HOSPITALS AND NURSING

LINCOLN AND THE FOURTH NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL

Before the First World War several Military Hospitals existed in England. All sick and wounded men needed hospitals close to the ports to which they were taken, which was primarily Southampton. The more serious cases were sent to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, founded in 1863. After initial care they could then be transferred to various Military Hospitals or specialist units. There was one Military Hospital in Lincolnshire at the Sobraon Barracks, Burton Road, Lincoln. In 1917 it was a 40-bedded unit.

Before war was declared it was necessary to prepare hospitals and medically trained staff for the wounded not only just behind battle lines, but also on English soil. Possibility of invasion increased the civilian population's involvement in the provision of all that was needed. Territorial Force hospitals only existed for training purposes but a number of buildings had been identified as suitable for war-time use each with accommodation for 520 patients. In Lincoln, the Wragby Road Grammar School became the Fourth Northern General Hospital (4NG), (Fig.8.1).

In 1913 the Territorial Army listed it as a small local office with three doctors attached. However, between 1913 and the outbreak of war there was extensive planning and initial erection of temporary buildings. A Lincoln inhabitant recalled being kept awake at night by the noise of joiners' hammers which was said to have gone on night and day. Of the required 520 beds, 500 were in self-contained corrugated iron buildings in the school recreation field. (Fig. 8.2) These all had their own sanitation arrangements, and one was completed by 10 August. The remaining 20 beds were in the school building.
Such hospitals were mobilized in August 1914 each with a staff of about 91 Territorial Force Nursing Service personnel who had completed a three year course of training in a hospital approved by the War Office. They continued to work as usual, but had agreed to be mobilized at short notice so 120 were recruited (two matrons, thirty sisters and eighty-eight staff nurses) to allow for possible delays in mobilization. The Lincoln unit was increased to full war strength with 100 commissioned officers and men and Mrs Shepherd, Matron of Lincoln County Hospital, the Principal Departmental Matron. Such Matrons continued to fulfil their civilian duties in addition to administering the territorial unit. Lieutenant-Colonel W.H.B. Brooks was the administrator, Dr F.S. Lambert the registrar and Secretary, Mr J.E. Dickinson the Lieutenant and Quartermaster and Miss Baildon the Matron. They were assisted by volunteers from different organizations such as Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs). By the summer of 1914 there were over 2,500 VADs in Britain. Of the 74,000 personnel, two-thirds were women and girls.

All Territorial Force Hospitals were expanded during war time, not only on the primary sites but with the addition of Auxiliary Hospitals and annexes situated in public and private buildings, often large houses that had been offered for the purpose by their owners. Taking into account its various annexes, the Fourth Northern catered for 41 officers and 1126 other ranks.

**Lincoln to the Past reference: LCL 1708a**

Fig. 8.3. LCL 1708. A large group photo of nurses and men and women in uniform outside the Fourth Northern General Hospital; the photograph has been taken in three sections. Some men may be wounded, but most are likely to be doctors, orderlies, and drivers.

[http://www.lincstothepast.com/searchResults.aspx?qsearch=1&keywords=LCL1708&x=0&y=0](http://www.lincstothepast.com/searchResults.aspx?qsearch=1&keywords=LCL1708&x=0&y=0)
The erection of new buildings provided work, but also opened the way to exploitation of workers. In the House of Commons on 14 September 1914, Mr Tyson Wilson, the Labour Member for Westhoughton, Lancashire, asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office if he was aware that Messrs Halkes Bros. and Messrs S. & R. Huton Ltd of Lincoln, who had a contract for erecting temporary hospitals for wounded soldiers in the city, paid a considerable number of workmen 2d per hour less than standard rate of the district. Would he instruct these firms to pay the arrears of wages due to the men and if they refused remove them from the list of firms invited to tender for War Office contracts? Mr Baker replied that the War Office was not a party to the contract which was placed by the Territorial Association, to whom any representation should be addressed. It is not known whether the men’s pay was increased.

On 9 September Bishop Hicks visited the new Territorial Army Hospital. There were no wounded as yet, ‘only invalids from the great Camp of reservists & recruits at Belton Park’. However, in mid-September Lincoln had its first experience of the stern realities of war when 105 wounded soldiers, heroes from the Battle of Mons, who were drafted as soon as they were able to travel from Southampton, arrived at 6.10 p.m., and were cheered while being conveyed to Wragby Road. The Hospital was at last brought into active use for the purpose for which so much care has been expanded in its preparation and all the wounded were their wards by 7.00 p.m. (Fig. 8.4. MLL 1216.) This picture of a 4NG ward shows nurses with wounded men. One has lost a leg, the man in the second bed on the right probably also has wounded legs since the bedclothes are raised up. It must be summer time, because the stove that heats the ward has a plant on top and windows are open.

Lincs to the Past reference: MLL 1216

Fig. 8.4. MLL 1216. Fourth Northern General. Ward interior.
From Lincs to the Past courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council

Following the fighting on the Aisne, between 50 and 70 wounded were expected in early October, but 108 arrived, including 25 stretcher cases. People meeting these men at the station included Miss Caroline Herford, whom the Bishop met on 26 September. He said she is busy now meeting the wounded at the station. Last night, & tonight VERY busy: wounded coming in fast from the great Forward Movement in France, Belgium & (Gallipoli?). It looks like the turn of the tide: for Russia is also smiting the Germans.
In October, 180 wounded arrived in Lincoln, of which 120 were Belgian. The British were in khaki, the Belgians, known as Blessés, in their dark coats and light blue trousers. On 25 October the Bishop, together with his Belgian refugee guest, Major Léonard, visited the military hospital where there were Belgian wounded ‘with great joy to both parties.’ By the end of October Wragby Road was full, the spare capacity at the County Hospital in use and the Principal Matron was asking for gifts of garments. The same week a rest station was set up on the Great Northern Railway station at Lincoln, the gentleman waiting room having been transformed for the purpose. There were six beds for the badly wounded for rest before transfer to Wragby Road. Also that month, nineteen wounded Belgian soldiers arrived at Gainsborough, all with gun shot wounds and with the bullets still in situ. They were taken from the station to the John Coupland hospital in motors. This hospital, named after a prosperous farming family, was opened in 1913. In Spalding the arrival of Belgian wounded was marked by the unfurling of allied flags by Belgian refugees in the town, and the resident Belgian Roman Catholic priests, Fr Tyck and Fr McGarity were on the station to welcome them.

GRANTHAM
A list of Station Hospitals in 1899 includes Grantham, but from the absence of any particulars it appears to be dormant whereas Lincoln was then active. However, Grantham’s VADs became busy in September making preliminary arrangements at the Barracks on Sandon Road and on 23 January the Drill Hall became a Red Cross hospital.

