

British Values in Action: Tea for the Troops

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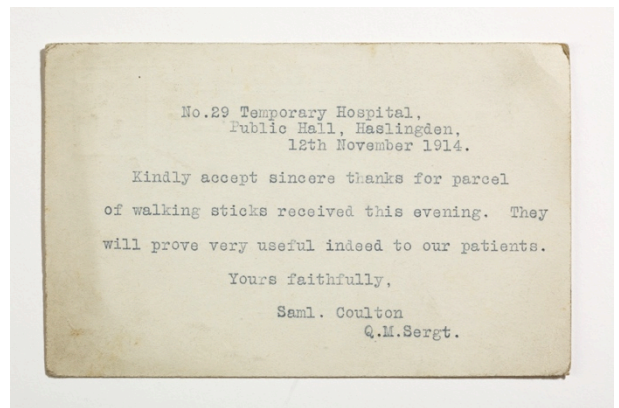
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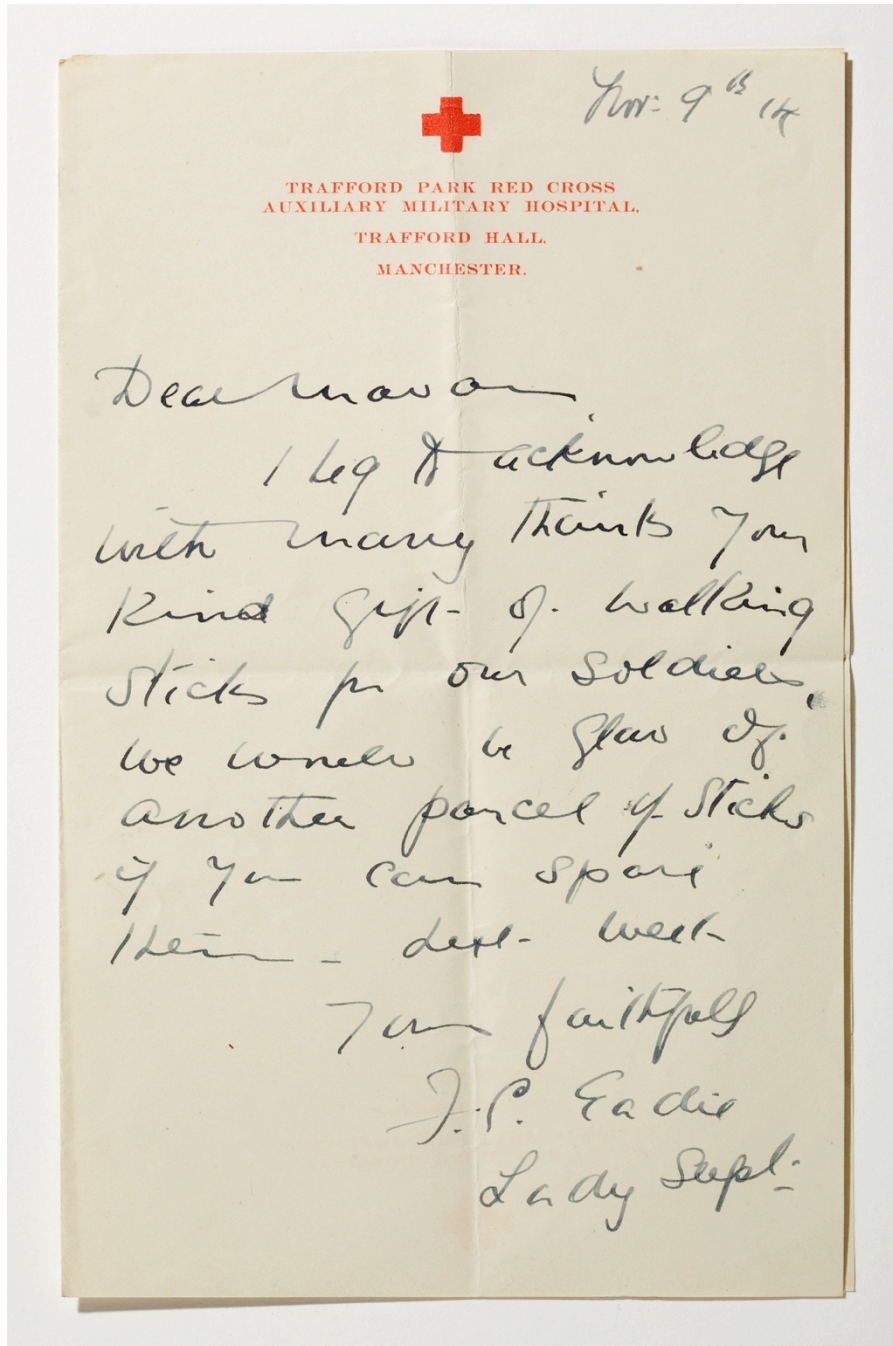
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LOOKING AFTER "TOMMY."

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FREE BUFFET.

Opened at Preston Station.

On Thursday afternoon was opened the soldiers' and sailors' free buffet on the main platforms (Nos. 5 and 6) at Preston, which has been in course of arrangement for the past few weeks. Union Jacks, and a sign which says "Sailors' and Soldiers' Refreshment Room. Tea and Coffee Free," are displayed over the doors of what was formerly the ladies' third-class waiting room. The Mayoress and a number of other Preston ladies have interested themselves for some time in an endeavour to establish the buffet, the want of which has been felt keenly throughout the past twelve months, and this innovation will prove an inestimable boon.

EARLY PATRONAGE.

On being opened it was instantly "patronised" by numerous soldiers who were passing through the station, and a continuous stream of men took advantage of the hospitality offered. Later on, some of the travellers took a nap on the seats whilst waiting for trains.

It has been arranged for two ladies to take charge of the buffet every day, and they have the assistance of about half-a-dozen helpers daily—and nightly, as it is intended to keep the buffet continuously open. Consequently the helpers work on day and night turns. Local soldiers' wives are giving their services in attending to the room being kept clean and neat.

Any man in khaki may obtain tea or coffee and small refreshments free, but they may purchase more, and cigarettes, too, if they wish. Hot milk and coffee are also procurable.

The buffet is being kept open as long as subscriptions are forthcoming, and contributions towards the continuance of the work, to which the ladies are, of course, giving voluntary service, may be forwarded to the Mayoress, at the Town Hall, marked "Sailors and Soldiers' Buffet."

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