

# Canteen

## Object Card

This was the first “modern” canteen ordered by the US Army in 1858. Made of tin, it holds approximately 42 oz. The wool cloth cover was practical for two reasons. It kept the metal from reflecting light. Also, the water would be cooler if the cloth was soaked in water which then evaporated. This evaporation cooled the water. When soldiers camped in the same area long enough, human waste made its way into the camp’s drinking supply. Diarrhea and dysentery were the two most common diseases.