At Belton Camp, Grantham, a Red Cross hospital with 670 beds was established immediately war was declared. By December several of the wards were approaching completion. In adjacent Harrowby Camp an Army hospital for shell shocked patients also opened in 1914 and was originally run by the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). Towards the cessation of hostilities, most of the wooden huts were removed from the site leaving a nucleus to form a Military Hospital under RAMC control for the care and rehabilitation of Army personnel suffering from nervous disorders. In time the patients were deemed well enough to return to civilian life and were demobilized, but over the years many suffered relapses and required further treatment. The RAMC later withdrew in favour of the Ministry of Pensions who employed civilian staff to treat the ex-Army patients and the Hospital became the Pensions Hospital. Its position in Harrowby Camp became known as Pensions Corner. The patients had a uniform of a light blue wool suit, white shirt, red ties, their own hat and cap badge, and their own grey overcoat. They were not allowed in pubs, so the uniforms identified them. However, they wore their grey army coats, buttoned up to neck, walked right up to the bar and no-one could see their blue trousers!!! Towards the early 1930s it was decided that Harrowby Camp Pensions Hospital was no longer viable. Staff and patients were transferred to Orpington in Kent.

RED CROSS, ST JOHN’S AMBULANCE.
While recruits for the army were besieging the War Office in numbers that were impossible to deal with, recruits reached Red Cross and St John’s Offices in almost as great a flood and both organizations sprang into immediate action. The Order of St John, founded in 1877, and the British Red Cross Society, founded in 1905, came together to help the Armed Forces Medical Services. In August 1914 there were twenty-eight Red Cross Detachments in Lincolnshire. By Saturday, 15 August, the Boston Red Cross with Mrs C. Mawer in charge had the Park Council School ready for the wounded, under the direction of the local military authority. Women in Witham Green neighbourhood scrubbed out the school. In the St John’s Ambulance Association, Lincolnshire was placed in No. V District with Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and the West Riding. The Lincolnshire Brigade had Divisions at Boston, Cleethorpes, Crosby Nursing, Gainsborough, Grimsby, New Holland and District, North Lindsey and Lincoln. There were also detachments at Spalding Railway, and with YWCA Nursing.

The Lincolnshire Branch of the Red Cross, with Mr V.J. Merchant as the Secretary, had offices in Silver Street, Boston. By November 1914 several temporary hospitals were formed in different towns in Lincolnshire with accommodation for 493 sick and wounded men. Mr Merchant's letter to the Lincolnshire Standard listed them with the number of beds in each case: Boston was the biggest with forty-six beds. Then came Cleethorpes (34); Horncastle (29); Spilsby, (26); Spalding (20); Louth (18); Skegness (18); Rauceby (13); and Alford (6); making a total of 210 beds. In addition, preparations were complete for various other towns: Grantham, Bourne, Wainfleet, Stamford, Seaford, Scopwick, Burgh, and East Kirkby. Mr Merchant appealed for a supply of garments which were needed, not only by troops under treatment in such temporary hospitals, but also so that a constant supply could be sent to Red Cross hospitals in the war zone, of which there were nine in France and Belgium. War Supply Depots were established to fulfil
these needs. They were voluntary organizations relying on people giving their time free. On 11 December 1915, one started in Boston and on 25 October 1915 Lady Bennett organized the Depot at Welholme House, Grimsby where 198,064 articles were made and sent out to prisoners of war in Germany, refugees in Serbia, and to the French, Belgian and Italian Red Cross as well as to UK hospitals. In addition to the usual bandages, dressings and comforts $1,118 pyjama suits were sent. Technical School boys, helped by some gentlemen, made some 90 pairs of crutches. They also sent forty-six shrouds. The civilian population also provided food. In August 1915, Lady Cholmeley of Nocton and Easton wrote to Helen Fane asking her to collect eggs to send to the military hospitals. She put notices up to say she would receive eggs on Thursdays and send them to Lincoln on Fridays. She wondered if people would send any, Nevertheless, between 15 April and 21 September 1,367 eggs were collected and sent to the egg depot at Lincoln, approximately 270 per month for this period. Between May 1915 and May 1919 the Louth National Egg Collection Depot supplied the Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital there with 31,023 eggs.

The crisis led many people to organise a hospital. For example towards the end of August a local committee consisting of Council members in Market Rasen made arrangements for a temporary military hospital. All the members of the Urban District Council and some other people offered beds and bedding and the committee appealed for single beds and a mattress, pair of blankets, pair of sheets, a coverlet and a pair of pillowcases for each bed.

Some of the volunteers' efforts were wasted. On Tuesday, 11 August, there was great excitement at the news that Grimsby and Hull had been ordered to prepare beds for the expected wounded. But it was just a rumour of no naval battle had taken place. On 22 August the Grimsby Evening Telegraph announced that the Admiralty had decided to close the Harold-Street Temporary Naval hospital, despite the fact it had provision for 300 wounded soldiers and sailors, because most wounded were brought ashore at Southampton. Any cases would be dealt with by Grimsby and District Hospital. In early August the Long Sutton Institute was selected by the Red Cross as a hospital and Mrs Sutcliffe, wife of Dr Sutcliffe, gave a preliminary lecture to prepare volunteers for the reception of at least twelve wounded. Instead, the Institute was used as the bedroom area for Belgian refugees given homes in the village, while the Congregational Old Schoolroom became their dining room. These refugees were among the first to be found homes in that area. Sometimes the planned facilities were declared unsuitable. On Sunday 9 August Helen Fane heard from her friend Ethel MacRae at Newark that they had to prepare to receive twenty-five men at twelve hours' notice at their hospital. The next day, Monday, she went down to Leadenham to gauge a Red Cross Temporary Hospital. Orders were given not to set it up till notice was sent they would then have only twelve hours before the men arrived. On 11 August Mrs Fane told the Red Cross meeting that owing to Dr Hardy's dismay at the smallness of the nursing staff and the capabilities of the nurses we must abandon the idea of a hospital at the Men's Institute at Leadenham'. Working parties were suggested instead, also any offers to take in convalescents. On 9 September Dr Hardy left the area to assist at the temporary hospital at Belton, leaving his civilian patients to his assistant Dr Worts.

On 20 October 1914 Janie Hett of the Red Cross in Brigg recorded that in Lincolnshire about 530 beds had been provided in nine temporary hospitals, but only 269 beds were occupied. By Red Cross Day, 20 October, 1915 the Lincolnshire Branch had sent large contributions to HQ funds in addition to keeping up all the county work with its fifteen hospitals and numerous VADs. Lincolnshire provided four beds at the 1,000 bed King George Hospital, a new hospital near Waterloo Station being constructed in 1914 and equipped by the Joint Committee of the Red Cross and the Order of St John. Sick and wounded troops here were described as 'shattered wrecks' by Mr Merchant, the County Secretary. Lincolnshire also assisted all the local Red Cross Hospitals with grants and gifts in kind. Helen Fane's journal records how some funds were raised. She wrote on 22 October 1917 that the proceeds of collections made the previous day for the British Red Cross included £18 8s from Wellbourne Village which she considered very good. She went to Sleaford in the evening to give away prizes at the whist drive and dance given for the same object. She said the VAD Hospital nurses were much in evidence. One was, perhaps, Eleanor M. Larken who was a member of Detachment 38, Sleaford. Re-enrolments took place after each period for which they volunteered and Eleanor's was renewed four times by Mary Hiley, commandant, until 1 December 1918.

