

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

Presented by Kevin Fong

### Pioneering heart surgery: Video transcript

Trooper Robert Hugh Martin was shot through the heart in Salonika on his 21st birthday on the 14 November 1917.

[Alex Manche] The bullet was thought to be located in his heart, and surgery was planned a month later, at which point Charles Balance actually removed the bullet from the inside of his right ventricle. So he prepared himself for this event by arranging for a direct blood transfusion from another man at the time and in fact the operation had to be finished quickly because the blood donor actually collapsed.

It was a very adventurous, but a great success. Sadly though, a month later, Trooper Martin died of Sepsis which was very common in this pre-antibiotic era.