

## HOW DID MALTA BECOME ONE OF WW1'S BIGGEST HOSPITALS?

**Presented by Kevin Fong**

### **Rest and recuperation: Video transcript**

Despite the limitations of medicine before antibiotics in other ways Malta was the ideal place to recuperate.

In Malta they went out of their way to look after patients in their care. In 1915 they went so far as to build this, Australia Hall, a place of amusement for convalescing servicemen.

Walking into the building in 1916 to attend an event here would have been really quite exciting. You come into a house that is packed to the rafters with 1600 people; there was a lush curtain, and footlights. It was a fully-fledged theatre essentially.

[Alex Zimmermann] During the First World War, a lot of psychological conditions that had to do with being at the front were not recognised yet such as Shell shock and soldiers deserting the front. So to offer distraction and help with the healing process overall it was very important to have venues like the Australia Hall.