Statistics prove that more Indians die in Road traffic related accidents than in wars. Prior to World War II, the death toll across the world used to be very high. It was at this juncture that a Military Neurosurgeon named Hugh Cairns introduced the compulsory wearing of crash helmets and brought about a reduction in mortality by more than 50%. Within a decade of introduction of crash helmets in Britain, the entire world followed suit. The results of his efforts are here for all of us to see. This innovative military neurosurgeon is credited as the one who introduced the concept of mobile neurological units during war and also the first proponent of usage of penicillin in war. His concepts in war surgery are still followed by militaries across the world. This article comes as a tribute to this great Neurosurgeon who helped in saving millions of lives.

**Keywords:** Crash Helmets, dispatch riders, mobile neurological unit
compulsory in the United Kingdom. Soon after, this other countries followed suit. In addition, Cairns inspired and taught a generation of neurosurgeons, neurologists, and neurological nurses in the care of the brain and spinal cord injuries at Oxford’s Military Hospital for Head Injuries.[8] He was a pioneer in the treatment of infections of the nervous system. He was pivotal in supporting animal research demonstrating the critical role of acceleration in the causation of concussion. Cairns research implicated rotary acceleration and shear strains as particularly damaging in head injuries. The world will forever be in debt to Cairns for introducing crash helmets which have indeed saved millions of lives. At the end of his address to the medical students he once said: “… The greatest personal success is usually incidental to a life spent in service to patients or in research… the direct pursuit of material objectives is usually disappointing.” A word is enough for a wise man.[9]

Financial support and sponsorship
Nil.

Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

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