

Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD)



VAD Nurses and patients at the Red Cross Hospital at Burton-on-Trent © British Red Cross Museum and Archives

The British Red Cross have released on-line the records of people, mainly women, who volunteered for war service in World War One. So far we have identified twelve women from the Six Streets who helped in hospitals caring for the wounded. Others, working from home, helped with sewing and knitting.

Minnie Elliss (63 Park Grove) and Mary Snell (30 Statham Street) were both nursing sisters at Temple House VAD Hospital. Run by the Order of St. John, the hospital first opened in June 1915 it was located in the County Cricket Pavilion until it moved to premises on Mill Hill Lane in autumn 1915.

Agnes Darnell (70 Park Grove) worked as a clerk at a military hospital in Sheffield.

Constance Basford (118 Kedleston Road)

volunteered first at the Markham Ward for military wounded at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary from May 1915. Despite being a trained nurse Constance was unpaid for the responsibility of "Taking Charge of Sisters' off-duty time" and was there until May 1917. In October 1917 her husband, Bromley, an officer with the Leicestershire Regiment, was killed on active service in France. In June 1918 she volunteered again, this time at an auxiliary hospital at Temple House on Mill Hill Lane, Derby.

Sarah Farmer (11 Wheeldon Ave) nursed at a Red Cross VAD Hospital at Spondon and also on a ward at the DRI from May 1918 to March 1919.

To read the original records or to find out more about the work of the Red Cross during World War One go to:

www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War







Red Cross – Auxiliary Hospitals

The work of the Red Cross during the war included running auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes - temporary facilities for wounded servicemen. Before the war even started the Red Cross began to search for suitable properties that could be used as temporary hospitals. This meant that as soon as wounded men began to arrive from abroad hospitals were available for use, with equipment and staff in place. Hospitals were set up in town halls, elementary schools, and private houses.

During the war the Red Cross joined forces with the Order of St. John to form the Joint War Committee – for the duration of the war both groups served under the emblem of the red cross.

GARDEN PARTY
(Belgian Refugees and Red Cross Society),
At PARKFIELD CEDARS, KEBLESTON ROAD,
JULY 19th. To be Opened at 8 by
LADY MAUD CAVENDISH.
TOY SYMPHONY at 5 and 5.45.
Admission 1s., Children under 10; 6d. Tea 6d.
each. Indoors if wet.

Fundraising for Red Cross activities was of vital importance. Money and gifts-in-kind were collected to fund services for soldiers at home and abroad. By the end of the war over £21 million had been raised and £20 million spent on hospitals, medicine, clothing and aftercare services for the sick and wounded. Services run by the Red Cross included a running a missing persons' bureau and sending regular food parcels to prisoners of war held in Germany.

Auxiliary hospitals were usually staffed by a matron, who directed the VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) nursing staff, a Quartermaster (responsible for supplies) and a Commandant who was in overall control.



VAD Nurses preparing meals
© British Red Cross Museum and Archives

Fundraising

Left: Advert for a fundraising event held in July 1916, Derby Daily Telegraph © Local World Limited, British Newspaper Archive

Below right: Flag from a Joint War Committee appeal for Prisoners of War © Imperial War Museum

Fundraising events were advertised in local newspapers and included concerts, improving lectures and garden parties.

Flag-days were also a popular way of collecting for these appeals and often children's organisations such as boy scouts and girl guides helped with the sale of these flags. It was a popular hobby amongst teenage girls to collect different flags.







Haye Leigh Auxiliary Hospital



Staff at Haye Leigh Auxiliary Hospital, Christmas 1917.

This postcard was sent from the staff at Haye Leigh to Lance Corporal Seaward – the address suggests he was moved on to another hospital for his recovery to continue.

Our nearest Auxiliary Hospital was at 174-6 Duffield Road (opposite the end of Highfield Road). "Haye Leigh" was built as a family home about 1900 with 3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, a bathroom, large gardens and a tennis lawn. (In 1938 it was split into two houses).

Haye Leigh operated as an Auxiliary hospital between January 1916 and the end of January 1919. It was staffed mostly by volunteers. A maximum of 24 men — all "other ranks" - could be nursed at one time. It was affiliated to the 5th Northern General Hospital Leicester, from where it received its patients for convalescence.