Some people were frustrated by the unhelpful attitude of the attitude of the War Office towards the 70,000 volunteer Red Cross nurses which resulted in a lack of skill as a writer in The Englishwoman pointed out. They have certificates for Ambulance and Home Nursing; they have practised stretcher drill and bandaging on the bodies of boy-scouts and other volunteer invalids and some few have even done three weeks' actual nursing of real patients in the few hospitals and infirmaries which will permit
such privileges; but when the necessity for their service arises, the nurses go to the front, and the Voluntary Aid Detachments are for the most part thanked for offers of help and told they are not required.\textsuperscript{22}

As the war progressed, this was to change.

**USE OF EXISTING HOSPITALS**

Examples of existing hospitals being taken over, or adapted for care of the troops include the Alexandra Hospital at Woodhall Spa and the Johnson Hospital in Spalding. On 10 August, Mrs Weigall called a meeting in the Royal Hotel, Winter Gardens, Woodhall Spa. Alderman S.V. Hotchkin and Mrs Hill, commandant of the Ladies Detachment of the local Red Cross had arranged with the Alexandra Hospital committee to have it free of cost. Miss Elliott was to take charge. Beds had been provided, but money, garments and other items were needed. In outlining the required response, Mrs Paulson of the Needlework Guild, reminded everyone of the problems there had been in nursing during the Crimean War. The Alexandra Hospital had been built specially for summer use so hot water and lighting had to be added before the soldiers arrived. During the winter months it was used for fifty-five Belgian and English sick and wounded soldiers. Most were cured, but some were disabled for life. They were nursed by the VAD Branch of the Woodhall Spa Red Cross. Two Belgians were so badly wounded they were sent to King Albert\textsuperscript{1}s hospital which was really for convalescents, so the Belgian authorities made arrangements for one to go to Ryde and the other to South Kensington.\textsuperscript{23}

In Spalding, the Johnson Hospital was recognized by the War Office as a suitable institution for wounded soldiers. It was prepared for the reception of forty wounded, and could be ready at twenty-four hours\' notice. More beds were soon needed so the Spalding Guardians had the front building of the Union workhouse cleaned, renovated and repaired and when complete it was offered free to the Red Cross with accommodation for sixty or more beds.\textsuperscript{24} Surgeons at the Johnson Hospital treated wounded soldiers with a new therapy and thereby founded the Spalding Arts and Crafts Society, which is still in existence.\textsuperscript{25} Spalding Urban Council also offered Ayscoughfee Hall as a Convalescent Home. It was used instead for Belgian refugees.\textsuperscript{26} The Railway Ambulance Brigade opened a rest station with six beds at the Spalding Railway Station for soldiers and sailors who were too weak to continue and would therefore be taken to the Johnson later. Arrangements for refreshments were also made.\textsuperscript{27} The local St John\textsuperscript{\textregistered}s Ambulance finally established it, but it was not used until mid-October when one nurse cared for two wounded soldiers overnight. One was unable to walk and the other could only hobble. Miss Laming, acting for the Ladies Committee, and Mr Mounsey, stationmaster, Superintendent of the Spalding St John, gave very useful assistance with other station officials.\textsuperscript{28} The next day Dr Munro ordered one of the men back to Lincoln due to the condition of his wounds, but the other was allowed to proceed.

**AUXILIARY AND CONVALESCENT HOSPITALS**

In the last quarter of 1914, advertisements were placed in local papers seeking homes for convalescent soldiers and sailors. One in the *Epworth Bells* of 3 October 1914 listed Mr David Dale, Mr Edwin Allen, and Mr J. Franks who offered to take two soldiers or sailors each, while Mrs Snaddon offered to have one soldier or sailor. In November Mr Whyers received a letter from the Secretary of the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, London, asking for homes for convalescent wounded Belgian soldiers who were physically unfit to return to military service. The fact that Boston was in an area prohibited to foreigners under the Aliens Restriction Act did not prevent hospitality being found for these men, who were unable to return to their own country, now almost totally occupied by the Germans.\textsuperscript{29} From March 1915 the wounded were placed in convalescent homes so that they could continue their recovery but be under military control and discipline.

The distinction between Auxiliary and Convalescent hospitals is blurred. Auxiliaries were established to relieve pressure on the central hospital while 'Convalescent' which carries the meaning of being well enough to leave the general hospital but not recovered sufficiently to return to active duties, were run and paid for privately. Some 'Convalescent Hospitals', including the Yarborough Hospital were equipped for operations. After a while, soldiers were discharged back to the Military Hospital for examination and possible return to duty.

Boultham Hall became an Auxiliary hospital established to reduce the stress on Wragby Road. Lord and Lady Monson supplied six fully equipped beds.\textsuperscript{29} It was administered by the St John\textsuperscript{\textregistered}s Ambulance, had accommodation for fifty-six men and was supervised by Dr Stanley Green and Miss Mary Green with Miss Akenhead, Miss Alice Akenhead and a staff of nurses.\textsuperscript{29} Local Quakers sent vegetables, fruit and flowers from their harvest festival.\textsuperscript{30} Children from Lincoln schools arranged entertainment for refugees and the
soldier patients of Boultham and the Fourth Northern, who were present in force and applauded heartily. ‘An enjoyable afternoon ended with a tea provided by parents and friends and much appreciated by the men’. Boultham Hall had formerly hosted many garden fetes and soon the bridge in Hall Drive over the Catchwater Drain earned the name of ‘Soldiers’ Bridge, (or Soldiers Lump) since it was a favourite spot for convalescent soldiers to stop for a smoke because they were forbidden to go any further.\(^{33}\)

Mrs Archibald Weigall offered her Woodhall Spa home, Petwood,\(^{34}\) to be equipped with several wards, with probationary and qualified nurses and doctor’s expenses met by herself.\(^{35}\) (Fig. 8.5. MLL 8986) At the end of August twenty-one soldiers were transferred from Wragby Road. Captain and Mrs Weigall were joint Red Cross Commandants. Dr Rhodes was in charge. Corporal Seaton and Private Carter of the Lincoln Corps of the St John’s Ambulance worked there. It opened with forty beds in a ward which had been a ballroom. There was an operating theatre upstairs and five further wards, the sunniest had eight beds. One small ward was intended for officers and by 1916 this had been temporarily occupied by a Naval Officer sent from Grimsby. Another ward for medical cases, such as pneumonia, was full. Patients came from various regiments, only one was from Lincolnshire.

