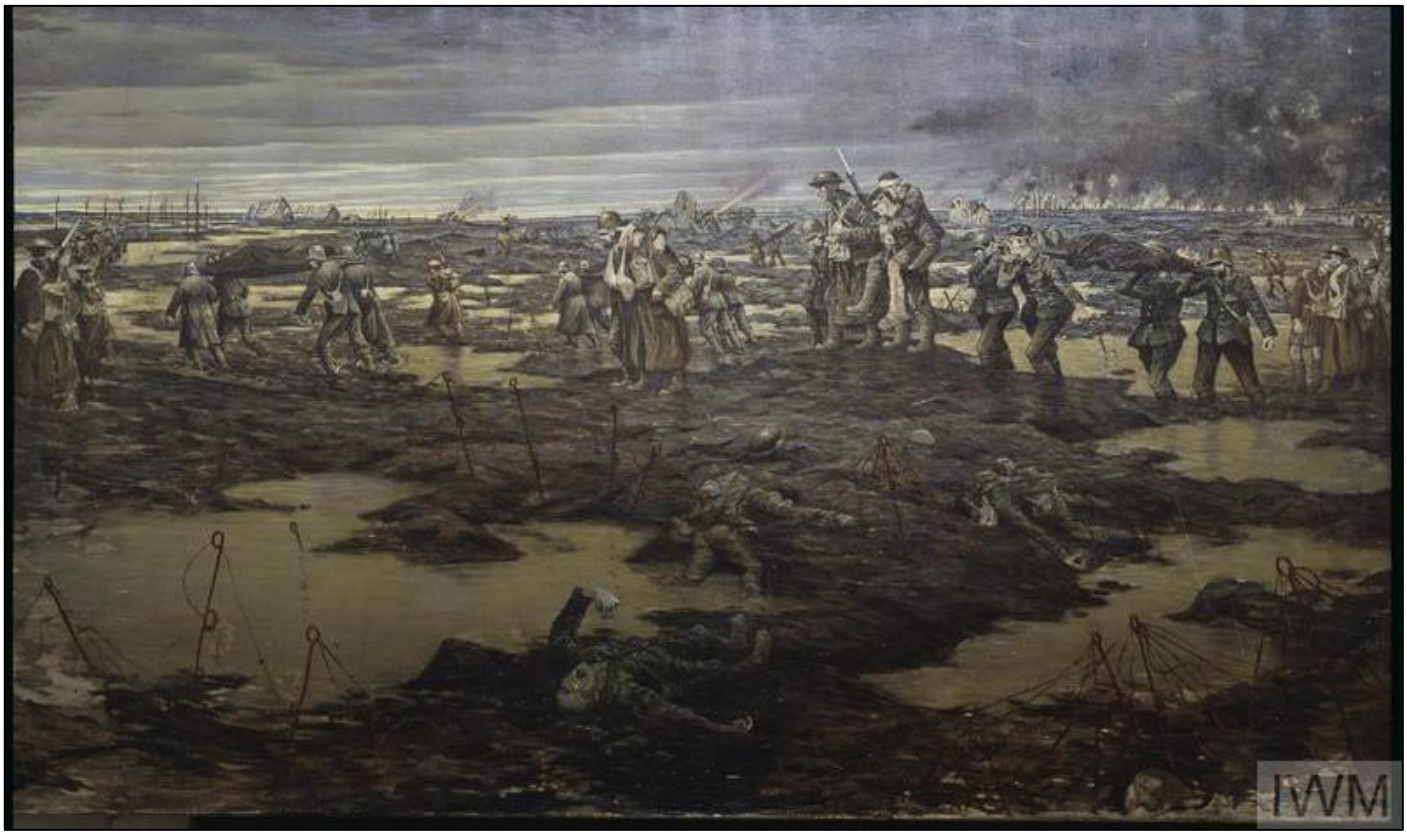
How far did surgery develop in the 20th century?

Task 1 – Examine the image of a First World War battlefield as it appears below. Use the image in order to create a spider diagram of medical problems / injuries that might result from the method of fighting witnessed here.



Medical problems caused by the First World War

- Use of poison gas resulted in serious internal injuries to the lungs

Task 2 – Using your knowledge of improvements to surgery within the 19th and 20th centuries draw out and complete the table set out over the page with the required information. Use the details on the diagram to give you some ideas as to what to include.

GCSE History – 'Britain: Health and the People, c1000 to the Present Day'

Improvement	Discovery or development	Impact of war
X-rays	Wilhelm Röntgen discovered X-rays when carrying out experiments.	Increased in use during the First World War as surgeons needed to locate bullets. X-rays were introduced in all major hospitals on the Western Front.
Blood transfusions	Used from 1800s with different amounts of success. Karl Landsteiner then discovered blood groups, making transfusions possible.	
Plastic surgery		The treatment of injuries resulting from gunfire, explosions and burns in the First and Second World Wars led to major advances in plastic surgery.