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## Keepsakes of Conflict: Objects Associated with War

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People value objects that remind them of something important. Especially in the context of war hand-crafted keepsakes of conflict stand for more than meets the eye. People often turn to objects when they need to recuperate or to memorialize. The stories, memories, and experiences held by objects become lost when they move through their own lives; coming to rest in a new location and time. This 'social life' of objects explores the way layered meaning is gathered and preserved by refugees, soldiers, and civilians of all cultures. When time has erased most of the context in which the object originated new functions such as reinforcing various political narratives about war or sacrifice may replace the original function. Working with theory found in the study of material culture, war, craft theory, museum and public history and others, this research seeks to understand why objects matter in wartime.