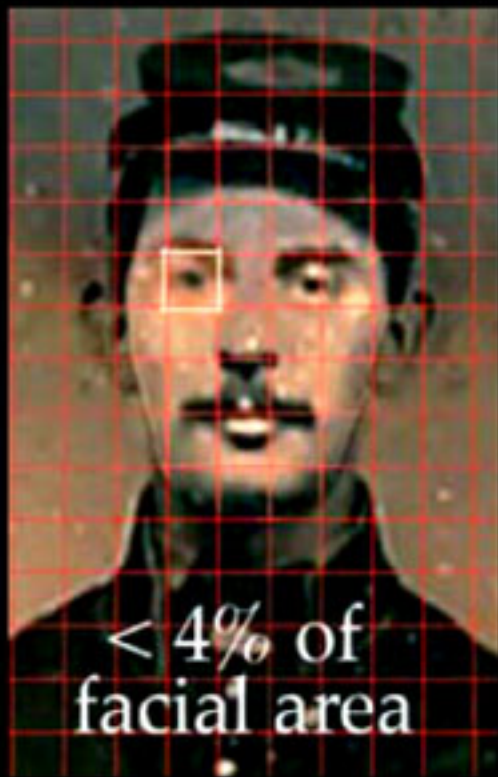
Eye exceptionally
vulnerable to
small fragments



Why is the eye so vulnerable?

