



DURHAM
AT **WAR**



Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill

Transcript of correspondence concerning its use as 12th Durham Voluntary Aid Detachment hospital

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

OSJ 1/1/12/11

February – March 1915

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record.office@durham.gov.uk

26 February 1915

[copy of outgoing letter]

Dear Lady Perrott,

A hospital will be opened at the Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill, in conjunction with Shotley House, Shotley Bridge, both under St John, and for this the DDMS [Deputy Director Medical Services] Northern Command has promised a convoy of 100 patients direct from Southampton, provided that we can find a surgeon to take charge of the hospital. Sir Frederick Treves some time ago promised me a surgeon, but we were not then able to open the hospital, and I have a letter in response now for a surgeon from Sir Frederick Treves, informing me that he has not a single surgeon available. I do not know whether you can help in any way; I should be obliged if you could. If I should be able to secure a surgeon locally, in the event of your not having one, will the Joint War Committee be prepared to pay his salary?

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) CB Palmer

Deputy Commissioner No. 6 District

Cambridge Hall

Newcastle-on-Tyne

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**1st March 1915**

[copy of outgoing letter]

Dear Lady Perrott,

I think you will probably require these two letters for the Joint Committee tomorrow, as I understand from Miss Swift that there is to be a discussion with regard to withdrawing nurses from the continent.

I have communicated with Mr. Owen with regard to Mr. Palmer's request for a surgeon, as I thought this would save time.

[unsigned]

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2 March 1915

[copy of outgoing letter]

CB Palmer Esq.

Deputy Commissioner No. 6 District

Cambridge Hall

Newcastle-on-Tyne

Dear Mr. Palmer,

Would it be troubling you too much if I asked you to fill in the enclosed form with reference to the Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill, in order that we may have it for our general list of St John Hospitals.

Lady Perrott desires me to say that she is doing what she can about the surgeon and you will hear on this matter later.

Yours truly,

[unsigned]

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**2 March 1915**

The St John Ambulance Association

Territorial Branch

St John's Gate

Clerkenwell

London

CB Palmer Esq.

Deputy Commissioner No. 6 District

Cambridge Hall

Newcastle-on-Tyne

Dear Mr. Palmer,



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Would it be troubling you too much if I asked you to fill in the enclosed form with reference to the Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill, in order that we may have it for our general list of St. John Hospitals.

Lady Perrott desires me to say that she is doing what she can about the surgeon and you will hear on this matter later.

Yours truly,

BC Oliver

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15 March 1915

The St John Ambulance Brigade
No. VI (Northern) District
Deputy Commissioner: CB Palmer Esq
District Headquarters
Cambridge Hall
Newcastle-on-Tyne

Mrs Oliver
St John's Gate
Clerkenwell
London

Dear Mrs Oliver,

I return you herewith form for registration, of the Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill. This hospital has been in occupation for over a month.

Two detachments have been mobilised, namely Durham 14 and Durham 16. I think that the grant of £10-0-0 should be given to Durham 14. Durham 16 will occupy another hospital in the locality which has been accepted.

Yours faithfully,



CB Palmer
Deputy Commissioner

[annotated] West Hartlepool grant already sent.

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