The British Red Cross (BRC) work during the First World War included running auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes. These temporary facilities for wounded servicemen proved to be vital. They were also run by the Order of St John and the Army Medical Services.

Before the conflict even began, BRC searched for suitable properties that could be used as temporary hospitals if war broke out. Large numbers of public and private buildings (often large houses) were turned over for use as small hospitals, most of which operated as annexes to nearby larger hospitals. This meant that as soon as wounded men began to arrive from abroad, BRC hospitals were largely available for use, with equipment and staff in place.

The auxiliary hospitals included a first tier of large auxiliary general hospitals and a wider tier of smaller premises volunteered for war service. On the outbreak of war both the Joint War Committee and the War Office were inundated with offers of accommodation. It was the Committee’s job to sort through these 5,000 offers in England to find suitable buildings, which were offered free of charge to the War Office. They varied greatly in size: town halls, recreation halls, elementary schools, infirmaries, portions of general hospitals, large and small private houses in London and elsewhere, even cottages, garages and stables. Not all were suitable for hospital purposes. Auxiliary hospitals were classified as Class A (those who took cot cases, i.e. the bedridden, from military hospitals) and Class B (for convalescent and ambulant patients). Specialised units were also set up for shell-shocked and neurasthenic patients. For example, some 352 auxiliary military hospitals were established in the London district. The auxiliary hospitals were attached to Central Military Hospitals.

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 nursing staff
- members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), who were trained in first aid and home nursing.

In many cases local women from the neighbourhood volunteered in the hospitals part-time. There were also some paid roles, such as cooks. Volunteers who worked at auxiliary

* Following the outbreak of war in August 1914, the British Red Cross formed the Joint War Committee with the Order of St John. They pooled their fundraising activities and resources and worked together under the protective emblem of the red cross. The Joint War Committee organised volunteers alongside technical and professional staff
hospitals were usually too old or young to work in a military hospital. Many were unable to leave home for six months due to family commitments, but were willing to sign a three-month hospital contract. Auxiliary hospitals were also an attractive option for people who found work in a military hospital too strenuous. Others "preferred to be head cook in a small auxiliary hospital to assistant cook in a large military hospital". Local doctors did a lot of voluntary work in these hospitals. In 1917 the War Office decided that some payment should be given to them for their efforts.

The War Office fixed and paid grants to hospitals for every patient they looked after, and the grant amount increased annually during the war. At the highest rate, the government paid £1 4s 6d per week, or £63 14s 0d per annum, for each patient. This covered full hospital treatment, food and other costs. The rates paid to auxiliary hospitals for military patients were not the same. In January 1915 the standard maximum rate for the great majority was 3 shillings (15p) a day per occupied bed, but no payment was given for unoccupied beds. By 1918 this had risen to 3s 3d (16p) a day, with 6d (2.5p) paid per unoccupied bed. However, the increase was quite inadequate in view of the inflated cost of food, and auxiliary hospitals had to rely on voluntary public donations. Some private auxiliary hospitals did not receive such capitation grants.

The patients at these hospitals generally did not have life-threatening injuries and needed time to convalesce. Servicemen preferred the auxiliary hospitals to the military hospitals as the discipline was not as strict, conditions were less crowded and the surroundings were more homely.

In April 1915 the War Office announced that it was not proposed to accept any further offers of private houses for auxiliary hospitals or convalescent homes, as a sufficient number of large military hospitals had been established.

In Surrey within days of the outbreak of war, the Lord Lieutenant reported that he had received numerous offers of large houses to use as temporary war hospitals and convalescent homes for the sick and wounded service men. During the First World War, the Surrey Branch (formed in April 1907) was wholly or mainly responsible for the administration of 41 hospitals in the county, most of which were private houses. Chief among them were Clandon Park, home of Lord and Lady ONSLOW; Waverley Abbey; Anstie Grange, Dorking; and Newlands Corner.

There are still gaps in the details of Auxiliary Hospitals in Surrey in the First World War as listed below. Entries reflect what is seen in both the records and other sources and therefore may not truly reflect the real picture of which establishments did become auxiliary hospitals as opposed to ‘ordinary’ nursing homes or establishments which came under military command.

**Anstie Grange Hospital, Holmwood, Dorking**

Anstie Grange, between Holmwood and Coldharbour, was a 26-bedroomed mansion, the setting for shooting parties, hunts and balls before the war, with 26 indoor staff plus gardeners, stablemen and chauffeurs. On the outbreak of war the indoor staff was cut to three.
Cuthbert HEATH was of a military family – the house was built by his father, Admiral Sir Leopold HEATH, one brother was a general, another an admiral. Cuthbert had made his fortune in insurance. In October 1916 Cuthbert HEATH offered his home at Anstie Grange as a hospital for officers, fitting it out at his own expense. It had 50 beds for officers attached to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot Command.

Casualties were brought by train from the coast to Holmwood station. Ambulances and lorries from Aldershot drove them to Anstie in convoy, often late at night. Stretcher bearers gathered in front of the house half an hour before the trains were due in. Then the Commandant – a nurse with a long white veil, a cloak and a lantern – would arrive in a car with huge headlights.

In February 1917 an unexpected patient arrived on one of these convoys, Cuthbert’s nephew, Frederick Dunbar HEATH. Frederick’s parents, Arthur Raymond HEATH and his wife, Flora, (who had fallen out with Cuthbert and his wife), were banned from Anstie but the ban was lifted to allow them to visit their son.

Nearly 700 patients passed through Anstie Grange. The certificate which is on display at the Museum was awarded to Cuthbert HEATH by Winston CHURCHILL in July 1920 in recognition of the Army Council’s gratitude. He also received an OBE.

**Auxiliary War Hospital, Thurstan Road, Wimbledon**

During WW1 it was one of the first smaller hospitals to offer treatment for sick and wounded servicemen. It became an auxiliary military hospital to the Horton War Hospital, with the first 20 casualties arriving from France in October 1914. The Hospital had given up 32 of its beds for war casualties but, in 1917, marquees were erected in the grounds to provide more bed accommodation. The military beds closed on 19 February 1919. During the war some 500 soldiers received treatment at the Hospital, of whom only one died.

**Barham Lodge Auxiliary Military Hospital, 149 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge**

In 1915 Mr (later Captain) Clermont WOOD offered Barham Lodge to the War Office for use as an auxiliary hospital. The offer was accepted and an appeal was launched to raise funds to adapt the house for hospital use. It was mooted that local residents might like to donate £10 for a bed, which would give them the privilege of naming it.

The Barham Lodge Auxiliary Hospital opened in September 1915 with 35 beds for enlisted servicemen. The first patients arrived in October and the Hospital was soon fully occupied.

The nursing staff consisted of a Matron, a trained nurse, a masseuse, and 3 full-time and 4 part-time members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment, whose Commandant was Mrs Ethel LOCKE-KING.

At first the Hospital was affiliated to the Tooting Military Hospital. By 1917 the number of beds had been increased to 45 and a small operating theatre installed. The Hospital then became affiliated to the First London General Hospital and, later, to the South African Military Hospital in Richmond.
The Hospital, which was located to the south of Oatlands Drive, opposite the Oatlands Park Hospital, closed on 19 March 1919.

Beechcroft Auxiliary Hospital, Heathside Road, Woking
An hospital with 58 O/Rs beds attached to Frensham Hill Military Hospital, Aldershot Command

Binefield Auxiliary Hospital, Woodhurst Lane, Oxted
At the outbreak of WW1 the local population of Oxted raised subscriptions for funds for an auxiliary hospital to be established in Binefield, a rented house.

A road had to be made to the house and, when the necessary internal alterations and redecoration had been carried out, the Binefield Auxiliary Hospital opened in October 1914. The Hospital had 20 beds and was under the care of the Surrey/46 Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD). In June 1915 it became an annexe to Charing Cross Hospital. The Commandant of the VAD paid the rent and other expenses not met by Charing Cross Hospital.

