

## OFFICIALS

### *The First Commandant*

#### *Dame Joanna Cruickshank D.B.E., R.R.C. (1875 – 1958)*

1907 – She begins her nursing career at Guy's Hospital in London.

She joined the Queen Alexandra's Nursing Service working in India and contracted malaria. Shipped home from India and survived when the ship was torpedoed.



1918 – She became Matron-in-Chief of the newly formed Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, responsible for the entire organisation of the service, planning every aspect of hospital personnel. She even helped design the much-admired uniform.

With the establishment of hospitals in Britain, Aden, Iraq and Palestine, her organisational skills were rewarded with the CBE and she was appointed the Air Ministry Representative on the Joint Voluntary Aid Council.

In 1919, she received the highest award in Nursing - the Royal Red Cross, followed in 1931 by her elevation to Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE).

In 1938, she volunteered and was made Matron-in-Chief of the Red Cross Society. She was asked to set up an Internment Camp for women and children in the south of the Isle of Man.

Within two days of her arrival more than 3,500 women and children arrived. It was an amazing organisational feat to billet all the arrivals by nightfall.

