**Richard Villar**

Richard Villar is a former UK orthopaedic surgeon who has treated some of the household names in sport. He also has a special interest in surgery of conflict and disaster and has an extensive, and current, humanitarian experience. Richard was previously the Regimental Medical Officer to the SAS and a Team Leader for the UK’s Disaster Response for more than a decade. His experiences in the world’s conflict and disaster zones are almost unrivalled and he has operated on patients in more than 30 countries. He led surgical teams in the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes in Kashmir, Java, Haiti, the Philippines, during the desert conflict in Libya, in Ethiopia, and in Somalia. Richard has also worked as a war surgeon extensively in Lebanon and Gaza, including during both the Palestinian Great March of Return of 2018, and the Israeli/Palestinian war after the Hamas assault of October 2023.

Richard spent time with WHO, covering their Eastern Mediterranean Region, including Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, and elsewhere. He has evacuated avalanche casualties from the North Face of Mount Everest, run hearts and minds operations for Bedouin fighters, and was fortunate to survive a near-suicidal covert operation during the Falklands War.

Through all these activities, Richard has written and lectured extensively and is an established member of the British Guild of Travel Writers. He has appeared on television and radio on numerous occasions and has published widely for both academic and general readerships. His articles have appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Spectator*, the *Evening Standard*, *Reader’s Digest*, *The Independent*, and elsewhere. Richard has written a number of books. These include *Knife Edge – Life As A Special Forces Surgeon,* describing his time with the Special Air Service, *Winged Scalpel – A Surgeon At The Frontline of Disaster*, about his role in some of the most inhospitable disaster and conflict zones of recent times, *Never A Straight Line: Travels Through Chile and Bolivia,* and *An Englishman Goes Walking – Through The Alps To The Sea.* His most recent book is *Gaza Medic - A War Surgeon’s Story 2024*, which describes his time as a war surgeon in central Gaza during an ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Richard, who is married with three children and five grandchildren, cherishes the outdoors, is a committed environmentalist, and can frequently be found at the top of the nearest mountain. His blogs may be found at [www.neverastraightline.com](http://www.neverastraightline.com) and [www.thebitoutside.com](http://www.thebitoutside.com).