HOW DID MALTA BECOME ONE OF WW1’S BIGGEST HOSPITALS?

Presented by Kevin Fong

A sanctuary across the sea: Video transcript

Behind me is the jetty and lift shaft that carried wounded soldiers up to the Bighi Naval Hospital, and just arriving at this point was something of a feat of survival.

The hospital ships had to avoid German submarines and mines, and then there was infectious disease which in the cramped confines of the boat ran rife.

Arriving on dry land would have come as a huge relief, but for many the ordeal was just beginning.

Malta was well situated to receive Allied casualties from the Turkish battlefields in Gallipoli and Salonika, but they were hundreds of miles away and it would take a week-long voyage by sea to reach it.