In the seventeenth century, Russian military medicine institutions kept careful bureaucratic records of wounded soldiers, noting who was injured in which battle, if and how they could be treated, and also processing petitions for treatment. A number of these records come from the Russo-Turkish wars, such as the 1678 Chyhyryn campaign. Chyhyryn, where the Russians and the Ottomans fought several centuries ago, is 300 km from the present front in the Russo-Ukraine war. This talk will bring together the historical and the modern to examine what medical history tells us about war and empire, and discuss how we can write about war in a time of war.