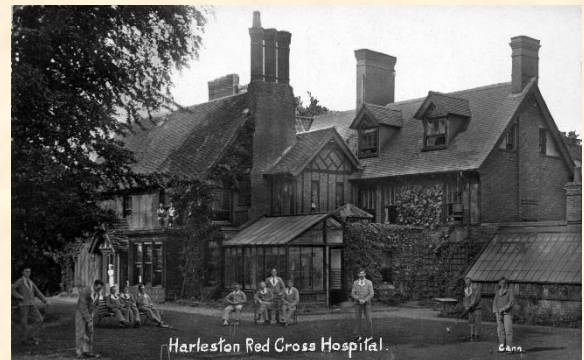
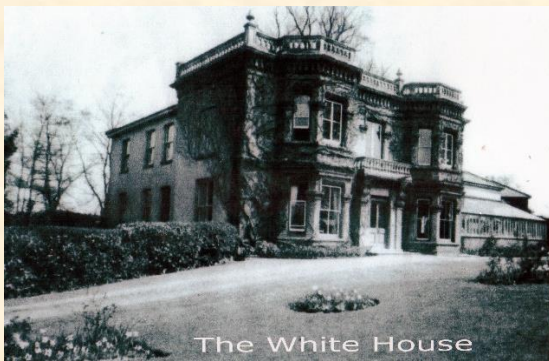


# World War One Tablecloth

*Inscribed by wounded soldiers, nurses and staff*  
at

The Red Cross Hospitals in Harleston, Norfolk  
during the first World War 1914-1918



*"This historic find is a unique piece of World War One history that could be of national importance"*

*The information in this leaflet has been compiled by Terry Pegg of the Harleston & District Branch of the Royal British Legion.  
With the kind help of Researchers Ruth Walton & Kate Chenneour*

Custodian: Harleston & District Branch Royal British Legion  
Researcher: Terry Pegg, Harleston & District Branch Royal British Legion  
Researcher: Ruth Walton, local researcher & author  
Researcher: Kate Chenneour, local researcher & author

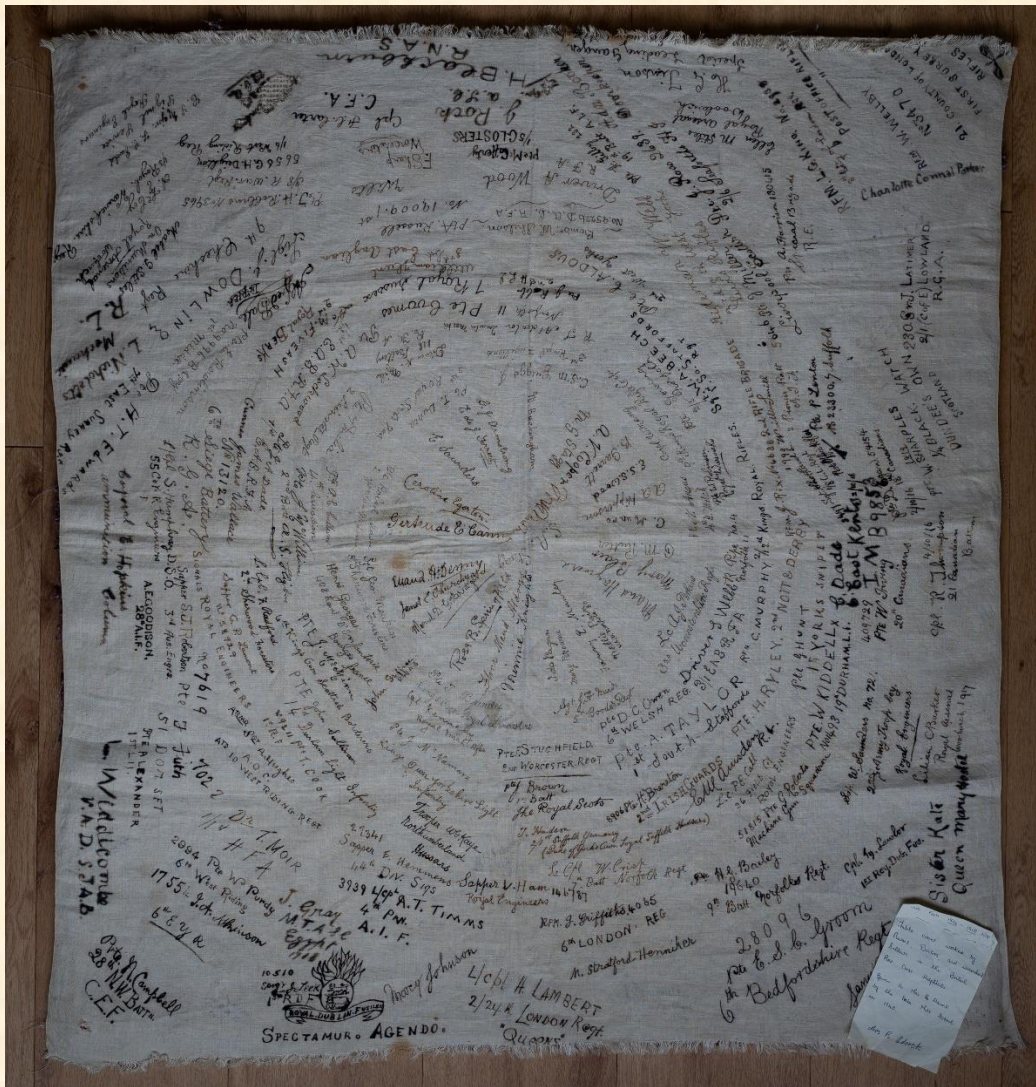
## **Contents**

Cover Page: The two Red Cross Hospitals and The Harleston World War One Tablecloth

Page 1	Contents Page
Page 2	The Harleston World War One Tablecloth
Page 3	Background information
Pages 4-6	A-Z List of Soldiers' Names (including their service details where known) inscribed on the Tablecloth
Pages 7-8	A-Z List of Staff and Other Names inscribed on the Tablecloth
Pages 9	Chain of Evacuation of Wounded Soldiers
Page 10	Stretcher Bearers
Page 11	Regimental Aid Post
Page 12	Advanced/Main Dressing Station
Page 13	Field Ambulances
Pages 14-15	Casualty Clearing Station
Page 16	Ambulance Train
Page 17	Hospital Barge
Page 18	Base Hospital
Page 19	Hospital Ship
Page 20	Ambulance Train to Norfolk War Hospital
Page 21	Arrival at Norwich
Page 22	British Red Cross Auxiliary Hospitals during the First World War
Page 23	King George's Hall
Page 24	White House Red Cross Hospital, Mendham Lane, Harleston, Norfolk
Page 25	Caltofts Red Cross Hospital, Harleston, Norfolk and The War Memorial
Pages 26-37	Some of the soldier's life stories
Pages 38-49	Some of the nurses, staff and visitor's life stories
Pages 50-52	Daily life at the Hospitals
Page 53	Letter back from the front line
Page 54	List of Volunteers for Harleston & District 1914-1918
Page 55	Where to see the Tablecloth



# The Harleston World War One Tablecloth



Norfolk Museum Service believe that the ink used on the tablecloth was IRON GALL Ink.

Iron gall ink (also known as common ink, standard ink, oak gall ink or iron gall nut ink) is a purple-black or brown-black ink made from iron salts and tannic acids from vegetable sources. It was the standard ink formulation used in Europe for the period between the 5th and 19th centuries and remained in widespread use well into the 20th century.

*The conservation, framing and display of the tablecloth  
has only been made possible with generous grants coming from:*

*Redenhall with Harleston Town Council. Harleston Grapevine Magazine.*

*Harleston & District Branch of The Royal British Legion.*

*Adam Mullin (Cornerstone limited). Jerry Hadingham.*

*World War One Tablecloth discovered in Harleston, Norfolk.*  
*“This historic find could have national importance”*



A unique piece of World War One history has recently been discovered in Harleston, a three-foot square linen tablecloth, signed by many soldiers who stayed at the two Red Cross hospitals in the town between 1914-1918. They have written their names and service details in ink which can still be clearly seen; the tablecloth is like an international autograph book with signatures from many countries, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Canada, Australia and France.

At the centre of the tablecloth are signatures of medical staff and those that kept the hospitals running, one name we know, Mr Alderton, was the quartermaster and the father of a son killed in WW1. Another, Miss Ellen de Jerzey Forrest, who lived in Pulham St Mary, is the lady we must thank for taking care of the tablecloth when the hospitals closed. She folded it away until some twenty years later she gave it to Mrs Adcock, a lady who had helped around the house where she lived. Her daughter Pauline recently transferred it to the care of Terry Pegg of the Harleston & District Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Terry has been working with local researchers Ruth Walton & Kate Chenneour to find out more about the 145 names on the tablecloth, 105 soldiers and 40 other personnel. This includes staff and other patients – many of the staff were local people. There was a huge community effort from the people of Harleston and nearby villages to help the sick and wounded soldiers, and other casualties such as The Royal Arsenal, Woolwich munition workers.

Research has discovered that at least 7 of the soldiers that have their names on the Tablecloth, were awarded medals for gallantry. One soldier was awarded both the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal. 6 other soldiers were awarded the Military Medal. 1 soldier was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. There are also some tragic tales as well with at least 5 of the soldiers being Killed in Action after returning to the Front Line. This includes a local soldier from Pulham St Mary.

The names on the Tablecloth also include two important figures in Harleston at that time. Dr Frederick Norton Haylock Maidment who was the Medical Officer at both the Hospitals as well as a surgeon and the local doctor for Harleston. The other was Mary Perowne who was Commandant of The Red Cross Hospitals. She was the daughter of Thomas Thomson Perowne the Rector of Redenhall and former Archdeacon of Norwich.



## Soldiers names inscribed on the Harleston WW1 Tablecloth:

Number	Rank	Name	Regiment/Unit
8901	Private	Charles Aldous	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment
	Private	Alexander	1 <sup>st</sup> L11
2997	Private	Nicholl Angus	4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Black Watch
17554	Private	John A. Atkinson	'A' Coy 6 <sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment
19640	Private	Henry George Bailey	9 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment
8862	Sgt	William Arthur Beech <b>M.M.</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment
	Seaman	H. Blackburn	Royal Navy Air Service
8906	Private	Henry Brereton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Irish Guards
2470	Private	Thomas Brindle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Kings Own Royal Lancasters
23359	Private	J.F. Brown	12 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Scots
25719	Lance Corporal	Percy E. Call	26 <sup>th</sup> Field Company Royal Engineers
73328	Private	Neil Campbell	28 <sup>th</sup> Battalion (Northwest), CEF Canadian Expeditionary Force
	Corporal	F.L. Carter	Canadian Field Artillery
	Private	A.E. Cullant	4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion (Central Ontario) Canadian Expeditionary Force
9211	Private	Thomas Cook <b>M.M.</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment)
666	Private	William Coomes	7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment
12127	Lance Corporal	William James Norman Crisp	7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment
9853	Private	Charles Dade	6 <sup>th</sup> Battalion East Kent Regiment
875797	Private	J.A. Dade	1 <sup>st</sup> EAB Royal Field Artillery
5656	Private	George Henry Deighton	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)
	Signalman	J. Dowling	9 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment
18084	Private	Thomas Duker	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers (Scottish Rifles) Service No: 11026
	Private	H.T. Edwards	7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment
54154	Private	David Egan <b>M.M.</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force
7083	WO2 (CSM)	Ferdinand Charles Ewald	Signal Service Royal Engineers
9609	Lance Corporal	M. Fiveash	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment
70251		F. Frith	51 DOM SFT
		Henri Georges	408 <sup>th</sup> Regiment D'Onfanterie
232	Private	Herbert Gilby	19 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force
1713	Private	Arthur Edward Goodison	28 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force
22340	Private	Reginald John Gowing	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment
		J. Gray	MTASE Egypt 1918
		John Griffin	RNAS (Royal Navy Air Service)
4065	Rifleman	J. Griffiths	6 <sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment
6390	WO2 (CSM)	James Walter Griggs	3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment)
28096	Private	Ephraim Samuel Christmas Groom	6 <sup>th</sup> Bn Bedfordshire Regiment & 17th Bn Essex Regiment (Service No: 400992)
146787	Sapper	Victor Ham	Royal Engineers (Tunnelling Depot Company)
130415	Private	Alfred Harrison	Special Brigade, Royal Engineers & Labour Corps (Service No: 346061)
29341	Sapper	Ernest Hemmens	Royal Engineers & 44 <sup>th</sup> Division Signals

Number	Rank	Name	Regiment/Unit
51104	Corporal	E. Hopkins	Ammunition Column
		T. Hudson	2/1 <sup>st</sup> Suffolk Yeomanry (Duke of York's Own Loyal Suffolk Hussars)
	Sergeant	A. Hughes	Army Ordnance Corps Attached to 10 <sup>th</sup> Battalion West Riding Regiment
18925	Lance Corporal	Stanley Humphrey <b>D.C.M. &amp; M.M.</b>	55 <sup>th</sup> Company Royal Engineers
	Private	G. Hunt	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Yorkshire Regiment (Snipers)
		William Hunt	3 <sup>rd</sup> East Anglian Field Ambulance (Special Reserve)
	Private	T. Inclia	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)
409729	Private	William Irving	20 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force
11423	Trooper	William George Kaye	Northumberland Hussars
	Corporal	Kennedy	Royal Mail Rifles
1493	Private	Walter Henry Kiddell	19 <sup>th</sup> (Pals) Battalion Durham Light Infantry
2938	Rifleman	L.G. King	8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion (Post Office Rifles) London Regiment
280	Gunner	James Latimer	2/1 <sup>st</sup> Lowland Heavy Battery (City of Edinburgh) Royal Garrison Artillery
	Corporal	Ty Lawlor	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers
	Lance Corporal	H. Lambert	2/24 <sup>th</sup> Royal London Regiment "Queens"
58929	Sapper	Charles Porter Lamont	Royal Engineers
10510	Sergeant	John Robert Leek	1 <sup>st</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers (Spectamur Agendo)
23300	Private	Percy Lenton	7 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Suffolk Regiment
	Private	A.W. Lockwood	1/2 <sup>nd</sup> EAB RFA
2765	Private	Robert Mason	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gordon Highlanders
241813	Private	Daniel McCafferty <b>M.M.</b>	1/5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment (also Service No: 5036)
3326	Lance Corporal	A. McCoy	1/3 <sup>rd</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Private	J. McMinn	6 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers
	Private	J.N. McNamara	Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
	Private	J. McWilliam	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
972	Sergeant	George Meakin	8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire Regiment)
6898	Corporal	William Meng	9 <sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps
71392	Driver	A. Miles	118 <sup>th</sup> Battery Royal Field Artillery
5646	Private	James Miller	Kings (Liverpool Regiment)
	2nd Lieutenant	Doctor T. Moir	Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service. Territorial Force
1324	Sergeant	J.H. Muir	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment
5073	Rifleman	Cornelius Murphy	12 <sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps
		L. Nicholetts	Mechanic RL
	Private	D.C. Owen	6 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Welsh Regiment
10258	Lance Corporal	Albert John Perkins	3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment
2994	Private	William Henry Purdy	6 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)
12265	Lance Corporal	Frederick Radford	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire Regiment)
4638	Rifleman	James Rix	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade
	Private	J. Robb	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Highland Light Infantry
3965	Private	T.H. Robbins	3/8 <sup>th</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment
51815	Private	George A. Roberts	Machine Gun Corps Cavalry
451	Sapper	Stanley James Robertson	3 <sup>rd</sup> Field Company Australian Engineers

