

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S LEAGUE OF SERVICE AND
LORD MAYOR TRELOAR CRIPPLE HOSPITAL
"QAL" perfins Q0080.01, Q0080.02, 0.0080.02a, Q0090.01p
By JOHN BUTTON

Sir William Purdie Treloar, Bart JP, was born 13-1-1843 and became the Lord Mayor of London in November 1906. As a JP he saw many poor children brought before court for begging or vagrancy and from this was born his drive to help them. Under the auspices of the Mayoral Charity Fund he aimed to raise the sum of £60,000 for the Lord Mayor's Little Cripple Fund. The sum raised exceeded this by over £10,000. In support of the Lord Mayor's objective Queen Alexandra opened a very successful three day fete. From this event the Queen Alexandra League was born and with it the Queen Alexandra Rose Day became the very first flag day.

The aim of the cripples charity was:- a) to treat children of both sexes up to the age of 12 who were suffering from TB or diseases of the bones and joints; b) to train crippled boys between the ages of 14 to 16 in handcrafts skills in order that they would be able to obtain a paid employment.

In early 1907 Lord Mayor Treloar was informed by Mr Hall Richardson of the Daily Telegraph that there was an unoccupied military hospital at Alton in Hampshire. On the 22nd March 1906 a visit was made to inspect the property and it was found acceptable. After negotiation the War Office agreed to the transfer and an act of Parliament was rushed through with the proviso that should the Hospital cease, the land and buildings would revert to the crown.

The establishment was first known as the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples Home and Hospital but was later re-named Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples Hospital and College.

Ten acres of land was laid out as orchards and kitchen gardens to provide fruit and vegetables together with areas for pigs and poultry. This no doubt also provided for occupational training. A large aviary was also built to house indigenous birds to further the children's awareness and education. The London and South Western Railway provided a special siding into the Hospital initially for supplies but later to accommodate passengers.

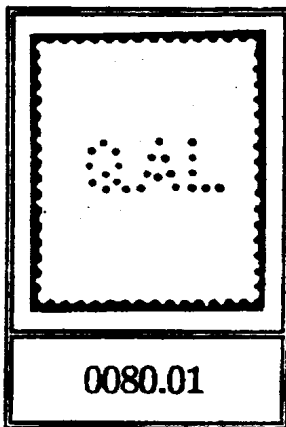
On the 8th Sept 1908 Sir William and his wife received the first patients at Alton railway station.

By the 1960's TB was a rarity and whilst the Hospital is still in use its function is quite different.

The illustrations on this page are taken from the New Gault catalogue.

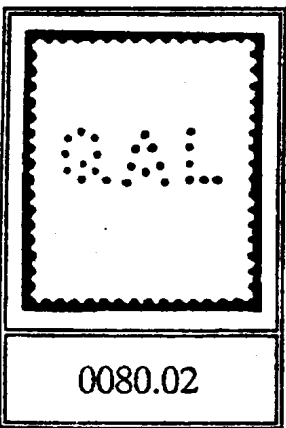
In Bulletin 270/24 & 271/7 there was a query about what possible connection had The Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples Home with The Queen Alexandra League of Service.

This story seems to answer that query in full.



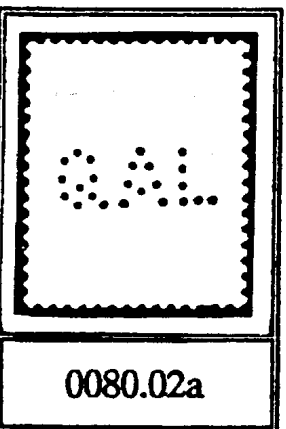
0080.01

In use: 1905-1939.
Dates: 6 Sep 1911- 9 Mar 1938.
Issues: F 1d H ½d I 1d, 1½d
M ½d, 1½d N 1½d O 1½d
Q ½d-1½d
Ident: Queen Alexandra League of Service, 25 Ely Place, London EC1.



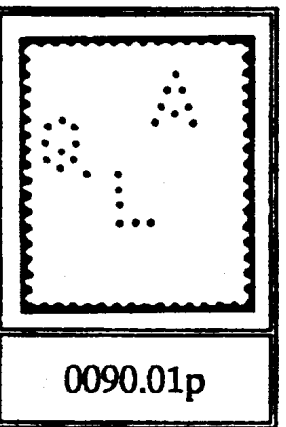
0080.02

In use: 1945-1953.
Dates: 4 Oct 1950 - 6 Sep 1951.
Issues: R 1d, 2d, 2½d S 2½d
U(TC) 2½d
Note: Sloper single headed die.
Ident: Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital & College, Alton, Hants.



0080.02a

In use: c1939.
Dates:
Issues: Q 1d, 2½d
Ident:
Note: Closer spaced letters.
Pmks:



0090.01p

In use: 1941-1945.
Dates: 13 Apr 1942.
Issues: R 1d, 2½d
Note: Perfin also known with QA spacing constant.
Ident: Queen Alexandra League of Service.
Pmks: Alton, Hants.