

[Home](#)

[Browse](#)

[Latest additions](#)

[Policies](#)



A Very Haven of Peace: The Role of the Stately Home Hospital in First World War Britain

Davies, Jack M. (2017) *A Very Haven of Peace: The Role of the Stately Home Hospital in First World War Britain*. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) thesis, University of Kent,. (KAR id:61547)

Abstract

This thesis examines the role of the stately home hospital during the First World War. It assesses the social and cultural importance of these institutions, as well as the place that they, and their patients, held within wartime society. It argues that the establishment of a hospital in a stately home communicated a high level of patient care, reminding people all over the Empire how much Britain valued the sacrifices of its wounded. However, some members of the soldiery misinterpreted the value bestowed upon them by their status as war heroes. Consequently, the stately home hospital became a site of physical and emotional clashes between the wounded and the medical authorities. By placing these medical establishments in their social, cultural, political, and imperial contexts, this thesis delineates the myriad of ways that the space of the stately home hospital affected the experience of wounding and how a number of different people interacted with the institution and utilised it for many different purposes.

The domestic nature of these private residences meant that they straddled the military and civilian spheres, which convoluted the position of the wounded soldier, the medical staff, and ancillary workers within. In addition, the space was home to a variety of non-military personnel who presented the wounded with a variety of different opportunities that transcended normal military spaces. This thesis explores these opportunities to discuss the important position stately home hospitals held within First World War Britain. Due to the historic role of the stately home in British social, cultural and political life, the experience of recovering within these walls was socially loaded. This thesis argues that the establishment of hospitals in these buildings was an important statement to the wounded and their families.

Item Type: Thesis (Doctor of Philosophy (PhD))

Thesis advisor: Anderson, Julie

Thesis advisor: Connelly, Mark

Uncontrolled keywords: war, wounded, nurses, soldiers, hospitals, discipline, empire, houses, estates, women

Divisions: [Faculties](#) > [Humanities](#) > [School of History](#)

Depositing User: *Users 1 not found.*

Date Deposited: 25 Apr 2017 11:00 UTC

Last Modified: 01 May 2020 23:00 UTC

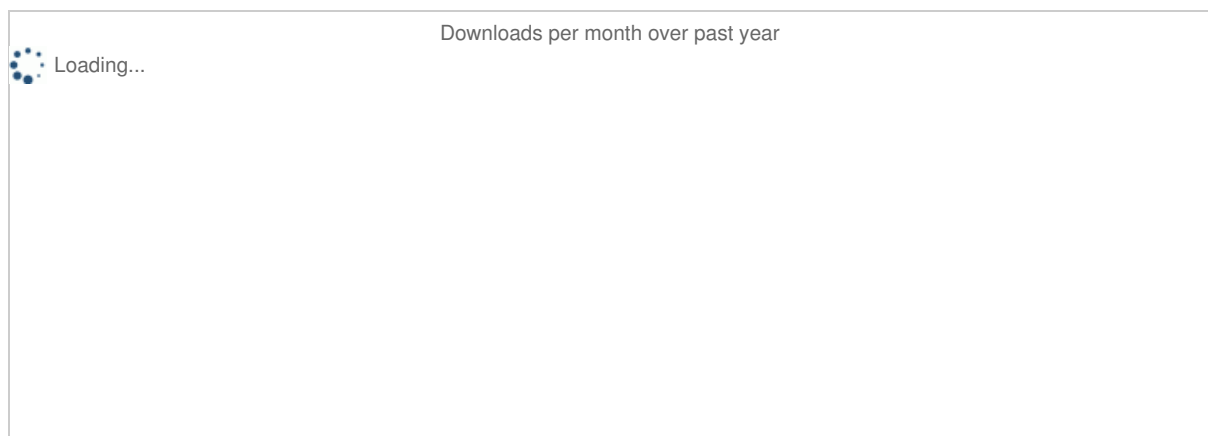
Resource URI: <https://kar.kent.ac.uk/id/eprint/61547> (The current URI for this page, for reference purposes)

Export to: [RefWorks](#) | [EPrints3 XML](#) | [BibTeX](#) | [CSV](#) |

Depositors only (login required): [Edit this record](#) |


Download Statistics

Downloads



PDF
Language: English

[Download \(3MB\)](#) [Preview](#)



World War I, also called First World War or Great War, an international conflict that in 1914–18 embroiled most of the nations of Europe along with Russia, the United States, the Middle East, and other regions. The war pitted the Central Powers—mainly Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey—against the Allies—mainly France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan, and, from 1917, the United States. World War I began after the assassination of Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand by South Slav nationalist Gavrilo Princip on June 28, 1914. Read more below: [The outbreak of war](#). [Franz Ferdinand, archduke of Austria-Este](#). Explore the roles of [Marie Curie](#), [Mabel St. Clair Stobart](#), and [Aileen Cole Stewart](#) in World War I. Great Britain was a leading Allied Power during the First World War of 1914–1918, fighting against the Central Powers, especially Germany. The armed forces were greatly expanded and reorganised—the war marked the founding of the Royal Air Force. The highly controversial introduction, in January 1916, of conscription for the first time in British history followed the raising of the largest all-volunteer army in history, known as Kitchener's Army, of more than 2,000,000 men.⁵⁰⁴ The outbreak of war was