

Edenhall Hospital

Under the Patronage of . . . . .  
Her Majesty QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

# EDENHALL HOSTEL

FOR

# LIMBLESS SAILORS AND SOLDIERS

Domiciled in the East of Scotland.

# REPORT

FOR

Year to 30th June 1918.

**Report of the Committee of Management of the Edenhall Hostel for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers domiciled in the East of Scotland, for the year to 30th June 1918**

**Transference of Hostel from Kelso to Musselburgh**

A very important step in the development of the Hostel has been taken during the past year by its transference from Kelso to Musselburgh. The accommodation for thirty-six patients in the Mansion House of Edenhall, near Kelso, where the Hostel was carried on for three years from its inception in June 1915, was latterly found quite insufficient for the growing needs of the East of Scotland. This lack of accommodation and other difficulties made it essential to remove the Hostel from Edenhall. Removal thus being necessary, it was felt that the opportunity should be taken to obtain a more central position near Edinburgh where the medical officers would be able to exercise greater supervision, the facilities for making artificial limbs would be increased and the reception of limbless men would in general involve much in general involve much less travelling on their part.

After careful inquiry and consideration the Committee purchased Pinkieburn House, near Musselburgh, with its grounds extending to about thirteen acres. The property is of easy access from Edinburgh by train or car, and the house lends itself admirably to adaptation for the purposes of the Hostel, which, when completed, will provide accommodation for one hundred men. The cost of the alteration, extension and equipment is estimated at £12,000, and a grant of this amount has been promised – and in great part already paid – by the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society. It has been decided to retain the name "Edenhall" and the new building will be known as the Edenhall Hostel for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers domiciled in the East of Scotland.

**Area served by the Hostel**

The fact is that the Hostel is of Border origin, and its situation, until recently, near Kelso, has perhaps in the past made a special appeal to the sympathy and the generosity of the Border Counties. While the Committee hope that the removal to Musselburgh will in no way lessen the interest of Border friends, they feel that it cannot be too widely known that the Hostel serves a large area, and is entitled to look to the whole of that area for encouragement and support.

Edenhall, now in Musselburgh, is recognised by the War Office as the fitting Hostel for Limbless Soldiers domiciled in the East of Scotland, while Erskine House has similarly been recognised as the fitting Hostel for the West.

The following are the Counties allocated to Edenhall:

Orkney and Shetland	Clackmannan	Forfar
Nairn	Kinross	Perth
Elgin	Linlithgow	Fife
Banff	Midlothian	Peebles
Aberdeen	Haddington	Selkirk
Kincardine	Berwick	Roxburgh

### **Hostel Accommodation.**

Owing to difficulties arising from the War, the building of the new dormitories attached to the main building at Pinkieburn, Musselburgh, has not advanced as rapidly as was hoped for. It was found possible, however, by the use of wooden erections and the adaptation of some of the interior of the main building which will eventually be otherwise utilised, to open the Hostel with forty-three beds last June, when the transference from Kelso was successfully accomplished.

The Committee are glad to be able to state that the dormitories to accommodate one hundred patients have now been erected, and that fifty beds are already occupied. The total number, it is hoped, will be ready for occupation by the end of November 1918.

Meanwhile a most valuable addition to the accommodation of the Hostel has been provided by the generosity of an anonymous lady, who has devoted a large sum to the erection of the Recreation Room, as a memorial to two brothers, her nephews, who have fallen in the War. The building of this Recreation Room, which is to accommodate one hundred and fifty people, has already been begun. It is hoped that it will be ready before the end of the year.

### **The new situation of the Hostel**

The experience of the past few months even with the disadvantages of the temporary accommodation, has amply justified the choice of this new situation for the Edenhall Hostel. The men have enjoyed the grounds and gardens during the summer months and, at certain parts of the day, have been free to roam on the links, by the seashore, and into Musselburgh.

### **Artificial Legs**

The limb-makers have had temporary workshops established, not as commodious as will be eventually supplied, but still sufficient for practical purposes.

