

Crimean military quilt



There is a picture hanging in the Royal College of Surgeons of a man sitting in bed sewing a quilt. His quilt was made of triangles, while the one on display at the Museum is tiny squares of densely woven worsted used in the production of military uniforms, predominantly in red.

Soldiers were encouraged to take up needlework as a form of therapy for those injured in conflict and recuperating in hospital. It is likely that sewing a quilt also filled the hours when a soldier was not on duty. An heirloom from the great great grandfather of our curator, Private James Reeves, a soldier in the 108th (Madras Infantry) Regiment of Foot.



This glorious woollen quilt is a reminder of the therapy of craft work. It is on loan to the Museum and is on display.

For more information on quilts of the 19th Century:

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/soldiers-military-quilts-crimea>

For information on the 108th Regiment of Foot:

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/108th-regiment-foot-madras-infantry>