There were other hospitals in the Spa. On 17 July 1915 the Lincolnshire Standard reported that the new Home for Gentlewomen, Woodhall Spa, completed in March 1915 was to be handed over to the VAD for wounded soldiers who would benefit from the waters. The Gentlewomen were to stay in the old home. The Bishop called this a Gentlemen’s Home when, on 19 May, 1914 he laid the Foundation Stone. Returning in March 1915 he said he found the building was now just able to be used & is filling with convalescent soldiers.\(^{36}\) However, the Red Cross Report says that it opened in October 1914. Woodhall Spa was reserved for patients from the Fourth Northern suffering from rheumatism.\(^{37}\)

![Group of VAD nurses and patients on the steps of a military hospital, possibly Petwood House, Woodhall Spa.](http://www.lincstothepast.com/searchResults.aspx?qsearch=1&keywords=MLL8968&x=0&y=0)
Wounded troops were given a heroes’ welcome at local railway stations on their way to auxiliary hospitals. Twenty or thirty men were due to arrive in Boston from Lincoln on 21 October. Bunting was displayed about the town and flags flown at the Municipal Building. A crowd gathered near the station. Then word came that they would not arrive till 4.47 p.m. The station was cleared. People went back to work, and then came out again as the Lincoln train arrived.38 Twenty wounded from the Fourth Northern General were accompanied by Lieutenant J.E. Dickinson RAMC, all on the way to recovery. They were taken from the station in cars to Holden House Hospital at the rear of Farrow & Co.’s factory in South Square. (Fig. 8.6 BOS 451) Mrs Clemow, of the Peacock & Royal Hotel, lent two carriages and a large bus, Mr C.H. Arch lent covered cars and Messrs Willer & Riley, one car. Miss Clegg and a band of busy ladies were ready for their arrival. Some of these ladies, Nurse M. Carter, Quartermaster L. Staffurth and Quartermaster R.E. Dawson, were later to have their names brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for these nursing services. This was the civilian equivalent of being mentioned in Dispatches and one of the highest accolades nurses could receive.39

Lincs to the Past reference: BOS 451

Fig. 8.6. BOS 451. Holden House, Boston in 1820, showing it as a two-storey house with dormer windows and a pillared doorway.

From Lincs to the Past courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council

http://www.lincstothepast.com/searchResults.aspx?qsearch=1&keywords=BOS451&x=0&y=0

The Red Cross offered to nurse more men if a suitable hospital could be found and a weekly contribution provided towards costs. Allan House was offered, and again Boston people furnished it. All the medical men and Red Cross ladies gave their services free. The Boston Wood Cutting Committee took weeds out from the lake behind Allan House so the inmates could boat and fish.40 Once they were established, the Red Cross Hospitals at Holden House and Allan House disappeared from the local news except for appeals and thanks for various gifts including eggs, cocoa, tins of peaches, cauliflowers, tea, sugar, milk, and old linen; also books and bread. However, on 15 July, 1918, Allan House received £30 from The Times Red Cross Fund,41 indicating that its work continued right through the war.

Towards the end of October six Belgian and three English soldiers arrived at Boston. Two ‘Tommies’ had been wounded at the Front, but the Lincolnshire man was wounded before he got there. The nurse in charge was Mrs Healey Johnson assisted by nurses Stephenson, Smith, Gill, Tuxford, Trevitt, and other helpers of the detachment. Night duty was taken by the St John’s Ambulance brigade under the command of Lieutenant Dickinson because women were not allowed to work at night. There were now altogether twenty-nine patients in the hospital.

However, Boston hospital’s income was barely sufficient for its normal work so a fund was needed and on 24 November the Mayor of Boston, Charles Lucas, proposed setting up two new funds, one for the Belgians who remained in occupied Belgium who were close to starvation, and the second for the care of wounded
British and Belgian solders and sailors arriving in Boston. The *Lincolnshire Standard* supported this endeavour by publishing on 21 November a photograph of Allan House Hospital showing seven of the lady volunteers.\(^4\) Three of the wounded men in the picture were Englishmen and the rest were Belgians. Mr J.G. Horton, of Fernleigh Way, Boston, recorded that his mother was a VAD who nursed some of the soldiers in Holden House.\(^3\) In January 1915, Mr H. Brown, a hairdresser of West Street, without charge shaved and trimmed the hair of all the wounded Belgian soldiers who had been staying at Allan House. On Monday, 18 January a party leaving Boston first paid a visit to Mr Brown to thank him for his kindness by presenting him with a Belgian soldier's tunic.\(^4\)

In Grimsby many women worked for the Red Cross, some serving as VADs in the two local hospitals. Some worked at the Church of St Aidan's, Cleethorpes, which was used as a Red Cross and VAD Hospital, where 966 patients were received. It was staffed by the VAD Lincs/30, assisted by the St John Men's VAD Lincs/21. Brighowgate Military Hospital in Grimsby, built by the War Office in West Marsh in the northern part of the town, is believed to have opened in March, 1916, closing in 1919. It had accommodation for 120 men, and a large number of patients passed through it. Major C.B. Turner, Major A. Westlake, Captain A. Miller, all of the RAMC, and Dr Grierson, were the medical staff with Miss Muggeridge the matron, and six VAD nurses.\(^5\)

Brighowgate and St Aidan's dealt with severe casualties resulting from a zeppelin raid. During the latter part of March 1916, Air Raid warnings were given in Grimsby and Cleethorpes every night. At about 1.30 a.m. on 1 April, Zeppelin L22 commanded by Kapitanleutnant Martin Dietrich was seen approaching from a south-easterly direction. He had intended to attack London and East Anglia but due to engine problems he aborted his original intention, and decided to attack Grimsby docks. The 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion, the Manchester Regiment was guarding the Humber Defences. Seventy men of E Company, who had arrived the day before, called up under the Derby Scheme, were billeted in the Cleethorpes Baptist Chapel. Three bombs were dropped in the town and one hit the Chapel, completely destroying it. (Fig. 8.7 LCL 19911) Doctors, VADs and Ambulances were quickly on the scene and by 4.30 a.m. the area was cleared of casualties. The Town Hall and Yarra House were used as dressing stations. Thirty-one people were killed or died of wounds and fifty-one were injured or wounded, some of whom were taken to Brighowgate.
On 30 May, four men were admitted to Brocklesby Hospital and still more in June and August as a result of their air raid injuries. After periods of recovery they were discharged back to Brighowgate. On 4 April 1916, twenty-four soldiers were given an impressive Military Funeral in Cleethorpes with Sisters of Brighowgate present and on 13 October 1918, a Commemorative Brass Tablet was unveiled in St Michael's Parish Church, Ashton-under-Lyne, by Lieutenant-Colonel H. Kendall Oram. He recounted the story of the raid and in thanking those who had helped in various ways gave special thanks to Mrs Ellis and the VAD Nurses of the St Aidan’s Hospital, not only for their quick and indispensable help on the night of the raid, but for their untiring work on behalf of the soldiers stationed in this district. Mrs T.W. Ellis, one of the Commandants, was awarded the MBE.

The praise heaped upon the VADs shows how competent these women were:

It would be impossible to give too much praise to the members of the VAD. Here were a number of women who had made themselves proficient in first-aid during their spare time, but who probably had never had to bandage a bad case, suddenly called upon to deal with the most horrible wounds imaginable. Yet never for a moment did even the youngest of them falter, but went straight to the case nearest her hand with a coolness and thoroughness that might have been expected of an Army Nurse of many years standing. It was indeed a fine example of pluck and grit that was shown by these women.

St Aidan’s closed on 27 April, 1919 when its colours were placed in the church and a brass tablet recording the work of the two detachments positioned beneath the flags.