The original limb-makers of the Hostel, Messrs R G Scotland & Co, whose headquarters are in Glasgow, continue to make for the Hostel as before. Messrs J F Rowley Ltd, who have been established at Roehampton since the beginning of the War, and who opened a workshop in connection with the Edenhall Hostel at Kelso, are also continuing their work at Musselburgh.

### **Number of Cases treated**

During the year to 30th June 1918, three hundred and fifty men have been fitted with artificial legs. Of these, seven were cases of double amputation. From the inception of the Hostel in June 1915, nine hundred and eighty-seven men have been fitted with artificial legs, including eighteen cases of double amputation. This number does not, however, embody all the maimed soldiers fitted with artificial limbs under the supervision of the Surgeon of the Hostel. Owing to the relatively small number of beds at present available at Edenhall, the beds there have been reserved for men who have lost their legs, while the armless cases have been dealt with, as will afterwards be explained, in Edinburgh. At this supplementary centre there have been one hundred and three arm cases supplied during the year to 30th June 1918, while two hundred and forty arm cases in all have been supplied since the Hostel was opened.

## **Repairs and Renewals**

One of the most important branches of the work associated with the Hostel is the repairing and renewal of limbs, which have previously been supplied to soldiers at Edenhall. These men, now discharged from the Army, have returned to their own homes, fitted with artificial limbs, and in the majority of cases are now engaged in civil employment. At first it was quite possible to carry out such repairs at the Hostel itself. As, however, the number of men wearing artificial limbs in civil life has increased, as it inevitably must, the number of applications for repairs has gone up so much, that it has been found quite impossible to deal with them at the Hostel without seriously interfering with the first supply of artificial limbs to maimed soldiers. Great difficulty was at first encountered in providing for the repairs for these discharged soldiers, but by degrees a working scheme has been established which has to a great extent met the difficulty.

The artificial limb-making firms, who have workshops at Edenhall, have established corresponding workshops in Edinburgh - Messrs Scotland at 16 Forrest Road, and Messrs Rowley at 37 George IV Bridge.

The centres in Edinburgh, it need hardly be explained, are much more convenient for men coming from a distance for repairs, than centres at even so short a distance from Edinburgh as Musselburgh, especially in these times of limited railway service.

## **Housing of Men while Repairs are being carried out**

More, however, is required than the mere workshops. In a considerable number of cases, men have to live for a few days in the neighbourhood of the workshops, and the provision for Hostel accommodation was a difficulty and the cause of much delay. Fortunately, however, it was found possible to have accommodation for men at the YMCA building in 14 St Andrew Street, and at the Church Army Labour Home in 26 Broughton Place.

The story of the admirable services to our fighting men in every part of the world as supplied by the YMCA, and on a similar but less extensive scale by the Church Army, is too well known to need repetition here. Those who have been responsible for the repair of the artificial limbs of our discharged soldiers feel that the facilities these bodies have given for the accommodation of the men are additional grounds for gratitude.

## **Artificial Arms**

With regard to artificial arms the supply is now entirely in the hands of Messrs Anderson & Whitelaw, a firm of Scotsmen, whose headquarters are in Birmingham, and who have made a specialty of artificial arms (although they also make artificial legs). They make arms for Roehampton and several other Hospitals, as well as for Edenhall.

The soldiers who require to have artificial arms supplied are housed partly at St Leonard's, and partly also at Marchhall and St George's Auxiliary Hospitals. Messrs Anderson & Whitelaw's representative meets the soldiers from their hospitals at St Leonard's, where he measures and fits them under Lieutenant Colonel Cathcart's instructions.

Before long it is hoped that this work may be concentrated at Edenhall, as it originally was at Kelso.