The Commandant of this hospital was **Hilda Hulse**, daughter-in-law of Mr and Mrs Hulse
who lived at Parkfields House (sited off
Parkfields Drive). Hilda and her husband
Edward lived at "Oakdene" on Duffield Road.
In 1917 they served as Mayor and Mayoress

of Derby. Hilda later stood as a parliamentary candidate for Derby in the 1924 General Election. Hilda's father-in-law paid for the furnishing and equipping of Haye Leigh for it's use as a hospital.

Six Streets Women at Haye Leigh

Neighbours Elizabeth Badderley (117 Kedleston Rd) and Eva Warwick (119) both volunteered as nurses, along with Nancy Ward (132 Kedleston Road).

Edith Aulton (112 Kedleston Rd), Nina Whitaker (145 Kedleston Rd) and Lucy Impey (45 Bromley St) helped out as cooks.

Clara Lowe (22 Bromley Street) started as a part-time nurse in January 1916, but when she became Quartermaster in September 1917 she worked full time.







Treating the wounded

29 December 1917

Christmas at Haye Leigh was described in the *Derby Daily Telegraph*

CHRISTMAS AT HAYE LEIGH.

A correspondent writes: Another Christmas has come and gone, but its happy memories will ever remain in the hearts of those wounded soldiers who have been patients at Haye Leigh Red Cross Hospital, Duffieldroad, during the Christmas of 1917. As a visitor and one interested in this well-conducted hospital, how delighted I was to find the same ladies devoting their energies and time on the well-being and happiness of its brave inmates. The war, which has lasted far beyond the expectations of the most pessimistic, has not exbausted their enthusiasm, and I venture to say that the past week has been a record one for the men at this hospital. The round of amosements commenced on Monday afternoon by a visit to the dress rehearsal of the pantomime at the Hippodrome (by the kind invitation of the Mayor). In the evening children from St. Alkmund's Church (under the direction of Rev. A. E. Hunt) entertained the men at home with carole, etc., and afterwards presented each man with a pipe and a shaving-stick. On awakening on Christmas morning each man found in his socks two khaki handkerchiefs, a box of cigarettes, a cake of soap, a tin trumpet, a packet of sweets, an orange, an apple, and a Christmas card. All the men who were able attended church parade, and returned to an excellent dinner at 12.45. The Mayor, assisted by Mr. Fred Fletcher, carved the fine turkeys. After dinner the men and their friends adjourned to the recreation-room, which had been most tastefully decorated, to receive from the hands of "Faller Christmas" four very useful presents, consisting of safety razors, cigarette cases, tobacco pouches, leather cases containing bruehes and combs, and leather pocket books, with suitable greetings printed inside. Lieut-colonel E. O. Skey,

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Right: 25 October 1917:

Patients at Haye Leigh write to the Derby Daily Telegraph thanking local munitions workers for gifts sent to them

(© Local World Limited, British Newspaper Archive)

14 January 1918

The *Derby Daily Telegraph* reports on the arrival of wounded soldiers from the front

WOUNDED SOLDIERS ARRIVE IN

Ninety-eight wounded soldiers arrived at Derby about 11.15 on Saturday night in a G.W. Railway ambulance train from Dover, a stop having been made at Leicester en route. Of the cases 59 were emoved to the Derbyshire Royal Infiramry, and the remaining 39 to Egginton Hall Hospital. There were 56 cot cases and 42 walking cases. The usual complete arrangements were carried out by Dr. Cassidi and Mr. W. Kirkland, who had the assistance of the ambulance men of the Midland Railway and the St. John Brigade, together with 70 special constables. The Mayor (Coun. E. J. Hulse) and the Mayoress (who is the commandant of the Haya Leigh V.A.D. Hospital, Duffield-road) were on the platform, the Chief Constable (Capt. H. M. Haywood) being also present. The transport ar-*angements were again in the hands of Lieut. H. T. Ann, and in 45 minutes all were ready to move off The men came from Passchendale and Ypres, and it is interesting to note that there was one Derby man, a Sherwood Forester, among them. One of he wounded, asked where he came from, replied Nottingham, on indication that his thoughts were of home rather than the place where he received his wounds.

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CORRESPONDENCE

MUNITION WORKERS AND THE WOUNDED

(To the Editor of the 'Derby Daily Telegraph.')
Sir,—We, the wounded soldiers at Haye Leigh
Hospital, Duffield-road, beg to express our grateful
thanks to the munition workers for their kind
thoughts in presenting to each one of us such useful
and beautiful gifts, which we will always keep as
mementoes of Derby and our good friends there.—
Signed, on behalf of the wounded,
(Sergt.) W. J. Williamson.