Number	Rank	Name	Regiment/Unit
8822	Private	W. Robinson	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment
		J. Rock	
2639	Private	James Ross	2/6 <sup>th</sup> (Morayshire) Battalion Seaforth Highlanders
9996	Private	Ernest William Rowlinson	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Middlesex Regiment
19009	Private	Albert Russell	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment
7382	Private	H. Ryley	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire Regiment)
	Sapper	William Saunders	No 72, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army Troop Company, Royal Engineers
17249	Lance Corporal	Frederick Sharp <b>M.M.</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment
1819	Private	William Sharples <b>M.M.</b>	4/5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) Dundee's Own
95226	Bombardier	William Shilson	Divisional Ammunition Column 114 <sup>th</sup> Brigade Royal Field Artillery
2497	Sergeant	Leonard William Shortland	8 <sup>th</sup> City of London Battalion London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) (also 37071)
1993		William Smith	2 <sup>nd</sup> Pioneer Battalion Australian Imperial Force
12049	Private	Fred Stuchfield	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Worcester Regiment (also P/6704 Military Foot Police)
	Private	John Sullivan	14 <sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry
154825	Lance Corporal	Arthur Swift	Royal Engineers
	Private	A. Taylor	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment
	Corporal	R. Thompson	21 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force
3934	Lance Corporal	Albert Thomas Timms	4 <sup>th</sup> Australian Pioneers
		H.G. Tinson	Special Leading Ganger
13120	Gunner	James Wallace	6 <sup>th</sup> Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery
	Driver	S. Webb	3/1 <sup>st</sup> E A B Royal Field Artillery
	Rifleman	W. Webb	3/8 <sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire (Leeds Rifles) Territorial Force
3470 & 651224	Rifleman	William Daniel John Wellby	21 <sup>st</sup> Battalion London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles)
	Driver	A.Wood	Royal Field Artillery

Research documentation has also discovered that the following soldiers although not listed on the Tablecloth were also treated at The White House on Mendham Lane in Harleston:

1868	Private	P. Collins	Irish Guards, 1 <sup>st</sup> Division
3537	Rifleman	Cecil Dipper	25 <sup>th</sup> Brigade, Kings Royal Rifle Corps, 8 <sup>th</sup> Division
2153	Private	John Edwards	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Welsh Regiment, British Expeditionary Force
9407	Lance Corporal	John Evans	Royal Irish Fusiliers, 4 <sup>th</sup> Division, British Expeditionary Force
8838	Private	William E Goddard	'C' Company, 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division
528	Private	S. Heeds	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, Princess Pats Canadian Light Infantry,
7653	Lance Corporal	Thomas Brewer Moulding	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion East Lancashires, 11 <sup>th</sup> Brigade, British Expeditionary Force
8280	Private	William Reed	1 <sup>st</sup> Devonshire Regiment, 14 <sup>th</sup> Brigade, British Expeditionary Force
32616	Sergeant	Walter Frederick Smith	Royal Field Artillery, 43 <sup>rd</sup> Brigade, British Expeditionary Force
11588	Private	A. Taylor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers, 15 <sup>th</sup> Brigade, 5 <sup>th</sup> Division
9836	Private	Fred Wilby	10 <sup>th</sup> Company, 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment
12846	Private	Edwin Wood	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division, British Expeditionary Force

**Do you recognise any of those names? If you have any information and want to contact the researcher his details are:**

**Name:** Terry Pegg **Email:** [harlestonww1tablecloth@yahoo.com](mailto:harlestonww1tablecloth@yahoo.com)

## Soldiers Personal Medical Records & Hospital Records

There are some of these names that with only a few details, have been difficult to research. An example is looking for "Private Owen" in a Welsh Regiment with no regimental number. There are hundreds of Private Owens!!

A vast majority of soldiers' service records were destroyed in the German bombing of London in September 1940, and those that survived, or have subsequently been reconstructed, are often badly damaged and incomplete. However, those surviving records (30-40%) still provide the best chance of discovering where a man was wounded or taken ill, where he was treated, and the sequence of events at the time.

With no service record, the likelihood of finding the information rapidly decreases or more likely disappears altogether. In addition to their service records, all men and women who were patients at any time, and for any reason, had a range of military medical records completed during their stay. After the war most of these medical and hospital records were destroyed.

## Nurses, Staff and Visitor names inscribed on the Tablecloth:

There is a possibility that some of these listed were patients and visitors to the Hospitals and not staff members. Those with a VAD number refers to their British Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment section number.

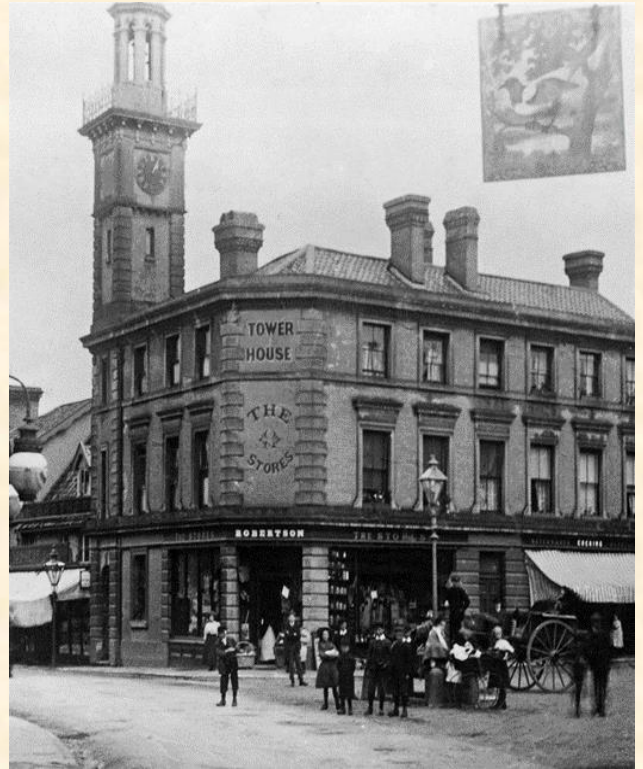
Name	Detachment	Role
Mr Robert Thomas Alderton	VAD Norfolk 11	Quartermaster
Mrs Flora Maud Aldous	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
Miss Ethel Amsden	VAD Kent 76	Masseuse
Miss Gertrude Jane Armstrong		Housekeeper
<b>Dame</b> Lilian Charlotte Barker DBE, JP	Royal Arsenal, Woolwich	Chief Lady Superintendent, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich (visitor)
Mr Alfred W Bale	Lic RIBA	Transport of wounded soldiers
Ms Mary Blair		
Ms Ada Booker (Doorkeeper)		
Mrs Muriel Delphine Gwendoline Bridges		
Miss Ellen Buckingham	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
Miss Gertrude Eva Cann	VAD Norfolk 38	Cook
Mrs Jeannette E Churchyard	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
Ms Charlotte Connal-Parker		
A.V. Cooper		
Mrs Maud Henson Denny	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
Mrs Caroline Egerton	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
Miss Ellen de Jersey Forrest	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
B. Garrett		
Ms Maud Hayward		
Mrs Anna Agnes Hipperson	VAD Norfolk 38	Sergeant Cook
Ms Mary Johnson		



Name	Detachment	Role
Sister Kate (Queen Mary Hostel)		
Mrs Minnie Knights	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
Dr Frederick N.H. Maidment	VAD Norfolk 11	Medical Officer & Commandant
Ms Fanny Elizabeth Manley	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
C. Munro		
Mrs Ida Pagan	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
Miss Ellen (Nellie) Pain	VAD Norfolk 80	General Service
Miss Mary Jane Eliza Perowne	VAD Norfolk 38	Commandant, Nursing & Quartermaster
Mr Robert Pipe	VAD Norfolk 11	Secretary to Commandant
Miss Olive Mary Rutter	VAD Norfolk 38	Cook
Miss Edith Mary Saunders		Governess of Caltofts
Miss Rose Beatrice Springfield	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
Mrs Sarah Ann Stagg		Matron of The White House
Ms Muriel Grace Stagg	VAD Norfolk 38	Nursing Member
Mrs Ellen May Stiles	Royal Arsenal, Woolwich	Munitions Worker (probably a patient)
Mrs Mabel Grace Stiles	Royal Arsenal, Woolwich	Munitions Worker (probably a patient)
Margaretta Eliza Stratford Henniker	Royal Arsenal, Woolwich	Lady Supervisor (probably a visitor)
Ms Lilian Ann Widdicombe	VAD Devon 96	Nurse
Elizabeth Spens Stewart Wood	VAD Durham 56	Nurse

**Do you recognise any of those names? If you have any information and want to contact the researcher his details are as follows: Name: Terry Pegg Email: [harlestonww1tablecloth@yahoo.com](mailto:harlestonww1tablecloth@yahoo.com)**

## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

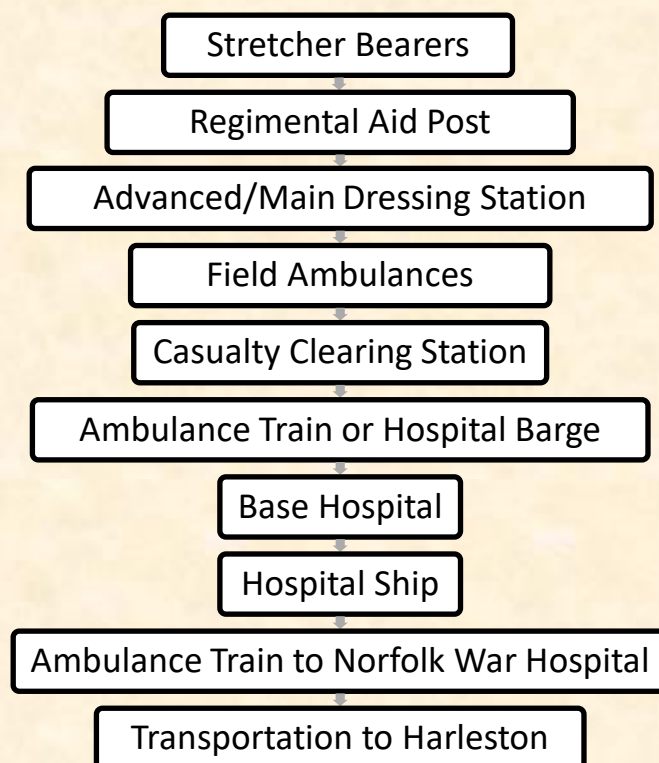


**From the trenches**

**to**

**Harleston**

This long journey from the Front Line to Harleston would often take several days or even weeks



## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Stretcher Bearers

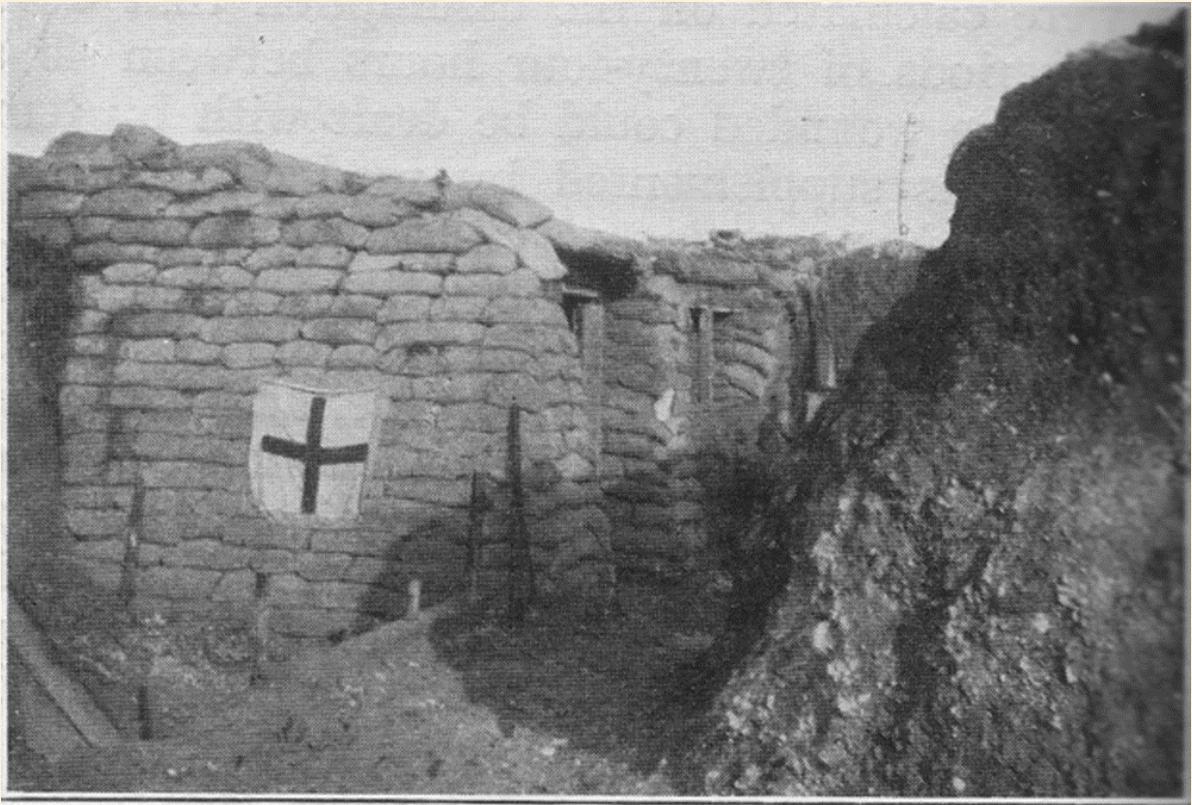


- Advancing troops were not allowed to stop and care for wounded soldiers.
- All men carried an emergency field-dressing and if possible attempted to treat their own wounds. The wounded soldier then had to wait until the stretcher-bearers arrived.
- There were only four stretcher-bearers per company and so it was often some time before they received medical help.
- Some dragged themselves into a shell-hole for protection, but this was dangerous as many sank into the mud and drowned.
- In good conditions two men could carry a wounded man on a stretcher. However, after heavy rain it took four men to lift a stretcher.
- In some cases, it took six men to carry a twelve stone man a thousand yards across muddy fields.



## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Regimental Aid Post

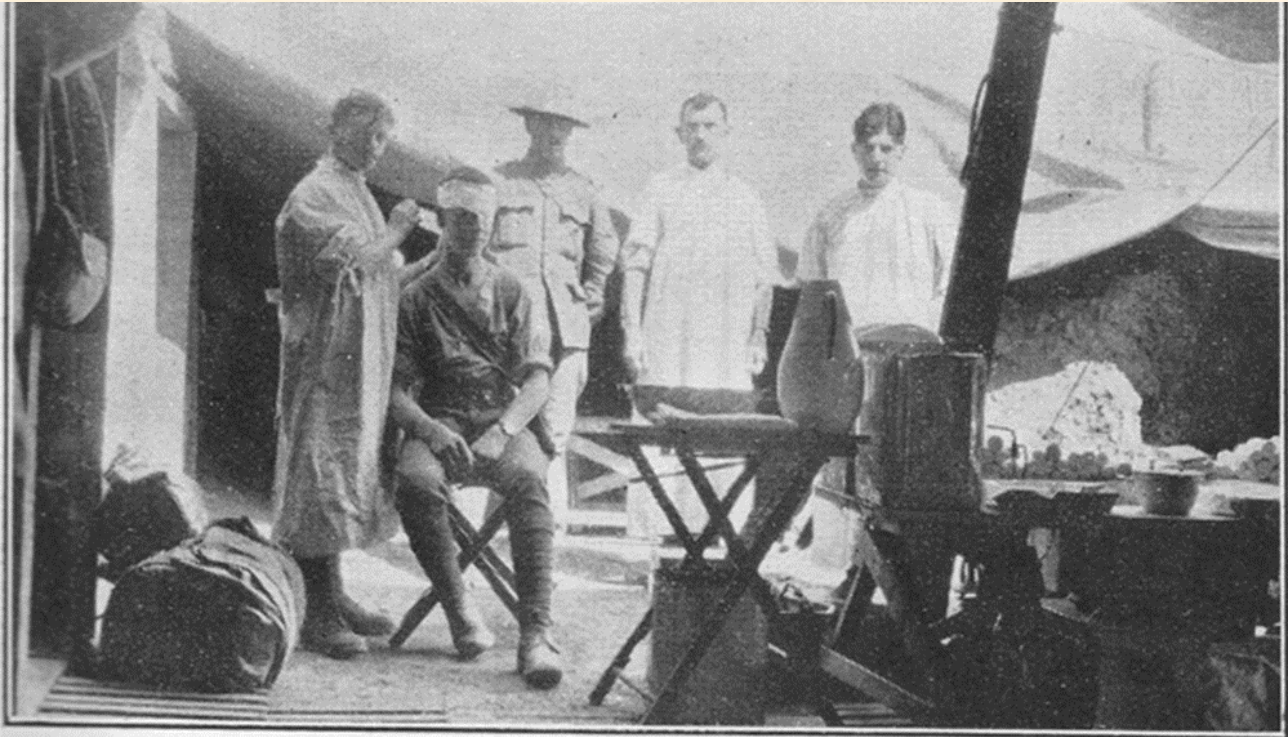


Regimental aid post in Hindenburg Trench.

- Generally located within 200 metres of the frontline.
- Located in communication trenches or deserted buildings.
- Led by a Regimental Medical Officer with some stretcher bearers who had first aid knowledge.
- Wounded men would either walk in themselves or be carried in by other soldiers.
- It could not deal with serious injuries – these were moved to the next stage of the chain of evacuation.
- The purpose of the Regimental Aid Post was to give immediate first aid and get as many men back to the front as quickly as possible.

## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### ADS/MDS Advanced or Main Dressing Station



Advanced dressing station of a field ambulance in a shell hole at Fricourt.  
Battle of the Somme 1916.

- In theory, there should have been an Advanced Dressing Station about 400 metres from the Regimental Aid Post, then a Main Dressing Station a further half a mile back. In reality there may have only been one Dressing Station.
- Located in abandoned buildings, dug-outs or bunkers in order to offer protection from enemy shelling. If these were not available, they would use tents.
- Staffed by 10 medical officers + medical orderlies and stretcher bearers from the Royal Army Medical Corps.
- From 1915, there were some nurses available.
- Again, the men could either walk or be carried in to the Dressing Station.



## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Field Ambulances



- These were mobile front-line medical units for treating the wounded before they were transferred to a Casualty Clearing Station [CCS].
- Each Army Division would have three Field Ambulances.
- These were made up of ten officers and 224 men and were divided into three sections which in turn comprised stretcher-bearers, an operating tent, tented wards, nursing orderlies, cookhouse, washrooms and a horse drawn or motor ambulance.



## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Casualty Clearing Station

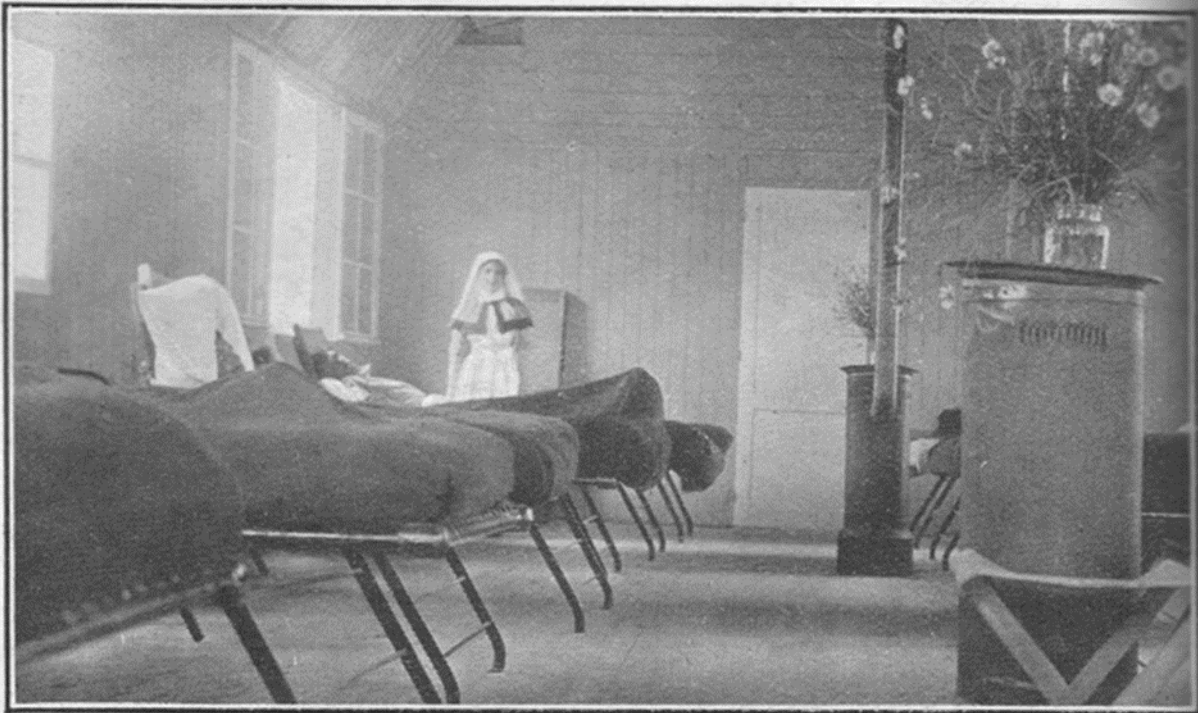


In a casualty clearing station behind the Somme Front 1916.

- Casualty Clearing Stations were located at a sufficient distance from the frontline to provide safety from attack but close enough for the ambulance wagons.
- Often the Casualty Clearing Station closest to the front line would specialise in operating on the most critical injuries (such as chest injuries).
- They were set up in buildings such as schools or factories and were often near a railway line to allow for the next stage of the chain of evacuation.
- When the soldiers arrived, they were divided into 3 groups, this was called TRIAGE meaning to sort or select.
- TRIAGE helped medical staff make decisions about treatment.

## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Casualty Clearing Station



Ward for serious cases in a casualty clearing station.

#### Triage (3 Groups)

1. The walking wounded – These men could be patched up and return to fighting.
2. In need of hospital treatment – These men would need to be transported to a Base Hospital once they had been treated for any immediate life-threatening injuries.
3. The walking dead – These men would be made comfortable as there was no chance of recovery, no medical resources were used on these men.



## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Ambulance Train



- These trains transported the wounded from the Casualty Clearing Stations to base hospitals near or at one of the channel ports.
- In 1914 some trains were composed of old French trucks and often the wounded men lay on straw without heating and conditions were primitive.
- Others were French passenger trains which were later fitted out as mobile hospitals with operating theatres, bunk beds and a full complement of nurses, RAMC doctors and surgeons and RAMC medical orderlies.
- Emergency operations would be performed despite the movement of the train, the cramped conditions and poor lighting.



## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Hospital Barges



- Many wounded were transported by water in hospital barges. Although slow, the journey was smooth and this time allowed the wounded to rest and recuperate.
- The barges were painted grey with a large red cross on each side with the flag poles flying the Red Cross to signify they were carrying wounded soldiers.
- As the war progressed many soldiers were evacuated straight onto the barges from the trenches and battlefields, they were ridden with lice and filthy.
- Due to the lack of ventilation there were problems with gas attacked patients with the smell of gas remaining on their clothing and breath which caused sickness, sore eyes and breathing problems to the nurses and patients.

## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Base Hospital

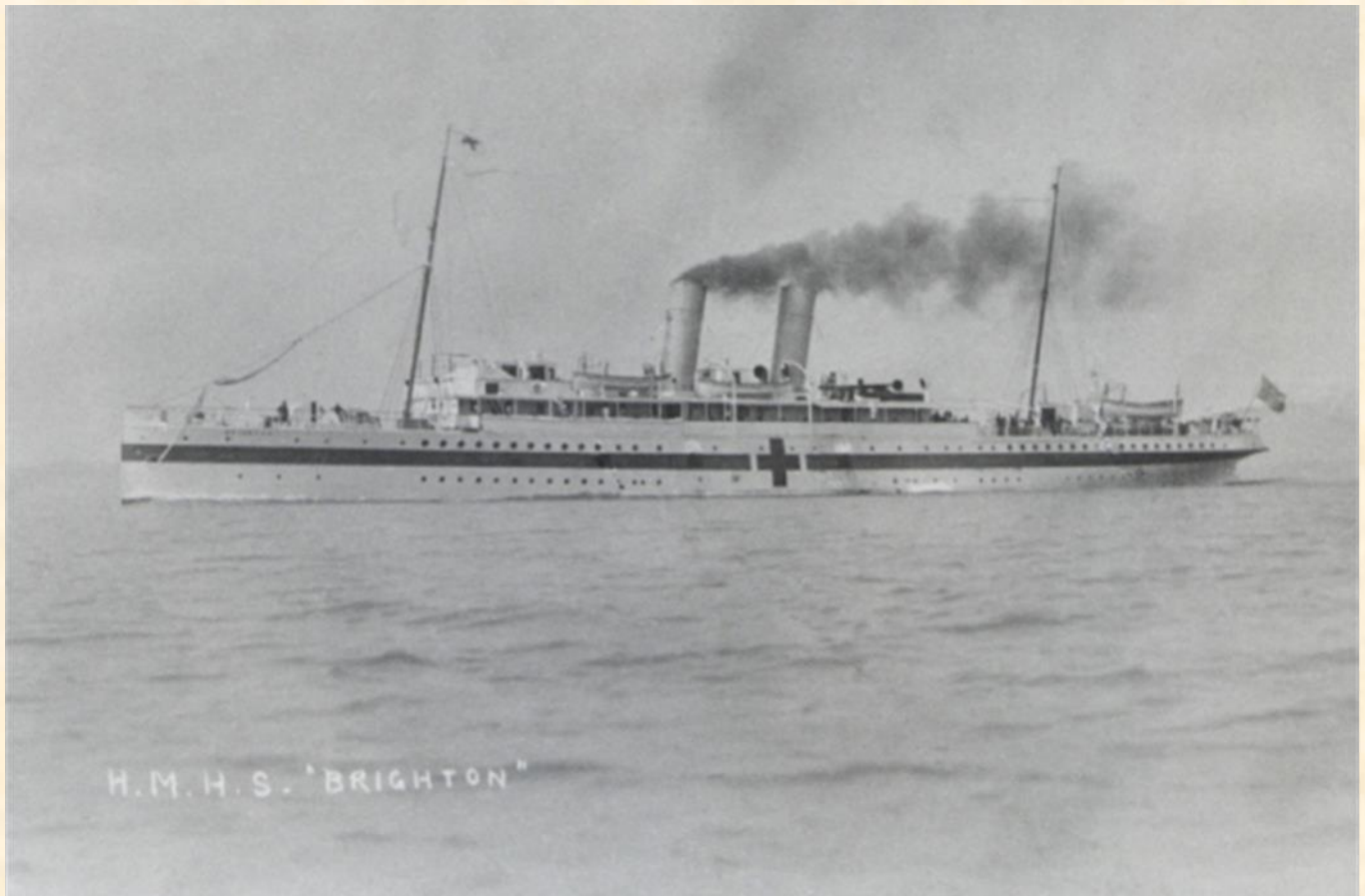


- Located near the French & Belgian coasts.
- At the start, there were 2 types of Base Hospitals. Stationary Hospital or General Hospital. In reality, both did the same work anyway.
- Base Hospitals experimented with new techniques which when successful were used in the Casualty Clearing Stations, dividing patients according to their wounds (amputees, head, chest etc), this allowed for a specialised ward with a specialist expert doctor to treat them.
- They were either returned to the front or sent to Britain for further treatment.



## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Hospital Ships



- Most hospital ships were requisitioned and converted passenger liners.
- Despite the excellent nursing and medical care many patients died aboard because of their extreme wounds.
- The risk of torpedoes and mines as they crossed the channel was very real.
- On arrival at a British port the wounded were transferred to a home service ambulance train and on to Military and War Hospitals which were divided into nine Command areas.



## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Back in Blighty - Ambulance Train to a War Hospital



- It's highly unlikely that any decisions were made overseas about a patient's destination once back in the United Kingdom.
- For men disembarking at Southampton, the most serious cases were transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley and the Southampton War Hospital.
- From Dover, the sickest men were found accommodation in London.
- Men needing specialist treatment were separated out and given some priority to admit them to a unit which suited their needs.
- Lightly wounded men and the walking wounded were often the ones chosen to do the longest journeys and therefore more likely to end up in cities such as Plymouth or Aberdeen.

## Chain of Evacuation for Wounded Soldiers during World War One

### Arrival at Norwich by Ambulance Train



- Wounded soldiers would arrive at Thorpe Station in Norwich and be transferred to the Norfolk War Hospital which was formerly the Norfolk County Asylum at Thorpe
- Or, the Fernhill Isolation Hospital, Norwich
- Or, Thetford Camp, a hospital established at an army base with 120 beds.
- Then after assessment, operations and any treatments the soldiers would be sent for bed rest and convalescence to one of the many auxiliary war hospitals set up under the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Scheme



## **Norfolk Auxiliary Hospitals**

- The wounded soldiers who had undergone surgery or suffered serious illness needed somewhere to rest and recuperate before returning to the front line.
- To accommodate this, additional hospitals were set-up across Britain. By the end of 1914, 26 fully staffed and equipped Auxiliary War Hospitals had opened across Norfolk and during the course of the war this rose to 64.
- Also known as 'Red Cross Hospitals', Auxiliary War Hospitals were run by the British Red Cross Society and Order of St John.

