

The logistics of providing adequate care for large numbers of men were extremely complex, not only the provision of medical help but the transportation of casualties. The system continuously evolved during the war. Records were kept at every stage and those who died had to be buried.

No Man's Land

Every officer and man going into battle carried a first aid dressing and iodine ampoule. It was his responsibility to administer first aid.

Unarmed regimental stretcher-bearers followed soon after an attack. They applied very rudimentary first aid and grouped wounded men in relatively sheltered places such as shell holes and dugouts. Marking the place and keeping lists. They sent messages back to the Regimental First Aid Post with the walking wounded.

WALKING WOUNDED

"The wounded were coming back and passing within two yards of our Lewis gun position. One sergeant shouts to me "Give them hell; they've shot my bloody lug off" and sure enough his right ear hung in shreds"

Cpl. J. Norton, 8th Norfolks, from "The First Day on the Somme" by Martin Middlebrook

The sergeant was Sam Godfrey, No.3/10402 from Great Yarmouth. To No. 1 Australian General Hospital, Rouen, 5-7-16 to 3rd Western General Hospital, Newport, 7-7-16. Recovered and returned to battalion in France, transferred to 7th Norfolks. Prisoner of war March 1918. Discharged from the Army 31-3-1919.

Regimental First Aid Post.

Here superficial wounds were attended to and those suffering them were sent back to Battalion Head Quarters.

Field Ambulance stretcher bearers collected wounded. Walking wounded made their own way to a series of Advanced Dressing Stations