### **Developments in the Supply of Artificial Limbs since the War began**

In connection with the supply of artificial limbs great difficulties have been encountered in all the large centres of supply owing to the calling-up of skilled workmen. Before the outbreak of war there were in Great Britain a limited number of artificial limb-makers. Not long after the War began, many of the skilled hands, who had been trained to the making of artificial limbs, were drafted off into the army, irrespective of protests to the contrary. At the same time the demand for artificial limbs went up literally, by leaps and bounds, and the limb-makers were faced with the problem of how to make limbs for an enormously increased number of men, with very few skilled workers.

They have met this problem most energetically, and, as a whole, very successfully. A large number of men who have lost their limbs have been trained in limb-making workshops. As an example of this, quite a dozen men, who had first of all been supplied at Edenhall with artificial limbs, are now working there to supply others.

Complaints are frequently made in the newspapers of delays in the supply of limbs. It is always easy to find fault. It is much more difficult to find a remedy. The main point is that by care and perseverance the making of artificial limbs has made enormous strides since the War began. Those who are concerned with the work are probably more dissatisfied, in some particulars, than their critics. The former, however, see light breaking through the cloudy sky, and are so far comforted, in that they feel improvement is steadily advancing.

The difficulties are - the supply of material, determination of the best patterns, finding of skilled workpeople, and the development of the necessary organisation. The object which is constantly kept in view is to ensure a supply of the best artificial limbs, with, on the one hand, a minimum of expense to the country, and on the other hand, a maximum of satisfaction to the gallant men for whose services the country will be ever grateful.

### **Finance**

The Committee take this opportunity of thanking all those who have so kindly contributed to the funds of the Hostel. From the Abstract of the Accounts appended to this Report it will be observed that the ordinary expenditure is very considerably in excess of the Capitation Grants received from the Government. Contributions are required to meet this excess expenditure, to provide extra comforts for the men and for such additional equipment as may from time to time be found necessary. It is earnestly hoped that the generous support which has been received in the past will be continued and extended.

The Committee desire to convey their best thanks to the Surgical and Medical Staff, and to the Matron and Hospital Staff for their services during the past year.

Owing to the demands made upon his time by his important work at the Admiralty, Sir William May, who has acted as Chairman since the inception of the Hostel, has

felt compelled to resign from the Committee. His fellow-members have accepted this resignation with much regret, and they desire to put on record their deep appreciation of Sir William May's services to the Hostel. They have much pleasure in reporting that he has consented to become a Patron.

The Committee also wishes to place on record their thanks to Dr Henderson and Mrs Douglas, Coldstream, for their work for three years as Hon Medical Officer and Hon Treasurer respectively while the Hostel was at Kelso.

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

# EDENHALL HOSTEL

FOR

## Limbless Sailors and Soldiers

Domiciled in the East of Scotland.

*REPORT for the period from 1st July 1918  
to 31st August 1919.*

## **Report of the Committee of Management of the Edenhall Hostel for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers domiciled in the East of Scotland, for the period from 1st July 1918 to 31st August 1919**

### **The Hostel Buildings**

When the last report of the Edenhall Committee was issued in October 1918 the Hostel had, not long before, been moved from its original quarters at Kelso to the mansion-house and grounds of Pinkieburn near Musselburgh, and purchased for the purpose by the Committee. The central building had been occupied since June but the necessary additions were not all completed. Thus, while the two large dormitory blocks had been erected and roofed in, only one of them, with accommodation for fifty limbless men, was available for occupation. The artificial arm cases were still being dealt with at St Leonard's Auxiliary Hospital, and other makeshift arrangements had been adopted which, although not ideal, had been made to serve their temporary purpose well by the energy of the staff and the goodwill of the patients. A few months later the whole scheme was completed, and, as it has been found when in full working order to be admirably adapted for its purpose, a short description of the various sections of it may not be out of place.

The mansion-house of Pinkieburn, now known as the Edenhall Hostel, affords accommodation for the administrative and nursing staff and for the domestic servants. It furnishes also a large billiard-room, with smoking and reading-rooms for the men, and offices for clerical work.

The original kitchen was too small for the needs of a hostel, but a large addition to it has been built out and is supplied with modern gas-cooking plant for dealing easily with the meals for 100 patients and staff.

