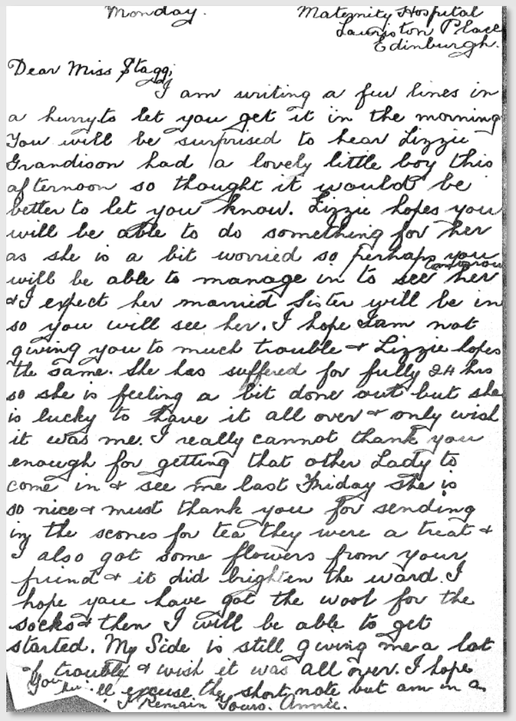
Annie
Letters from an expectant mother

Annie was born in Causewayside in 1896. She had lost all her closest family members by the time she was 14 years old. Annie's father, a police constable, died suddenly from a heart attack at the age of 35 while on duty at Tynecastle Football Stadium in 1897. It is not known where Annie went following the death of her mother a few years later but she came to the attention of the NVA when she arrived at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary suffering from indigestion in 1918. Annie was discovered to be pregnant and the NVA found her a bed at the maternity hospital in Lauriston Place.

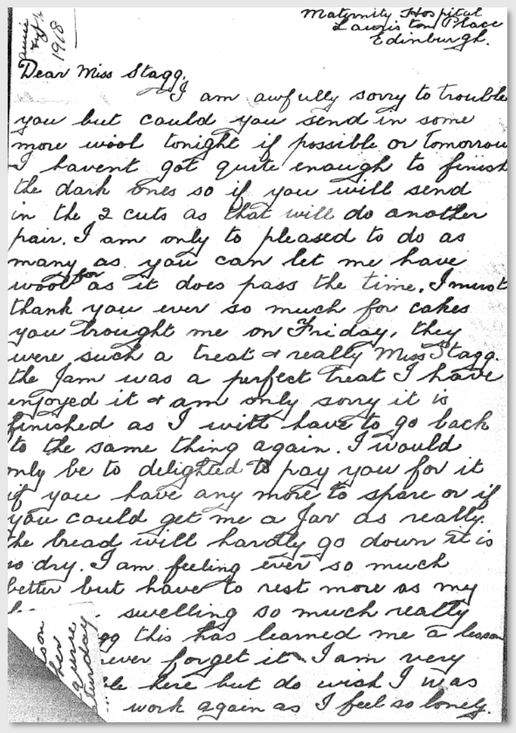
Annie gave birth to a baby girl and wrote to the NVA to say that when she left the hospital, she would take her baby with her.



Monday. Maternity Hospital Lauriston Place Edinburgh.

Dear Miss Stagg,
I am writing a few lines in a hurry to let you get it in the morning. You will be surprised to hear Lizzie Grandison had a lovely little boy this afternoon so thought it would be better to let you know. Lizzie hopes you will be able to do something for her as she is a bit worried so perhaps you will be able to manage in to see her & I expect her married sister will be in so you will see her. I hope I am not giving you too much trouble & Lizzie hopes the same. She has suffered for fully 24 hrs so she is feeling a bit done out but she is lucky to have it all over & only wish it was me. I really cannot thank you enough for getting that other Lady to come in & see me last Friday. She is so nice & must thank you for sending in the scones for tea they were a treat & I also got some flowers from your friend & it did brighten the ward. I hope you have got the wool for the socks & then I will be able to get started. My side is still giving me a lot of trouble & wish it was all over. I hope you will excuse the short note but am in a hurry. I remain Yours. Annie.