During 1917 some 158 patients were treated at the Hospital. The small number was due to the fact that many were cot cases (i.e. bedridden) and other long cases.

In October 1917 the Governors of Charing Cross Hospital decided to give up the auxiliary hospitals at Binefield and Furzedown.

The Hospital closed on 29th November and was thoroughly cleaned. It reopened on 21 December 1917, affiliated to Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital in Millbank.

On 30 June 1918 it was decided to close the Hospital as there were insufficient patients. The Hospital was demobilised and the property returned to its owner on 22 February 1919.

During its operational lifetime, some 550 patients had been treated at the Hospital, most of them long cases.

Blackthorn, West Byfleet
See St George's Hill Auxiliary Hospital

Bleakdown Auxiliary Hospital, West Byfleet
The Bleakdown Auxiliary Military Hospital opened in October 1916. It was located in the dining room of the Clubhouse of the Bleakdown Golf Club (a room large enough to seat 140 people).

The Hospital had 38 beds and was affiliated to the First London General Hospital and, later, to the Fifth London General Hospital (St Thomas' Hospital).

In 1917 the number of beds was increased to 46.
The Commandant of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) running the Hospital was Ethel LOCKE-KING, D.B.E. (1864-1956), and the staff consisted of a Matron, a trained nurse, a masseuse (physiotherapist) with 2 living-in members of the VAD and several part-time ones. General treatment was provided.

The Hospital closed in October 1919.

Blytheswood Auxiliary Hospital, West Byfleet
The Blythswood Auxiliary Hospital opened in November 1915 in a house lent by Mr John H ROBINSON.

The Hospital had 45 beds and was affiliated with the South African Military Hospital in Richmond. The nursing staff consisted of a Matron, a masseuse and 13 part-time members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment.

Patients received general treatment. In the summer the accommodation was increased when open air beds were set up in the grounds.

The Hospital closed on 31st December 1918.

Brackley Lodge, Queens Road, Weybridge
This hospital apparently had 50 beds. It was transferred from the North Surrey Division of the Red Cross to the London Commandant in 1917.

Brooklands Auxiliary Military Hospital, Heath Road, Weybridge
In August 1915 the North Surrey and Kingston Red Cross Branch received a request for a further 150 beds in the area. Mr Hugh LOCKE-KING immediately offered his own house, Brooklands, for use as an auxiliary hospital with 75 beds.

An appeal was launched locally for subscriptions to finance the project. The estimated costs were £10 per bed and £5 for bedding, with any remaining funds to be used to cover the cost of the equipment for the wards and kitchen, and to buy benefits for the patients. Within five days, some £270 had been collected.

Brooklands Auxiliary Military Hospital was officially opened in October 1915 by Princess Christian. Affiliated to the First London General Hospital, it was designated a Class A hospital for enlisted servicemen and initially had 87 beds. Mr A BARCLAY-WALKER of Firfields, Weybridge, had presented the Hospital with a fully equipped operating theatre (in December 1915 he donated a complete X-ray installation). Because of this the Hospital was able to provide more extensive surgical treatment than at most other auxiliary hospitals and several major operations were carried out during the course of the war.

In the summer of 1916 an open-air ward with 12 beds was erected, especially valuable for the treatment of very septic wounds. As the Hospital accepted more serious cases, the length of stay for each patient was about 61 days.

The Hospital had two Medical Officers and the nursing staff consisted of a Matron, 4
Sisters and 3 masseuses, assisted by the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) under the command of Ethel LOCKE-KING, D.B.E. The VAD comprised a Quartermaster, an Assistant Quartermaster and 14 living-in members who undertook nursing and household duties.

By 1917 the Hospital had 140 beds, with an extra 20 open-air beds available in the summer.

In the summer of 1918 it was decided to provide accommodation for 40 patients from the Special Neurological Military Hospital in Tooting. The erection of a large hut began but, just as it was more than half completed, the war ended in November 1918.

The auxiliary hospitals in the area began to close early in 1919, but Brooklands remained open until November of that year.

The hut was finally finished and opened in January 1919. It contained a small ward with 30 beds and was kept open until the remaining patients were well enough to be discharged.

The Hospital finally closed in April 1920, the last in the area to do so.

Broom House, Auxiliary to Clandon Park Hospital, West Horsley
See Clandon Park

Broome Park, Station Road, Betchworth
This listed as having 24 beds. There is some doubt whether it became operational as the owner’s sister, Alice FEILDING wrote in December 1914 that it might “…not be a suitable place for [indecipherable] as there is a public house at the lodge and another on the other side – within ¼ of mile…”; a reply three days later notes the comment and goes on to state that it “…would be necessary to place this out of bounds, which…would get over the difficulty.” Still not convinced of the desire to make this a ‘relief hospital’, Miss FEILDING almost immediately writes back that “I forgot to mention in my last letter that the house is not heated…[and after the damp winter would make the house] miserable as a “Relief Hospital”.

Burntwood Auxiliary Red Cross Hospital, 106 Burntwood Lane, Caterham
At the outbreak of war in 1914, it was affiliated to the Royal Herbert Hospital; five of its beds were reserved for wounded and sick servicemen. By December 1914 eight of the 25 beds were occupied by soldiers.

Caens Hill Auxiliary Military Hospital, Chaucer Avenue, Weybridge
The Caens Hill Auxiliary Military Hospital opened on 27 October 1914 in a house lent by Mr Hugh LOCKE-KING. It had 32 beds and was affiliated to the Connaught Hospital in Aldershot.
The nursing staff consisted of a Matron and 2 trained nurses, and 7 living-in members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (whose Commandant was Mrs Ethel LOCKE-KING).

When the Hospital was too full, overflow patients were sent to Ottermead in Ottershaw or to Highclere in Weybridge.

In March 1915 a Tamworth pig was presented to the Hospital. The patients named it Gilbert and it was given the freedom of the home. When Gilbert grew too big, he was lodged in a roomy outhouse. By November 1915 he was mature enough for slaughter, but the patients could not bear to kill him, so he was sold and the money given to the Red Cross. A local newspaper appealed for another pig - and received the offer of five pigs and one guinea pig!

In 1916, when it had 40 beds, the Hospital was transferred to London Command and it became affiliated to the Special Neurological Hospital at Tooting.

In 1916 an operating theatre was installed, making orthopaedic treatment possible. The number of beds was increased to 44, that is, 4 for officers and 40 for enlisted men. A Medical Officer and 2 masseuses were added to the staff.

By 1917 the Hospital was receiving emergency cases from the Royal Flying Corps.

During 1918, the last year of the war, some 272 patients were admitted, who stayed an average of 54 days.

The Hospital closed on 31 August 1919.

Camberley Auxiliary Military Hospital, Firlands House, Firlands Avenue, Camberley
A 100 O/R bed hospital in attached to Aldershot Command.

Castle Relief Hospital, off Castle Street, Bletchingley, Surrey
The Castle Relief Hospital is reported as having been an auxiliary hospital to the Bethnal Green Military Hospital. It presumably opened in 1916.

The Hospital had 20 beds for convalescent servicemen, and presumably occupied a wing or an outhouse of Castle Hill House.

It probably closed in 1918, at the end of the war.

Charterhouse Hospital, Godalming
In October 1914 the Red Cross opened a hospital in Charterhouse Sanatorium with Dr BIRD, the local Medical Officer of Health, in charge. Viscountess MIDDLETON appealed for donations for the wounded soldiers and local businesses and individuals came forward with offers of newspapers, books, cigarettes and tobacco, games, a gramophone, writing materials, hot water bottles, vegetables, fruit and flowers.
Church Hill House Auxiliary Hospital, Haslemere
This opened as a Hospital on 19 April 1917 as a result of two very generous gifts – the house offered by Mrs PARSONS and a donation of £1,500 from Miss NEWTON of Oliver, Haslemere, to finance the necessary changes to the house. The hospital was attached to Frensham Hill Military Hospital, Aldershot Command.