The two dormitory blocks contain two large wards in each, one above the other, with 25 beds in each ward, thus making 100 beds in all. Both blocks communicate directly with the main building and at the point of junction an electric lift makes it easy for double amputation cases to be taken in their chairs from the ground flat to the upper floor, whence they can be easily wheeled along the corridor to the men's day rooms.

The dining-room of the Hostel is of wood. It consists in fact of a hut transferred from Kelso, and it now stands on the same level as the kitchen and close to it. A well-equipped pantry between the two reduces the labour of service to a minimum.

### **The Recreation Hall**

A few yards beyond the dining-room and on a slightly lower level stands the Memorial Recreation Hall, which had only been begun when the last report was issued. The walls are built of brick, and the roof is supported by open rafters. The design is simple and harmonious, and the proportions are well adjusted. The result is very pleasing, and does credit to the artistic taste of the architect, Mr Jerdan. The Hall can be seated for 150, but under ordinary circumstances the seats and forms required for a concert are stored below the floor and are brought up through a trap door when need. Across the far end of the room there is a full-sized billiard table, presented to the Hostel by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Midlothian Free Masons out of funds subscribed by various lodges and individuals of that province. From the



same fund part of the furnishing of the Hall was also supplied. This gift of a billiard table is a source of great pleasure to the men.

The Memorial Hall has no name associated with it. The generous lady who gave the money to build it wished to remain anonymous. Over the doorway as one leaves the Hall the eye catches the Memorial Tablet with this inscription:

**IN MEMORY OF**  
Two soldier brothers  
who gave their lives  
for their country  
and were buried in  
France 1917  
this Hall is erected for the  
benefit of  
sailors and soldiers  
at Edenhall

### **The Limbmakers' Workshops**

The artificial limbmakers, who contended with many difficulties at Kelso for want of space, now have premises which greatly facilitate their work. Messrs Scotland and Messrs Rowley, who supply the artificial legs, have each a large workshop well lighted and freely ventilated. Their machinery is driven by electricity, and they have plenty of space for testing exercises when the buckets are being fitted to the stumps. A short description of this process may be of interest.

As may easily be understood the bucket or socket which lodges the stump is the most important part of an artificial leg. After the necessary measurements are taken, the limbmaker selects out of his stock a suitably sized rough cylinder of seasoned willow wood. It is slightly tapered at one end and has been pierced longitudinally with a two-inch drill. From this hole the interior is scooped out with a special tool until the cavity assumes the dimensions required for the stump, and has the shape which long experience has proved to be most generally suitable. When this stage has been reached the bucket is mounted on a simple peg, and the man walks on it. This test calls for further alterations until the stump is comfortably fitted. The outside is then pared away to correspond with the interior except at the places where greater thickness is required to ensure strength, Having shaped the bucket the limbmaker "assembles" the other parts of the limb, which are standardised, and adjusts and arranges them to suit the individual. This also is an important part of the work and calls for natural aptitude as well as long experience. A successful "fitter" is said, like a poet, to be born not made. Finally the limb is "finished" and supplied with the necessary buckles and straps.

Under each Dormitory Block, at the end which stands on the slope of a decline, there is a large workroom. One of these is allotted to an arm-making firm, Messrs Anderson & Whitelaw. The other is set aside for the training of men in the use of their artificial arms. The Edinburgh agents for the "Mackay", another type of artificial arm, are Messrs A Young & Son, and they also have a workroom at their disposal.

## **The Grounds**

The grounds of the Hostel extend to about thirteen acres, and contain many fine old trees. One, known as "The Gallows Tree", is opposite the house, and is so-called because one of its branches is said to have been used as a gallows after the Battle of Pinkie. A considerable part of the ground is under pasture; about four acres have been used for potatoes; and there is also a large fruit and vegetable garden for the supply of the Hostel. During last summer the croquet lawn and the clock golf course were in constant use, and were the scene of many keenly contested matches and tournaments greatly enjoyed by the men and the VAD Staff.

