



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

The Wegelius Journal 1808-1809

Database Documentation

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Digitisation and Database Structure of the Wegelius Journal

During the Finnish War of 1808 – 1809 between Sweden and Russia, army hospitals were established in and around the small town of Umeå in northern Sweden. One of those hospitals was situated in the village of Röbbäck outside Umeå town, where the physician Jakob Esaias Wegelius were put in charge of keeping a journal. For more information about Wegelius and the Röbbäck hospital, please see the article *Död i krigets skugga (Death in the Shadow of War)*, only available in Swedish) (Häggström Gunfridsson & Nordung Omnell, 2025).

This database consists of data from the Wegelius Journal (Kansallisarkisto Helsinki, n.d.; Riksarkivet, n.d.-a) and contains 1145 care episodes with information regarding regimental and company affiliations, soldier names and soldier numbers, dates regarding admission, discharge and death as well as medical diagnoses during the period of August 1808 – January 1809. The original handwritten tables have been transcribed to a digital table with standardised columns to facilitate analysis, comparability and further research. The purpose of this documentation is to provide an explanation of the database's structure and the applied procedures in processing the original material.

In order to increase comparability to other sources, codes have been applied in accordance with the international system for coding historical causes of death, ICD10h (Reid et al., 2024) as well as categories from the Swedish statistical agency Tabellverket (*The Tabular Agency*) and the mortality tables that were used at the time.

The database is written in Swedish, please see the Specification of Variables table below for translations.

- Crossed out notes in the journal have been transcribed within square brackets [] in the columns with text true to the original source
- The currency sign (κ) has been used where one or several numbers or letters are hard or impossible to read in the columns with text true to the original source
- Regimental and company names have, as far as possible, been verified against military rolls (Riksarkivet, n.d.-b, n.d.-c) during the standardisation process

Specification of Variables

Column Name in Database	English translation	Description	Text True to Original Source
Sidnummer	Page Number	Page number as stated in source	Yes
Ordningsföljd i källan	Sequence in Source	The sequence of entries in the source	No
Regementets geografiska placering	Regimental Geographical Placement	The Regiments primary geographical area of recruitment	No
Regemente (källtroget)	Regiment (True to Source)	The individual's regimental affiliation true to the source	Yes
Regemente	Regiment	Standardised Regimental Name	No

Kompani (källtroget)	Name of Company (True to Source)	The individual's company affiliation faithfully to the source	Yes
Kompani	Name of Company	Standardised Name of Company	No
Nummer	Number	The soldier's position number	Yes
Namn	Name	The soldier's given surname	Yes
Inkomme (källtroget)	Admitted (True to Source)	Admission date true to source including other notes from this column in the source	Yes
Inskrivningsdatum	Admission Date	Standardised admission date (YYYY-MM-DD)	No
Utmönstr. (källtroget)	Discharge (True to Source)	Discharge date, true to source	Yes
Utmönstringsdatum	Discharge Date	Standardised discharge date (YYYY-MM-DD)	No
Dödde (källtroget)	Died (True to Source)	Death date, true to source	Yes
Dödsdatum	Date of Death	Standardised date of death (YYYY-MM-DD)	No
Blesserade (källtroget)	Injuries (True to Source)	Injuries and other notes as stated in the source	Yes
Invärtes sjuke (källtroget)	Internal Illness (True to Source)	Illnesses as stated in the source	Yes
Utvärtes sjuke (källtroget)	External Illnesses (True to Source)	Illnesses as stated in the source	Yes
Standardiserade sjukdomar och skador	Standardised Illnesses and Injuries	Standardised illnesses and injuries based on the three previous columns. If several diagnoses occur on the same entry, each diagnosis is separated by a semicolon (;).	No
Sjukdomskategori enligt Tabellverket	Category according to Tabellverket	Categorisation according to Tabellverket as well as two added categories (ANNAN, SKOTTS). Noted in abbreviated form, in alphabetical order	No
Tabellverket kategorispecifikation	Specification of Tabellverket Categories	States what kind of diseases included in each category	No
ICD10h	ICD10h	Codes according to the ICD10h-system, in the system's order	No
ICD10h Beskrivning	ICD10h Description	Code description according to the ICD10h system	No

Överstruken individ	Crossed Out Individual	Indicates if the individual is crossed out in the original source	No
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Categories of Tabellverket

Tabellverket (The Tabular Agency), the predecessor of Statistics Sweden SCB, collected demographic information from all the parishes in Sweden between 1749 – 1859 (Demografiska databasen (DDB), CEDAR, 2025). The mortality tables, sent to the Tabellverket each year for compilation, contained aggregated information derived from the parishes' church records.

The classification in these mortality tables in 1808 consisted of 35 categories regarding causes of death. All medical diagnoses in the database have been assigned a category of Tabellverket irrespective of whether the entry includes a death date or not. This means that the classification has been used for the survivors as well as those who died.

