Patients and medical staff in front of Les Touillets Convalescent Hospital in the Castel. Nurses and RAMC staff, including a surgeon, pose with recovering soldiers who are wearing their 'hospital-blues' suits. Note the goat mascot.
1916.

MILITARY *AND* CONVALESCENT HOSPITALS *IN* GUERNSEY

A number of hospital facilities were created on the island for the soldiers who were returning sick or wounded from the trenches.

Patients and some of the staff of *Les Touillets* Convalescent Hospital. Posing in front of the Grande Rocque Hotel during an outing or picnic, July, 1918.
1916.

Some of the officers who were patients in the Hospital at L'Ancresse. Photograph taken at the front of the hospital building.
1916.

Some of the officers who were patients in the Hospital at L'Ancresse. Photograph taken at the front of the hospital building.
1916.

Miss Kitty Robilliard, a St. John's Ambulance Brigade Nurse, posing with some of the soldiers recovering at *Les Touillets* Convalescent Hospital in the Castel.
1916.

The Victoria Cottage Hospital was at Amherst in St. Peter Port and had twenty-five beds. During the First World War it was renamed the Victoria Military Hospital and became a Class A facility.

A Convalescent Hospital was created in *Les Touillets* which was a manor house with extensive grounds in the Castel.

Due to the sheer number of men returning to the island more facilities were soon needed. A hospital was created in one of the wooden barrack buildings at the Royal Guernsey Militia Camp at Les Beaucamps. There was also a private house at L'Ancresse where officers could recuperate.

The hospitals were run by members of the Royal Army Medical Corps, trained medical staff and volunteers. The Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Brigade both provided volunteer nurses.

Soldiers in the hospitals were encouraged to socialise with one another. Card games were a popular pastime. The men could take part in various sports from croquet to football. Hospital staff arranged picnics and outings. Concerts and plays were organised for the men to attend and participate in.

The Convalescent Hospitals provided an environment far removed from the hell of the trenches. Many soldiers had suffered as much from mental stress as physical injury. For many, just having peace and quiet, a clean bed and warm meals was a godsend.

The soldiers were encouraged to take up arts and crafts. They often embroidered their regimental emblem or cap badge onto items such as pillowcases. The task focused the mind and required significant concentration as well as manual dexterity. Most of all it gave the men a complete break from the horrors of war. It was regarded as good therapy.