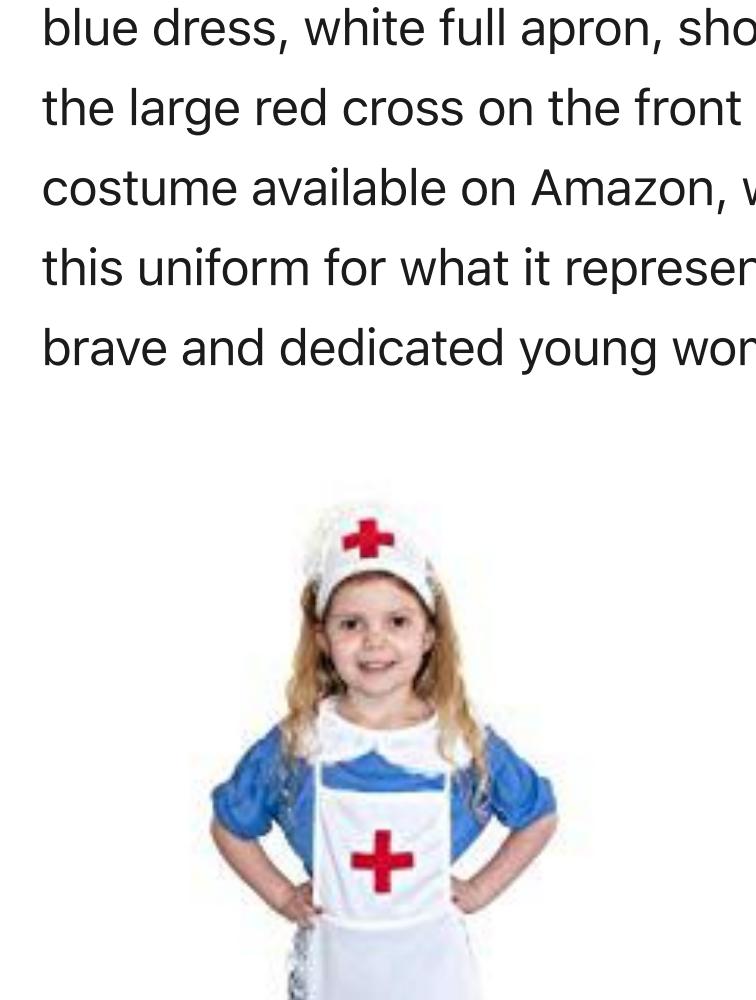


o, but you can see a
.
d closely with the VAD (Volunteer Aid
m became the icon of the 'nurse', with the
white veil worn quite far back on the head,
the apron. I even found this child's nurses
which demonstrates just how clearly we all kn
and alongside it is a photo of one of these





importance of the role of the nurse in every country in the world.

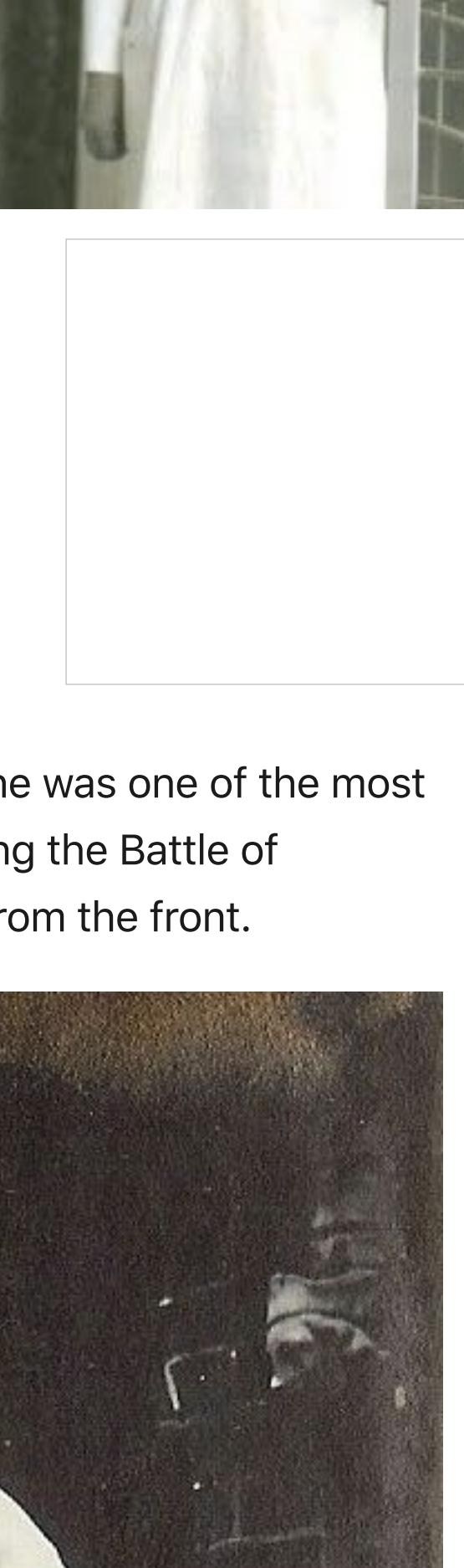
The circumstances and conditions that these women were plunged into could not have been anticipated and

