



DURHAM
AT **WAR**



BENFIELDSIDE HOUSE, SHOTLEY BRIDGE

Transcript of correspondence concerning its use as 27th Durham Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital

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

OSJ 1/1/12/18

May 1918

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11 May 1918

Durham and Northumberland Voluntary Aid Organisation

Territorial Force Association

Order of St John and British Red Cross Society

Headquarters: Cambridge Hall

Northumberland Road

Newcastle-on-Tyne

County Director: Lieutenant-Colonel CB Palmer, CBE DL

The Chief Secretary

St John Ambulance Association

St John's Gate

Clerkenwell

London

Dear Sir,

I have to inform you that an additional hospital has been accepted by the War Office in the County of Durham and is organised by the St John Ambulance Brigade. The title of the Hospital is the: 27th Durham VA Hospital, situated at Benfieldside House, Shotley Bridge.

The Hospital was offered by Mr John Murray. The number of beds is 30. It is affiliated to the 1st Northern General Hospital and was opened as an extension of the 16th Durham VA Hospital, Shotley Bridge and now run separately.

Yours faithfully,

CB Palmer

Lieutenant Colonel

County Director, VAD

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**13 May 1918**

[copy of outgoing letter]

Lady Jekyll, DBE

St John Ambulance Warehouse

St John's Sq.

Dear Lady Jekyll,

I received this morning information that an additional hospital has been accepted by the War Office in the County of Durham and is organised by the St John Ambulance Brigade. The title of the hospital is:

27th Durham VA Hospital, situated at Benfieldside House, Shotley Bridge.

The hospital was offered by Mr John Murray. The number of beds is 30. It is affiliated to the 1st Northern General Hospital and was opened as an extension of the 16th Durham VA Hospital, Shotley Bridge, and now run separately.

Yours sincerely,

[unsigned]

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13 May 1918

[copy of outgoing letter]

R. Fox-Symons, Esq. MD

83, Pall Mall

Dear Sir,

I received this morning information that an additional hospital has been accepted by the War Office in the County of Durham and is organised by the St John Ambulance Brigade. The title of the Hospital is:

27th Durham VA Hospital, situated at Benfieldside House, Shotley Bridge.



The hospital was offered by Mr John Murray. The number of beds is 30. It is affiliated to the 1st Northern General Hospital and was opened as an extension of the 16th Durham VA Hospital, Shotley Bridge, and now run separately.

Yours sincerely,

[unsigned]

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**14 May 1918**

British Red Cross Society

The Order of St John of Jerusalem in England

Joint War Committee

83, Pall Mall

London

Please reply to Dr Fox Symons

Room 91

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant. I have duly noted that an additional St John Hospital had been opened in the County of Durham which I will add to the St John List in the Roll of Hospitals.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R Fox-Symons

(Auxiliary Home Hospital Department)

The Chief Secretary

St John's Gate

Clerkenwell

London

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16 May 1918

Lieutenant Colonel CB Palmer CBE

Cambridge Hall

Newcastle-on-Tyne

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 11th May informing me of the additional hospital which has been accepted by the War Office in the County of Durham. This addition has been noted.

Yours faithfully,

[unsigned]

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