



**DURHAM**  
AT **WAR**



## **SOCIAL CENTRE, SUNDERLAND**

### **Transcript of correspondence concerning its use as 11th Durham Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital**

Records held by the archives at the Museum of the Order of St John

OSJ 1/1/12/10

**March 1915**

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**5 March 1915**

[copy of outgoing letter]

James Chalmers, Esq.

No. 11 Durham WVAD

Temporary Hospital

Social Centre

Sunderland

Dear Sir,

With regard to your letter to Mr. Edwards requesting him to forward you grant of £10 on mobilisation of your hospital, I beg to say that at present we have no details of the hospital on our books, nor have we heard of its existence. If, however, you will be good enough to fill in the enclosed form and return it here giving us all details and the date when you received patients, we shall be pleased to forward you the grant.

Yours faithfully,

[unsigned]

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**7 March 1915**

[annotated] Grant sent

1 Claremont Terrace

Sunderland

Mrs Oliver

Lady Quartermaster in Chief.

St John's Gate

London

Dear Madam

In reply to yours of March 5th re: No. 11th Durham Women's Voluntary Aid

Detachment Temporary Hospital, Social Centre, Sunderland, I beg to inform you that



the hospital was fitted up in August last. Patients were admitted from the Royal Infirmary Sunderland on November 15th 1914 and since then we have treated 100 sick and wounded soldiers.

On January 23rd 1915, CB Palmer Esq, County Director, wrote that our detachment had been registered at the War Office as Durham. On 25th January he wrote stating that the hospital staffed by our VAD will be known as No. 11 Durham VAD Hospital. The VAD is registered at St John's Gate as 746.

We receive patients from the Royal Infirmary here which is associated with the 1st Northern General Hospital, Armstrong College, Newcastle. We are recognised by them and have been paid from the Northern Command York.

I shall be pleased to answer any other questions. We shall be glad to have a grant as we had considerable expense in fitting up the hospital.

Yours faithfully

James Chalmers

Commandant

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**[no date]**

No.11 Durham WVAD

Temporary Hospital

Social Centre

Sunderland

WR Edwards Esq.

Dear Sir,

The above hospital has now been mobilised by the War Office. May I request that we be favoured with a grant of ten pounds towards establishment charges. We have



been at considerable expense in fitting up a bath [?] and cooking arrangements. We have had 88 patients in and expect more tomorrow.

Yours faithfully

James Chalmers MD

Commandant

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