The hospital had 38 beds when it was opened. The treatment it offered was described as ‘Massage and Electric’. Soon after the hospital opened it was realised that a large room would be needed for recreation and a large wooden hut was erected on the tennis lawn, connected to the house by a covered way. An extra ward was arranged at one end of the hut and the number of beds was increased to 45. Patients were sent from Frensham Hill to Church Hill every week, about 8 coming and going each time.

Church Hill Hospital was early on the list of the War Effort organisations to be disbanded. Church Hill is now known as Peperham House.

See also: Surrey in the Great War Church Hill Hospital, Haslemere

Clandon Park
Clandon Park War Hospital was a type B or Auxiliary hospital between month 25 June to 28 July 1915 when it was briefly taking patients from the King George Hospital in London to convalesce.

Once a patient had recovered sufficiently they would be transferred to Heywood or Broome House Hospitals to convalesce so that their beds could be made ready for the next intake of casualties. These ‘Auxiliary hospitals’ had 50 and 40 beds respectively, and from them patients would either be discharged or sent back to the front.

See also: Surrey in the Great War Clandon Park War Hospital

Coulsdon and Purley Patriotic Fund Hospital, Congregational Hall, Purley Congregational Church, 906 Brighton Road, Purley
The Coulsdon and Purley Patriotic Fund Hospital opened at the beginning of 1915. It occupied the Hall, which had been built in 1912, and was designated as Class B (that is, it did not accept cot cases).

The Hospital had been organised by the Coulsdon and Purley Patriotic Fund, of which Sir J LAWRENCE, JP, was the Chairman, originally established to help the relatives of serving men.

By March 1915 all 30 beds were occupied.

On 1 July 1916 the Hospital became affiliated to the Horton (County of London) War Hospital.

It closed on 29 March 1919.
Cowley House, Highclere, Weybridge (Aldershot Command)

Detention Military Hospital, Warlingham

Erin Lodge Auxiliary Military Hospital, Oaklands, Weybridge
   In November 1914 Mrs FARMER of Beechcroft, Oatlands, lent her property Erin Lodge, which was untenanted at the time, to the British Red Cross Society for use as an auxiliary military hospital.

   The house was furnished and equipped, and the Erin Lodge Red Cross Hospital opened on 13 November with 20 beds. It was affiliated to the Third London General Hospital.

   Mrs FARMER later withdrew her support and the Hospital continued under the auspices of the Red Cross.

   In August 1916 the Hospital was forced to close when the Matron decided to serve elsewhere.

   However, it re-opened in March 1917 with 35 beds (later 40), and was affiliated to the Fifth London General Hospital. The house had by this time become the property of a Miss MAUDE.

   The medical and nursing staff consisted of a Medical Officer, a Matron, a trained nurse, a masseuse and a living-in member of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), whose Commandant was Mrs Ethel LOCKE-KING. Several members of the local VAD provided part-time help with nursing and domestic chores.

   The patients stayed on average some 26 days. They were made Honorary Members of the Oatlands Park Club, and enjoyed billiards and darts tournaments against the local members.

   The Hospital closed in July 1918. During the 176 days it was open in 1918, some 288 patients had received treatment.

Esher Red Cross Hospital (previously The Lammas), The Lammas, 9 Lammas Lane, Esher
   During WW1, The Lammas, the 18th century Rectory for Christ Church, Esher, became an auxiliary Hospital for the Third London (T.F.) General Hospital. The house had been lent by Lord and Lady D'ABERNON (Lady D'ABERNON became the Honorary Commandant of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment - VAD - serving at the Hospital).

   The Lammas Hospital opened in May 1915 and had 32 beds for convalescent servicemen (the average weekly number of patients was 30). The nursing staff comprised a Sister-in-charge, 9 VAD nurses and 9 members of the VAD who provided general service - cooking, cleaning, etc.
The Hospital remained open throughout the war apart from four weeks in 1916, when it was closed for thorough cleaning.

In 1917, when it had 35 beds, it was renamed the Esher Red Cross Hospital. Some 287 patients were treated during that year.

The Hospital closed in 1919.

**Furzedown Auxiliary Hospital, Grubb Street, Limpsfield**

The Furzedown Auxiliary Hospital opened in October 1914 under the Aldershot Command. Housed in a former private residence, it had 20 beds and had been equipped by the Surrey/62 Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD). A Comfort Fund for the servicemen was started at the same time.

In 1915 the Hospital was transferred to London Command and was affiliated to Charing Cross Hospital. In lieu of rest and massage, the patients were encouraged gradually to do work in the garden and house.

In 1917 the Governors of Charing Cross Hospital decided they could no longer run the auxiliary hospitals at Binfield and Furzedown.

The Hospital closed in November 1917. Some 168 patients had received treatment during the months January - November 1917.

After thorough cleaning the Hospital reopened on 22 November 1917 with 21 beds. It was affiliated to the Croydon War Hospital.

The Hospital closed in 1918 towards the end of the war, when it was decided that the Croydon War Hospital no longer needed auxiliary beds.

**Golf View Hospital (previously Obo), Walton-on-Thames**

This Hospital was opened in January 1915, funded by the Red Cross, in a property called Obo. The landlord of Obo, Captain RECKITT, withdrew the loan of his property in March 1916 and the Hospital is was thereafter referred to a Golf View.

The hospital, of 12 beds, was attached to Tooting

**Grayshott Auxiliary Hospital, Hindhead**

A 25 O/R bed hospital attached to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot Command

**Great Roke, Witley**

A military convalescence hospital.

**Hall Hill Auxiliary Hospital, Beadles Lane, Broadham Green, Oxted**

Hall Hill Auxiliary Hospital opened on 21st October 1914 in a property lent and furnished by Mrs MICHAELIS. It had 11 beds.

The Hospital was run by the Surrey/46 and /62 Voluntary Aid Detachments, who also ran the Charing Cross Convalescent Home as an auxiliary hospital with 100 beds.
Both presumably had closed by 1916 (they are not listed by the British Red Cross Society in 1917).

Hatchlands Auxiliary Hospital, Clandon, nr Guildford

The estate was inherited in 1913 by Hal GOODHART-RENDEL who although commissioned in the Grenadier Guards was unable to see active service due to ill-health.

In 1917 the hospital provided 14 beds for other ranks (although records show it was listed as having 20 beds). It was registered as ‘Convalescent cases only’ so probably provided little or no nursing care to patients referred from Guildford War Hospital. At one time the Commandant was Mrs Rose E COOPER.

In October 1917 a disgruntled letter from the local BRC (under the subject line “J.V.A.D. 141 – it that the designation of Hatchland?) stated that it as “…a non-VAD St John Hospital [it] is the only hospital of 10 beds which has been closed in the County, and there are no Auxiliary Hospitals of 10 beds now open in Surrey.”

See also: Surrey in the Great War Hatchlands Park

Henley Park Auxiliary Hospital, Normandy, Guildford

A hospital with 60 O/Rs beds attached to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot Command.

Lady Roberts offered the house, rent, rates and lighting free to the Aldershot Military Authorities early in 1915. Pirbright Red Cross Voluntary aid detachment, Surrey, undertook to staff the hospital. In the spring of 1918 tents were erected giving a capacity of 75 beds. Late in 1916 the hospital started to specialise in the treatment of joint cases - a gymnasium was then fitted up, and the two masseurs engaged.

Henley Park Auxiliary Military Hospital was closed on 15th January 1919, having been open for three years and eight months, during which time 1,876 men were received as patients.

See also: Auxiliary Military Hospital Henley Park

Heywood Auxiliary Military Hospital, Portsmouth Road, Cobham

In 1915, the cigarette manufacturer, Walter BUTLER, offered Heywood House to the War Office for use as an auxiliary military hospital.

The Heywood Auxiliary Military Hospital opened in August 1915 as a Class B hospital affiliated to Horton (County of London) War Hospital. It had 21 beds; Mr BUTLER’s wife, Mildred Mary, acted as Commandant.

In 1917 the number of beds doubled to 42. The Hospital became affiliated to Clandon Park Hospital, which had Lady ONSLOW (1883-1954) as its Commandant.