In late November 1914 the General Committee of the Bourne and District Red Cross Society held a Meeting at the Bourne Institute. Bourne worried whether it could support its Belgian refugees and take on an auxiliary hospital, but in fact did so. The Committee of the Butterfield Hospital, which the Countess had opened in June 1910, had agreed to lend their matron temporarily to the Bourne Temporary Hospital, so she could devote her whole time to the Lady Superintendent when the wounded arrived. In October 1917 the Bishop visited the little Hospital at Bourne and spoke to the convalescent soldiers. Bourne had 931 patients between December 1914 until it closed on 31 December 1918. £781.13s 7d was contributed by the public as well as goods in kind.

The Yarborough Hospital at Brocklesby Park, Lincolnshire, was another private home turned into a convalescent home which, like Petwood, was also equipped for operations. In 1912 Lady Yarborough informed the War Office that if war came she would be prepared to offer twelve equipped hospital beds. Classes in First Aid Nursing were held in Brocklesby and the neighbouring villages. Lady Yarborough acted as Matron, Lord Yarborough as Commandant, with a complete staff of London trained and Red Cross nurses and a trained masseuse in attendance. Two local doctors, Dr Middlemist of Keelby and Dr French of Barnetby, voluntarily attended the patients. Later it became possible for Hospital to be run by the sister in-charge who, during nearly the whole of the period was Westminster trained Miss B. Page, with a fully trained hospital nurse and several VADs. Sister Sarah Page was awarded the Royal Red Cross, 2nd class, on 5 April 1919.

The Hospital opened in early August with twelve beds for NCOs and Men. Later this was increased, the whole of the ground floor, East Wing, being used. The dining room and drawing room were converted into wards for twelve beds each and the recreation room, patients’ dining room, bath rooms and lavatories were all adjoining. On the first floor of the same wing there was an operating theatre, with an isolation bedroom near and a large bedroom for officers’ emergencies. Until 15 October the hospital received urgent cases from the neighbouring camps with illnesses such as pneumonia, pleurisy, hernia and appendicitis, several successful operations being performed. Victims of air raids and submarines from Grimsby were treated at Brocklesby. On 15 October 1914 the first convoy of overseas patients was received from the Fourth Northern General and from that date until 28 February 1919, when it was closed, Brocklesby dealt with patients from the central hospital. In November 1914, out of thirty-three beds, ten were occupied by Belgians, all recovering from wounds. One poor boy of 21, originally a waiter in the Hotel Palace at Brussels, and enrolled as a cyclist patrol, was shot by a shrapnel shell which removed a portion of the four fingers of his left hand. Another was suffering from the effects of a blow from a rifle butt in his abdomen; yet another had acute rheumatism and neuritis, the effects of three successive nights in trenches with water nearly up to his waist. Of the English soldiers, one of the worst had the roof of his mouth shot away and could neither see nor hear anything on first being admitted into the base hospital at Lincoln. This soldier
was to have a new roof constructed to his mouth as soon as he was ready. Sometimes in emergencies as many as thirty patients were received at one time, bedrooms in the other part of the house being utilised to accommodate them. The number of patients listed in the Admissions and Discharges book is 555; the shortest stay by any patient was Private Cooper, age 25, whose gunshot wounds to chest and thigh necessitated only eight days at Brocklesby. In contrast a soldier with nervous debility was there for 201 days.

The entire expense of equipping the Hospital was borne by Lord and Lady Yarborough and also the whole cost of running it during the first year. On 1 October 1915 the usual grant of 3s per head per diem was received from the government for NCOs and Men, the balance of the expenditures being paid by Lord and Lady Yarborough. Officers were only admitted in special circumstances, chiefly in emergencies. They were treated separately and had a separate nursing staff, paid for by Lord and Lady Yarborough. In all, 22 Officers and 717 NCOs and Men passed through the Hospital. As at Petwood, where the arrangements for recreation, football, bowls, music, walks in the grounds, and motor drives meant shorter convalescence, Brocklesby was considered especially suited to convalescence and long cases owing to the good country air in the large grounds. The patients amused themselves fishing, taking walks, motoring (until petrol became limited), driving and playing golf, tennis, cricket or football. Indoors the billiard table in the recreation room was extremely popular and in the winter months whist drives, concerts and amusements were provided.

Other country houses used were Normanby Hall, where Sir Berkeley and Lady Sheffield transformed the dining hall into a hospital ward for the wounded, housing 1,248 war veterans as convalescents. Scopwick House, owned by Lord Londesborough, opened on 16 November 1914 for convalescents and closed on 28 February 1919. A researcher working in 1993 identified over 200 of the patients as well as the names of several medical personnel. He said: ‘There were two Red Cross nursing sisters from Metheringham at the hospital and VADs who worked many hundreds of hours, mainly without pay, throughout the entire war’.

Not all convalescent homes are recorded as coping with operations, for example Rauceby. On 22 October 1914 Mrs Fane, with her Belgian refugee guest, Mme Paquet, went there to see the Hospital at the Hall. The drawing-room was used by the men and there were fifteen men sitting there smoking, reading and playing games. Four were Belgians, two or three had been at the front, the rest were sick from the various camps nearby. She wrote:

Rose Willson told us that four of them had had to be sent back to Lincoln as they were unmanageable i.e., breaking bounds and the rules she had drawn up for them. She offered to show us the arrangement of the bedrooms upstairs. Four or five men in each big bedroom and one orderly or sick nurse in the dressing rooms. All was as pretty and nice as could be with a capital kitchen on the same floor. I should not think any of them had ever been so palatially housed in their lives.

The hospital was given only half an hour’s notice of patients’ arrival. Then they arrived by a later train, meaning Rose Willson had only to send to the station twice and two were missing having gone to another hospital. Mrs Fane wrote: ‘The Lincoln Military Hospital authorities seem to be unable to organize things very well, but we were doubt terribly put about themselves to house a sudden crowd of wounded Belgians, who were sent to them after the fall of Antwerp.’

Other hospitals were sited in less luxurious surroundings. For example, in Horncastle, the Drill Hall was used and in Louth the Sunday School premises became a temporary hospital. This Red Cross ward interior could be such a hospital with the end wall covered by cladding. (Fig. 8.8. MLL 8982). Beds are numbered with numbers on the wall. There are three VAD nurses, one working on a trestle table. One patient is in a wheelchair, another is operating a gramophone and there is a record in its paper sleeve on the nearest bed.
Lincs to the Past reference: MLL 8982

Fig. 8.8. MLL 8982. Interior of a ward in a red cross hospital with 3 VAD nurses and several patients, one in a wheelchair; one is operating a gramophone and there is a record on the nearest bed; beds are numbered with numbers on the wall; nurses working on a wooden trestle table; end wall covered by wooden cladding; may include Harriet Stow

From Lincs to the Past courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council
http://www.lincstothepast.com/searchResults.aspx?qsearch=1&keywords=MLL8982&x=0&y=0

Louth Auxiliary Red Cross Hospital opened in mid-August and during four years and seven months 2,309 patients were treated, mostly sick soldiers, although for a short time wounded Belgians and British were taken. Thirty-four cases died in the influenza epidemic. The hospital closed on 31 March, 1919.55