Incidence of eye
injuries
is 20-50x higher than
expected by
surface area alone





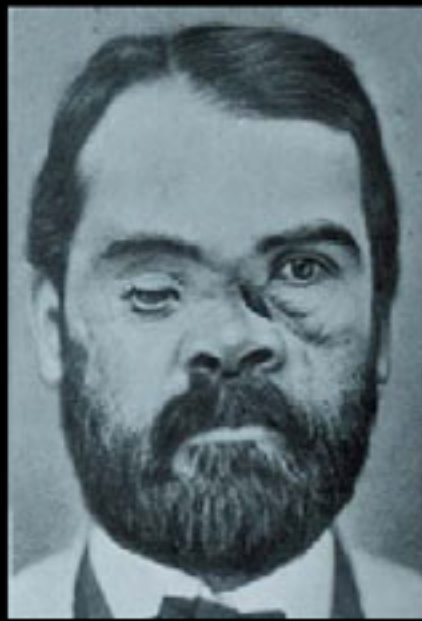
Civil War

Eye involved
reportedly
less than 1%
of casualties

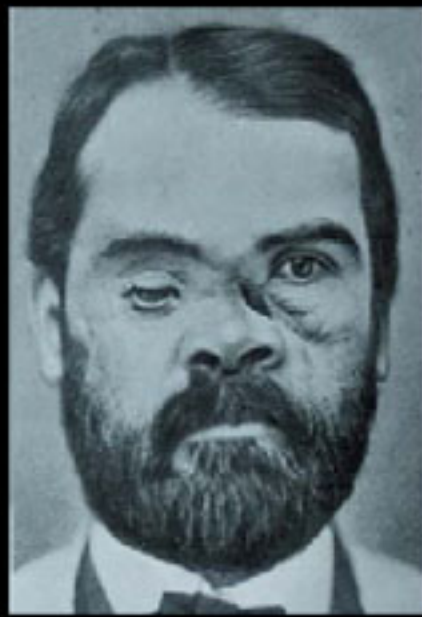


Civil War

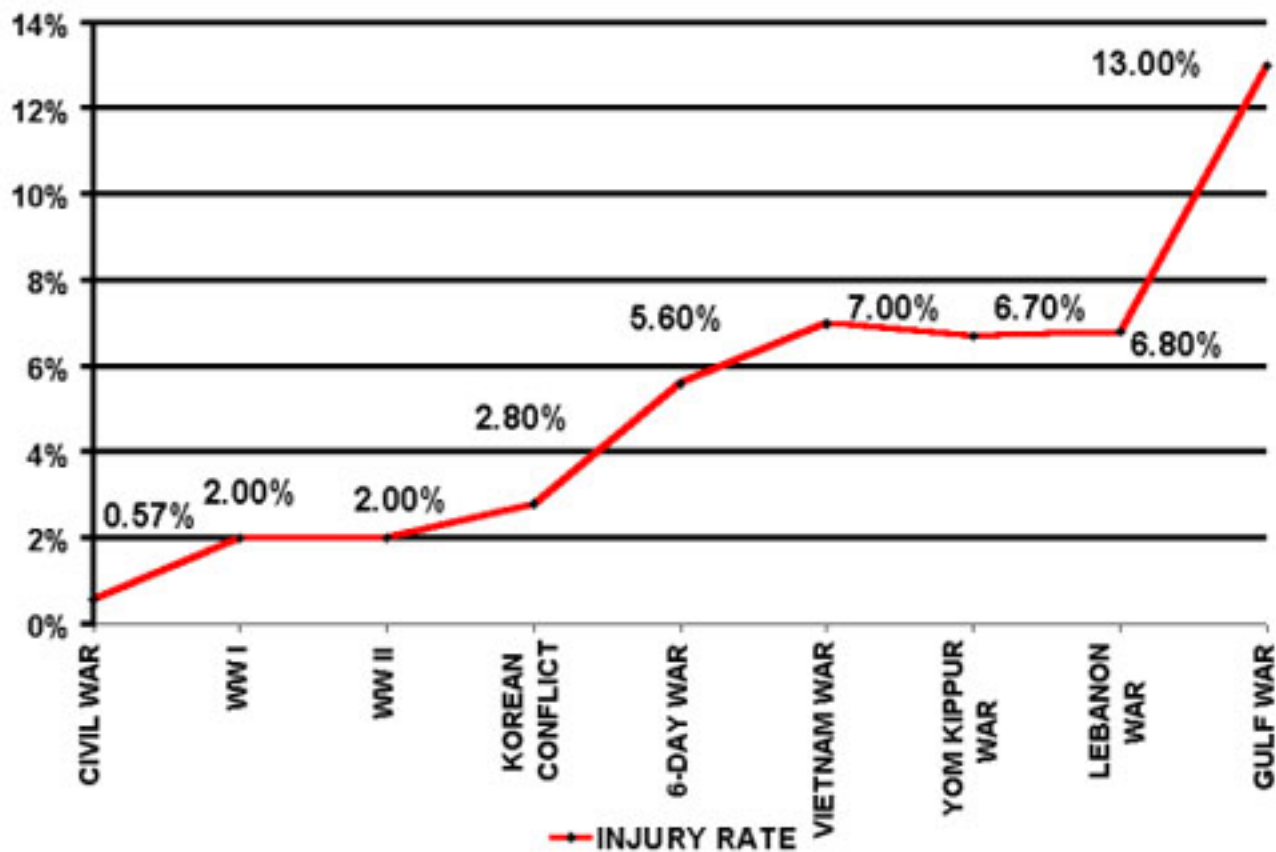
Eye included in concomitant wounds



Reported at Richmond's Chimborazo Hospital :
"62% of eye-wounded reported back to unit"



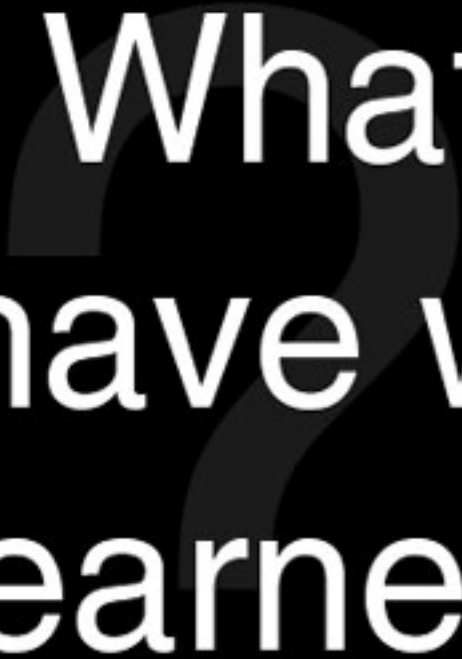
OCULAR INJURIES AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WAR INJURIES





American Civil war was significant
for medical care
including eye injuries and
prosthetic restoration
because it was *documented*.

While a significant percentage of state budgets allocated restorative and disability pensions, this was for orthotic prosthetics (arms and legs).



What
have we
learned?

EYES THAT DO NOT SEE



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THANK YOU

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