

Staff at Standish V.A.D. Hospital



Maud Phillimore came from a well-off family and lived at Berryfield, Stonehouse.

She was 54 years old when the Hospital opened and became Quartermaster.

She was awarded an M.B.E. for her work.



Standish Red Cross Hospital. (1)

Matron Cicely Helen Burbidge was about 30 when the Hospital opened in 1915.

She came from London and had done her nurse's training at Steyning Union Workhouse, Kingston-by-Sea.



Miss H. C. BURBIDGE, A.R.R.C.

Matron

Hospital staff

- 8 professional nursing sisters
- several medical staff (1 in residence)
- more than 70 unmarried, female V.A.D. & Red Cross volunteers (from well-off families)

Duties of Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D.) volunteers (known by some as "Very Adaptable Dames")!

- look after the soldiers
- scrub the floors
- work as scullery maids
- work in the laundry
- stoke the fires
- lay the tables
- darn socks in spare time!

These women from well-off families suddenly had wounded soldiers depending on them.

Like many tasks in this War, women had to take over from men who had gone to the Forces. They found they were capable of doing men's work and being independent — and liked it!



As some of the soldiers began to get better, they helped out with chores. They were allowed to go to the village and even to Stroud — but had to be back by 6:30pm—or got no supper!