It was hoped that the war would be over by Christmas. Instead, hospitals tried to discharge as many men as possible. Four Belgian soldiers left Rauceby in early December to return to the war. At Grantham Red Cross Hospital five more patients were discharged before Christmas day. Gifts were sent to the seven who remained, handkerchiefs from Miss Rimmington and her school children, money from other people but tobacco, cigarettes and jam were wanted. The Johnson Hospital, where Miss Cooke was matron, had a 'Unique Christmas' due to having in one ward seven wounded soldiers who 'had a capital time'. There was a Christmas tree with presents, including 'useful presents given by the Spalding Branch of the Red Cross Society'.56

Provision of hospital care continued to develop. The Bishop and his wife found it increasingly difficult to live in the Old Palace and in May 1917 offered to lend it to the Red Cross as an additional hospital. Colonel Walker of Spilsby, and Colonel Lambert of Lincoln inspected it, but doubted whether the Red Cross had adequate resources of means, doctors and nurses. Nonetheless, they took it over and in September 1918 Bishop Hicks looked at the OP prepared for work as an Auxiliary Hospital to the Fourth Northern, (under Red Cross). Mrs Goldthorpe, Commandant, showed me round. They are still waiting (impatiently) for their Certificate from the War Office, which has blundered, or mislaid their Application.57
There is no definitive list of Lincolnshire hospitals, although approximately 48 have been discovered. Bishop Hicks’s diaries confirm the existence of several. In July 1916 he went to see the Drill Hall at Spilsby converted into a beautiful Hospital, with wounded soldiers’. Miss Howard a VAD at Spilsby was also a Secretary under the Agricultural Board. In 1917 he visited Belton Camp, the Hospital & a number of wounded or sick officers & the Church hut’. In November he went to Mablethorpe, where he called at the Convalescent Hospital which was full of soldiers. He had previously seen over this hospital a year previously and was not impressed by the Matron who was not a trained nurse (!) & curiously ill-mannered. I have no confidence in her ability, though I think her a good sort.

Some hospitals are discovered because photographs show them, although they cannot always be identified. Here soldiers are seen recuperating with their nurses at Weelsby Old Hall Military Hospital, near Cleethorpes, in 1916. Sergeant Charles Williams of Louth is on far left with a pipe. (Fig. 8.9. G 727:940:3)

Fig. 8.9. G 727:940:3. Disc 35.
Weelsby Old Hall, nurses and wounded soldiers. 1916
Photograph reproduced courtesy of North East Lincolnshire Council Library Service
Fig. 8.10. Possibly Brocklesby Park
Photograph reproduced courtesy of North East Lincolnshire Council Library Service

Fig. 8.11  The location of this hospital is unknown, although there are glimpses of a big house behind the trees.
Photograph reproduced courtesy of North East Lincolnshire Council Library Service
NURSES' ACCOMMODATION
In June 1915 the War Office proposed to rent the Theological Hostel in Drury Lane, Lincoln, for a Convalescent Hospital for soldiers. However, it was not until the following January that the proposal was made and the Trustees met to discuss it. The Hostel was now wanted from the middle of April 1916 as a home for the 200 nurses needed for the doubled huts on the Wragby Road! Terms were to be settled in detail by the Chancellor and Scorer. The Hostel remained as a nurses' home until Northern Command at York forwarded a War Office order in December 1919 that it was to be vacated as soon as possible. There was also a Hostel at 9 Minster Yard, Lincoln for twenty-three VAD General Service members working at Fourth Northern under Miss Deward as Unit Superintendent.

SPECIALIST HOSPITALS
Some hospitals were developed as, or became, specialist units. They included mental hospitals, units for limbless men, neurological units, neurasthenic cases, orthopaedic units, cardiac units, typhoid units and venereal disease units. With the exception of Harrowby Hospital, Grantham, there were no such specialist hospitals in Lincolnshire although Lady Winchelsea's wing took shell shock patients at Sleaford. However, beds or wards donated by counties to specialist hospitals became considered an extension and responsibility of that county. They were an important part of the fund-raising activities of local Red Cross Branches, and for that reason brief descriptions are given of Maida Vale Hospital, the Star and Garter in Richmond-on-Thames and Netley in Southampton, where in 1917 Gladys Botterill of Lincolnshire VAD Unit 30, was Matron and at least one other Lincolnshire nurse was working there.

MAIDA VALE
Military and air force casualties with neurological injuries such as shell shock were treated at the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis and Other Diseases of the Nervous System at Maida Vale. Lincolnshire people donated funds to create eleven single-bed Lincolnshire Wards for nerve strained soldiers which they hoped to maintain in perpetuity. In January 1918 Mr H.H. Burleigh, Secretary and General Superintendent of the Maida Vale Hospital wrote to Mrs Janie Hett saying that the Lincolnshire Wards were fully occupied with fifty-nine men specially labelled in France for this Hospital and sent direct to it. He gave accounts of various soldiers treated in these Wards saying that they most appreciated and needed the peace and quiet after the hell out there. One of the patients was Private Maltby of Tattershall, Thorpe, Coningsby. He was wounded by a flying fragment of high explosive in the left side of the head. His skull fractured and numerous pieces of bone were driven into the underlying brain so that the arm and leg of the opposite side became useless. Pieces of bone were removed by an operation and whilst there, most of the
power over the leg and some over the arm recovered. In April 1916 the Brigg Division aimed to keep the Maida Vale wards open.

ESCRICK PARK
Care of servicemen who lost limbs began to be officially organized in 1915 although the Auxiliary Hospital for Officers in the home of the Hon. Irene Lawley, at Escrick Park, York, was opened in 1914 and was the nearest one of its type to Lincolnshire. Here too Lincolnshire men were cared for although there is no record of it being financially supported by Lincolnshire people. The seriousness of their injuries is indicated by the type of invalid furniture used, such as this 6 ft wicker spinal carriage fitted with a turntable fore-carriage and handle for pulling it. The hinged flap at the foot end was to make it easier to move the patient in and out. On one side there is a handle with a brake. The cost of this was £12 10s 0d and there were several optional extras such as a hood to protect the patient's head. (Fig. 8.13)

Fig. 8.13. Leaflet advertising Invalid Furniture made by the Surgical Manufacturing Co., London Forbes Adam/Thompson/Lawley (Barons Wenlock) Family Of Escrick. Courtesy Hull History Centre. UDDFA 3/6/43

STAR AND GARTER
The Royal Star and Garter Home for Paralysed Soldiers, Richmond, Surrey, was well supported by the Lincolnshire Red Cross. It was founded in 1916 to care for sailors, soldiers and airmen who were paralysed or permanently disabled in the War. Originally a hotel at Richmond Hill, it was presented to Queen Alexandra by the Auctioneers and Estate Agents Institute. The price originally asked for the building was over £80,000 but it was being purchased for £21,500 with the money to be raised through auctions. Then it was decided to rebuild it entirely. The Annexe was used as temporary hospital which was rebuilt when the main one was ready. Consequently, considerable funds were needed. On 9 March 1916 the King inspected the Star & Garter accompanied by Lord Brownlow of Belton House.