The Hospital presumably closed at the end of 1918.
In 1920 Mrs BUTLER received an OBE for her services during the war.

*See also:* Surrey in the Great War **Heywood Auxiliary Hospital, Cobham**

**High Rough Auxiliary Hospital, Haslemere**

High Rough Auxiliary Military Hospital, which was affiliated to the Frensham Hill Military Hospital, and therefore under the Aldershot Command, was opened on 17 May 1915. The house was the property of Mrs R.F. Macdonald. The hospital had 40 beds and offered massage as well as general treatment.

The hospital was first started and organised by Miss GIBSON of Noonfield, Haslemere. She acted as Commandant for a year and then Mrs MUIR, also of Haslemere filled the post until the spring of 1917 when she was obliged to give up her job due to ill-health. Mrs LEAKE, of the Rectory, Grayswood, took her place until August 1918 and then Miss THORNEYCROFT, a member of the Devon Red Cross, was appointed. She lived-in at the hospital. The Sister-in-Charge was Miss STEWART, and she was assisted by 1 masseuse, 6 VAD Nursing members and 6 General Service members. The Medical Officers were Drs HUTCHINSON and ARDAGH. Dr WINSTANLEY also worked at the hospital until April 1917 when he left to work at **Church Hill Hospital, Haslemere**.

1,161 patients were admitted to the hospital between 17 May 1915 and 15 May 1918.

*See also:* Surrey in the Great War **High Rough Auxiliary Military Hospital, Haslemere**

**Hildes Auxiliary Hospital, Shottermill, Haslemere**

A hospital with 60 O/Rs beds attached to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot Command.

**Hill House, Harvey Road, Guildford**

**Hillfield Red Cross Hospital, Raglan Road, Reigate, Surrey**

The Hillfield Red Cross Hospital opened on 2nd November 1914 in a house lent by Mr Spencer LANGSTON. It was designated a Class B hospital. Its first patients arrived from the Royal Herbert Hospital on 10th November 1914.

The Hospital had 50 beds and an operating theatre, and was staffed by a trained nurse, who acted as Matron, and 40 members of the Surrey/50 and /58 Voluntary Aid Detachments. **Miss Kitto’s Relief Hospital** served as an annexe.

During 1916 some 389 convalescent servicemen were admitted for general treatment and physiotherapy. On 1 July 1916 the Hospital became affiliated with the Horton (County of London) War Hospital in Epsom. As well as cases from overseas, the Hospital was heavily used by local troops suffering from severe illness.

The Hospital closed on 31 December 1918.

**HRH Princess Christian [also Christien] Hospital, “Whitehall” South Norwood Hill, Croydon**

Also referred to as Princess Christian's Hospital for British Wounded, under the
patronage of Princess Christian, it had at some stage 52 beds. It operated from 24 March 1915 to 24 March 1919.

In the records it had to be highlighted that it came under the control of the Surrey Division.

Kenry House Hospital for Officers, Kingston Hill, Kingston-upon-Thames
During WW1 the Infirmary provided care for injured servicemen, with 150 beds reserved for them, although only 100 were used at first. The surgical equipment was much improved as a result of this. The Infirmary was affiliated to the Horton (County of London) War Hospital as a Class B hospital on 1 August 1915. In 1918 the military bed complement was extended to 150 beds, largely used as an adjunct to the Eye Department of Horton Hospital. The military wards closed on 22 January 1919.

Kingston, Surbiton and District Red Cross Hospital, Kingston Road, New Malden, Surrey
In 1915 the buildings at Norbiton Common Farm, a branch institution of the Kingston Union workhouse, were requisitioned by the War Office for use as an auxiliary military hospital to King George Hospital in Stamford Street.

The Hospital opened in August 1915 with 198 beds for enlisted servicemen.

Some 1,234 patients were treated during 1916; during that year the number of beds was increased to 232.

The nursing staff consisted of a Matron, an Assistant Matron, 5 Sisters, 4 staff nurses and 50 members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) (20 of whom were nurses and 30 who provided general service).

By 1917 the bed complement had increased to 270.

The Hospital closed in the first week of June 1919. During its operational lifetime, over 5,000 patients had been admitted.

Kirkstall, Dorking

Kitto Relief Hospital, 1 Church Road, South Park, Reigate
By the outbreak of WW1 Mrs Kitto's Free Convalescent Home, or the South Park Convalescent Home (established in 1872 and previously used during the Second Boer War, 1899-1902) had ceased to be a convalescent home and it was offered by Mr W C ALEXANDER to the War Office for use as an auxiliary military hospital.

The premises were improved and the Kitto Relief Hospital opened on 9th November 1914. At first it was used as an annexe to Hillfield Auxiliary Hospital but, from 28th September 1915, it was affiliated to the Horton (County of London) War Hospital at Epsom. It had 24 beds and provided general treatment, massage and passive exercise to injured servicemen. Located in a sunny, airy position, the house also had a pleasant sheltered garden. The nursing staff consisted of a Matron, 2 nurses from the local Voluntary Aid Detachment and a masseuse. The military wards closed on
31st March 1919.

In 1919 the property was given to the London Hospital, who renamed it The Croft Home. It served as an annexe to the Hospital, becoming a convalescent home for mothers of large families, particularly from the East End.

**Lady Ellenboro’s Hospital, Windlesham**

**Limnerslease, Compton**
A military convalescence hospital.

**Llandaff Auxiliary, Military Hospital, Caenswood Close, Weybridge**
The Llandaff Auxiliary Military Hospital opened in September 1916 in a house lent by Mr H F LOCKE KING. Mrs Ethel LOCKE KING was the Commandant of the local Voluntary Air Detachment (VAD), which also managed several other auxiliary hospitals in the area.

The Hospital was an annexe to the [Brooklands Auxiliary Military Hospital](#) and had 34 beds. It was affiliated to Bethnal Green Military Hospital and provided general treatment for convalescent servicemen. The nursing staff consisted of a Matron, a nurse, a masseuse and 5 living-in VAD nurses.

By 1917 the Hospital had 40 beds.

It closed in April 1919.

**Merstham Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital, Chaldon Rise, Rockshaw Road, Merstham**
The Merstham Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital opened on 1 January 1915, a 9-bedroom house with 10 acres of grounds.

Staffed by the Surrey/84 Voluntary Aid Detachment, it initially had 25 beds. By the end of March 1915 it had 30 beds and was fully occupied. On 1 July 1916 it was affiliated to the Horton (County of London) War Hospital in Epsom as a Class B hospital. Some 167 sick and wounded servicemen were treated in 1916.

By 1917 the Hospital had 33 beds. A Recreation Room was built in the garden.

The Hospital closed on 10 March 1919.

**Moor Hill Auxiliary Hospital for Officers, Hindhead**
Little is known about this hospital. It is recorded that Mrs MARKHAM offered hospitality at Moor Hill to 8 officers in November 1915; this gradually increased to 11. Mrs MARKHAM financed the Home entirely herself until August 1918.

See also: Surrey in the Great War [Moor Hill Auxiliary Hospital for Officers, Hindhead](#)

**Morden Hall Auxiliary Hospital, Morden Hall Road, Morden**
In 1914 Mr Gilliat Edward HATFEILD offered Morden Hall to the London Hospital
(which had become a section of the Bethnal Green Military Hospital) for use as a convalescent home for sick and wounded servicemen. The property had been empty since Mr HATFEILD, a bachelor, had decided it was too large for his needs and had moved into Morden Cottage, a smaller property on his estate.

The Morden Hall Auxiliary Hospital had 99 beds. It was managed by the London Hospital but Mr HATFEILD funded the Hospital himself and provided meat and fresh provisions from the estate gardens for the staff and patients.

The Hospital closed in 1918.

Newlands Corner Auxiliary Hospital, Newlands Corner, near Guildford
John St Loe STRACHEY built ‘Newlands Corner’ in 1892. The STRACHEYs ran their house from April 1915 to March 1919 as a 24 bed Auxiliary Red Cross Hospital.