## **The Morning Parade - Learning to Walk**

The Hostel stands on a hillock composed mostly of gravel and sand. The nature of the subsoil makes the ground dry, and the sloping banks round the house have fulfilled a special purpose in the training of the men in walking. Under the matron's supervision the leg cases fitted for the first time assembled for a daily morning parade, which was purposely made exacting in order to prepare the men for something more than easy walking on a level pavement. The terrace on the south side of the house provided a simple flat surface to begin with. Then came the descent of a flight of stone steps with support for the inexperienced from a balustrade on one side and a helping arm on the other. Beyond that the pathway leads down the side of a steep grassy bank, and the men who were ready for a severer test were then set to walk along the side of the sloping bank itself. This is the hardest test of all, and for certain cases it is not possible for a man to walk along a slope with the artificial limb on the higher side. Within certain limits, however, a great deal can be done by practice. The irregularities of the ground gave opportunities for finding out the possibilities and the shortcomings of an artificial leg as well as the amount of improvement that can be achieved by persevering effort. The energy and pluck shown by many of these severely maimed men in struggling with their handicap has testified to what must have been their determination and bravery in the fighting line.

## **Inspection of the Hostel by Lieutenant General Sir Francis Davies**

During the early stages of reconstructive preparation the Edenhall Committee had hoped that the new Hostel after completion might be officially opened for inspection by the general public before it was occupied by the men; but this was not found possible. Owing to unavoidable delay in building and to an increasing demand for beds, it became necessary to begin occupation of the Hostel before it was quite ready in many of its departments. On 8th July 1919, some months after it had reached full working order, an official visit of inspection was paid to the Hostel by Lieutenant General Sir Francis Davies, KCB, KCMG, CO Forces in Scotland, who was accompanied by Major General Wilson, DDMS, and others from the Headquarters of the Scottish Command. On arrival the party was conducted by the Matron and Commandant to all parts of the building and in the wards they found all the men seated at their bedsides. To those of them who had served in Gallipoli Sir Francis Davies was already well known and he was welcomed as one who had encouraged and inspired them in some of their darkest hours in that grim and desperate enterprise. To every man he spoke a few friendly and cheering words which pleased them greatly. When the ward inspection was over the men assembled on the lawn and formed a large semi-circle with the whole staff (in and out door) ranged behind them.

The following three men had been awarded decorations, but owing to their wounds had not hitherto been able to receive them. The decorations were now presented to them by Lieutenant General Sir Francis Davies.

1. Regimental Sergeant Major William Park, Gordon Highlanders, who had lost a leg, was entitled to receive not only the DCM, which he was to receive at Edenhall, but also the MC. As this, however, is a decoration only given by Royalty, the bestowal of it was reserved for a later occasion. The official record of the deed for which he was awarded the DCM, reads as follows:

"Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led the men forward through heavy barrage and machine-gun fire and was one of the first to enter the enemy's trench. He was of the greatest assistance to the officers throughout, showing fine courage and skilled leadership."

2. Private D. Parkhill, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who had lost both legs above the knee and the arm above the elbow, was awarded the Military Medal.
3. Private A Veitch, 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers, who had lost his right leg was awarded the Military Medal and bar.

#### **Decoration of Sergeant Major Park by HRH the Prince of Wales**

On 24th July, on the occasion of his visit to Edinburgh to receive the freedom of the city, the Prince of Wales decorated Sergeant Major Park with the Military Cross. On leaving the Usher Hall in accordance with previous arrangement he found Sergeant Major Park on his crutches waiting for him, and while pinning on the medal to the Sergeant's breast the Prince remarked that it was the first time that he had had the honour of bestowing that decoration. The following is the official record of the deed for which this honour was awarded:

*Awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took command of his Battalion when it had suffered heavy casualties and showed them a fine example so that the battalion was able to maintain its fighting efficiency during two critical days. Again he led the battalion with conspicuous courage in a counter-attack.*