### **Auxiliary hospitals were usually staffed by:**

- a commandant, who was in charge of the hospital except for the medical and nursing services
- a quartermaster, who was responsible for the receipt, custody and issue of articles in the provision store
- a matron, who directed the work of the nursing staff
- members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), who were trained in first aid and home nursing
- In many cases local women volunteered in the hospitals part-time, although it was often necessary to supplement voluntary work with some paid roles, such as cooks



## Norfolk Auxiliary Hospitals in Harleston

### King George's Hall

The following extract from The Diss Express was dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 1914

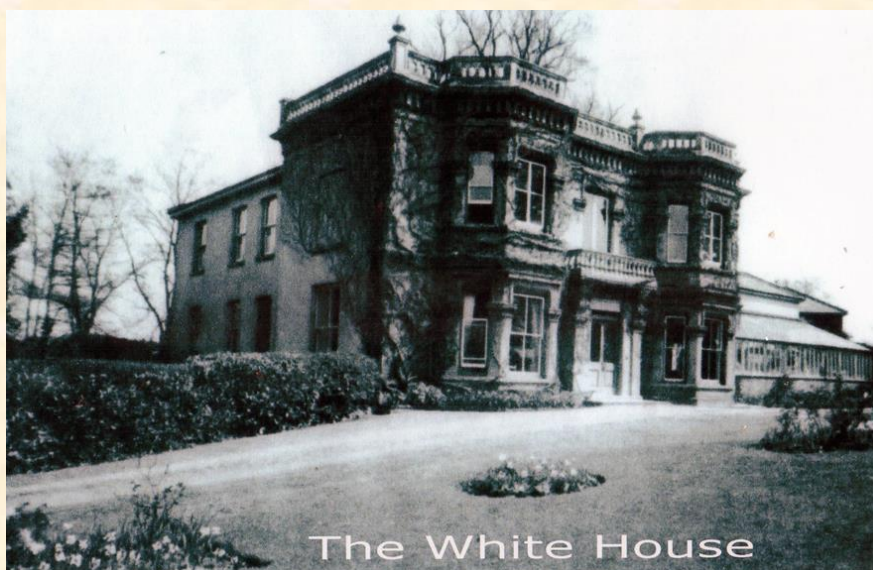
At a meeting of the committee and local secretaries of the Earsham Petty Sessional Division of the Red Cross Society, held at Harleston on Saturday, it was announced that a hospital of twenty beds, with full equipment, would be ready for use at short notice. The hospital has been erected in King George's Hall; and, if necessary, there is no doubt that a very considerable extension of accommodation can be quickly arranged.

No evidence has been found to suggest that King George's Hall was ever used as a hospital.

# Norfolk Auxiliary Hospitals in Harleston

## The White House Red Cross Hospital

Mendham Lane, Harleston, Norfolk



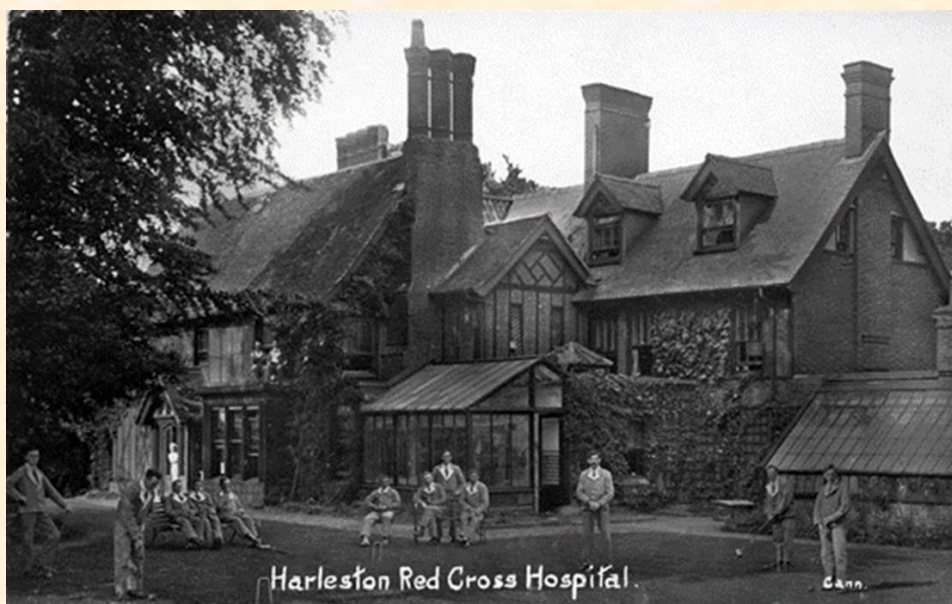
- Opened: 29<sup>th</sup> October 1914
- Closed: 19<sup>th</sup> February 1916
- Beds: 14
- Patients: 123 were treated during this period



# Norfolk Auxiliary Hospitals in Harleston

## Caltofts Red Cross Hospital

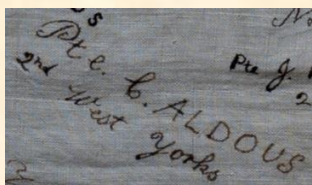
Broad Street, Harleston, Norfolk



- Opened: 5<sup>th</sup> May 1917
- Closed: 7<sup>th</sup> April 1918
- Beds: 20
- Patients: 136 patients were treated during this period

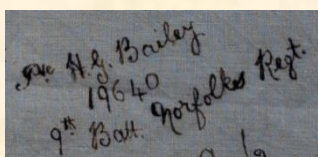
## Wounded Soldiers who were treated in the Harleston Red Cross Hospitals during WW1

### 8901 Private Charles Aldous (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment)



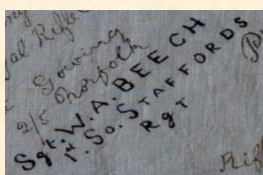
When Charles Spencer Aldous was born in 1890 in Pulham Market, Norfolk, his father, James, was 26 and his mother, Anne, was 23. He had seven brothers and three sisters. He enlisted into the West Yorkshire Regiment in July 1908 when he was 18. In the 1911 census he was based with his Regiment in Colchester Barracks. He was hospitalised on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1915 with apparent Tuberculosis. Charles Spencer Aldous died on 5 July 1957 in Calgary, when he was 67 years old. He is buried at the Innisfail Cemetery, Innisfail, Red Deer Census Division, Alberta, Canada.

### 19640 Private Henry George Bailey (9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment)



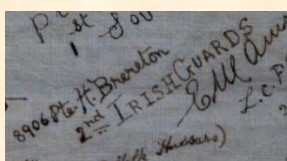
Henry George Bailey enlisted into the Norfolk Regiment on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1915. He became sick with Appendicitis and Septic Glands. He was transferred to 35 General Hospital, Calais on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1916 and then to Norfolk War Hospital on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1916. It is believed he was then sent to Harleston to recuperate. He was discharged on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1917.

### 8862 Sergeant William Arthur Beech M.M. (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment)



William Arthur Beech was born in 1883 in Smethwick, Staffordshire. He joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment and was first wounded on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1915. After he recovered from his Injuries he returned to his Unit and was Killed in Action on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1917. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. He was entitled to add the letters **M.M.** to his name. He is buried at the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.

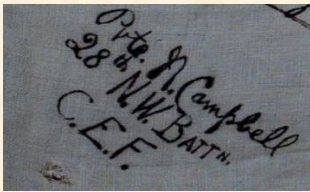
### 8906 Private Henry Brereton (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Irish Guards)



Henry Brereton was born in Baltinglass, Co Wicklow on 10 August 1882. He was one of nine children of William Brereton. Henry enlisted in the Royal Irish Constabulary as a teenager but left the service in 1902 to move to the Straits Settlement Police in Singapore. His second wife was Isabella Somersett. He enlisted into the Grenadier Guards and transferred to the 2nd Battalion Irish Guards. He was listed as wounded on 30/10/1915 and 25/10/1916. He commissioned into The Indian Army Reserve of Officers on 25/06/1918. He served as a Lieutenant in The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). Henry died in India while serving as a Captain with the 2nd Punjab Regiment.

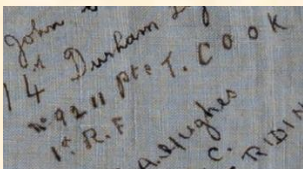


**73328 Private Neil Campbell (28<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Northwest), CEF Canadian Expeditionary Force)**



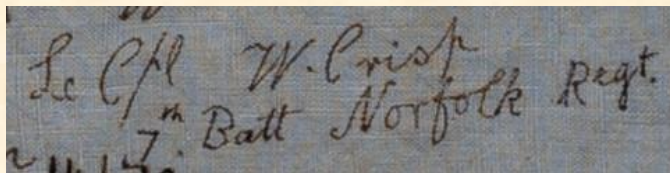
Neil Campbell was born on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1892 in Rothesay, Scotland. He moved to Canada in 1911 and lived in Port Arthur, Ontario. His next of kin was Mrs Archie Cameron. He enlisted into the Army on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1914. He was wounded on the Somme with gunshot wounds to his chest, right forearm and right hand. He was admitted to the Norfolk War Hospital in Norwich for treatment to his wounds. He was eventually discharged from the Army in April 1918.

**9211 Private Thomas Cook M.M. (1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment))**



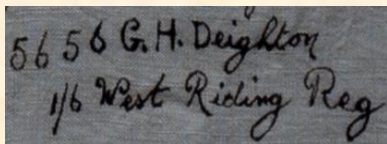
Thomas Cook was born about 1877 in St Georges, Middlesex. He married Elizabeth Mary Clark in Hackney Register Office on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1908. He enlisted into the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment) in Hounslow and also served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Queens (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. He was initially reported missing then wounded on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1915. Gazette Issue 29731 dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 1916 on page 8654. Thomas was awarded the Military Medal. His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award The Military Medal for bravery in the field. He earned the right to add the letters M.M. to his name. He was also reported with a sickness on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He died of wounds received in France and Flanders on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1916. He is buried in the Serre Road, Cemetery No 2 at Beaumont-Hamel, Department de la Somme, Picardie, France in Plot XXXIII.G.10.

**12127 Lance Corporal William James Norman Crisp (7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment)**



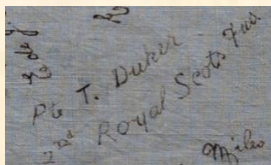
William Crisp was born in 1894 in Pulham St Mary. In the 1911 Census he was working as a Milk Lad on the Farm. He was one of 5 sons to his parents Robert and Mary Priscella Crisp. His other brothers were Robert, Stanley, Leslie and Cecil. He enlisted into the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment. He was first wounded with a gunshot wound to his left thigh on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1915 in France and was treated in a Military Hospital in Versailles. Then it is believed he was transported back to England for recovery. He then returned back to the Front Line and was subsequently killed in action on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1916. He is buried at the Theipval Memorial, Somme, France. He is also listed on the Pulham St Mary War Memorial alongside his brother Robert Emmanuel Crisp of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment who was also killed in action on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1915.

**5656 Private George Henry Deighton (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment)**



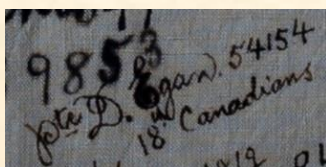
When George Henry Deighton was born on 9 June 1892 in Bradford, Yorkshire, his father, William was 30 and his mother Esther was 32. He married Beatrice Ada Richard on 24 January 1916 in Manningham, Yorkshire. He was injured with a gunshot wound to the scalp on 05/07/1916. He died in December 1964 in his hometown at the age of 72.

**18084 Private Thomas Duker (2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers (Scottish Rifles) Service No: 11026)**



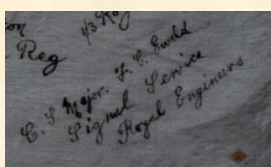
Thomas Duker from Hamilton enlisted into the Army on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1913. He was wounded and subsequently discharged from the Army on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1915.

**54154 Private David Egan M.M. (18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force)**



David Egan was born on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1890 in County Cork, Ireland. He enlisted into the Army on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1914. He was wounded in action and awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. Admitted to the Norfolk War Hospital at Thorpe on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1916 for recovery to his gun-shot wounds to the chest. He married Ethel Kelf in Great Yarmouth in October 1916.

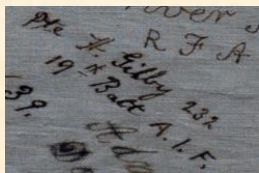
**7083 WO2 (CSM) Ferdinand Charles Ewald (Signal Service Royal Engineers)**



Ferdinand Charles Ewald was born on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1883. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 1906. He was Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry action in the London Gazette published on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1918, Supplement 30693, Page 5985. He spent some time in the Harleston Red Cross Hospital as a result of a fractured fibula (broken leg) which he sustained on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. He later transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals (Regimental Number: 2306040). He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. He later became a Chelsea Pensioner and died in The Royal Hospital Chelsea on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1975.



### 232 Private Herbert (Bert) Gilby (19th Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force)



Bert Gilby was born in a small village near Hull, in Yorkshire, England and worked as a farm hand and Insurance clerk. He departed for Australia on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1913. Bert enlisted in the Australia Imperial Force in February 1915, having arrived in Australia, a little more than a year before. He had left behind in England his parents Fred and Mary, and siblings Arthur and Ethel. Assigned as a private to the 19th Infantry Battalion, he sailed from Sydney Harbour in June 1915, on the troopship *Ceramic* bound for Egypt, unaware of the intended landing of forces on the Gallipoli peninsula.

His paybook shows that he indeed served at Gallipoli, his Unit was deployed to Pope's Post, participating in the attack on Hill 60, the last action of the notorious August Offensive. The 19th Battalion was withdrawn on the night of the 19th December 1915, this was when Private Gilby was wounded for the first time – hit in the head by shrapnel he was evacuated to Alexandria, where he spent Christmas 1915 recuperating. When he re-joined his Unit in France, Private Gilby was wounded in the wrist in 1916 and in the legs in October 1917. Evacuated to hospital, he remained in England until being returned to Australia in January 1919.

He gained work in Warwick and later Innisfail, at the South Johnstone sugar mill, before sailing to England in 1926, to visit his family in Hull. He returned to Innisfail and later married Gladys Young in 1929. Bert and Gladys made a life for themselves in north Queensland, first in Babinda, then they moved to Stratford, Cairns after the Second World War. Bert was a member of the Australian Labour Party, and called upon his fellow members to help him out with a financial matter in 1947, the request went all the way to the Prime Minister of the day, Ben Chifley. He died in Queensland, Australia on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1982.

### 1713 Private Arthur Edward Goodison (28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force)

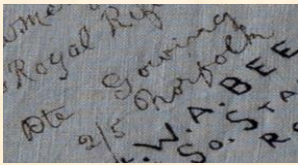


Arthur (Dart) Goodison was born in 1895, Trentham, Victoria - timber getter - he named his brother Samuel Goodison as his next of kin, one of four brothers who served. He enlisted in June 1915 at Busselton, south Western Australia while Australian troops were still taking part in the ill-fated operations on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Arthur was allotted to 2nd Reinforcements for the 28th Infantry Battalion, and soon after embarked for Egypt aboard HMAT 'Demosthenes'. He joined his battalion on Gallipoli 12 October 1915 and when troops were evacuated from the Peninsula in December 1915, they encamped on the island of Mudros. It was from Mudros that Arthur was evacuated to hospital in Cairo with jaundice on Christmas Day and again in February 1916 with mumps. After Gallipoli Australian units were reorganized, strengthening spent battalions with new recruits and 'old-hands'. In March 1916 the 28th Battalion sailed for the port of Marseilles, from where they travelled by train to Thiennes and to their first billets in France, ready to go back into active service.