In April 1916 the Lincolnshire Red Cross Branch divided into two, North and South to make organization simpler. The North Lincolnshire Branch had two divisions, the Brigg Division, and the Ironstone District. Lady Mary K. Turnor of Panton Hall, Wragby, Deputy President, and A.H. Leslie Melville of Lincoln, Branch Treasurer, asked each Branch to try and raise £1,000 for the Star and Garter Home. Soldiers were discharged from other hospitals such as Netley, Haslar, Lincoln, and York, only when it was assumed nothing more could be done to improve their condition and then discharged from the services as totally disabled and sent to the Star and Garter where each county funded a bed. South Lincolnshire had already raised more than North and resolved to raise £2,000. The Northern Branch had received £674 and appealed for the rest of the sum to fund a bed for a severely wounded North Lincolnshire man who would for the rest of his life have every care and comfort in the proposed splendid Home. Sir Frederick Treves, who was working at the War Office as president of the Headquarters' medical board and involved in building and endowing the hospital, in April 1916 sent to Janie Hett, now Vice President of the Brigg Division of the North Lincolnshire Branch, a picture of the Star and Garter Hospital as it was intended to be. Horace Virgin of Railway Cottages, Glinton, near Market Deeping was nursed there in September 1914, having been wounded at Mons. A reservist, he had been called up to the King's Royal Rifles in August and returned to Southampton with eighty-five other wounded soldiers. His wife was staying with her father-in-law at Sutton...
Also, listed in the Admissions Register for 1916-1924 is Private Horace L. Thompson, aged 20, 10th Lincolnshire Regiment, admitted 19 April 1917, discharged 1 May 1920.

The British Farmers’ Red Cross Fund raised £500,000 for the Star and Garter of which £100,000 would be for the permanent maintenance of about sixty beds in the Home. They appealed to Grimsby for help. Each of these beds, or rooms, would bear an inscription indicating that they had been permanently endowed by the British Farmers’ Red Cross Fund, and showing which County had provided it. A bed was to be allocated to each County as soon as that County had provided its fair share of the £500,000. The Fund sent Grimsby information showing agricultural jumble sales had been held at the larger Lincolnshire centres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Amount (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louth</td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleaford</td>
<td>1,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spalding</td>
<td>1,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gainsborough</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>909</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Smaller scale rural areas also raised considerable amounts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Amount (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sutton Bridge</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swineshead</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leake</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin &amp; Timberland</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coningsby &amp; Tattershall</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicker</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Fund thought that many smaller centres would be glad to support similar efforts in their locality and a request was made to form committees to organise collections in other parishes.

However, the new Star and Garter building was principally paid for by the women of the British Empire, who adopted it as their war memorial. Janie Hett recorded in the Lincolnshire Red Cross booklet that it was hoped that the new building, which will be erected by the Women of England, will accommodate 264 men.

On 16 November 1916, £150,000 collected by British Women’s Hospital (Star and Garter) Committee was given to Her Majesty for the Home and for the endowment of a British Women’s Ward of forty beds.

NETLEY

In September 1914, the Secretary of State for War accepted the offer of the British Red Cross Society to erect, equip and maintain a hospital of 500 beds at Netley, Southampton Water. At a Meeting of the Lincolnshire Branch, presided over by Lady Mary Turnor, Janie Hett, at that time Deputy President, announced that the cost of erecting each hut, which would accommodate twenty patients, was £300, and it was decided to contribute this amount so that a ward should be named after the county. They also hoped to be able to guarantee the upkeep of the twenty patients at £1 per head per week, or £20 per week for the ward. Countess Brownlow, the County President, promised £50 in addition to her monthly subscription of £20 while the war lasted. Garments, comforts and subscriptions were wanted.

On 20 October Janie Hett recorded that the Lincolnshire Hut at Netley was now occupied, chiefly by Ghurkas and Sikhs. Lincolnshire men employed as orderlies were Mr H. Allewell and Mr W. Clements of New Leake, who received orders for service with the Home Forces and left for Netley on 21 October. In November Miss Marjorie Hett’s report about her visit to Netley was published in the Lincolnshire Star. She described the large permanent military hospital standing on a lovely wooded hill overlooking the water. In the fields behind it was the new Red Cross Hospital. The visitors were taken round by the Commandant, Sir Warren Lawless. The hospital was a collection of huts painted grey and white, with the donor’s name over the door, wide enough to take ten beds on each side, with a passage down the centre. There were to be twenty-five huts and the Lincolnshire one was not then in use for wounded, but was by the time her report was published. The visitors also saw the temporary operating theatre, where there were three operations that morning. They spoke to a Lincoln man who was an orderly and very keen on his work. There were five Lincolnshire men at the hospital, and it was expected that a small number of Lincolnshire VADs would be sent there to gain some experience under the nurses. Lincolnshire residents went to see round and meet staff. This was important to fund-raising efforts. In December Joseph George Watts wrote...
to the *Lincolnshire Star* describing the treatment of the soldiers on their arrival at Netley. He said ‘Tommy Atkins’:

is supplied with many little extras through the generosity of the public, and is amused by the music of gramophones in a similar manner. From the Commandant downward every man has his whole interest in the working of this splendidly equipped hospital, and the contributors to the Society’s fund may be well satisfied their money is well spent.

By March 1915 the Lincolnshire Netley hut was occupied by British soldiers. Six men of the Brigg, Scawby and Hibaldstow VAD were working there as orderlies and sent news. Lincolnshire men were among the patients. Janie Hett had just heard that VADs holding First Aid and Nursing Certificates would be received as probationers for a month in military hospitals with a view to a year’s engagement at a fixed salary. It was hoped to hold a class for instruction in Home Nursing in Brigg. Margaret Ampthill was Chairman of the Joint Women’s VAD Committee.

Nursing could be an exhausting occupation and caring for such severely disabled and injured men was traumatic. In January 1918 Maria Welby wrote to Janie Hett that ‘My Dods, (sic) who rather broke down nursing at Netley last summer has had a long rest and is now starting work under Lady Ampthill at Devonshire House. This will, I think be much more suited to her physical powers.’

The Brigg Division planned to keep up the Netley hut’s twenty beds, plus two motor ambulances working at the front. The South Lincs Branch, Bourne District maintained its own beds in the Lincolnshire Hut and by the end of the war had collected £1,450 17s.

**PREPARATION FOR INVASION**

Behind this activity was the possibility of invasion. On 21 August 1915 Helen Fane included in her journal a circular from the Lincolnshire County Nursing Association about the Motor Ambulance Transport Scheme for evacuating the wounded if invasion occurred. Colonel Brook, of the Fourth Northern Hospital appealed to the Lincolnshire Nursing Association for the co-operation of District Nurses. He stated that in the event of a raid, the civil population would be moved inland (probably on foot), and so the nurses’ patients would leave her. He wanted nurses then to attend to the wounded passing inland to the base hospital; then when the raid was over and the people came back she would be free to do her ordinary work. However, to do this she needed to have the Red Cross Badge, because without it she would be classed as a civilian and have to go inland with the rest of the population. It was necessary therefore that if she had not already done so, she must pass the First Aid and Home-nursing Examinations. The cost of this would be about 7s 6d.

| First Aid Books | 1s |
| Home Nursing Books | 1s |
| Bandages | 1s 6d |
| Examination fee | 3s 6d |

The Lincolnshire Nursing Association needed to know which nurses wanted to join the scheme and Miss Wheelely, County Superintendent, 12 Tentercroft Street, Lincoln, arranged the necessary examinations.

