



How did WW1 change the way we treat war injuries today?

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

Video transcript

Between 1914 and 1918, the world's most powerful industrial nations faced each other on the battlefield. The new weapons of the modern age - shells, trench mortars and machine guns - were unleashed on millions of men, resulting in injuries never seen before in war - and on an unprecedented scale. Almost 25 million soldiers were either killed or wounded.

Medical teams were put under incredible pressure as they struggled to save lives. But war was the mother of invention. A series of medical innovations was developed during World War One, that resulted in the saving of thousands of lives not only in that conflict, but in other wars ever since.

Here, at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, medical staff are at the cutting edge of military medicine – and they're still using some techniques developed a century ago. I'm here to find out - how did World War One change the way we treat war injuries today?

Archive courtesy of Footage Farm and Getty