Arthur was severely wounded 29 July 1916 when the battalion was in the front lines, and experienced heavy shelling in their position in Tramway Trench, Pozieres. Initially Arthur was treated at No. 44 Casualty Clearance Station, then transferred to No. 24 General Hospital, at Etaples before being evacuated aboard the hospital ship 'Brighton' to England, suffering from a gun-shot wound and compound fractures to his right shoulder.

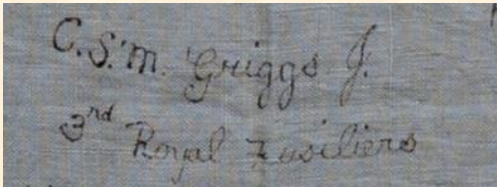
Arthur was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, and during his extended stay, he has added his name to a commemorative tablecloth. No longer fit for active service, Arthur was discharged to Weymouth Camp in early December 1916 and embarked in February 1917 aboard the troopship 'Benalla' from Plymouth, bound for Australia, where he was medically discharged. He married Barbara Rich in 1930 and died in 1958 Albany, Western Australia.

**22340 Private Reginald John Gowing (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment)**



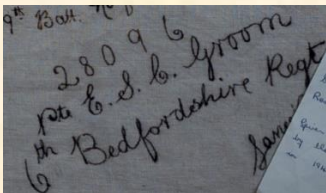
Reginald Gowing was born in Norwich and in the 1911 Census he was listed as a Warehouseman. He was married to his wife Grace Tooke in 1915. He enlisted into the Norfolk Regiment and whilst serving in Suez he became sick with Jaundice in September 1916. He was transferred to Hospital Trains at Suez on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1916. He died in Norwich in September 1964.

**6390 Company Sergeant Major James Walter Griggs (3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers- London Regiment)**



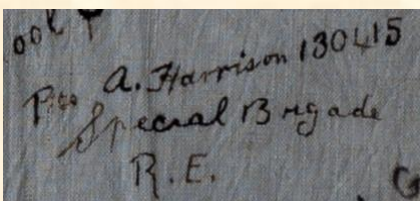
James Walter Griggs was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1880 in London St Pancras. He lived with his parents Charles and Mary and had 2 siblings Charles and Nelly. He married Mary Ellen Byrne in Dublin in November 1913. Their daughter Ellen Teresa was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1916. During the war he was wounded twice. The first time was on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1914 and then on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1915. London Gazette No. 30086 – On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1917 he was **Mentioned in Despatches**. The Honourable Sir Douglas Haig, has submitted the Officer name as deserving a special Mention in Despatches. London Gazette No 30750 - On the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1918 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of valuable services rendered with the Forces in France during the war. After the war he became a Railway Inspector. He died on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1923 in London at the age of 42.

**28096 Private Ephraim Samuel Christmas Groom (6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment)**



Ephraim Samuel Christmas Groom was born in Hapton on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1896. He enlisted on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1915 into the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment then transferred to 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment (Regimental No 400992). He was wounded on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He married Sarah Jane Martin on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1917. He had two bouts of sickness in March and June of 1918. He was then discharged from the Army on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1919. In the 1939 register he was listed as a Horseman (Farm) living on Station Road in Pulham St Mary. He then lived in Mendham Close, Harleston and died on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1973.

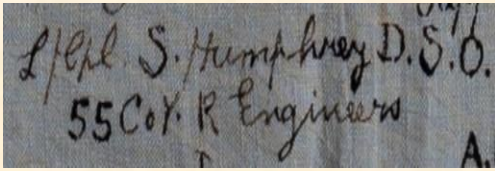
**130415 Private Alfred Harrison (Special Brigade, Royal Engineers) & Labour Corps (Service No 346061)**



Alfred Harrison was born on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1895 in Birkenhead, Cheshire. His father, William, was 38 and his mother, Sabina, was 35. He married Elizabeth Jane (Ginny) Jones in March 1917 in his hometown. He originally enlisted as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers and later was transferred as a Pioneer in the Labour Corps where he was allocated Regimental Number 346061. He was discharged from the Army on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1918. They had two children during their marriage. He died in September 1959 in Birkenhead, Cheshire, at the age of 64.



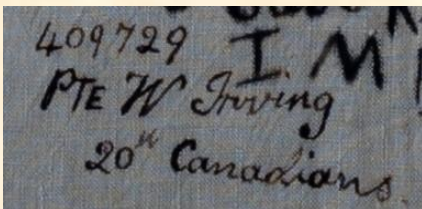
#### 18925 Lance Corporal Stanley Humphrey D.C.M. & M.M. (55 Field Company Royal Engineers)



Stanley Humphrey was born in 1892 in Gravesend, Kent. His father was Stephen Humphrey. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1909. During the war he was awarded the **Distinguished Conduct Medal**. The citation was in The London Gazette dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 1916, which read 18925 Lance Corporal Stanley Humphrey, 55<sup>th</sup> Field Company Royal Engineers. For conspicuous gallantry and determination. When the enemy opened rifle and machine gun fire on his working party, wounding the section officer, he first helped the latter into safety and then returned, rallied the working party, and finished the work. The Distinguished Conduct Medal was regarded as second only to the Victoria Cross in prestige. Stanley Humphrey was also entitled to use the letters **D.C.M.** after his name.

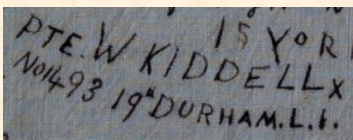
As well as being awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, "His Majesty the King has been graciously please to award the **Military Medal** to Stanley Humphrey for bravery in the field". London Gazette 29780 dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 1916 Page 9832. He was also entitled to add the letters **M.M.** to his name. He survived the war but was medically discharged from the Army on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1919 due to sickness. He married Elsie Dorothy Rice on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 1919. He died in Shefford, Bedfordshire on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1964, aged 71.

#### 409729 Private William Irving (20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force)



William Irving was born on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1890 in Edinburgh. He moved to Canada and enlisted into the Army on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was wounded in action on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1916, suffering from gun-shot wounds to his chest. Then he was evacuated to the Norfolk War Hospital in Thorpe, Norwich. He was unfit to return to his unit and returned to Canada. He married Florence Mary Rand on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1917. He was discharged from the Army on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1917. He died on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1950 in Huntsville, Muskoka, Ontario.

#### 1493 Private Walter Henry Kiddell (19<sup>th</sup> Pals Battalion Durham Light Infantry)



Walter Henry Kiddell was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1883 in Norwich. His parents were Walter Arthur and Emily Susannah. They moved to West Hartlepool and Walter enlisted into Durham Light Infantry on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1915 (aged 30). He was wounded on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1916 and was discharged from the Army due to his wounds on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1917. He had to have his left leg amputated.

#### 2938 Rifleman L.G. King (8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Post Office Rifles London Regiment)

L G King was from Catford. He was wounded twice, first on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1915 and then again 26<sup>th</sup> October 1916.

### **280 Gunner James Latimer (2/1 Lowland Heavy Battery City of Edinburgh Royal Garrison Artillery)**

James Latimer was born in 1891. He enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1912 and also had a regimental number 307055. He was wounded on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1918 and eventually discharged from the Army on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1919.

### **10510 Sergeant John Robert Leek (1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers (Spectamur Agendo))**



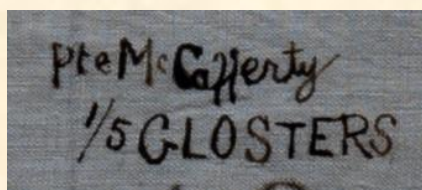
John Robert Leek was born in Ireland in 1891. He joined X Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers and was first wounded in the Mediterranean on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1915. He was then sick with Arthralgia on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1915 and evacuated on the Hospital Ship Neuralia. He was promoted through the ranks to Sergeant but was court martialled in Malta for drunkenness and reduced to the rank of Corporal. He also suffered with Influenza on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1916.

### **23300 Private Percy Lenton (11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Suffolk Regiment)**



Percy Lenton was born in 1896 in Doddington, Cambridgeshire and lived in March, Cambs. His parents were John Edward and Betsy Lenton of Ascot House, Doddington, Cambs. He served with both the 7<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. He was Killed in Action on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1917 (aged 21). He is buried at Poelcapelle British Cemetery, Belgium.

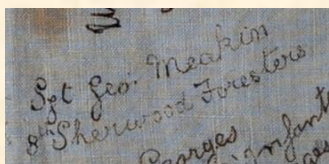
### **241813 Private Daniel McCafferty M.M. (1/5 Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment (also Service No: 5036))**



When Daniel McCafferty was born on 24 May 1885 in Donegal, Donegal, his father, Patrick, was 35 and his mother, Winnifred, was 24. He had five brothers and four sisters. He enlisted into the Army and served with the Gloucestershire Regiment and was wounded on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1916. London Gazette Issue 30364 dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 1917 page No 11338. His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award Daniel McCafferty the Military Medal for bravery in the Field. He earned the right to add the letters **M.M.** to his name. He was discharged from the Army on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1919. He died in 1953 in Letterkenny, Donegal, at the age of 68.

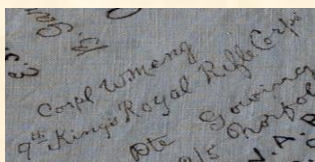


#### **972 Sergeant George Meakin (8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire Regiment))**



When George Meakin was born in 1885 in Sutton In Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, his father, Isacc, was 34 and his mother, Hannah, was 31. He lost his father when he was only 8 years old. He was wounded in France and Flanders on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was eventually discharged from the Army because of his wounds on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1915.

#### **6898 Corporal William Meng (9<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps)**

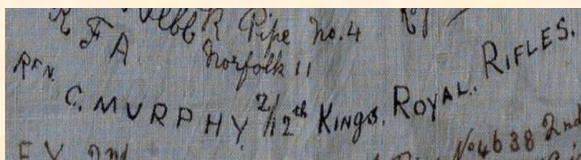


William Meng was born in 1890. His father was Herman Meng. He enlisted into the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was injured in France and Flanders on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1915. He married May Elizabeth Fox on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1916 in Croydon, Surrey.

#### **5646 Private James Miller (Kings – Liverpool Regiment)**

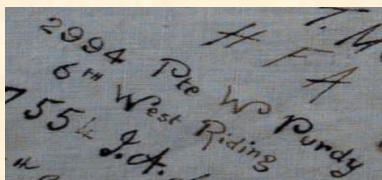
James Miller was born in 1873 in Hooton, Cheshire. He married Charlotte Crane on 19<sup>th</sup> Aug 1901 and they had a daughter Nora and lived in Llandudno, North Wales. James transferred to the Labour Corps (No: 500749). He was wounded on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He was discharged from the Army on 4<sup>th</sup> Aril 1919.

#### **5073 Rifleman Cornelius Murphy (12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Kings' Royal Rifle Corps)**



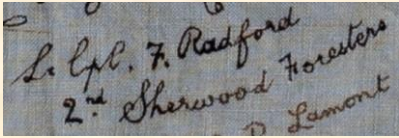
Cornelius Murphy was born on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1890 in Shoreditch, Middlesex and lived in Hackney. He married Betsy Matilda Slate on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1909 and had 2 children, Cornelius and Betsy Matilda. He enlisted into the Kings Royal Rifle Corps and was Killed in Action on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1916 (aged 26). He is buried at Deville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France.

#### **2994 also 265884 Private William Henry Purdy (6<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Riding Regiment)**



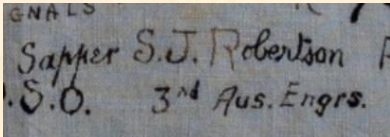
William Henry Purdy was born in 1897 in the town on Bingley, Yorkshire. His parents were Henry and Mary and he had two elder brothers George and John. He was wounded on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1916.

**12265 Lance Corporal Frederick Radford (2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire Regiment))**



When Frederick Radford was born on 30 August 1896 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, his father, George, was 31 and his mother, Annie, was 39. He married Winifred Broomhead in March 1920 in Ecclesall, Yorkshire. They had one child during their marriage. He died in September 1948 in his hometown at the age of 52.

**451 Sapper Stanley James Robertson (3rd Field Company Australian Engineers)**

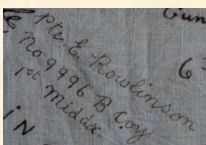


Stanley Robertson was born in Glenelg, South Australia in 1892. Prior to enlisting, in August 1914 he was employed as a telephone fitter. Initially allotted to the 10th Infantry Battalion, he embarked from Adelaide in October and landed at Alexandria, Egypt early December 1914. The 10th Battalion was one of the units who landed at Anzac Cove, on 25 April 1915 and was heavily involved in establishing the ANZAC front line position. In August 1915 while still on the Peninsula, Stanley was transferred to the 3rd Australian Field Company Engineers, as a sapper, where his role would have been laying communication lines through the trenches.

In September 1915 the 3rd Pioneers were operating near 'Sappers Post' when Stanley reported sick and was evacuated for treatment on the hospital ship 'Guildford Castle' to Alexandria, and did not return to his battalion after being discharged. In March after the Allies had withdrawn from Gallipoli, Stanley embarked with the 3rd Field Company Engineers for France, aboard HMT 'Kingtonian', travelling by train from the port of Marseille, arriving in the village of Strazeele, soon to begin operations in the front lines.

On 21 August Stanley Robertson was wounded, as the Company experienced heavy shelling at Tara Hill, near Albert, Stanley was later evacuated to England aboard the hospital ship 'Dieppe' and admitted to the Norfolk War Hospital for treatment for a shell wound to his right shoulder. Stanley was discharged and sent to convalesce in Tidworth several weeks later where he was transferred to the Army Postal Corps. He returned to his company later that year, and was again wounded in action by a gunshot to his shoulder. Treated in hospital in France, he returned to Australia just prior to the end of the war, and was medically discharged. Stanley Robertson married Dora Steele in 1926 and continued his association with the AIF during the Second World War, enlisting with the Volunteer Defence Corps for the duration of the war.

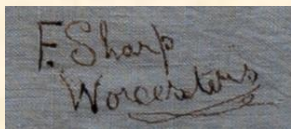
**9996 Private Ernest William Rowlinson (1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment)**



Ernest William Rowlinson was born in 1889 in Withersfield, Suffolk and lived in Mill Hill, Middlesex. His parents were Samuel and Jane Rowlinson and he married Daisy Marie Batty on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He was Killed in Action on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1916 (aged 27). He is buried at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

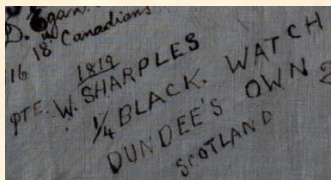


**17249 Lance Corporal Frederick Sharp M.M. (3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment)**



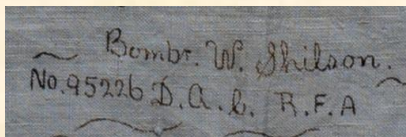
When Fred Sharp was born on 12 January 1887 in Tipton, Staffordshire, his father, Thomas, was 44 and his mother, Ann, was 41. He married Arabella Ellis Sharp in July 1918 in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. He was wounded three times, 27<sup>th</sup> August 1916, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1916 and then again on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1917. He survived a gunshot wound to the head and was awarded the Military Medal. Gazette issue 29794 dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 1916, His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the Field. He earned the right to add the letters **M.M.** to his name. He was discharged from the Army on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1918. He died on 17 August 1954 in Stafford, at the age of 67.

