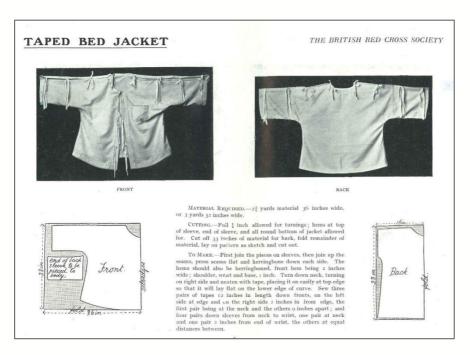


Red Cross Home Workers

In the war working parties were set up around the country to prepare hospital supplies for injured men sent back from the battlefields. Volunteer Home Workers were recruited to make the goods needed. Their tasks were knitting, sewing and preparing hospital supplies. The finished items would then be collected at local Work Depots ready for distribution to places of need.

The supply and distribution of these goods was organised by the Central Work Rooms at Burlington House in London. Here the manufacture and distribution of goods was co-ordinated, making sure that items in demand were supplied on time.



© BRCS: British Red Cross Society

They also ensured that garments were produced to a specific standard by issuing a pattern book to those working in small groups or alone at home. Knitting patterns were provided for gloves, sock (both bed and day socks) and slippers. Sewing patterns were available for making various nightgowns, bed jackets, dressing gowns

and shirts: Workers were advised "to cut an exact copy of the paper patterns in a firm brown paper."



Working parties also prepared hospital items such as bandages, splints and swabs. Here a group of Girl Guides prepare hospital supplies. © IWM (Q27923)

Volunteer Home Workers in Six Streets
In May 1916 Ellen Draper (26 Bromley
Street) volunteered to do home work
"knitting, needlework and war hospital
supplies", while her husband, Robert, was
serving abroad. In December 1917 she gave

up this work after he was killed in action.

Other home workers in the area were:

Jennie Morris (82 Park Grove)

Bertha Neal (53 White St)

Mary Richards (27 White St)

Ellen Pool (9 White St)

Florence Ward (132 Kedleston Rd)

Leah Hagley (12 White Street) and her mother Mrs de Soiza

Local Work Depots where they could take their finished work were at 27 Friar Gate, 4 Full Street and Darley Slade (107 Belper Road).



