

MILITARY HOSPITALS

The nature of the fighting during the Great War led to a huge number of injured soldiers and the Military medical facilities at home and at the frontline were soon overwhelmed. Urgent arrangements had to be made to transfer the injured away from the frontline to base stations and, if needed, back to Britain.

Frontline

Regimental Aid Post – Soldiers injured in the field were treated in the trenches by the Battalion Medical Officer and his orderlies and stretcher bearers

Advance Dressing Station – If necessary the injured were then moved to an Advance Dressing Station close to the front line and manned by the members of the Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC)

Casualty Clearing Station – If further treatment was needed they would be moved to a Casualty Clearing Station, a tented camp behind the lines

Base Hospital – Then, if more extensive treatment was required, they were moved to one of the base hospitals usually by train

Hospital in UK – The more seriously injured were taken back to Britain by Hospital Ship



UK HOSPITALS

Hospitals had to be found quickly and many civilian hospitals were turned over to military use and a large number of asylums were also converted to military hospitals, with the asylum patients being sent home, often to unprepared families, or to other asylums where hurried arrangements had to be made to accommodate the increase in numbers. As demand for beds grew, large buildings such as Universities and hotels were transformed into hospitals and wooden huts sprang up in hospital grounds and at army camps to cope with the huge numbers. Additional nursing staff were needed and this was met by a mixture of qualified nurses and volunteers.

With the wide range of serious injuries never before faced, hospitals began to specialise in certain types of injury in order to provide the best treatment, with soldiers being sent by train to the relevant hospital. Many large houses and hotels were used as Convalescent Hospitals.