**1819 Private William Sharples M.M. (4/5th Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) Dundee's Own)**



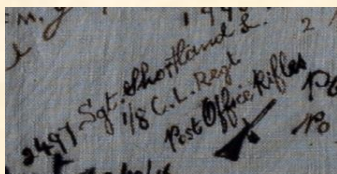
William Sharples resided in Dundee. Whilst in the Army he was wounded with a fractured leg on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1916 and again on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1916. He was promoted to Corporal and was also allocated Service number S/43427. Gazette issue 30340 dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 1917, page 10727. Military Medal. His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the Field. He earned the right to add the letters **M.M.** to his name. He was discharged from the Army on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1919.

**95226 Bombardier William Shilson (D Battery 114th Brigade Royal Field Artillery)**



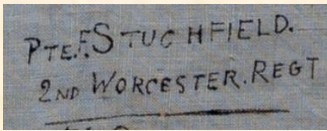
William Shilson was born on 4 November 1894 in Bermondsey, Surrey. He was wounded during the war on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1917. He married Mabel Viola Crocker in December 1924 in Steyning, Sussex. They had one child during their marriage. He died on 30 September 1965 in Brighton, Sussex, at the age of 70.

**2497 also 37071 Sergeant Leonard William Shortland 8<sup>th</sup> City of London Battalion London Regiment (Post Office Rifles)**



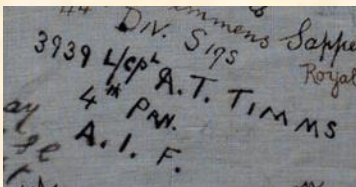
When Leonard Shortland was born on 25 April 1897, his father, Henry, was 41 and his mother, Georgina, was 41. He married Ethel M Goddard in January 1914. He enlisted into the Army on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1914. He was wounded during the war on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1916. They had two children during their marriage. He died in June 1973 in Brighton, Sussex, at the age of 76.

**12049 Private Fred Stuchfield (2nd Battalion Worcester Regiment (also P/6704 Military Foot Police))**



When Fred Stuchfield was born in 1893 in Birmingham, Warwickshire, his father, Stephen, was 43 and his mother, Ann, was 42. He first enlisted into the Worcestershire Regiment and was wounded in France and Flanders on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1915. He transferred to the Military Foot Police and was promoted to Lance Corporal. He married Lucy Clark in 1917. He was discharged from the Army on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1918. They had three children during their marriage, one son and two daughters. He died in 1961 in his hometown at the age of 68.

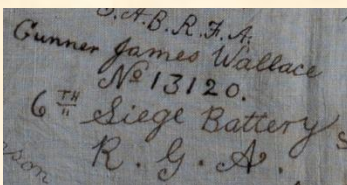
**3934 Lance Corporal Albert Thomas Timms (4<sup>th</sup> Australian Pioneers)**



Albert Timms, a carpenter, enlisted in July 1915 and embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT 'Ceramic' in November 1915, arriving in Egypt six weeks later. Initially assigned to the **46th Infantry Battalion** he was transferred to the **4th Australian Pioneers** and sailed for France in early June 1916. The 4th Pioneers, a newly formed company began its first operations around Armentieres. Trained as both infantry and engineers the Pioneers served on the Western Front from mid-1916 until the end of the war.

Albert was wounded in the foot during action early in August 1916 and was evacuated to England aboard the hospital ship 'Brighton' where he was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital for treatment. His service record shows an orange discharge notice from the Norfolk War Hospital dated 8 October 1916. Albert was transferred to 3 Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford before returning to duty. Albert Timms remained with the 4th Pioneers until the end of the war and returned to Australia in March 1919. He married Louisa Baum in 1920 and died in 1972 age 80.

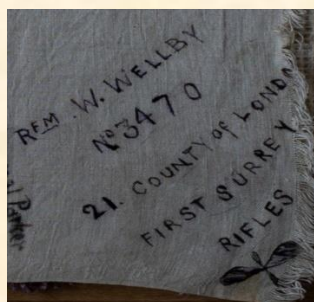
**13120 Gunner James Wallace (6th Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery)**



When James Wallace was born in January 1883 in Macroom, Cork, his father, James, was 28 and his mother, Julia, was 27. He enlisted into the Army in 1902. He was wounded in France and Flanders on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1915 and again on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1917. He was finally discharged from the Army on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1919. He married Hannah Costello in June 1921 in his hometown. He died in 1934 in Macroom, Cork, at the age of 51.



**3470 also 651224 Rifleman William Daniel John Wellby (21st County of London Regiment First Surrey Rifles)**

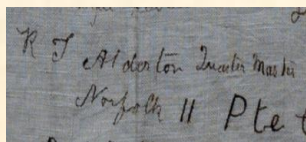


a)	501	Wellby.	Corp- London	Bray, 22-8-18.	28-2-97. London.
b)		William.	oral 25	nicht verw.	East Dulwich.
c)		651224		West Front.	Vater - William.
					East Dulwich, Ldn.

William Daniel John Wellby was born on 28 February 1897 in Walworth, Surrey, his father, William, was 28 and his mother, Catherine, was 36. During the war William was wounded on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1916. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal and his Prisoner of War record (pictured) shows he was captured in the village of Bray in Northern France on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1918. He survived the war and married Annie Belinda Mary Alice Bedwell in March 1922. They had a daughter called Doreen. He died in 1950 in South Africa at the age of 53.

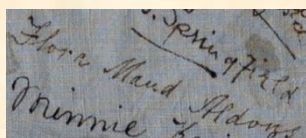
## Nurses, Staff & Visitors at Harleston Red Cross Hospitals during WW1

### Mr Robert Thomas Alderton



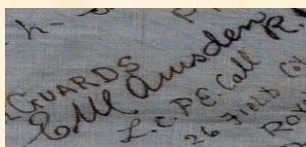
Robert Alderton was born in 1873 in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. He was a Hairdresser and lived in Broad Street, Harleston with his wife Mary Ann and children Herbert Arthur and Ivy May. As the Quartermaster of the Norfolk 11 VAD he was responsible for all kits and work done by the detachment including baths and night duty. His duties also included meeting the train at Harleston Station with wounded patients from Norwich. Robert died in 1942 at The Three Counties Hospital in Arlesey, Bedfordshire aged 69. His son Herbert Arthur joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment and was killed in action and is listed on the Harleston War Memorial.

### Mrs Flora Maud Aldous



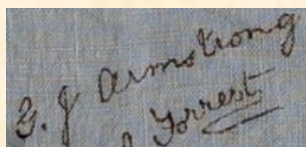
Flora Maud Aldous (nee Sharman) lived in Pulham St Mary with her husband Thomas and enlisted with the British Red Cross (VAD 38) in Oct 1914. She worked as a nursing member in both The White House and Caltofts up until April 1918.

### Miss Ethel Amsden



Ethel Amsden was born on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1879 in Sevenoakes, Kent. She enlisted into the Voluntary Aid Detachment (Kent 76) in January 1912 and was trained as a Masseuse. She served at the Cornwall Hall Hospital in Sevenoakes from September 1914 to August 1918. She then went on to help at the Military Hospital in Oxford. She died on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1963, aged 84.

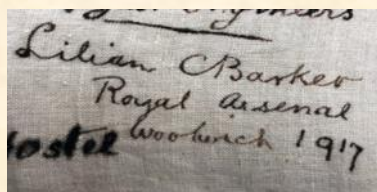
### Miss Gertrude Jane Armstrong



Gertrude Jane Armstrong was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1876 in New Barnet, Hertfordshire. She lived in the Old Market Place in Harleston and was the niece and housekeeper of William and Helen Cumming who were hosiery manufacturers. She died on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1960 in Norwich aged 84.



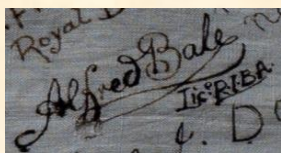
#### **Dame Lilian Charlotte Barker DBE, JP (Royal Arsenal, Woolwich)**



Lilian Charlotte Barker was born on 21 February 1874 in Islington, the fifth of seven children and youngest daughter of James Barker, Tobacconist, and his wife, Caroline Williams. Educated at the local elementary school, she was trained at Whitelands College, Chelsea. She was appointed Lady Superintendent of the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich during the war years, overseeing 30,000 women munition workers. When the Lady Superintendent took up her appointment, under a hundred women were working in the Arsenal; six months later there were 22,000 women and a year later 30,000. She was a woman of many friendships, from Queen Mary, the Irish Playwright George Bernard Shaw and Lady Nancy Astor. Miss Barker was called “the best-known woman in England”, “the mother of 30,000 women” and so on.

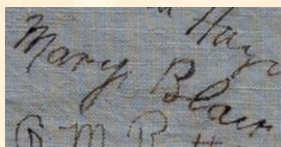
She was awarded the CBE in 1917 and following the war went on to reform women’s prisons throughout England, Scotland and Wales and was the first female to be appointed Assistant Commissioner of prisons in 1935. She was named a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in 1944 for her “services in connection with the welfare of women and girls”. Lilian Barker died suddenly from coronary thrombosis on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1955, at Hallsands in South Devon.

#### **Mr Alfred W Bale**

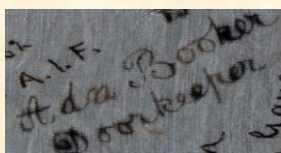


Alfred Bale helped with the transport of wounded soldiers.

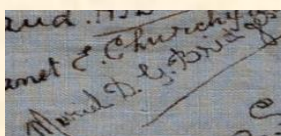
#### **Ms Mary Blair**



#### **Ms Ada Booker (Doorkeeper)**

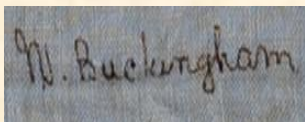


#### **Mrs Muriel Delphine Gwendoline Bridges**



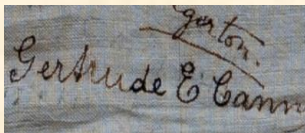
Muriel Delphine Gwendoline Bridges (formerly Dove) was born on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1896 and lived on Broad Street in Harleston. She was both a school teacher and music teacher. Her father was John Bridges and her mother was Mary Ann Dove.

#### Miss Ellen Buckingham



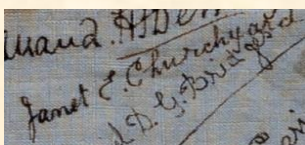
Ellen Buckingham lived at Hollyhurst, 34 Redenhall Road in Harleston. She enlisted into the British Red Cross (VAD 38) as a volunteer nurse in October 1914. She worked at both The White House and Caltofts hospitals until April 1918.

#### Miss Gertrude Eva Cann



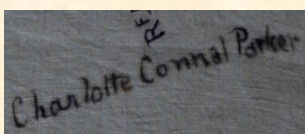
Gertrude Cann was born in 1873 in Harleston, Norfolk. She lived in Selborne House, Harleston with family members, Consuelo, Robert, Archibald, Mary and Ellen. The Cann family were Printers, Booksellers & Stationers operating from their shop on Harleston Market Place where the current newsagent McColls is. At the two Hospitals Gertrude's role was Cook. She died in February 1935 at Stuartville Nursing Home in Rochester, Kent.

#### Mrs Jeannette E Churchyard



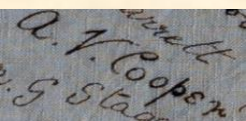
Jeanette E Churchyard was born on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1870 and lived at Hollyhurst, 34 Redenhall Road in Harleston. She enlisted into the British Red Cross (VAD 38) as a volunteer nurse in October 1914. She worked at both The White House and Caltofts hospitals until April 1918.

#### Mrs Charlotte Connal Parker



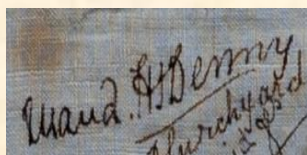
Charlotte Pearsall Mander was born in 1861 in Wolverhampton. She married Michael Connal Parker in October 1901 in Midhurst, Sussex. They Lived at Glaed Hame, Letchworth. She enlisted with the British Red Cross (VAD Hertfordshire 26) on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1917 and was employed as a Cook at the Maples Hospital in Hitchin. During her service with the Red Cross she also worked/visited Caltofts Red Cross Hospital in Harleston, Norfolk. She died in April 1931 in Hitchin aged 69.

#### A.V. Cooper



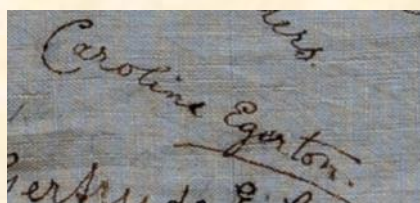


### **Mrs Maud Henson Denny**



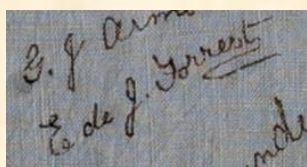
Maud Denny was born in 1869 in Newmarket. She lived at No 2 Wilderness Terrace, Harleston with her husband Hedley G Denny (Master Ironmonger). Her role at the two Hospitals was Nursing Duties. She died in September 1961, aged 92.

### **Mrs Caroline Egerton**



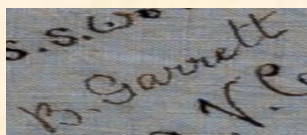
Caroline Egerton was born on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1852 in Wing, Rutland. Her maiden name was Boys, she married Charles Cadwallar Egerton in September 1871. They had children, Edith Mary, Justin Reginald, Hubert Wingfield, Muriel Virginia and Olive. Her husband died on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1907. She was living with her then, longtime friend Fanny Elizabeth Manley at Ivywood, Redenhall nr Harleston in Norfolk.

### **Miss Ellen de Jersey Forrest**

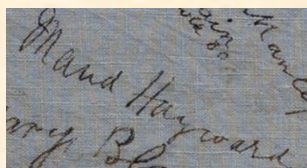


Ellen Forrest was born on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1860 in St Lukes, Jersey. She was single, of private means, living at "The Harrolds" on Station Road in Pulham St Mary. She was living with an Agnes Oilton, a private nurse and a housekeeper Ethel Copeland. Her role at both Hospitals was Nursing Duties. She died on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1942, aged 81.

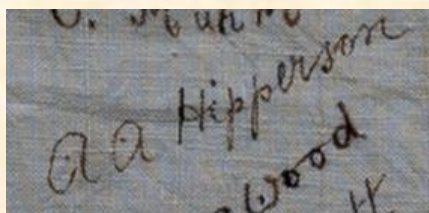
### **B. Garrett**



### **Ms Maud Hayward**

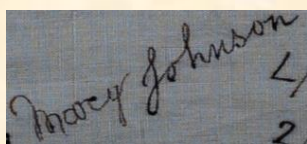


### Mrs Anna Agnes Hipperson

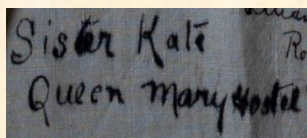


Anna Hipperson was born in 1870 in Hethersett, Norfolk. She was married to the builder Henry Hipperson who lived on Redenhall Road, Harleston. Her role at the two Harleston Hospitals was of Sergeant Cook. She died on 2 September 1962 at St Andrews Hospital, Thorpe St Andrew, aged 92.

