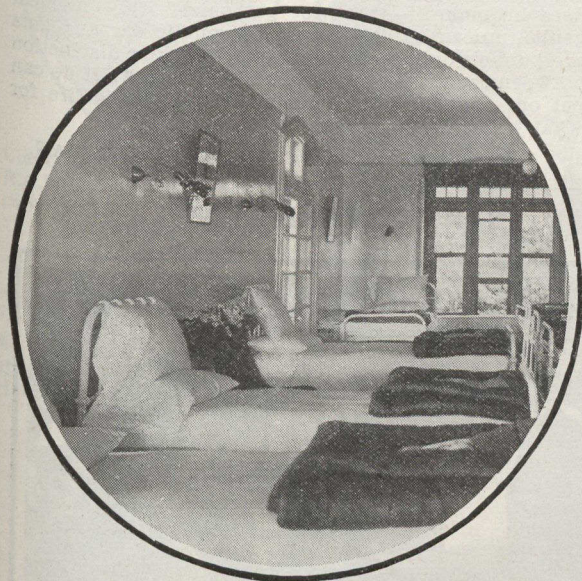


GIFT OF A HOSPITAL

Drumbro, Summer Residence of the late Mr. James Ross, at Sydney, N.S., Fitted up for Convalescent Soldiers and Sailors



A dormitory in the Drumbro gift hospital.

DOWN on Cape Breton Island off the coast of Nova Scotia there is a convalescent hospital which before the war was a fine summer residence. The residence was the summer home of the late Mr. James Ross, coal baron of Montreal. The hospital was made a straight gift for purposes of the war by Mr. J. K. L. Ross, son of Mr. James Ross, and by Mrs. J. K. L. Ross. "Drumbro," as it was called, was originally intended as a gift from a patriotic citizen and his wife for the purpose of providing a convalescent home for members of the overseas Canadian contingents. Lately the scope of the hospital has been enlarged to accommodate invalids from the St. Lawrence Naval Patrol. Soldiers and sailors alike enjoy the hospitality of "Drumbro." Soldiers and sailors both have gone out from Cape Breton Island to active service, to the number of 2,500.

Already thirty men have entered the hospital for treatment—soldiers from the camps and sailors from the St. Lawrence Naval Patrol. Some have already returned to duty. Twenty-two are now at the hospital. Pictures of some of these are given on this page along with views of the modern hospital and some of its staff.

Among the number is Steward Thomas Mullins, from H.M.S. "Sydney," recently granted a Distinguished Service Medal. He is the eighth naval man from active service under the guns of the enemy warships to be admitted recently to the hospital. Some of the other seven are from H. M. S. "Carnarvon." Mullins received his medal for distinguished service in connection with the care of the wounded at the Sydney-Emden action at Cocos Island. He and Eng. Com. Coleman form a connecting link between the Sydneys, one in Nova Scotia, the other half round the world in Australia.

Pre-eminently the hospital is a gift. In addition to other national assistances given at the outbreak of war, when the Militia Department last March called for volunteer provision of homes for the convalescent soldiers, Mr. and Mrs. Ross were among the first to respond with the gift of "Drumbro." Coupled with the gift was a further generous proposal that they would undertake to equip "Drumbro" as a hospital and to maintain it until the end of the war without calling upon the Government for assistance. The transformation of the residence was immediately undertaken, and on the first of June the Ross Convalescent Hospital was in readiness to receive patients. For some time the staff of nurses were without work, but now the hospital has become the scene of great activity, both naval and military patients having arrived in numbers during the last three or four weeks. Although overseas patients have not yet come, at the request of the Government, Mrs. Ross most kindly agreed, pending the arrival of the men from across the ocean, to accommodate soldiers who were in training in Canada and also the men from the naval vessels on duty on the coast.

To make the transformation which has taken place possible "Drumbro" was completely dismantled. Today it is a splendid hospital, thoroughly equipped with operating room, public wards, private wards, beds, and the most modern hospital devices. The building is on Sydney harbour.



Lounge and sun room in the convalescent hospital at Sydney; a doctor and two of the nurses.



Mrs. J. K. L. Ross, whose generosity made Drumbro a hospital, spent the summer at her own summer residence, "Cromarty," not far from Drumbro, supervising the hospital. After spending the winter in Montreal, she will return to the work at the hospital next summer.



General exterior view of Drumbro as it was before the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. L. Ross made it a hospital.



Canadian soldiers at the Ross hospital.



Sailor patients from H.M.S. Sydney and Carnarvon.