On the outbreak of war in August 1914 the Kent Territorial Association, the Red Cross and St John’s Ambulance Brigade pooled their resources to form the Kent VAD. The organisation was headed by Doctor Yolland at 53, Bromley Common, Bromley. The Kent VAD organised and ran over 80 auxiliary military hospitals in houses, churches, town halls and schools, to receive wounded and sick soldiers brought home from the battlefields of France and Belgium. It was clear that the existing Military and Civil Hospitals could not possibly cope with the massive influx of casualties from the battlefields of France and Belgium.

This explains why sometimes a man was buried in an obscure country location away from where he came from.

The Ashford area hosted a number of these voluntary medical units in a variety of locations. Information about these volunteer medical units is very limited.

**ASHFORD**  
(Number 11 VAD)

Commandant: Reverend F.T Gregg, Mrs Buckland  
Medical Officer: Doctor C.M Vernon  
Quartermaster: E.E Wood and Mr E.E Young, Miss Knock  
Pharmacist: F.W Stedman  
Superintendent: Mrs Coke

**Ashford V.A.D Hospitals**

1. Congregational School VAD Hospital (50 beds)
2. Swanton House, Elwick Road, Ashford (March 1919 onwards for war pensioners)
3. Technical Institute, Elwick Road, Ashford (rejected at first but then used)
4. Godinton House, Godinton, Ashford (13 beds)
5. Lady Northcotes Convalescent Home, Eastwell Manor, Eastwell, Ashford (Canadian soldiers)
6. The Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kennington, Ashford (TB Cases)
7. Hendon Place, Woodchurch

**MEMBERS**  
(Nursing and Ambulance volunteers)

WILLESBOROUGH
(Number 4 VAD)
Commandant: Mrs Potts
Quartermaster: Mrs A Vallins

MEMBERS
(Nursing and Ambulance Volunteers)
Lily Banks, Winnifred Brett, Alice Cotterell, Charlotte Crust, Susan Fermor, Elizabeth Flint, Mary Greenstreet, Jane Hall, Emma Hamblin, Matilda Sampson, A Uden,

CHARING and LENHAM
(Number 20 VAD)
Medical Officer: Doctor Littledale
Assistant: Miss Florence Rotherham
Quartermaster: Mr Littledale

Charing V.A.D Hospitals
Opened 14th October 1914 at the Parish Hall, Charing. This was a small 20 bed hospital treating minor injuries and providing convalescence care for wounded soldiers. Vestry Hall, Charing
Manton House (Nov 1916-Dec 1918)
Wakeley House (42 beds)
Petts Farm (Convalescent)
Foresters Hall, Lenham
Stannmore House, Lenham
The County Sanatorium – Canadian Special Hospital, Lenham

Note – A large number of Canadian soldiers are buried in Lenham Cemetery located just off the Doddington Road.

ROLVENDEN
(Number 28 VAD)
Commandant: Mrs W.E Baker MBE
Medical Officer: Doctor P.C Collis
Quartermaster: Miss Ethel Parker, Mrs Smith-Marriott

MEMBERS
(Nursing and Ambulance Volunteers)
Mary Barker, Rhoda Beekon, Sarah Brown, Emily Burden, Hetty Burden, Jennie Burden, Edith Button, A Cook, Dorothy Guest, Grace Herring, Mary Hinds, Annie Mann, Pattie Piper, Fanny Poile, Olive Southern, Cissy Swaffer, Kate Swinyard, May Terry, Katherine Tweedie, Laura Tweedie, May Weston, Harriet Wood, Carrie Woodwards

The village hall in Rolvenden was used as a small VAD Nursing Hospital. It had 20 beds and treated nearly 850 patients between 1914 and 1920.
TENTERDEN
(Number 17 VAD)
Commandant: L.H Browning and Miss C Ticehurst
Medical Officer: Doctor Dring
Quartermaster: J Backshall, E Ballard, V Milne

Tenterden V.A.D Hospitals
Clifton House, Tenterden
Biddenden Village Hall (Oct 1914-Oct 1916)
Birchley, Biddenden

MEMBERS
(Nursing and Ambulance Volunteers)

STONE
(Number 17 VAD)
Commandant: E.D Carrick
Medical Officer: Doctor Stanley
Pharmacist: E.J Cox
Quartermaster: F.T Eberhardt

Section Leaders: G Barnes, H Bartram, W Germaney (unfortunate name considering the circumstances), H Williams, W Watson, P Sanders

Military Hospital
Stone maintained a large military hospital at Ingress Abbey.

MEMBERS
(Nursing and Ambulance Volunteers)