many became casualties along with the soldiers they tended as field hospitals were hit by shells, hospital ships torpedoed or trucks ferrying soldiers away from the front line were attacked. It was due to the experiences of this war that the need for medical care *far* closer to the front line was recognised, and became a priority. This continues

in, collect casualties, treat them sufficiently for maintenance of life and deliver them to better equipped land based hospitals further away from the action. In this way we now have a vastly improved survival rate following what would otherwise have been fatal injuries. In WW1 these were called Casualty Clearing Stations (CCSs) and as these were developed, with immense input from the nurses, the terrible rate of fatalities that shocked Whitehall in

Below is a photo of Miss Kate Evelyn Luard who was supervisor of an advanced abdominal surgery ward. She was responsible and also most at risk nurses at a CCS during Passchendaele. Below is a book of her letters written



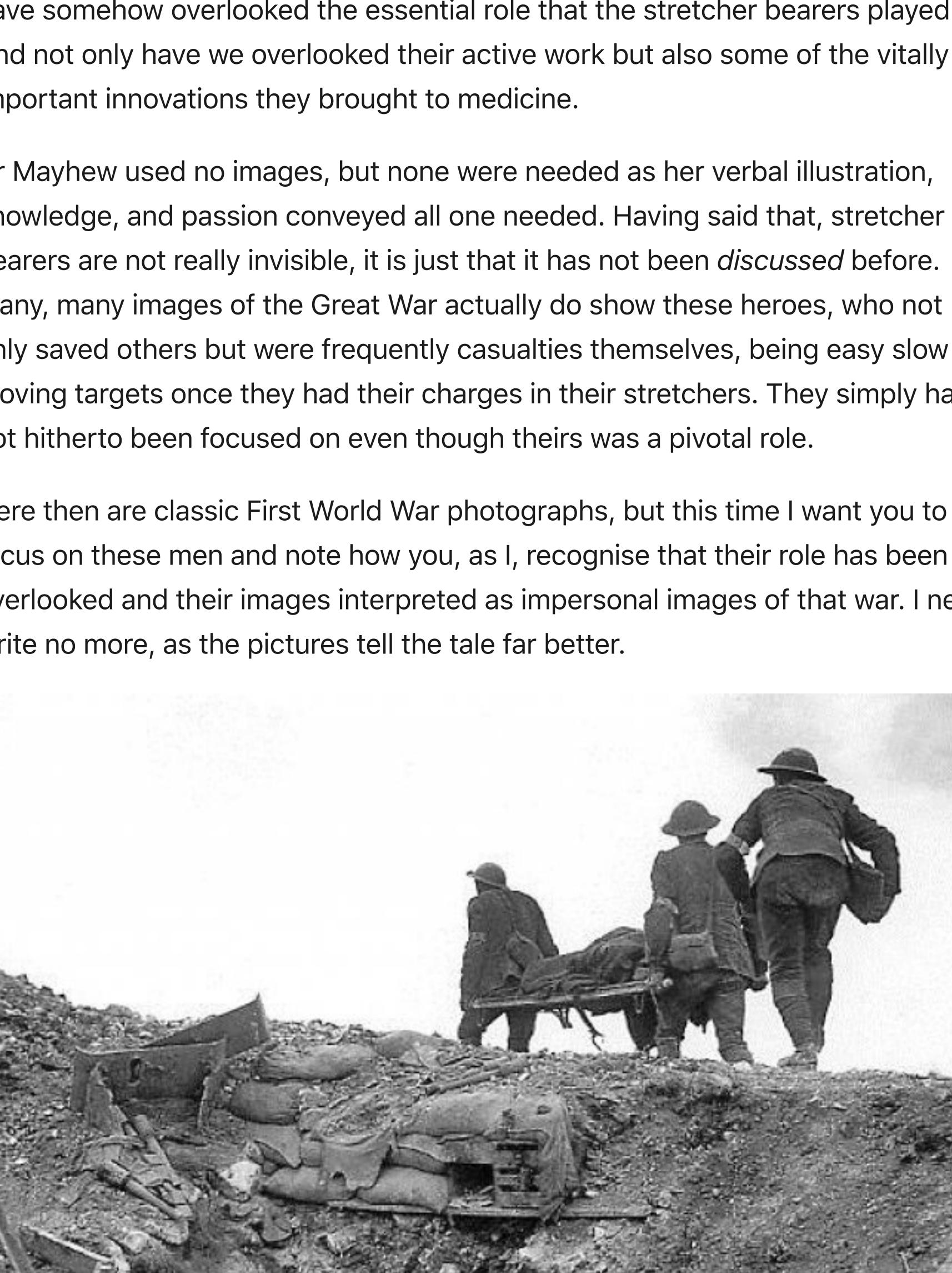


A black and white photograph of a person standing outdoors. The person is wearing a long, light-colored coat, dark trousers, dark shoes, and a wide-brimmed hat. They are leaning against a dark brick wall. To the left, there is a white, textured surface, possibly a bench or a wall, and some foliage. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows.

