



## 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](http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War)



## Red Cross – Auxiliary Hospitals

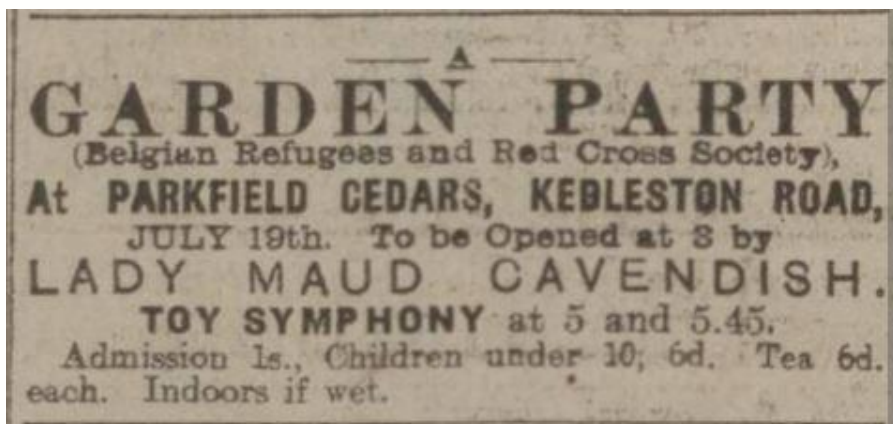
The work of the Red Cross during the war included running auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes - temporary facilities for wounded servicemen. Before the war even started the Red Cross began to search for suitable properties that could be used as temporary hospitals. This meant that as soon as wounded 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.

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 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.