Category Name in Abbreviated Form	Causes of Death Included in the Category	English explanation
BABÖR	Barnsbörd	Childbirth
BENBR	Benbrott, Krossning, Friska sår	Fractures, Chrushing, Clean wounds
BLODF	Blodflöd	Haemorrhage
BLODH	Blodhostning, Lungsot, Tvinsot	Haemoptysis, Pulmonary consumption, Cachexia
BRÄNNS	Brännsår, gamla	Burn wounds, old
BUKRE	Bukref, Colik, Förstoppning, Magflen	Different digestive disorders including constipation and colic
BULNA	Bulnader, Rötbölder, Rosen, Kallbrand	Carbuncles, Abscesses, Gangrene, Erysipelas
DRAGS	Dragsjuka	Ergotisms
FALLA	Fallandesot, Convulsioner	Epilepsy, Convulsions
FEBRA	Febrar af alla slag	All kinds of fevers
FROSS	Frosse, Älta med eller utan Vattensvullnad	Auge, Rickets with or without oedema
GICKT	Gickt, Led- och Torrvärk	Gout, joint pain
HALSF	Halsfluss och Strypsjuka	Tonsillitis and Laryngeal diphteria
HJÄRT	Hjärtsprång hos Barn, Tandsprickning, Magref, Maskar	Paediatric convulsions, Teething, Infantile colic, Helminths
HÄLLO	Håll och Styng, Bröstfeber	Pleuropneumonia
INSPÅ	Inspärrat Bråk	Strangulated hernia
KIKHO	Kikhosta	Whooping cough
KOPPO	Koppor	Smallpox
KRÄFT	Kräfta	Cancer
MAGTO	Magtorsk, Hård Mage, Trånsjuka hos barn	Candidiasis, Constipation, Cachexia in children
MÄSSL	Mässling	Measles
OANGI	Oangifven sjukdom	Unspecified disease
OLYCK	Olyckshändelser	Accidents
RISEN	Risen eller Engelska Sjukan	Atrophia, Rickets

RÖDSO	Rödsot, Diarré eller Utsot	Dysentery, Diarrhoea
SKARL	Skarlakansfeber	Scarlet fever
SKÖRB	Skörbjugg	Scurvy
SLAG	Slag, Stickfluss, Bråddöd	Apoplexy, Sudden death with dyspnea, Sudden and violent death
SPETÄ	Spetälska	Leprosy
STENP	Stenplåga och Vattenstämma	Lithiasis, Strangury
VASKR	Vattenskräck af rasande Djurs Bett	Rabies
VAKRÄ	Vatten-Kräfta eller Likmask	Noma
VASOT	Vattensot, Andtäppa, Gulsot	Dropsy, Dyspnea due to illness, Jaundice
VENER	Venerisk Sjukdom	Venereal disease, usually syphilis
ÄLDER	Älderdoms Bräcklighet	Senile debility

Two additional categories have been added to the database:

- ANNAN: Other diagnoses not included in the original categories
- SKOTTS: Gunshot– or stab wounds, with or without fractures

The SKOTTS category enables a more distinct definition of war related injuries, which otherwise would have been categorized as SLAG: slag, stickfluss och bråddöd (Apoplexy, Sudden death with breathing difficulties, Sudden and violent death), Fractures caused by gunshot injuries are categorised as SKOTTS, not the original category BENBR: Fracture, Chrushing, Clean wounds.

An example of a mortality table from Tabellverket in 1808 is available here:

https://sok.riksarkivet.se/bildvisning/A0069031_00398

ICD10h

ICD10h is a code- and classification system for historical causes of death on individual level, based on the international classification system ICD10 from the World Health Organization (WHO). Unlike the modern ICD10 system, the ICD10h system has been expanded with codes for archaic causes of death and considers country-specific medical terminology. All medical diagnoses in the database have been assigned an ICD10h code irrespective of whether the entry includes a death date or not. This means that who survived also have a code.

In this database, version 1 of ICD10h was applied. More information about the ICD10h system is available here: <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.109960>

Comments

- Pages in the journal that do not contain notes about patients have been omitted. Other pages are missing from the source:
 - Page 1 has no patient information and is not registered in the database

- Page 9 is not available in the digital copy from the Swedish National Archive, but it has been controlled against the copy kept at the Finnish National Archive
- The following pages are missing in the source: 10, 18, 21, 22, 25, 29, 30, 33, 34, 52, 64, 67, 68. It is likely that this is due to the change of pagination made Wegelius, some of the missing page numbers can be seen as crossed out numbers
- Page 66 contains a crossed-out note: *Fortsättning från sidan 22 (Continued from page 22)*
- Page 71 only contains the headline *Wästmanlands Regementes Wargerings Bataljon (the Reservist battalion of Wästmanland Regiment)* and is missing in the digital copy from the Swedish National Archive
- Page 72 only contains the headline *Wäst[erbottens]manlands regementes*
- Crossed out individuals in the source have been recorded and processed in the same manner as the others and can be filtered out using the indicator in the column *Överstruken individ (Crossed-out individual)*
- Crossed out injuries, illnesses and dates in the source have been standardised and coded
- The entry *Sjukvakt* (convalescent attendant) has been standardised and coded as *Unspecified injury* or *Unspecified illness*, depending on whether it appears in the column for injuries or illnesses. The designation *Sjukvakt* does not constitute a diagnosis in itself but indicates that the individual was admitted to Rönneby Hospital due to illness or injury and was not yet sufficiently recovered to be discharged. (Ekvall, 1955)
- Please note that dates and other information regarding individuals and their regimental and company affiliations is not always fully complete or correct. The database constitutes a digitized version of the handwritten journal and reproduces the information as it appears in the original source.

Källor

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