



**How did WW1 change the way we treat war injuries today?
What's changed in frontline healthcare today?**

Narrated by Saleyha Ahsan, A&E doctor and former army officer

Video transcript

SALEYHA AHSAN

Many of the military doctors and nurses working with the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine have been on the frontline of medical care.

The treatment of wounded soldiers during World War One is not so different from today.

Just like 100 years ago speed is the most important element that saves lives.

1. SPEED

WING CMDR ROBERT SCOTT

Somewhere like Afghanistan there really is no front line. The speed of treatment is utterly crucial.

SALEYHA AHSAN

Whereas 100 years ago we had stretcher bearers to deliver the casualty back to a regimental aid post what we have now is the Medical Emergency Response Team – helicopters with doctors and nurses on board to evacuate the casualty further back to a field hospital.

2. BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

SALEYHA

Doctors first realised the benefits of stockpiling blood for treating war injuries 100 years ago. Now, it is an essential part of frontline treatment and is saving lives which would otherwise be lost.

CORPORAL JENNIFER STEVENS – Nurse

On the ground the medics can start getting a line in and giving that patient blood and as soon as you get that you've got a good chance of the patient surviving and being able to make it to the hospital to then get the necessary treatment and triage, and transferred appropriately.

3 EVACUATION

WING CMDR ROBERT SCOTT – Surgeon

As in the First World War where they used trains to get people back to the hospitals in London now we use helicopters to fly our casualties to get immediate treatment at the field hospital and then aero-medically transferred back to the United Kingdom. I've had people actually being operated on 18 hours after they've been injured. And I think that's pretty quick.

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