#### **Resignation of the Voluntary Administrative and Nursing Staff**

From the time the Hostel was opened in June 1915 onwards the Commandant and Secretary, Lady Issobel Douglas Horne, the Matron, Mrs George Henderson, the Housekeeper and Cook, Miss Stuart and the members of the Nursing Staff had all been voluntary workers, members chiefly of the Berwick 4th Coldstream Section of the VAD of the Red Cross, Scottish Branch. As the summer months of 1919 wore on, the number of serving men requiring artificial limbs diminished, and it was considered advisable to arrange for the engagement of a paid staff so that the voluntary workers might return to their duties in civil life. The War Office authorities, when informed of this purpose, decided to hand over the financial responsibilities for running the Hostel to the Ministry of Pensions, and to send to Erskine House any serving soldiers still remaining to be supplied with artificial limbs. The end of August

was fixed as the date of the transference. Before leaving the Hostel the ladies, who had seen so many men enter it as cripples and leave it again able to walk with the aid of an artificial leg, resolved to hold a farewell garden party on the 30th August for the then present inmates and as many of the former men as were within reach. A large number of the latter accepted the invitation and, while the arrangements were in progress, the men on their part resolved to introduce a surprise event into the programme to show their appreciation of the happy time they had spent in the Hostel. The appointed day was sunny and warm, and accorded well with the feelings that had reigned in the hearts of the patients and Staff from first to last. The final gathering was a great success. Towards the end of the proceedings Pensioner Dickson, as master of ceremonies, gathered the company together on the lawn and called upon Sergeant Gray to make a speech on behalf of the men. After this introduction Sergeant Clark presented each member of the Staff with a present from the men. Lieutenant Colonel Cathcart, who had been included along with the resident Staff in the men's kind expression of goodwill, returned the hearty thanks of the ladies and himself.

### **Transfer of the Hostel Property from the Edenhall Committee to the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society**

After the Edenhall Committee had bought the house and grounds of Pinkieburn, they found that their remaining funds were not sufficient to meet the expense required to add the necessary new dormitories, enlarge the kitchen, and in other ways complete the scheme. An appeal to the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society was accordingly made, and met with a generous response in the form of a grant of £12,000. As it was obvious that a time would come when the Hostel would no longer be required for limbless men, it was made a condition of the grant that when the Edenhall Committee ceased to require the property for its original purpose, it would pass into the hands of the Trustees of the Scottish Branch of the Red Cross. This time was considered to have arrived when the Ministry of Pensions took over the running expenses of the Hostel. The necessary proceedings were instituted and have now been satisfactorily completed.

### **Retrospect**

The Edenhall Committee, in issuing its Final Report and Statement of Accounts, has much pleasure in recording that, since the Hostel was instituted by the forethought and energy of the late Countess of Home, it has played an important part in the service of the country. Beginning at Kelso in 1915 with 37 beds, and served by one limbmaker and a single workshop, it has finished its Army work in 1919 with a Hostel for 100 beds with limbs supplied by four makers whose artificial limbs will bear comparison with those supplied at any other fitting hostel in the Kingdom.

At first the patients came from all quarters wherever an extra bed was wanted. Before long, however, the Hostel had the honour of being appointed by the War Office as the Hospital for fitting with artificial limbs all limbless sailors and soldiers domiciled in the east of Scotland.

The number of men supplied at Edenhall with artificial limbs up to the end of August 1919 is as follows:

Leg cases	1176
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Arm cases	405
<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>

The admirable services rendered to the nation by the Commandant, Lady Issobel Douglas Home, and the Matron, Mrs George Henderson, have been recognised by Government. Each of these ladies has received the well-earned honour of the Royal Red Cross, 2nd Class, and the Committee in congratulating them take this opportunity of thanking them and the members of the Staff who gave them such loyal and willing help.

The Committee also wish to convey their best thanks to the Surgical and Medical Staff and especially to Lieutenant Colonel Cathcart to whose skill and devotion the success of the Hostel is in large measure due. They have also to express their gratitude to all those who so generously contributed to the funds of the Hostel.