

Medicine in Britain KO5: The British sector of the Western Front (1914-18)

Trench system	A network of trenches - firing, support, reserve - linked by communications trenches.	Brodie Helmet	Reduced head injuries by 80%. Used from 1915 but not fully available to all until 1916
Shrapnel	Pieces of metal created by shells exploding.	Casualty Evacuation Chain	Stretcher bearers – Regimental First Aid Post - Dressing Station (run by Field Ambulance units/RAMC) – Casualty Clearing Station – Hospital Train – Base Hospital
BEF	British Expeditionary Force. The professional army.		
15%	Amount of time soldiers spent on front line.	RAMC	Royal Army Medical Corps
First Battle of the Marne	Sept 1914 - Start of trench war when German army digs trenches to stop BEF advance.	FANY	First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.
Battle for Hill 60	April 1915. Offensive mining – 5 mines under German position blow off the top of the hill.	Triage	A system of splitting the wounded into groups depending on who needed the most urgent attention
Battle of the Somme	July – November 1916. 60,000 casualties, 20,000 deaths on the first day.	Thomas Splint	Held injured leg rigid. Increased survival rate from leg injury from 20% to 82%
Battle of Passchendaele	July-Nov 1917, 3rd Battle of Ypres. Thick mud, poor conditions. 310,000 British casualties.	Bipp	Smear on wounds to prevent infection (<u>b</u> ismuth, <u>i</u> odine <u>p</u> araffin <u>p</u> aste)
Trench foot	Caused by standing in water filled trenches. Numbness, blisters, can lead to gangrene.	Harold Gillies	Pioneered plastic surgery for facial wounds.
Gangrene	Condition when flesh dies and starts to rot due to lack of blood to that area. Spreads.	Petite Curie	X ray machines in ambulances. Created by Marie Curie. Used to see shrapnel in wounds.
Shell shock	Mental health condition. Tiredness, headaches, nightmares, shaking. 80,000 cases.	Sodium Citrate	Allowed blood to be stored without it clotting discovered by Lewisohn in 1915.
Gas	Chemical, often Chlorine, causing lung damage, blindness and 'gas gangrene'.	Battle of Cambrai	First blood depot established in preparation for this battle, stocking type O blood.
Arras Caves	Tunnel network including a hospital built in preparation for the Battle of Arras, 1917	The Carrel-Dakin Method	Treatment for infection using a bleach type solution. Used from 1917.
Source Types	Soldiers' service records - Soldiers' Medical histories – Newspapers e.g. Daily Mirror - Government Reports - Medical Articles e.g. on BIPP - Personal accounts e.g diaries, letters – Paintings e.g. Tonks, Nash – Photographs – Field Hospital Records - Army Statistics		