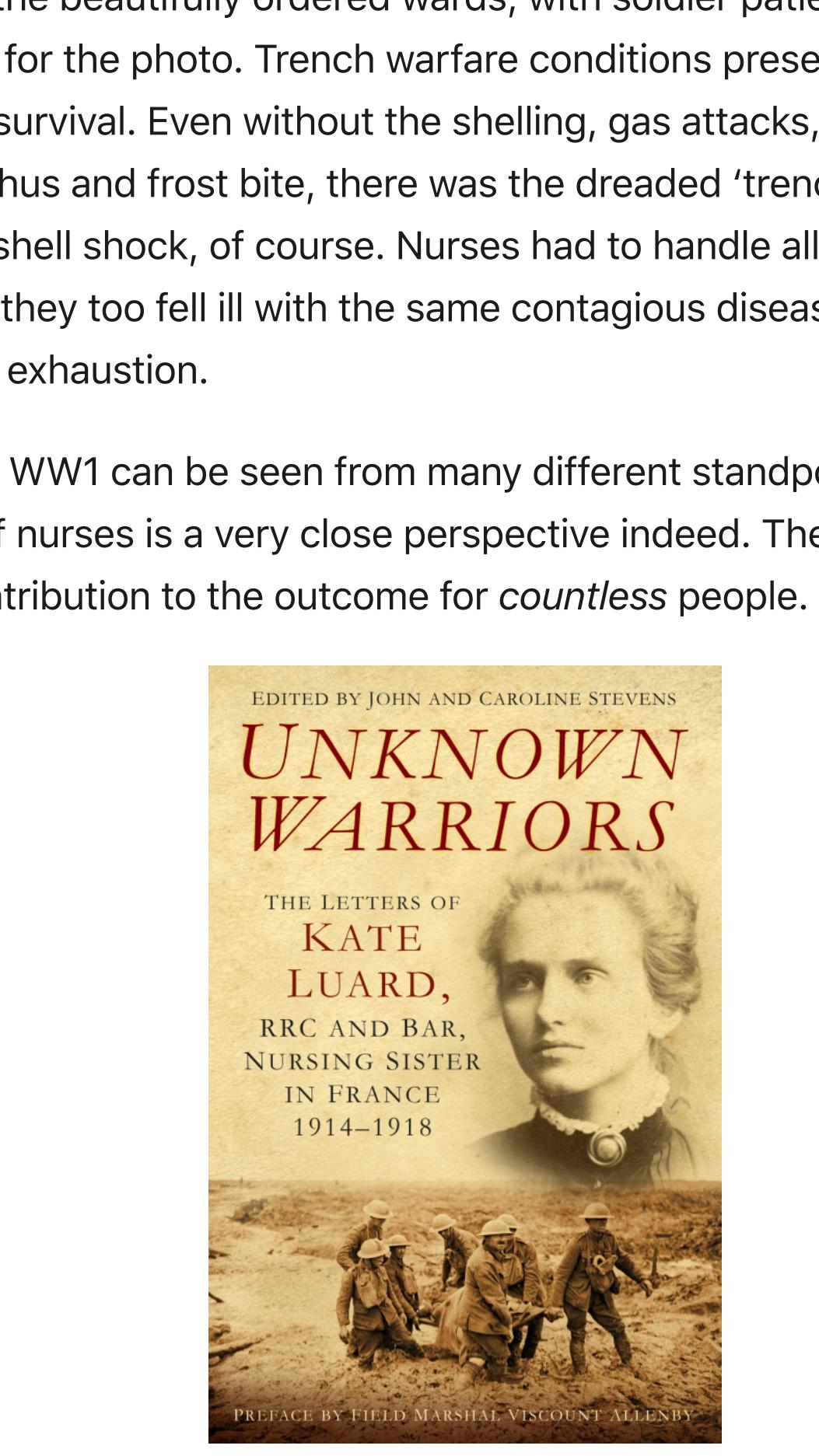


A historical black and white photograph of a hospital ward. The room has a high ceiling with exposed wooden beams and a decorative chandelier. Patients are seated in rows on simple beds, and medical staff are visible in the background. The floor is made of polished wood.

experiences of nurses is a very close perspective in
significant contribution to the outcome for countless



The image consists of two black and white historical photographs. The top photograph depicts a scene of war or conflict. In the foreground, several soldiers in military uniforms are lying on the ground, some appearing to be dead or severely wounded. Behind them, a large, damaged building with a thatched roof stands in ruins. The bottom photograph shows a group of soldiers in uniform standing in front of a dark-colored vehicle, possibly a truck or a tank. The soldiers are wearing hats and uniforms, and some are holding rifles. The background is a plain, light-colored sky.



The second lecture "Wounded – The Long Journey Home from The Great War" was by Dr Emily Mayhew MSc PhD.

The subject Dr Mayhew brought to our attention is illustrated in the book cover, left; the *Unknown Warriors* were the Stretcher Bearers.

Dr Mayhew is a Military Historian and Historian in Residence at the Royal British Legion Centre for Blast Injury Studies at Imperial College London and in recent years has focused on this thoroughly overlooked aspect of the Great War. Stretcher bearers were absolutely vital to the survival of our troops on the front line. Frequently recruited from the conscientious objector community, including Quakers, these men were put through a six-week training to ensure physical capability and strength, which involved carrying 10 stone (63.5 kg) weights, on

They were also taught life saving skills that could be employed right there in the field or in the trenches, and the number saved through their ministrations cannot be known. Another aspect of their work was that of kindness, reassurance and compassion in hand holding, gentle words and deep understanding, which is truly immeasurable in its impact to a wounded or dying young man.

It is very easy to overlook certain vital factors in how things actually work. For example, to a great extent we overlook and ignore the connective tissue in our bodies, even though nothing could function without it, as it connects all the other more identifiable tissues, organs and structures. In the same way we, on mass,

more identifiable tissues, organs and structures. In the same way we, en masse have somehow overlooked the essential role that the stretcher bearers played. And not only have we overlooked their active work but also some of the vitally important innovations they brought to medicine.

Many, many images of the Great War actually do show these heroes, who not only saved others but were frequently casualties themselves, being easy slow moving targets once they had their charges in their stretchers. They simply have not hitherto been focused on even though theirs was a pivotal role.

Here then are classic First World War photographs, but this time I want you to focus on these men and note how you, as I, recognise that their role has been overlooked and their images interpreted as impersonal images of that war. I need write no more, as the pictures tell the tale far better.