**VADs**

The importance of VADs keeping themselves in practice so that they would be ready to meet any future emergency arising from invasion or air raid was stressed by the Lincolnshire Red Cross Branch. By the middle of 1916 the authorities had realised that more nurses were needed, and in contrast to the early months of the war when women had been turned away, they were now being vehemently urged to come forward and answer the call of the sick and wounded men by enrolling as VADs. There were also discussions as to whether they should be paid. The minimum time of enrolment was seven months, but such was the crisis that a shorter period of three months was offered, although people were reminded this was unpaid work. Members first had to undertake a fortnight’s probation. All male and female nursing staff had to have, or promise to obtain a first-aid certificate, and the women also had to have a home nursing certificate. Travel costs, board, lodging and washing were now paid for unless the member lived in the neighbourhood.

However, although by January 1916 there was a shortage of nurses, there was apparently a surplus in Alford. *The Lincolnshire Standard* on 1 January, 1916 suggested that if this was really the case, perhaps there was a demand for them in Hogsthorp. Why didn’t the Alford lady approach Red Cross HQ and tell
them? As shown in Fig. 8.14 (MLL 8951) there appear to be plenty, although whether the number is really excessive cannot be ascertained as nothing else is known about this hospital. There is a nurse standing by the table photographing the group, while herself being photographed by someone else.

By October 1917 the Government was publicly acknowledging the work of VADs and it was suggested that they should receive some form of official award, undoubtedly to try to encourage more volunteers. It was considered necessary to settle the award of the Order of the British Empire first, but neither the War Office nor the other Departments concerned favoured the institution of a distinctive ribbon. Appeals for more volunteers were not as successful as hoped and in January 1918 yet more VADs were needed. In May, it was reported that 200 auxiliary hospitals were unable to obtain sufficient local voluntary staff.

**SHORTAGES**

As the war continued there were increasing food shortages. In the latter part of 1916 it became difficult even for Auxiliary Hospitals to get sugar. The whole England's supply was taken over by the Government and application had to be made to the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. One lb per head per week was allocated, calculated on the average number of patients and staff. Mr Hird, of Hundleby, near Spilsby, acted as local distributor.

In January 1918 Local Food Committees were instructed to give Red Cross hospitals priority for butter, margarine and bacon. Since many were in private houses where the family still lived and had their meals provided with the staff this had to be considered when eking out the rations. Sugar, bacon, cheese, dried fruits, jam, treacle and suet were impossible to obtain but hospitals could order them through the Stores Depot at 83 Pall Mall, London. A nationwide rationing system was organised in February 1918. The War Office agreed to a maximum scale of dietary for Auxiliary Hospitals; consequently all food consumed had to be accounted for. A return was sent in every month by the Joint War Committee showing the consumption of food under thirteen different headings and sent to Captain Colchester Wemyss, CBE, at Gloucester, Director of Food Economy. The food consumed was calculated according to its calorific value and the result sent to each Commandant. This entailed much extra work for Commissioners and Quartermasters but the knowledge obtained was very useful showing any over- or under-consumption of food. Patients were given plenty of nourishment, but extravagance was quickly detected and abated.
Another difficulty was arranging transport for the wounded. People who used their cars or lent their vehicles, could not do so if sufficient petrol was not made available. The Petrol Control Committee for the County Director obtained petrol in bulk and distributed 144 gallons to owners of private cars who lent their vehicles to assist the motor ambulances of the Fourth Northern General in bringing patients from the station on arrival of a convoy. Payment was received back for seventy-five gallons from those who wished to pay all expenses as well as lending cars. On 12 May 1917 the Motor Ambulance belonging to the North Lincolnshire Red Cross Branch was lent to the Northern Command when it was then attached to the Royal Army Service Corps, Humber Garrison, and used at Grimsby.

THE ARMISTICE.

Wounded and sick men and NCOs continued to arrive and need care even after 11 November 1918 because fighting between various countries continued after the Armistice, and British troops were sometimes involved. In reality the war had not ended, since some eighteen wars were still in progress. At Brocklesby Park, where all ages and different types of illness were catered for, there were men with dysentery, pneumonia, bronchitis, frost bite, malaria, and rheumatism as well as gun shot wounds. During November and December, fourteen men were admitted, nine with gun shot wounds, one with a fractured leg, and another with shell wounds to his back, buttock and foot. On 10 January 1919 nineteen men were admitted, of which eight had gun-shot wounds. Others were suffering from various hernias, synovitis, neck tumour, dislocated ankle, and influenza. Two more men, admitted on 29 January with boils, left on 28 February.

Another South Lincolnshire Branch hospital was the Billingborough, Horbling and District VAD Hospital at the Horbling Manor House which dealt with 647 patients up to April 1919, receiving £915 4s 2d from voluntary contributions. It was decided to keep the hospital open for the present. The sum of over £20,000 was the total cash value of the Horbling and Bourne district’s Red Cross effort.

The photograph, taken around 1917, shows three nurses with soldier patients, some holding crutches. Their Cash Book for July 1919 gives an idea of the cost of medical care even after the peace treaty with Germany was signed. It shows the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>£295 5s 5d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>£26 0s 1d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>£72 12s 0d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment</td>
<td>£10 7s 1d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaris,</td>
<td>£145 6s 2d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>£19 9s 1ld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance in Hand</td>
<td>£894 14s 6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1463 14s 6d</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Establishment’ meant ‘Petty Cash.’ Receipts depended heavily on Army Allowance and in April 1919 the sale of drugs, Virol, sugar and syrup. Bengers food was also sold and the government Pensions Allowance received.
Gradually, however, all the temporary hospitals and convalescent homes in Lincolnshire closed. Some houses, such as Brocklesby Park, returned to their owners' occupation. The Fourth Northern at Wragby Road returned to being a school. Boultham Park was bought in 1929 by the City of Lincoln Council. Petwood ultimately became a hotel. Holden House and the Lincoln Barracks hospital were demolished. The old Military Hospital stood where the present Arnhem Close now exists.

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49 IWM Women’s Work Collection. BRCS 4. Brocklesby Park
50 Grimsby News, 6.11.1914
51 LA. YARB/12/2
52 IWM Women’s Work Collection. BRCS 4 2/3
53 Lincolnshire Star. 21.11.1914
54 Michael Credland in Lincolnshire Life. October 1993. 34
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57 Hicks Diaries. 1300 7.09.1918
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59 Hicks Diaries. 942 1082. 1235
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74 in conjunction with Chairman of Joint War Committee of British Red Cross Society and order of St John of Jerusalem and of the Central Joint Voluntary Aid Detachment Committee,
75 See Storr. Excluded from the Record. 225
76 LA. YARB/12/1
77 The Red Cross. April 1919.