Oakenshaw Auxiliary Hospital, Oakenshaw, Oakhill, Surbiton
The Oakenshaw Auxiliary Hospital opened on 18 November 1914 in the private home of Mr and Mrs F MARDEN RANGER. It had 46 beds, 12 of which were occupied by December.

The Hospital was affiliated to the Fourth London General Hospital and provided general and surgical treatment for disabled soldiers. The nursing staff consisted of a Sister-in-Charge, 2 Sisters, a masseuse and 14 nursing members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), of which Mrs Katherine Sarah MARDEN RANGER was the Commandant. Two other members of the VAD undertook general duties.

During 1917 some 161 patients were admitted, and 40 operations were performed.

The Hospital closed in April 1919

Oaklands Red Cross Hospital, Knowle Lane, Cranleigh
Oaklands Hospital began work on 5 Jan 1916 when 20 patients were transferred from the County of London War Hospital, Epsom. The hospital was full by 10 March 1916. The hospital was taken over in July as an auxiliary to the newly opened War Hospital in Guildford. Patient numbers had reached 110 when it was closed on 4 August 1916 for repairs and cleaning. It re-opened on 26 August 1916 and, from then on, only received patients from Guildford hospitals.

See also: Surrey in the Great War Cranleigh in January 1916

Oatlands Park Hospital, Oatlands Drive, Weybridge
In 1916 the Oatlands Park Hotel was requisitioned by the War Office for use as an auxiliary hospital to the No. 2 New Zealand General Hospital, a mile to the northeast, in Walton-on-Thames. The Hotel was almost directly opposite the Barham Lodge Auxiliary Hospital.

The Oatlands Park Hospital accommodated medical and tuberculosis cases. It was also a rehabilitation centre for servicemen who had lost a limb (colloquially known as
'limbies'). Amputees were able to attend the nearby Queen Mary's Convalescent Home at Roehampton to be fitted with artificial limbs.

The British Red Cross Society established workshops and classrooms at the Hospital, where the disabled men could learn new skills to enable them to be self-supporting in civilian life. In May 1918 the men's work was displayed in London during a conference on the aftercare of disabled soldiers. It was declared the 'best and most practical display in the whole exhibition'.

Relatively few New Zealand troops were amputees. Just over 1,000 were listed as limbless war pensioners in 1924, compared to over 41,000 British servicemen. (This high number of amputations was caused not only directly by projectile injuries, but also by the wounds being contaminated by mud in the trenches and battlefields. In an era with no antibiotic therapy, this led to gas gangrene and other infections.)

The Hospital closed in 1920, shortly after its parent hospital at Walton-on-Thames.

Obo, Walton-on-Thames
See Golf View Hospital (previously Obo), Walton-on-Thames

Ormefield, Redhill
This has been included as an example of the range of properties under the banner 'auxiliary hospitals'. The owner makes an offer in December 1915 of accommodating 2 beds. There is no reply on record but was probably too small to be considered.

Ottermead Auxiliary Military Hospital, Ottershaw, Chertsey (Aldershot Command)
The Ottermead Auxiliary Military Hospital opened in December 1914. Ottermead, the Surrey seat of the Earl of MEATH, had been lent by the Countess of MEATH and was a substantial house.

It was used as an overflow hospital for Caens Hill Auxiliary Military Hospital and, by the end of March 1915, its 12 beds were all occupied.

By 1917 the Hospital had 25 beds (later increased to 30) for enlisted men and was affiliated to the Second London General Hospital. It specialised in eye cases and those suffering from shell-shock. Its Commandant was ETHEL LOCKE KING, D.B.E., and the nursing staff consisted of a Matron, 1 trained nurse, a masseur and 5 living-in members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment.

It closed in March 1919.

Ottershaw Park Auxiliary Hospital, Chobham Road, Chertsey, Surrey
Ottershaw Park Auxiliary Hospital opened initially in October 1914 with 30 beds as overflow accommodation for St George's Hill Auxiliary Hospital. The mansion had been lent for the purpose by its owner, Friedrich ECKSTEIN (1857-1930), who continued to live on the top floor while the rest of the building was given over to the Red Cross. Mr ECKSTEIN, a German who had been granted British nationality in
1906, bore all the expenses of the Hospital himself.

The first patients had been received from the Connaught Hospital in Aldershot. After they had been discharged, the Hospital closed. It re-opened again in September 1915 with 24 beds for sick and wounded servicemen. It was affiliated to the Southwark Military Hospital.

The nursing staff consisted of a Matron, a Sister, a masseur and 3 living-in members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment.

In 1915 patients from the Hospital, as well as those in the Ottermead Auxiliary Hospital, were made honorary members of the Ottershaw Social Club (the British Legion later was amalgamated with the Club).

By February 1918 the Hospital had 29 beds and provided general treatment for convalescent patients.

It closed in January 1919.

Park View, Woldingham

Piccards Rough Relief Hospital, Sandy Lane, Guildford

A 50 bed establishment open between 6 November and 3 December 1915.

Red Cross Annexe to Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford

Red Gables, Bletchingley

Redhill War Hospital, Earlswood Common

During WW1, in 1915-16, a new infirmary was built on the eastern part of the Redhill General Hospital site.

In May 1917 the Army Council requisitioned the new building and, in the following month, it became the Redhill War Hospital.

The War Hospital was officially opened on 20 June by Lord ASHCOMBE, the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, and Lady ASHCOMBE. It was affiliated to Croydon War Hospital and had 80 beds for wounded and sick servicemen, an operating theatre, an X-ray Department and a Massage Department. It was staffed by members of the Surrey/108 Voluntary Aid Detachment. On 3 July 1917 the Hospital received its first convoy of wounded.

It became a first-line hospital, receiving the wounded direct from overseas.

The War Hospital closed on 31 December 1918. However, a curative post (outpatients clinic) opened the following day, on 1st January 1919. It was established by a Mrs LEMON of the British Red Cross Society at the request of the Ministry of Pensions to provide continuing care for discharged soldiers still in need of medical
treatment. The clinic provided a change of dressings for unhealed wounds or sores, attention to minor ailments of the eyes, ears, throat, etc, and massage, exercise and electrical treatments - galvanism, faradism, radiant heat - for injured limbs.

Red House Auxiliary Hospital, Bull Hill, Leatherhead, Surrey
The Red House Auxiliary Hospital opened on 21 October 1914 in a property lent by Mr J W BURTON. It had 20 beds and its first patients were wounded Belgian soldiers. The Hospital was under Eastern Command, affiliated to the Horton (County of London) War Hospital. The nursing staff consisted of a Matron and 3 Sisters, assisted by 6 members of the Surrey/22 Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), with the Surrey/17 VAD acting as orderlies.

By the end of March 1915 it had 33 beds and was fully occupied.

By 1916 there were 36 beds. In that year, some 306 in-patients were treated. Many were severe cases who remained several months. The Hospital also treated out-patients (some 80 were seen in 1916), who were men on furlough, disabled soldiers or Army Service men doing farm work. The Hospital did not have an operating theatre or X-ray Department, but provided general treatment, massage and electrical treatments - ionisation and cataphoresis (the introduction of drugs into the body by means of an electric current) - and, later, wound irrigation.

In 1917 the number of beds was increased to 40. The extra beds, bedding and blankets were all supplied to the Hospital by the local population.

The Hospital closed on 14 February 1919. During its operational lifetime, 698 in-patients had been treated. The low number reflects the seriousness of many of the cases (despite this, there were no deaths at the Hospital). In addition, 125 out-patients and 52 soldiers on the march had also received treatment.

Richmond Red Cross Hospital, Old Friars, The Green, Richmond
On 8th August 1914, four days war after had been declared, a meeting of the Richmond Branch of the British Red Cross Society decided to launch an appeal for funds to establish a hospital. Within a month some £800 had been raised from a house-to-house collection.