## 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.

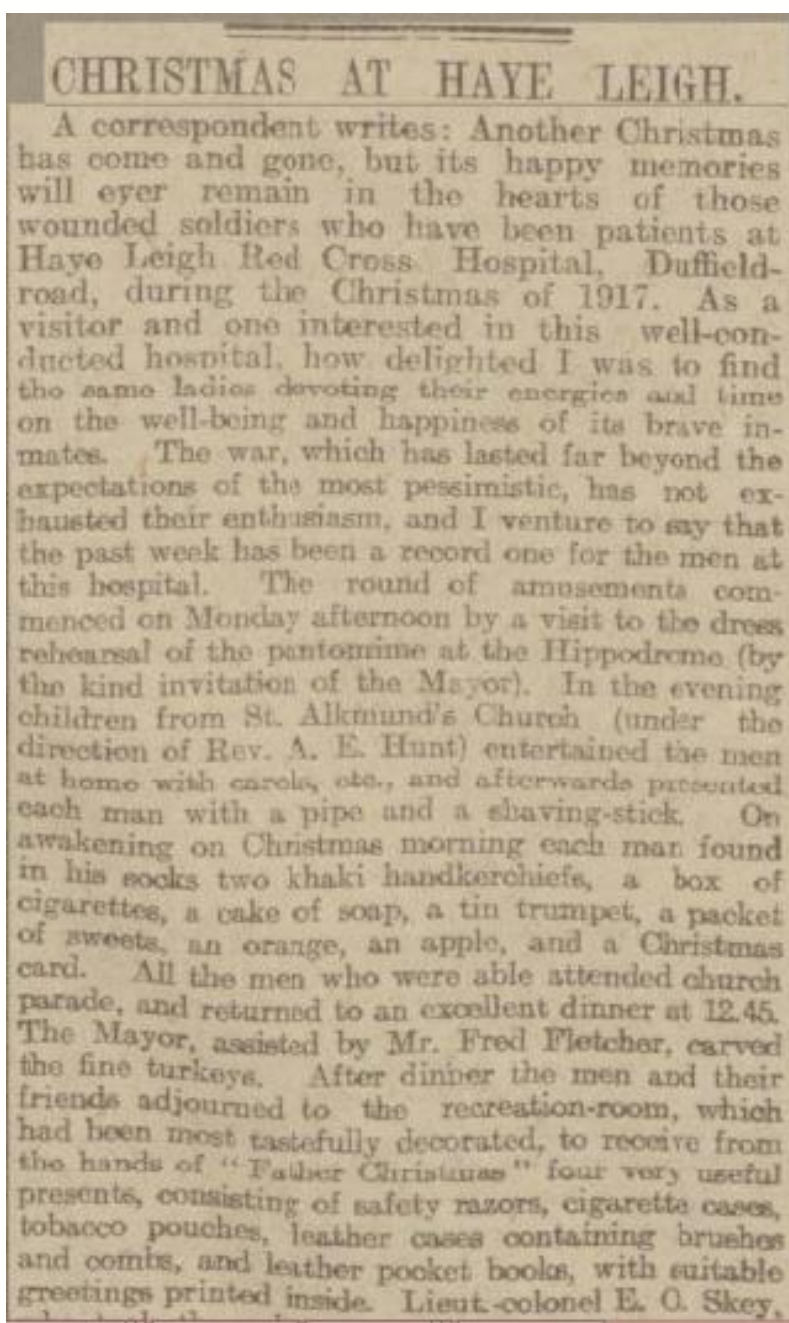




# Treating the wounded

29 December 1917

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

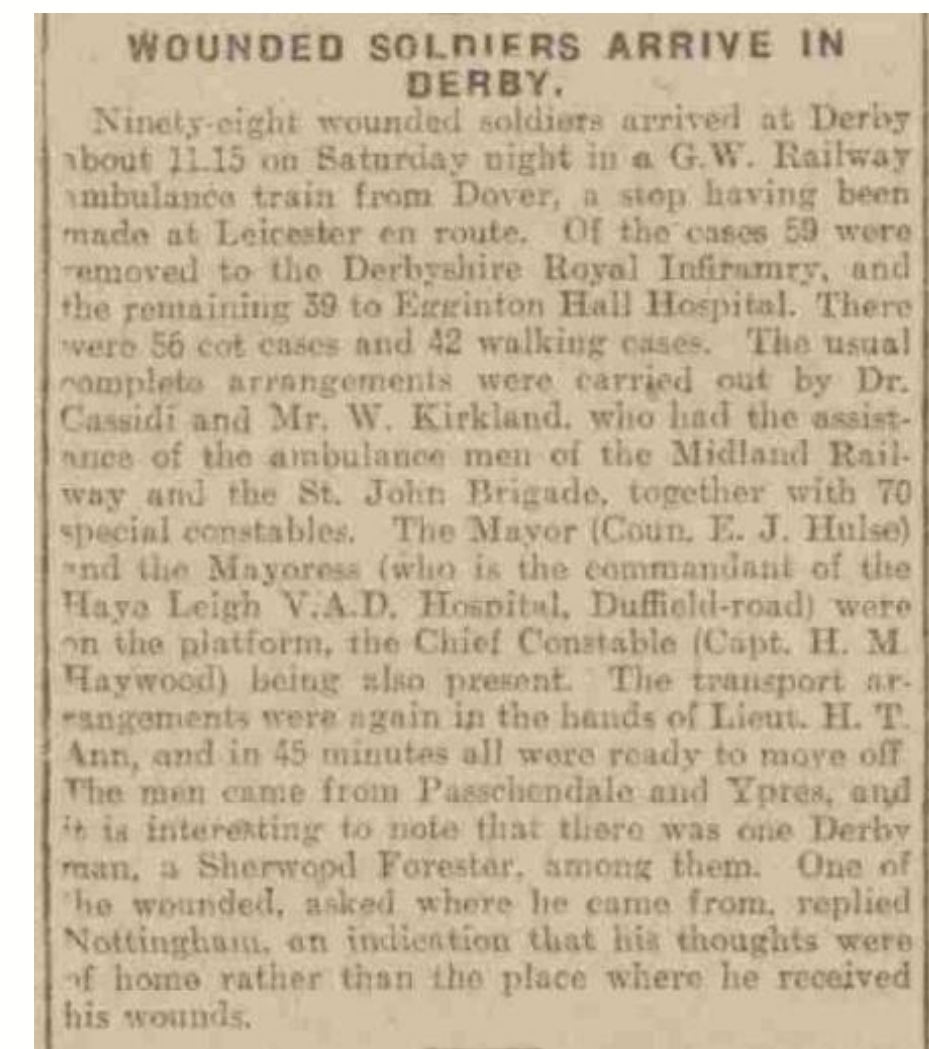


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**Right: 25 October 1917:**

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

(© Local World Limited, British Newspaper Archive)



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