

VADs on the Trentham Home Front



Dorothy as a girl in 1896
Family Collection

VAD NURSES

Sisters, Dorothy and Margery Bailey of New Park, Hem Heath trained as VAD nurses. Dorothy served for a time in France and Margery at the North Staffs Infirmary and the 2nd Western General Military Hospital in Manchester.

Other Trentham women served at Sandon Hall Military Convalescent Hospital, Trent Vale Red Cross Hospital and Sunny Bank VAD Hospital in Shelton.

Miss Norah Slaney of the Nook Trentham served for two years at Le Treport Military Hospital in France. She was mentioned in despatches in October 1917 and awarded a scarlet efficiency stripe in September 1918.



Margery as a girl in 1896
Family Collection

VOLUNTEERING DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Following the outbreak of the First World War on 4 August 1914, the British Red Cross formed the Joint War Committee with the Order of St John. They worked together to pool their fundraising activities and resources. The committee supplied services in Britain and in the conflict areas abroad. They also organised Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) at home and abroad, which were of vital importance in providing aid to military forces during the war.

RED CROSS WORKING PARTIES were established throughout Staffordshire, including the Trentham and Hanford Sewing Party. The Honorary Secretary was Mrs Emma Cornforth of the White House, Hem Heath. At least 26 local women were members. Some of them volunteered for the duration of the war and received Volunteer Worker Medals and Certificates. Between them they must have knitted countless mufflers and pairs of socks. They also raised funds for soldiers' comforts. The surplus funds left at the end of the war contributed towards the funding of Trentham War Memorial.

OVERSEAS RECORD

Surname: BALILEY Dept. for References: J.R.

Christian Names: DOROTHY MARIE Miss or Mrs: Miss

Permanent Address: New Park, Trentham, Staffs

Certificate No. 151891 Age when engaged: 28

Date of Engagement: Apr 5th 1914 Rank: Sister Pay: £1-10

Date of Termination: Aug 29th 1914 Rank: 1 Pay: £1-10

Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where:
No 5 B.R.C. Whiterax. No 1 de Longues. No 2. Rouen.

Honours awarded

Character: Tiresome.

Surname: Bailey Recd: 7 MAY 1919

Christian Names: Margery Miss (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

Permanent Address: New Park, Trentham, Staffs on Trent.

Date of Engagement: Apr 5th 1914 Rank: Member Pay: £20 a year

Date of Termination: Aug 29th 1914 Rank: Member Pay: £20 a year

Particulars of Duties: Nursing

Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served: Whole time

Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where:
at North Staffs Infirmary Stokes on Trent & 2nd Western General Hospital Manchester

Honours awarded

PERIOD OF SERVICE, etc.

Commission or Department or County: Staffs

From: Apr 5th 1914 to: Aug 29th 1914 Department or County: Staffs

PERIOD OF SERVICE, etc.

Commission or Department or County: Staffs

From: Nov 1914 To: Jan 1916 Department or County: Staffs

at: North Staffs Infirmary Stokes on Trent & 2nd Western General Hospital Manchester

PLAIN HELMET (or BALACLAVA CAP)

MATERIALS REQUIRED.—4 ozs. (1 Cut) J. & J. BALDWIN'S "White Heather" Wheeling (or "Beehive" Double Knitting Wool), Four No. 8 Celluloid Knitting Needles.

Cast on 100 stitches, 36 on to one needle and 32 on to each of the other two needles.

Work backwards and forwards (in the rib) for 2 inches.

Cast on 24 stitches again and join up the round.

Work 4 more inches in the rib.

Finish the cap in plain knitting and decrease as follows:

1st round.—Knit each 19th and 20th stitch together. Knit 1 round plain.

3rd round.—Knit each 17th and 18th stitch together. Knit 1 round plain.

5th round.—Knit each 17th and 18th stitch together. Knit 1 round plain.

Decrease in this manner until only 25 stitches remain. Run a thread through the loops and draw up.

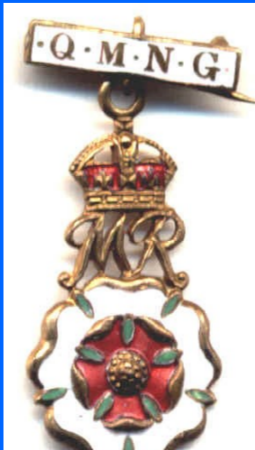
WORK DEPOTS & SUPPLY DEPOTS

Work depots were established in every major town to collate and despatch clothing such as shirts, blankets and belts made by the working parties to army units.

Supply depots were also created to organise medical and surgical supplies such as bandages and dressings. From the depots, items were sent to Red Cross headquarters or directly to soldiers in auxiliary hospitals at home and abroad.

Mrs Nellie Nicoll of Park Station Cottage and Mrs Charlotte Pidduck of The Gables, Hem Heath worked in Supply Depots.

Muriel Templeman of Hem Heath was Head of the Bandage Room at the North Staffs War Hospital Supplies Depot until February 1919 and was awarded the badge of the Queen Mary Needlework Guild.



TRANSPORT OF SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS

VADs met ambulance trains and accompanied the wounded to hospital. Trentham women who volunteered for convoy and hospital duties included Misses Beatrice Baker, Amy Bickerton, Elizabeth Bosson, Martha Boulton, Ethel Brandrick and Emily Smith. Mrs Sarah Oakes of the School House Trentham was a Superintendent and notched up a total of 474 hours service for St John Ambulance Brigade No 5 District.

Male VADs drove wounded soldiers from ambulance trains to local hospitals and ferried patients between hospitals. Mr Gordon Jones of Lynton, Trentham drove an estimated mileage of 5657 miles on duty.

Surname: Cornforth Recd: 2 MAY 1919

Christian Names: Emma Clara (Mrs, Mrs. or Miss)

Permanent Address: The White House, Trentham, Staffs.

Date of Engagement: See over Rank: See over Pay: See over

Date of Termination: See over Rank: See over Pay: See over

Particulars of Duties: Hon. Sec. Trentham. Hanford Sewing Branch

Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served

Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where

Honours awarded: Woman Workers Badge