The Richmond Red Cross Hospital was established in Old Friars, a substantial double-fronted property lent by Captain and Mrs C B M HODGSON. The property had once been the Richmond Liberal and Reform Club but had been empty since 1907. It had been given to Captain HODGSON by his father as a wedding present, but the Captain was serving at the front. The building, with its wide staircases and large rooms, was ideally suited as a hospital, and there was a large kitchen and plenty of bedrooms for the staff. It had been equipped and furnished by means of gifts and loans of the necessary furniture.

The first patients were admitted on 6 November 1914. Both medical and surgical treatment were provided. The Hospital had 45 beds, with the largest of the nine wards containing 10 beds. Three of the principal wards had a ward kitchen. The
Operating theatre had a bathroom attached.

There were 3 Medical Officers and several visiting consulting surgeons. The nursing staff consisted of a Matron, 2 nurses and 25 members of the Surrey/4 Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) from the Richmond Division, who cooked and did housework as well as providing nursing care. The number of VAD members soon increased to 40.

At first the Hospital was affiliated to the Third London General Hospital; by April 1915, some 200 patients had been received. Later it became an overflow hospital for the Second London General Hospital.

In July 1915 the War Office requested that the Hospital be enlarged to 100 beds. Mrs COCKBURN consented to vacate her house Abbotsdene, adjacent to Old Friars, so that it could be used as an extension to the Hospital. An opening was made in the wall dividing the two properties.

In 1916 the Hospital was receiving 2 shillings (10p) a day capitation grant per occupied bed from the War Office, but the rapid rise in the cost of provision had rendered this quite inadequate. The Hospital applied for an increase, which was allowed.

After almost three and a half years, some 1,787 patients had received treatment at the Hospital, 655 of them during 1917. By this time the staff consisted of a Matron, a radiographer, 2 masseuses and 45 members of the VAD (by the end of the war there were 100 VADs).

In April 1918 the Hospital was transferred to the administration of the Richmond Military Hospital in Grove Road.

The Hospital closed on 30 April 1919. During 1918-1919 some 718 patients were treated.

The total number admitted during the operational lifetime of the Hospital (4 years and 5 months) was 2,505.

Royal Flying Corps Hospital, Shirley House, Shirley Park Golf Course, 194 Addiscombe Road, Croydon

In 1916 the company owning the Shirley Park Golf Course, of which Mr D G COLLINS was Chairman, briefly lent its Clubhouse to the British Red Cross for use as an auxiliary military hospital. The Clubhouse of the Golf Course, which had opened in 1914, had once been Shirley House, the country seat of Lord ELDON (1805-1854).

The Auxiliary Hospital for Officers opened on 9 January 1916 and closed on 10 April the same year.

In 1917 the Clubhouse once again became an auxiliary hospital, this time for officers of the Royal Flying Corps.
The Croydon Borough Electricity Committee agreed to provide electricity free of charge to the Hospital.

It closed in 1918.

St Dorothy's Convalescence Home for Soldiers, Croham Manor Road, Croydon
The 15 beds were under the command of Miss Ethel LINK (see also Wallacfield Auxiliary Hospital).

St George’s Hill Auxiliary Hospital, St George’s Hill Golf Club, Weybridge
St George’s Hill Golf Club had opened on 2nd October 1913, with Prince ALEXANDER OF TECK as its President. However, the future prosperity of the Club was affected by the outbreak of WW1 in 1914, when some 120 members and 9 indoor staff immediately volunteered for voluntary service. The Committee therefore responded to an appeal by the War Office and offered the Clubhouse for use as a military hospital. The offer was accepted and some £1,500 was subscribed by the members of the Club to convert and equip the building.

St George’s Hill Auxiliary Hospital opened on 1 October 1914, with much ceremony, under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society.

The ground floor lounge of the Clubhouse had been converted into a ward with 30 beds, while upstairs the dining hall had become a ward with 20 beds. The Hospital was staffed by 3 Medical Officers, a Matron, 2 Sisters, 3 trained nurses and 18 members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment under the command of Mrs Ethel LOCKE-KING, (who received a DBE in 1918).

The first patients were received from the Connaught Hospital in Aldershot, but soon more beds were needed and Mr F ECKSTEIN offered his mansion, Ottershaw Park, to the Red Cross as overflow accommodation. The Grange in Chertsey and Blackthorns and West Hall in Byfleet also served as overflow accommodation.

Sometimes relations between the Red Cross and the Directors of the Golf Club became difficult during the initial stages of the war, as the Club was attempting to keep its greens and workshops in good condition with a view to future use when hostilities ceased. This meant that Golf Club personnel were on site while most of the Club’s buildings were occupied by the Hospital. Problems also arose over who was responsible for payment of the water rate (vital to the Golf Club) and who would pay for any repairs if damage occurred to the buildings. Despite these strains, in December 1915, the Club renewed its offer of the Clubhouse for use as a hospital for the duration of the war.

During the course of the war staffing levels had decreased while the number of beds had increased to 70. An operating theatre and an X-ray apparatus had also been installed, enabling major operations to be carried out.

In 1916 a new Recreation Hall was built for the patients’ use, the cost of it being met
by the residents of St George's Hill and others who lived near the Hospital.

Initially the Hospital had been affiliated with the Southwark Military Hospital in East Dulwich, but later in 1917 came under the command of Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital at Millbank.

The Hospital closed early on 15th March 1919. Some 3,000 wounded servicemen had been treated in its operational lifetime.

Negotiations began with the Red Cross to settle claims for dilapidations of the Club House after four years of war. Eventually, in November 1919, the Club accepted £600 from the Red Cross to cover the cost of repairs and resuscitation.

Sawyers, Chequers Lane, Walton-on-Thames

Schiff Home of Recovery, Knowle Hill Park, Fairmile Lane, Cobham
The Schiff Home of Recovery opened in November 1910 and initially received patients from six London teaching hospitals - Charing Cross Hospital, King's College Hospital, the Middlesex Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital, University College Hospital and the London Hospital. It provided accommodation for surgical patients recovering from accidents or operations who were not well enough to return to their normal activities, but did not need much nursing care, thus freeing up acute beds in the general hospitals.

During WW1 Sir Ernest SCHILL placed 21 beds at the disposal of the War Office and it became a 'Hospital for the Wounded' - the first hospital outside London to receive wounded soldiers. The Home was classified as Class B and was affiliated with the Horton (County of London) War Hospital on 28 September 1915. Two further wards were added in 1918, creating an extra 40 beds. The military section of the Home closed on 2 October 1919.

See also: Surrey in the Great War Schiff Home for Recovery, Cobham

Silverbeech, Croydon
In November 1914 a letter to the St John Ambulance Association stated it was “…not in a sanitary condition to receive patients. Steps are being taken to transfer the hospital to more suitable premises”.

South Croydon Relief Hospital, 254, Brighton Road, South Croydon
The South Croydon Relief Hospital (also known as the Brighton Road Hospital) opened in September 1914 in the premises of the South Croydon Convalescent Home for Children on the Brighton Road. It had been organised in August 1914 by Dr W T DEMPSTER, the medical officer of the children's home, who had furnished it with the help of friends.

The Hospital had 20 beds and was designated as Class B. By the end of March 1915 it had 22 beds, which were all occupied. On 22 November 1915 it was affiliated
to the Horton War Hospital. It was run by Dr DEMPSTER and provided general treatment and massage for wounded servicemen.

The Hospital closed on 20th December 1918.

**Sutton Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital, Benfleet Hall, Benhilton, Sutton**

The Sutton Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital opened on 11 June 1915. It had been established in Benfleet Hall, which had been lent for the purpose by Mr W K APPLETON.

The Hospital had 60 beds and was affiliated to the King George Hospital, Stamford Street. It was staffed by a Matron, 5 Sisters, 2 masseuses and 31 members of the Surrey/102 and /104 Voluntary Aid Detachments. It offered general treatment for sick and wounded servicemen.

By 1917 the Hospital had 103 beds.

After the Armistice it became affiliated to the Mile End Military Hospital.

It closed on 7 April 1919. During its operational lifetime, some 2,186 patients had been treated.