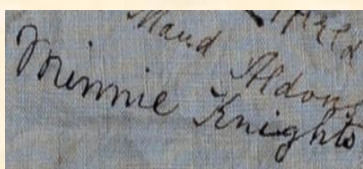
### Ms Mary Johnson



### Sister Kate (Queen Mary Hospital or Hostel)



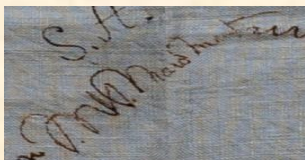
### Mrs Minnie Knights



Minnie Knights was born on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1870 in Harleston, Norfolk and lived on London Road. Her husband was Edward Harry Knights (Agricultural Engineer) of E.H. Knights & Son. Sons Cecil Robert Knights (Agricultural Engineer & Special Constable) and Ernest Harry Knights (Master Agricultural Engineer & Auxiliary Fire Service). She also had a daughter Hilda Margery Knights. Her role at The White House Hospital was Nursing Duties. She died on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1955 at Chevington House, near Bungay, aged 84.



## Doctor Frederick Norton Haylock Maidment



Dr Maidment was born in 1886 in Amesbury, Wiltshire. In the 1911 census he was working as a medical practitioner in Mile End Old Town in London. He then moved to Harleston and joined Dr Robinson in practice upon the retirement of Dr Candler in 1912. Following the death of Dr Robinson in 1915 from a horse-riding accident, Dr Maidment was married to his daughter, Bertha Robinson. His role as The Medical Officer & Commandant was to help deliver effective medical treatment to the patients at both the Hospitals in Harleston. He died in Harleston in May 1966 aged 79.

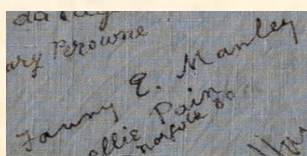
There is an interesting story of an Alfred Munnings painting associated with Dr Frederick Maidment which accompanies his painting of "Woodcutting in October" which was purchased by Dr Robinson in 1901. The following information was published by Bonhams Art Auctions in November 2012. The present lot is accompanied by two original letters from Sir Alfred Munnings, dated 23rd and 31st January 1945 respectively, to Dr Frederick Norton Haylock Maidment discussing *Woodcutting in October* in greater detail. Dr Maidment joined Dr Robinson in practice upon the retirement of Dr Candler by 1912. Following the death of Dr Robinson circa 1915 from a horse-riding accident, Dr Maidment was married to his daughter, Bertha Robinson.



As the letters discuss, Dr George Candler and Dr Robinson, who was the original purchaser of the work, were in partnership as general medical practitioners in Harleston, Norfolk, a market town next to Mendham. Dr Candler, whose family members had been doctors in the area for many years, owned a white pony which had been lent to Munnings as a model. The relationship with Dr Candler and the episode with the white pony is recollected by Munnings in *An Artist's Life* under the chapter 'The Doctor's White Pony' (p.95). Depicting two cousins, Nina and Cecil, and incorporating a complex use of light, this picture featuring Dr Candler's white pony was given the title *An Old Favourite* and exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1900 (no.391). Clearly a painting of exceptional quality, *An Old Favourite* was sold at auction for \$2,972,500 in 1999.

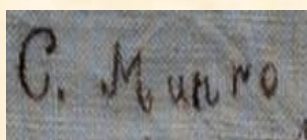
*Woodcutting in October* depicts part of the Mendham marshes by the River Waveney, an area with whose people, landscape and traditions the artist was intimately acquainted. The woodcutter himself poses with a chopper as he trims the long poles cut from the grove of pollard willows along the bend of the river in what Munnings describes as the 'North Meadow'. Writing about the present work in *An Artist's Life*, Munnings recalls the work was hung in the Gem Room at the Royal Academy and that 'the loveliness of that clear, low, October sunlight on the figure at work by the river was beyond even a Sargent' (p.138). Munnings painted more than one image of a woodcutter during this period and despite his original letter alluding to the present work having been exhibited in 1903 (he did exhibit *The Woodcutter* this year); this error is corrected in the second letter where he acknowledges the date of 1901. This amendment also changes the woodcutter himself from 'Old Norman' to Harry Butcher (referred to as Walter Butcher in *An Artist's Life*), the son of an old pig-man. The intriguing details of the letters also reveal that *Woodcutting in October* was not originally signed and dated by the artist but that he committed to do so after the war. Munnings' clear recollection of *Woodcutting in October* is illustrated by the sketch that forms the final page of his first letter, executed some 45 years later from his cottage on Exmoor.

### Ms Fanny Elizabeth Manley

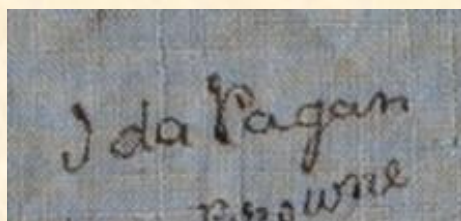


Fanny Elizabeth Manley was born on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1856 in Stibbard, Norfolk. She lived at Ivywood cottage in Redenhall. She enlisted as a volunteer nurse in the British Red Cross (VAD 38) in Oct 1914 through to April 1918. She worked at both the White House and Caltofts Red Cross hospitals. In the 1911 census she was living at High Road, Wortwell with her friend Caroline Egerton. From 1918 onwards she was secretary of the Earsham Division British Red Cross. In the 1939 register she was still living with her friend Caroline Egerton at Ivywood in Redenhall. She died on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1952 at 4 Broad Street, Bungay, aged 96.

### C. Munro

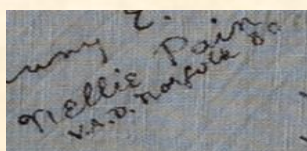


### Mrs Ida Pagan



Ida Pagan was born on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1876 in Cannock, Staffordshire. She lived at The Rectory, Alburgh with her Clergyman husband Reverend Alfred Pagan, sons Alfred Theodore, Henry & Francis Edmund Pagan and her daughter Eleanor Mary Pagan. After her husband died on the 22nd October 1917, she moved to St Marys' Cottage, Beccles where she died on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1955, aged 78.

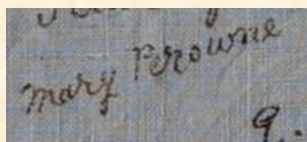
### Miss Ellen (Nellie) Pain



Ellen lived in Knapton, North Walsham. She was a volunteer nurse with the British Red Cross (VAD 80).

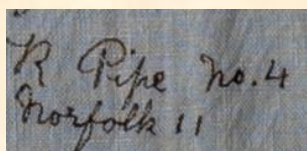


#### **Miss Mary Jane Eliza Perowne**



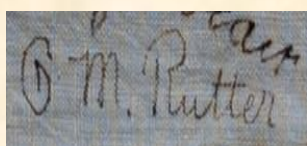
Mary Perowne was born in 1869 in Stalbridge, Dorset. In the 1911 census she was living at Redenhall Rectory with her father Thomas Thomason Perowne who was the Rector of Redenhall and former Archdeacon of Norwich from 1878-1910. Her role at the British Red Cross Hospitals was the Commandant. She was responsible for the daily running of the hospital except for the medical and nursing duties. She also looked after the Quartermaster duties which included the receipt, custody and issue of articles in the provision store. After Caltofts Hospital closed in 1918 she moved to another Hospital, Swanton House in Melton Constable. She died in April 1955 at Chevington House near Bungay aged 85.

#### **Mr Robert Pipe**



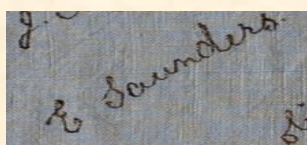
Robert Pipe was born on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1870 in Harleston, Norfolk. He lived at No 2 Hill Terrace, London Road, Harleston. His occupation was a House Decorator and lived with his wife Alice Laura and daughter Ethel Louise. His role at The White House and Caltofts Hospitals was Acting Secretary to the Commandant and duties included help with baths, outside duty, earth closets, coals, woods, pump water etc. He died on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1928 at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, aged 57.

#### **Miss Olive Mary Rutter**



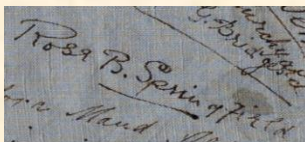
Olive Mary Rutter was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1883 in Ipswich. She lived in a flat in Exchange street, Harleston. She enlisted into the British Red Cross (VAD 38) in October 1914 through to April 1918 working in both The White House & Caltofts Red Cross Hospitals. Her main duties there was as a cook. She died on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1943 in Harleston, aged 60. In July 1918 to January 1919 she moved to Swanton House, Melton Constable. In the 1939 register she was living with her mother Catherine Rutter and sister Violet (who was awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal in 1920 for her work in Alexandria).

#### **Miss Edith Mary Saunders**



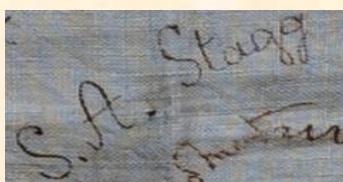
When Edith Mary Saunders was born on 13 January 1891 in Wingfield, Suffolk, her father, Edward, was 35, and her mother, Alice, was 24. She had two brothers and two sisters. She lived at "Caltofts" in Broad Street, Harleston. She was the governess of Caltofts working for the owner William Henry Hazard. She died in 1985 in Gipping, Suffolk, at the age of 94.

### Miss Rose Beatrice Springfield



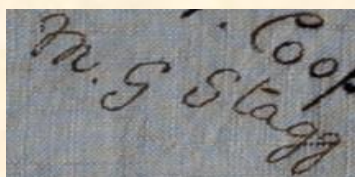
Rose Springfield was born in 1874 in Old Charlton, Kent. The "Springfields" lived at Alburgh House, Alburgh during WW1. Her Father Thomas Osborn Springfield was Chairman of Alburgh Parish Council 1914-1918. Rose arranged for a memorial tablet to her Father in Alburgh church. He knew Alfred Munnings and had his portrait painted by him. Rose worked at both the Harleston Hospitals carrying out nursing duties and also worked at The Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital in Hedenham during 1916-17. She died on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1964 in Kilkenny, Ireland, aged 89.

### Mrs Sarah Ann Stagg



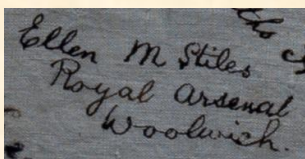
When Sarah Ann Mason was born on 29 October 1844 in Ipswich, Suffolk, her father, George, was 32, and her mother, Eliza, was 29. She married Samuel William Stagg on 6 July 1871 in her hometown. They had ten children in 15 years. Sarah was matron of The White House, Red Cross Hospital in Harleston from 1914 to 1916. She died on 29 April 1934 at the age of 89, and was buried in Belstead, Suffolk.

### Ms Muriel Grace Stagg



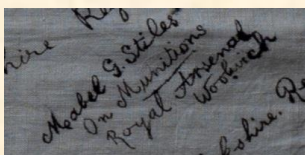
When Muriel Grace Stagg was born on 22 March 1874 in Kirby-le-Soken, Essex, her father, Samuel, was 45, and her mother, Sarah, was 29. She had three brothers and six sisters. She was a volunteer nurse for the British Red Cross (VAD 38). As well as working as a nurse in Harleston, she also worked at the VAD Hospital in Pembury, Kent from 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1916 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 1917. She died on 21 March 1963 in Matfield, Kent, at the age of 88, and was buried in Tonbridge, Kent.

### Ellen May Stiles (Royal Arsenal, Woolwich)



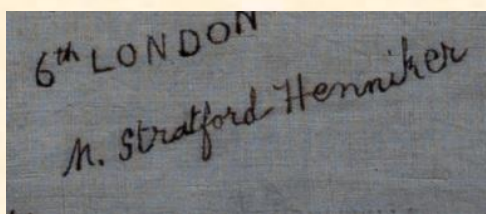
Ellen May was a munitions worker at Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Born on 13/12/1890 in Mildenhall, Suffolk. Father: George Stiles, Mother: Lavinia Stiles nee Reeves. She married in 1920 in Kensington to John Peak. She died in October 1968 in Thanet, Kent.

### Mabel Grace Stiles (Royal Arsenal, Woolwich)



Mabel was a munitions worker at Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Born in 1892, Mildenhall, Suffolk. Father: George Stiles, Mother: Lavinia Stiles nee Reeves. She married in 1918 to Harold Frank Eacock and had 3 children, she died in 1947 age 55.

### Margaretta Eliza (Wickes) Stratford Henniker (1870 - 1936) (Royal Arsenal, Woolwich)



Margaretta Eliza "Daisy" Stratford Henniker (formerly Wickes). She was born on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1870 in Greymouth, West Coast, New Zealand. She was the daughter of Edmund Wickes and Eliza (Hinchy) Wickes. She married Augustus Henry Aldborough Stratford Henniker on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1902 in Timaru, Canterbury, New Zealand. She was stepmother of Augustus Brydges Stratford-Henniker, born in 1885, when she would have been only 15 years of age. (He later died at the Somme during the 1st World War.) Her husband passed away in 1906 in France.

In September 1915 Daisy left Greymouth for England to assist her relatives in attending to the wounded soldiers. She was at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, from 1915, as Welfare Supervisor of the Lady Superintendent's Department. She was one of the first women to enter the arsenal for mechanical training, before any appointment was open there for them. After a six weeks course, she was appointed principal over looker in one of the factories, and then promoted forewoman. Subsequently she was transferred to the Lady Superintendent's Department, as the first of the Welfare Supervisors, "who now number twenty-five. Mrs Stratford-Henniker finds the work most interesting and varied, the supervisors having under their control over 27,000 women, all working in different factories inside the arsenal."

Margaretta received the following testimonial from Dame Lilian Charlotte Barker.

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I have great pleasure in stating that I have known Mrs Stratford Henniker for the past five years. She was one of the first women to volunteer for work in Woolwich Arsenal. She not only worked at the machines but afterwards became assistant forewoman in a factory of 5,000 women. She left this to assist me in the Welfare Work amongst 30,000 women and was of such extreme value to me in my work, that I find it difficult, to express my appreciation in adequate terms of her loyalty to myself, her amazing, happy co-operation with the rest of the staff, as well as her thorough grappling of the question of discipline, welfare, and general responsibility towards the girls in the factory, and the efficient help she always gave in other parts of the work. It was a great personal loss to me when Mrs Henniker had to leave to take up a responsible post on her own account. Her happy tactfulness, unfailing good temper, with her real efficiency, in my opinion, fit Mrs Henniker for any post however large which, deals with women and girls. I should be glad to know that she had a post equal to her powers, which would give her sufficient scope for the marked ability which she has.

Signed by LILIAN C. BARKER, Late Lady Superintendent of The Royal Arsenal Woolwich. Principal Training Officer, Ministry of Labour."

