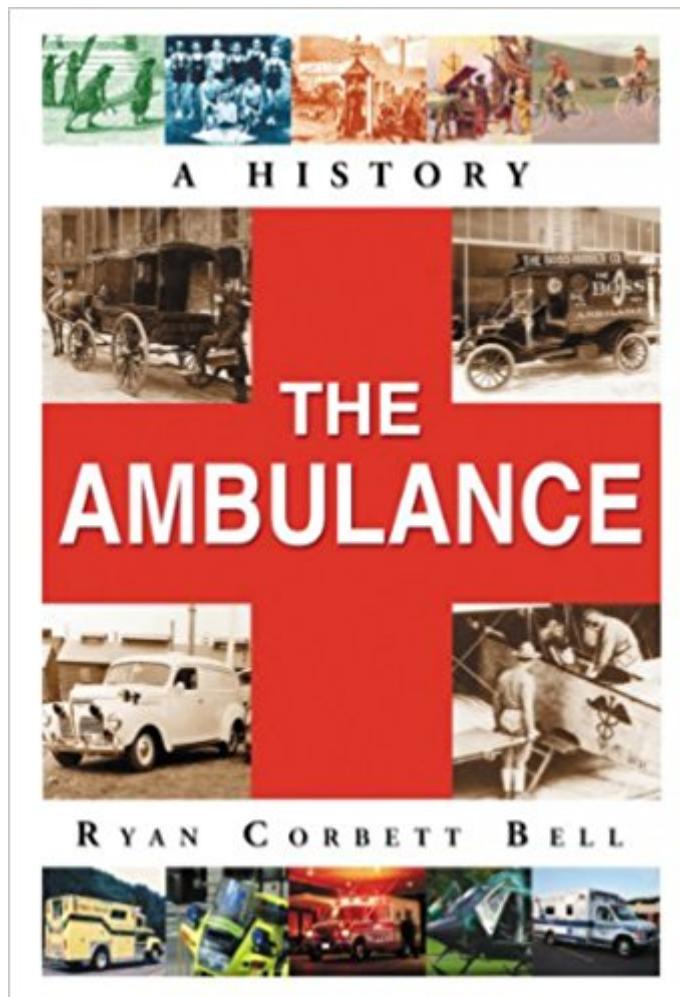


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# The Ambulance: A History



## Synopsis

Over several centuries the ambulance has evolved from horse-drawn wagons designed to remove wounded soldiers from the battlefield into high-speed emergency rooms on wheels, staffed by skilled professionals. This thorough history follows the ambulance through every phase, focusing not just on the vehicles but on their role within the developing medical systems they served, as well as the political, social and economic influences that have shaped their advancement. Topics include the critical role of police ambulances in the development of the first emergency medical services, the history of the ambulance intern, breakthroughs in ambulance design and function from the horse-drawn days to the present, notable women in ambulance development, and a fresh look at the first organized paramedic services. More than 275 photographs and other illustrations accompany the text.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This thorough history follows the ambulance through every phase." --Antique

Automobile "Fascinating history." --C&RL News "Fires 398 hard-bound pages at the subject...scope

is amazing...much prewar-automobile referencing abounds...this book hits the center!" --Prewar

Auto Notes "You will enjoy this book. --1st Responder News "If there was a best-seller list for EMS

books, [this book] would surely be included. From the EMS veteran to the rookie, you'll find

enjoyment in this easy-to-read trip back in time that examines the origin, history and development of the ambulance and the people who have dedicated their lives to saving others...comprehensive."

--Journal of Emergency Medical Services

A psychiatrist and former district attorney, Ryan Corbett Bell has visited hospitals, clinics, leper colonies, and infirmaries worldwide and studies medical history and the ways in which care is delivered. He lives in Rochester, New York.

information was exactly what i needed for my research paper and it was interesting to read as well. i will keep this for future references

Great book for an old EMT like me. At \$44 I thought it was a little pricey since it the cover and pages feel like less quality paper and binding materials. But it arrived faster than I anticipated and I am glad I bought it.

The book reaches deeper than merely describing the vehicular aspects of ambulances over time but aims to explain their origin, purpose, and development in the larger context of the advances in medical care and societal growth. The author brings a rather unique set of professional experiences and insights to the task of writing an account that connects new dots. And, the book is more than just an academic exercise: the author hopes that by enabling the reader to understand the challenges of the past we will become more "generous in helping our emergency first responders meet the challenges of today." The focus is on civilian developments and concentrates on US and some UK activities. Bell also weaves strands into his account that have not previously been examined in this way such as the role of police ambulances in the context of first responders, the role of the ambulance intern, the reasons for the US taking the lead in the push for emergency ambulance service, and the role of women. Find more detail at book review website [...]

I needed a reference on the brief merger of the functions of the ambulance and the hearse in American history. Dr. Bell's comprehensive work covered the topic amply. He is an excellent historian who covers not only the history of the equipment and the vehicles but also the public policy that went into improving ambulance service in this country. I highly recommend this excellent work of medical history.

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