Bill Partridge

Maggots

I had developed a red line from my ankle going rapidly up the thigh, which means blood poisoning. And they made this decision, that they would either have to take off my foot or they would see if it could be cleared out by maggots. And it was put to me, in a jocular way I suppose, but I was left in no doubt and they said "and we are going to see what the maggots will do. The maggots will be in there in no time at all if we leave it exposed". And so they put me in plaster, watched this line. It didn't go up into my groin, which apparently would have been the end, and I got back to Egypt still with my plaster and still with my maggots. And they had cleaned it out beautifully.