**Temple Hill House, Kingston**

Donated to SJAA by Mr Hubert POWER of Faithrigg, Waterford, Ireland, it was established as a convalescent home for wounded sailors and soldiers, with 20 beds and opened on 20 November 1914.

In March 1915, at the request of the Joint Committee, it became an Auxiliary Hospital with the matron as first Miss HACKETT, later Miss HUGHES.

As at January 1917 it was reported that there had been no deaths and had admitted 220 convalescents and patients.

**The Beeches Auxiliary War Hospital, Wray Lane, Reigate Hill**

In March 1916 Mrs A C BROWN of Brokes Lodge, Reigate, opened an auxiliary hospital for sick and wounded servicemen in The Beeches, a house in Wray Lane, Reigate Hill. The Beeches Auxiliary Military Hospital had 20 beds and was affiliated to the Third London General Hospital.

In October 1916 a large wooden hut was built in the grounds of the property, which doubled the bed accommodation to 40.

The Hospital had a nursing staff of a Matron, a trained nurse, 8 members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (who lived in) and a masseuse. Patients received general and X-ray treatments, massage and electrotherapy.

Following a request from the War Office for more bed accommodation, the Commandant arranged for the Hospital to move to larger premises. The Hospital re-
opened in July 1917 in Fairfield, in nearby Beech Road, with 50 beds.

In September 1917 the Hospital became affiliated with the Lewisham Military Hospital.

It closed on 31 May 1919.

See also: Surrey in the Great War The Beeches Hospital, Reigate

The Glen, Leigh Hill, Cobham
In December 1914 it was offered with 4 beds (“…and one more…”).

The Grange, Chertsey (Aldershot Command)
The Grange Auxiliary Hospital opened on 30 January 1915 in a house lent by a Mrs Vivian BRETTLE.

The house, built on the slopes of St Ann's Hill, a 20-minute walk away from Chertsey, was large and comfortable with pleasant grounds, mature shady trees, and tennis and croquet lawns.

At first the Hospital had 10 beds and received overflow patients from St George's Hill Auxiliary Hospital. By the end of March 1915 the beds were all occupied.

The bed complement was soon increased to 20, then 25, and the Hospital became affiliated to the Tooting Military Hospital. The nursing staff consisted of a Sister-in-charge and members of the Surrey/82, /96 and /122 Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs).

By 1917 the Hospital had 30 beds for wounded servicemen, who usually stayed for about two weeks, receiving general treatment and massage (physiotherapy). The nursing staff now included a Matron and 2 resident VAD nurses.

The Hospital closed on 23 January 1919. During its operational lifetime, some 1,038 patients had been treated. The expenses of the Hospital, beyond the military grant, had been borne entirely locally, and included gifts of vegetables, fruit, flowers, cakes, etc.

The Grange Auxiliary Hospital, 1 Central Road, Morden
The Grange Auxiliary Hospital was opened in 1915 by its founder and Matron, Mrs LEWIN, as an auxiliary military hospital with 34 beds.

It presumably closed in 1918 at the end of the war

The Highlands Auxiliary Hospital, Shortheath, Farnham
The Highlands Military Hospital was opened with 40 beds on 8 March 1915 as an auxiliary to the Military Hospital, Frensham Hill and thus under Aldershot Command. Thanks to the generosity of the neighbourhood and substantial support from the Lord Lieutenant’s County Fund and the Farnham War Relief Fund, the expenses of equipment were kept to a minimum. It was staffed entirely by the Bourne VAD (No. 74), one medical officer, Dr Rubens WADE, a Lady Superintendent, Miss M A
PEDDIE, and two trained nurses. The commandant was Miss A MILLER. Four masseuses were also employed. By 31 December 1915 400 patients had passed through the hospital.

The hospital continued to grow and in September 1916 it was registered under the War Charities’ Act. A Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr Ernest CRUNDWELL was appointed. The number of beds was increased to 46 by the conversion of a small garden house into a ward and 600 patients were treated that year. A permanent Sister-in-Charge, was appointed.

The accommodation at the hospital was increased early in 1917 by the erection of a hut. It was intended to use the hut for recreation, but, owing to the high demand for beds it was very soon turned into a ward. This increased the number of beds to 51. At the same time, the largest ward in the hospital was taken over as a day and recreation Room. Dr Rubens WADE served as medical officer until June 1917 when he was replaced by Dr F HANCOCK of Bentley. 492 men passed through the hospital during 1917.

More beds were needed and in 1918 the number was increased to 71. Two marquees and the extra beds were provided by Aldershot. Miss MILLER continued to act as Commandant and in 1918 she received the M.B.E. Two of her staff also received honours.

The hospital was closed early in 1919 and a Curative Post under the Surrey Red Cross was set up in the Hospital Hut, which was moved to a more central position in the town for the benefit of War Pensioners in the district. The post was opened to patients in June 1919, and between June and the end of the year 44 War Pensioners attended and 2,962 treatments were given.

See also: Surrey in the Great War The Highlands Military Hospital, Farnham

The Hill Auxiliary Hospital, Latchwood Lane, Lower Bourne, Farnham

A hospital with 60 O/Rs beds attached to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot Command.

Lent by Mrs LEWIN, it was opened on 9 October 1914 with 36 beds (and a further 10 in an annexe); later, in 1915, a hut with a further 24 beds was erected in the grounds.

The hospital closed in early 1919 with 1, 950 cases having passed through its doors.

See also: Surrey in the Great War The Hill Military Hospital, Farnham

The Mount, Park Hill Road, Croydon

In December 1914 this house was “…declined as the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector have condemned it on account of faulty drainage

The Princess Christian British Red Cross Hospital, Englefield Green

The Princess Christian Red Cross Hospital was officially opened on 11 September 1915 by Princess CHRISTIAN OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN. Built in 12 weeks on
Crown property at Englefield Green, almost on the southeast border of Windsor Park, it was located a mile or so from Egham. It was affiliated with the Royal Herbert Hospital in Woolwich.

The Hospital consisted of six pavilions containing 20 beds each, laid out in a semi-circle facing south. Behind these were 27 other buildings for clinical, administrative and staff use. The site contained an up-to-date operating theatre with an exceptionally well-equipped X-ray room, a Pathology Laboratory, a dispensary, a kitchen, store rooms, mess rooms, and staff quarters with bedrooms and sitting rooms for the Commandant, the Resident Medical Officers, the Matron and Assistant Matron, and cubicles for 15 Sisters and members of the Surrey/96 Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD). Gas radiators and slow combustion stoves provided heating. There was a plentiful supply of bathrooms for all ranks. The Hospital was lit by electric lighting and was connected to the telephone system.

In 1917 the Hospital was taken over by the military authorities and it became the Princess Christian Military Hospital. From 1915 to 1917 some 575 patients had been treated, of whom 403 returned to active duty. Twelve were discharged from service, 32 sent to other hospitals for specific treatment, and 24 transferred elsewhere (the others remained in Hospital). The low number of cases reflects the serious nature of the injuries, requiring a long period of in-patient care.

The Hospital closed in 1919. Of the 3,400 patients treated there, some 2,900 had arrived directly from the front. Only 17 had died.

The St John Ambulance Association Temporary Hospital, Poplar Walk, Croydon
There is much, often acrimonious correspondence about this establishment with the Medical Officer of Health had it “…utterly condemned mainly of the grounds of insufficient ventilation”. A Mrs ADAMS suspected that the local council did not want the hospital but declared that it was suitable to 25 beds; a later inspection changed this to 53 beds.

There is no indication if it became operational.

The White House Auxiliary Hospital, Cheam [located on the corner of Cheam High Street and Park Road]
Open at least from October 1918 to the summer of 1919.

Thorncombe Military Hospital, Bramley
The hospital opened on 16 October 1914; it was named after the house in which it was sited, Thorncombe Park, which was owned by Colonel Herbert Fisher ROWE. Thorncombe was a recuperation or convalescence hospital attached to the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot Command. All soldiers at Thorncombe were initially treated in Aldershot.