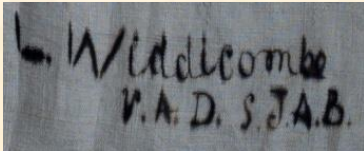


During her time working at the Royal Arsenal with Dame Lilian Charlotte Barker, she visited Harleston to see the injured munition workers, Ellen and Mabel Stiles and signed the tablecloth.

In January 1920 she returned to Greymouth in New Zealand.

Her death occurred in Hawera, Mrs Stratford Henniker, for many years a resident of Greymouth, and widow of a former stipendiary magistrate on the West Coast. She was a member of the well-known Wickes family, of Greymouth, was, for some years after her husband's death, matron of the Kirkpatrick Masonic Institute, Nelson. She retired from that position because of failing health and was visiting her niece, Mrs Oliver, in Hawera, when she died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1936 at the age of 65.

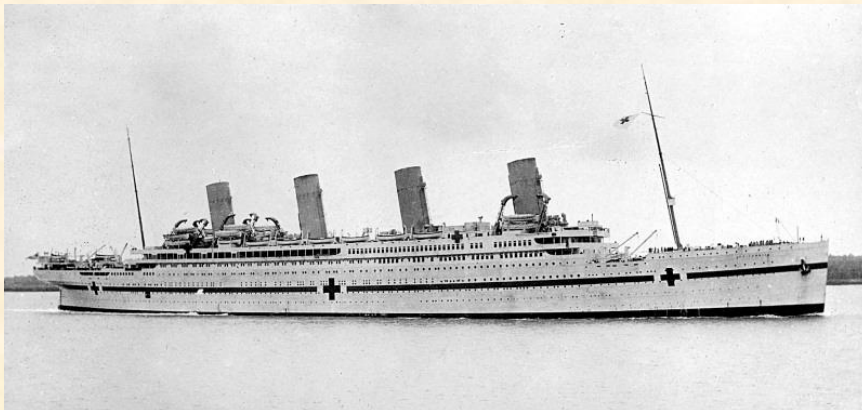
**Ms Lilian Ann Widdicombe V.A.D. S.J.A.B. (Voluntary Aid Detachment, St John's Ambulance Brigade)**



Lilian Ann Widdicombe was born on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1882 in Cambridge. In the 1901 census she was living in Knapton, Norfolk. The 1911 census showed her living in Newton Abbot in Devon. She enlisted into the Devon Voluntary Aid Detachment (No 96) in November 1914 as a nurse and served at hospitals in Newton Abbot, Devonport, Bournemouth and in France. She was on board the hospital ship Britannic on 21<sup>st</sup> November when it struck a mine near the Greek Island of Kea and foundered 55 minutes later, killing 30 people, she survived. She was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal for her service during the first world war. In 1939 she was living in Totnes, Devon working as a cook. She died in 1953 aged 70.

**The Hospital Ship Britannic**

The British used many hospital ships in the First World War (over 34 just in the Gallipoli area). The Britannic was the largest. It was a sister ship to the Titanic, built after the Titannic, slightly larger with revisions including being equipped with sufficient lifeboats to accommodate both passengers and crew.

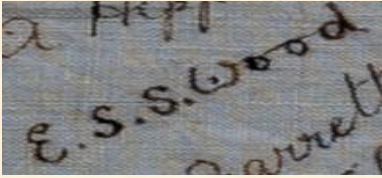


The Britannic had a capacity for 4000 patients.

On 21 November 1916, the Britannic was on its sixth trip of returning the sick and wounded from the Middle East to the UK, when she struck a mine in the Aegean Sea and sank in only 55 minutes (even more swiftly than the Titanic had done four years earlier).

Lilian Anne Widdicombe was one of the crew of VAD nurses on board when the Britannic sank. Lilian survived

## Elizabeth Spens Stewart Wood



Elizabeth Spens Stewart Wood was born in 1868 in Eastbourne, Sussex. Her father James Russell Wood was 36 and her mother Grace (nee Hunter) was 34. She had nine brothers and five sisters. She enlisted in the British Red Cross on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1916 into the Durham 56 VAD. She served at the Northern General in Newcastle, The Norfolk War Hospital in Thorpe, Norwich and also at the Catterick Camp hospital in Yorkshire. Elizabeth died in Surrey in 1945 at the age of 77.

## Daily life in the Red Cross Hospitals

The soldiers wore a uniform of light blue jacket and trousers, white shirt and red tie.



They were not allowed to visit any Public Houses.

Although wounded soldiers in hospital uniform were barred from drinking in Public Houses, the following article was found in the Diss Express dated Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 1917:

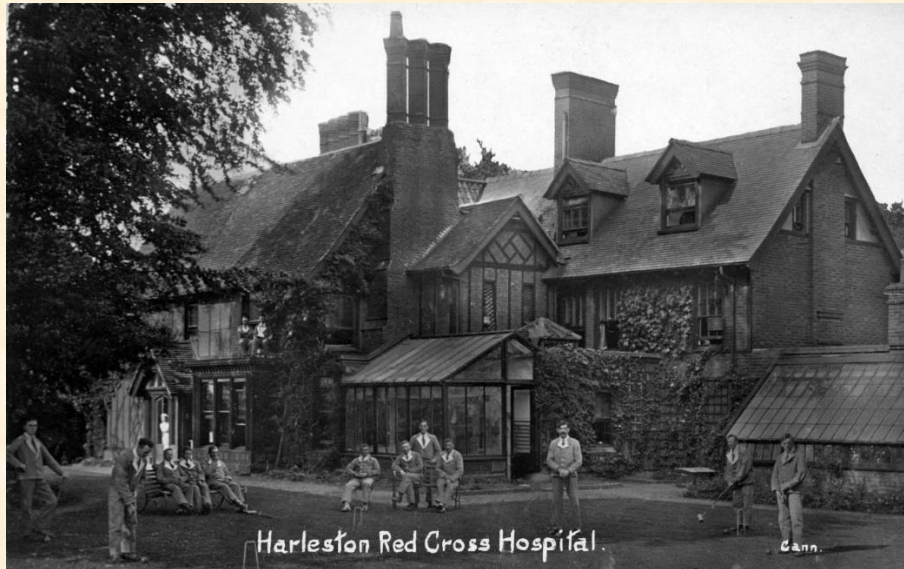
**HARLESTON PETTY SESSIONS.** *Eliza Calton*, wife of the licensee of the Red Lion Inn, Needham, was charged by Superintendent Bentham with supplying intoxicating liquor to a soldier whilst undergoing hospital treatment on 30<sup>th</sup> May. Police Constable Dennis said that on 31<sup>st</sup> May he went to the house and asked Mrs Calton if she had had a soldier in hospital uniform in the house on the previous day. She said, "Yes, I served him with a pint of beer and gave him some bread and cheese because he looked hungry." She added she did not know she was doing anything wrong.

**Mary Anderson**, matron of the Red Cross Hospital Harleston, stated that a wounded soldier left the Hospital on May 30<sup>th</sup> without her knowledge in the forenoon, and did not return till the evening, when he was intoxicated. The Chairman said the Bench thought the landlady acted in ignorance, but as a warning to others she would be fined 2/6.



## Daily life in the Red Cross Hospitals

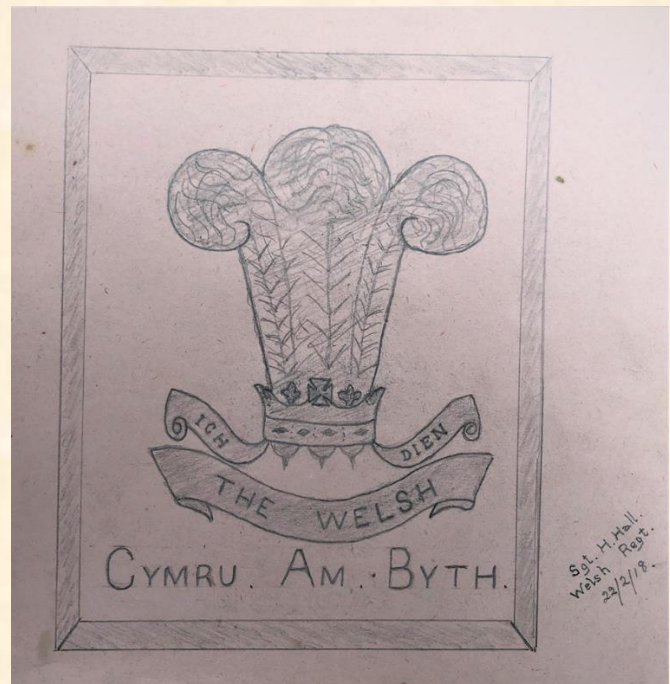
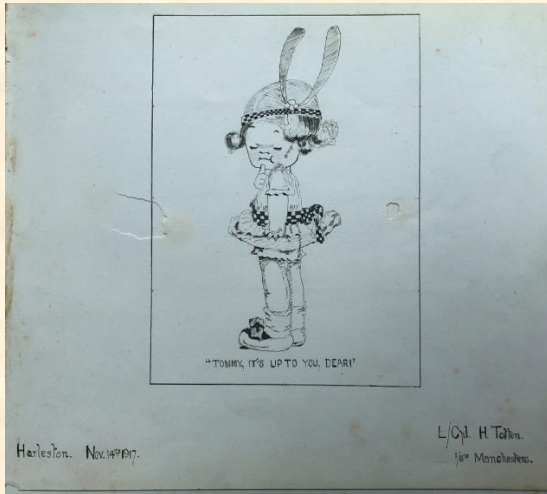
- Hospitals aimed to provide a cheery atmosphere for their patients and recreational activities were put on to aid the soldier's physical and mental recovery from the traumas of the war.
- These included playing bowls, croquet, embroidery, board games, trips out on the Broads and even putting on theatre productions in the hospital gardens.



- As part of their convalescence, nurses would encourage the soldiers to play music, read books and newspapers, sketch, write letters, poems or ditties. Some of these notebooks have survived and show much talent among the soldiers.
- No television to watch, no radio to listen to, no telephone to connect them to the outside world, they relied on each other for entertainment, which must have been so important when they were unwell.

## Sketches & Poems

Some of the sketches and poems have survived and show much talent among the soldiers.



There was a young girl of the Somme  
Who sat on a number five bomb  
She thought 'twas a dud 'un  
But it went off sudden  
Her exit she made with a plomb



### Letters back from the Front Line

Once soldiers had returned to the front line, many wrote back to the hospitals and nurses that had looked after them, thanking the staff for their kind treatment and care. Many nurses also kept in touch with their ex-patients. Nurses realised that recovery was not just physical, it was also emotional and through their letters they were able to help make the transition back to the trenches easier for soldiers.

Dear Nurse.

Pardon any presumption on my part,  
but I feel I would like to say how  
very appreciative our boys are for the  
kindness and courtesy that has been  
extended to us one and all. Allow me  
to express our many thanks for all you  
have done for us. 9th. Middlesex Smith Coy.

Regimental No. 12th. B. Coy & men  
who were patients in the Red  
Cross Hospital. Known as  
The White House.  
Harleston  
Norfolk.

Copies for a dear Lady  
sent by one of the B. Coy.  
W.S.



## Harleston & District 1914-1918

Thank you to the women and men of Harleston & District who volunteered to help on the home front during the First World War. Your effort and self-sacrifice to the war effort is greatly admired. Those names annotated with VAD were members of a British Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment

Mr Robert Thomas Alderton VAD	Mrs Flora Aldous VAD	Miss Gertrude Lilian Aldous VAD
Mrs Tara Aldous VAD	Miss Ethel Amsden VAD	Miss Gertrude Jane Armstrong
Mr Joseph Baldry VAD	Mr Alfred W Bale VAD	Mr Charles R Beare VAD
Miss Gertrude Bentham VAD	Mrs M Duncombe Bindley VAD	Ms Mary Blair
Mr Edward A Borrett VAD	Ms Ada Booker	Mrs Muriel D.G. Bridges
Miss Ellen Buckingham VAD	Miss M L Whitmarsh Buckland VAD	Mr James Butcher VAD
Miss Gertrude Eva Cann VAD	Mr James Chalker VAD	Mrs Jeannette E Churchyard VAD
Miss Elizabeth May Clark VAD	Ms Charlotte Connal-Parker	Miss Gladys Curtis VAD
Miss Gladys Dalrymple VAD	Mrs Maud Henson Denny VAD	Mr Dennis Edwards VAD
Mrs Caroline Egerton VAD	Miss Ellen de Jersey Forrest VAD	Miss Ella Susannah Freeman VAD
Miss Valince E Freeman VAD	Miss Edith Mary Frost VAD	Miss Ellen Garrard VAD
Miss Maud Gibbs VAD	Miss Katie Green VAD	Ms Maud Hayward
Mrs Anna Hipperson VAD	Miss Alice Maud M Hurry VAD	Miss Alba Camilla Jacobsen VAD
Ms Mary Johnson	Mrs Minnie Knights VAD	Mrs Martha Louisa Lawson VAD
Mr Edward Lubbock VAD	Dr Frederick N H Maidment VAD	Miss Fanny Elizabeth Manley VAD
Mr George Moore VAD	Miss Mabel G Moore VAD	Mr William Moore VAD
Miss Nellie Mulford VAD	Miss Elizabeth S M Norton VAD	Mrs Lilian Nuthall VAD
Miss Kathleen Ethel Olley VAD	Mrs Ida Pagan	Miss Ellen (Nellie) Pain VAD
Mr Alfred Parsons VAD	Mr Herbert Patrick VAD	Miss Mary Jane Eliza Perowne VAD
Mr Robert Pipe VAD	Miss Margaret Raven VAD	Mr William Edward Ray VAD
Mr Henry Reeder VAD	Mr Frederick Reeve VAD	Miss Olive Mary Rutter VAD
Mrs Edith Sancroft-Holmes VAD	Miss Edith Mary Saunders	Mr Robert Saunders VAD
Miss Rose Beatrice Springfield VAD	Mrs Sarah Stagg	Ms Muriel Grace Stagg
Mr A Lombe Taylor VAD	Mr William Taylor VAD	Miss Maggie Tooley VAD
Miss Marion Travers VAD	Mrs Georgiana Valiant VAD	Mr Robert Vincent VAD
Mr William J Walker VAD	Miss Martha L Weatherley VAD	Mr Arthur Weeds VAD
Mrs May Winson VAD	Mr Edwin Woodhouse VAD	Mr Archibald H Yallop VAD

## Where to see the Tablecloth

The future location of the tablecloth has yet to be decided. Hopefully it will be on display at a national museum for everyone to see. Details of where and when it will be displayed including any research updates, will be published on the website of the Harleston & District branch of The Royal British Legion:

<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/harleston/ww1-tablecloth>

Details of the tablecloth are stored in the national digital archives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission project called **Lest we Forget** which was run by Oxford University:

<http://lwf.it.ox.ac.uk/s/lest-we-forget/item/3459>

Digital copies of this research document have also been sent to the following:

Norfolk Records Office.

The State Library of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.

The National Library and Archives of Canada.

British Red Cross Museum.

Imperial War Museum

National Army Museum

Harleston Museum

Regimental Museums

Redenhall with Harleston Town Council