In charge as commandant was Mrs Lilian Marion Estella PHILLIPS of nearby Unsted Park. Chief medical officer was a local man, Doctor William GRAHAM, who was assisted by Doctors DOTTERIDGE, LANKESTER, EDE and HOUSDEN, with Dr
Wyatt being a surgical assistant. In charge of nursing was Matron Miss M McCORMAC. She moved on to another appointment in 1915 and was replaced by a Miss B HOPE who in turn was replaced by Mary NICHOLSON from February 1918 until closure. Initially there was one sister and 3 Red Cross nurses whilst all other nursing and auxiliary staff were VADs.

The hospital was run with a considerable amount of voluntary assistance from local people, in the form of mending, cooking and cleaning. The hospital's income, totalling £21,557, came from a variety of sources: £13,802 from government grants; £986 from county funds and the remainder (£6,796) from local sources, including subscriptions, donations, the proceeds of entertainments and other collections.

It closed on 31 January 1919 and treated 2,289 patients while it was open.

See also: Surrey in the Great War Thorncombe Red Cross Military Hospital, Bramley

Wallacefield Auxiliary Hospital, Coombe Road, South Lane
At the outbreak of WW1, on the suggestion of his daughter May, George GOODSIR, J.P. offered his home Wallacefield to the Order of St John for use as an auxiliary hospital.

Wallacefield Auxiliary Hospital opened in September 1914, affiliated to the Fourth London General Hospital.

Wallacefield was a large modern house set in two acres of grounds. The Hospital had 20 beds (although the agreement of 16 September 1914 with George GOODSIR amended this to 25) in eight wards, including one on the ground floor, and a small operating theatre. The large lounge hall was used as a Recreation Room, while the dining room had a billiard table. There was also a large kitchen pantry and a workshop.

The first patients to arrive - on 23rd October 1914 - were two British soldiers, followed shortly after by 15 Belgian soldiers from Antwerp via Aberdeen.

The Hospital was originally managed by Miss Ethel LINK (who later became the Commandant of St Dorothy's Convalescent Home for Soldiers). Later, Mr GOODSIR's wife [Agnes, her diaries for 1914-1916 can be seen in the Order of St John Archives] took over as Lady Superintendent, while May GOODSIR acted as Honorary Secretary and Quartermaster (the rest of the family lived elsewhere). A trained Sister was in charge of the nursing care, while nursing, kitchen and domestic chores were undertaken by members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment.

The Hospital received no capitation grant from the War Office, and Mr GOODSIR paid the costs of the equipment and maintenance of the Hospital himself. The Croydon Borough Electricity Committee agreed to provide electricity free of charge.

In 1916 the accommodation was increased to 29 beds.
By the end of 1917 some 245 patients had been treated.

Apart from three short periods when it closed for spring-cleaning, the Hospital remained occupied throughout the war.

It closed in December 1918.

The Hospital had existed for 1,560 days, the same number as the duration of the war. During its operational lifetime, 1,152 patients had received treatment.

**Wallington Red Cross Hospital, Woodcote Road, Wallington**

**Waverley Abbey Auxiliary Hospital, Tilford, Farnham**

Waverley Abbey House was the home of Major Rupert ANDERSON, his wife, Amy, and their family. Mrs ANDERSON was already, before the outbreak of war, the Commandant of Red Cross Detachment No. 56 in the Surrey Division, and the house was offered to the government at the beginning of the war. Waverley Abbey Military Hospital was opened in September 1914 attached to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot Command. It contained 60 beds and was worked by the Surrey 56 Red Cross Detachment with help from the men of the Surrey 23 Detachment who supplied night and day orderlies and helped with stretcher parties. Mrs ANDERSON herself became Commandant of the hospital. Drs TRAVERS, TANNER and HUSSEY were the Honorary Medical Officers and Miss POTTER was Matron, operating theatre. In 1914 twenty-four members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) worked at the hospital. The first patients were wounded soldiers from the Mons retreat of August/September 1914.

In 1915 the average number of patients was 60; for several weeks the number was over 70. By 1915 Red Cross reported that 840 patients had been admitted since the hospital had been opened and that there had been no deaths.

As casualty numbers rose more beds were needed and following a request from the War Office huts were built in the grounds, bringing the total number of beds to 100. These were expected to be filled by January 1916.

The number of patients steadily increased and in 1916 1,254 patients passed through the hospital. The work of the hospital was very successful and there were no deaths recorded during the year.

During 1917 1,314 patients were admitted.

The year 1918 was the busiest year in the history of the hospital. The Commandant had already agreed to the addition of 50 more beds if the need arose and this was accomplished by putting more beds in each ward, by turning the recreation hut into a ward and by erecting eight tents. By early summer the number of beds had been increased to 246. The number of patients admitted during the year was 1,348, the average stay being 30 days.
Early in March 1919 the work of Waverley Abbey as a hospital came to a close. It had been open for 4½ years and had never closed for a single day during the war. The number of beds had increased from 60 in 1914 to 246. The Senior Sister (Miss L REEVES) and 20 other members of the staff had worked in the hospital from its opening to its close. The boys of the 1st and 3rd Troops of the Farnham Boy Scouts gave loyal and willing help throughout the whole war.

See also: Surrey in the Great War Waverley Abbey Hospital

Westdene*, 16 Chatsworth Road, Croydon

In December 1914 this house was declared to the St John Ambulance Association as a suitable house for an auxiliary hospital. It was owned by Mr CROWLY, a local brewer who was “…not keen for us [ie SJAA] to let us have it…”. There was toing-and-froing, first to decline then to accept, so by 18 December 1914 the reply was that if a definite offer was made, a application would be submitted to the War Office Eastern Command to use it as an auxiliary hospital for “…sick Territorials…”. There is nothing else in the records to indicate if it became operational.

*The modern name of the house.

West Hall, West Byfleet

See St George’s Hill Auxiliary Hospital

Windlesham Court Auxiliary Hospital, Windlesham

A hospital with 60 O/Rs bed hospital attached to Connaught Hospital, Aldershot Command.

Windlesham Moor Auxiliary Hospital, Windlesham

A hospital with 60 O/Rs bed hospital attached to Connaught Hospital, Aldershot Command.

SOURCES

NOTE: As mentioned above First World War Auxiliary Hospitals were ‘managed’ by the Army Medical Service and jointly or separately by the British Red Cross (BRC) and the St John Ambulance Association (SJAA). Despite accessing their archives (and acknowledgement to Robert McINTOSH at the Museum of Military Medicine, Mehzebin ADAM and Abi CORNICK respectively for their assistance) there appears to no complete listing of Auxiliary Hospitals. Veronika CHAMBERS at the Lost Hospitals of London website has attempted to draw together those that were within the London ‘catchment’ area.

Reading the files, local BRC or SJAA detachments worked with local authorities (so for example, in Croydon, the Town Hall, Mayor and local health officials were consulted or had their say (sometimes acrimoniously)!). Once ‘approved’ by BRC or SJAA, form MU 66 was
completed and passed to the War Office for their endorsement.

Lost hospitals of London  http://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/ accessed 15 Feb 2014


List of auxiliary hospitals in the UK during the First World War, British Red Cross http://www.redcross.org.uk/~media/BritishRedCross/Documents/Who%20we%20are/History%20and%20archives/List%20of%20auxiliary%20hospitals%20in%20the%20UK%20during%20the%20First%20World%20War.pdf accessed 15 Feb 2017


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JOINT WAR COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY AND THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND et al (1921) Reports by the Joint War Committee and the Joint War Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England on Voluntary Aid Rendered to the Sick and Wounded at Home and Abroad and to British Prisoners of War 1914-1919 London : HMSO

ORDER OF ST JOHN Archive, Hospitals in Surrey files, namely OSJ/1/1/36 .../36/1 .../36/2 .../36/3 .../36/4 .../36/5 .../36/5/1 .../36/6 .../36/7 .../36/8

Epsom and Ewell in WW1 http://tinyurl.com/y7ss8egg  Accessed 13 August 2017