"You will be surprised to hear that Lizzie had a lovely little boy this afternoon. She has suffered for fully 24 hours so she is feeling a bit done out but she is lucky to have it all over and only wish it was me. I really cannot thank you enough for getting that other Lady to come in and see me last Friday, she is so nice and must thank you for sending the scones for tea they were a treat and I also got some flowers from your friend and it did brighten the ward. My side is still giving me a lot of trouble and wish it was all over."



Maternity Hospital Lauriston Place Edinburgh.

Dear Miss Stagg,
I am awfully sorry to trouble you but could you send in some more wool tonight if possible or tomorrow I havent got quite enough to finish the dark ones so if you will send in the 2 cuts as that will do another pair. I am only to pleased to do as many as you can let me have as it does pass the time. I must thank you ever so much for cakes you brought me on Friday, they were such a treat & really Miss Stagg the Jam was a perfect treat I have enjoyed it & am only sorry it is finished as I will have to go back to the same thing again. I would only be too delighted to pay you for it if you have any more to spare or if you could get me a Jar as really the bread will hardly go down it is so dry. I am feeling ever so much better but have to rest more as my [illegible] swelling so much really [illegible] this has learned me a lesson I will never forget it. I am very [illegible] here but do wish I was [illegible] work again as I feel so lonely.

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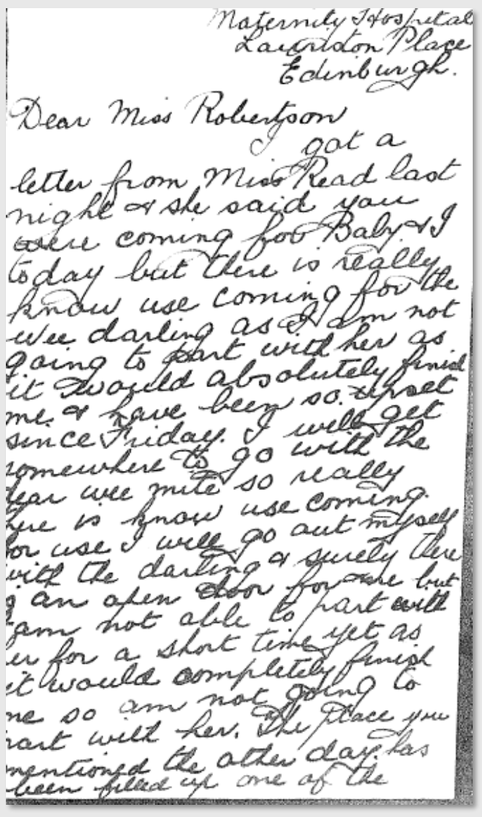
PS I hope you won't think it rude of me asking about the jam but really it was such a treat if you could spare a little more I could pay for it when you come in so if you can manage to hand it in with the wool really I feel ashamed asking for it."



Maternity Hospital Lauriston Place Edinburgh.

Dear Miss Robertson
I got a letter from Miss Read last night & she said you were coming for Baby & I today but there is really know use coming for the wee darling as I am not going to part with her as it would absolutely finish me & have been so upset me & have been so upset since Friday. I will get somewhere to go with the dear wee mite so really there is no use coming for us. I will go out myself for use I will go out myself with the darling & surely there is an open door for she but I am not able to part with her for a short time yet as it would completely finish me so am not going to part with her. The place you mentioned the other day has been filled up one of the

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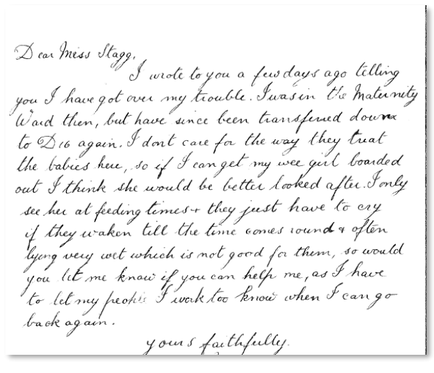
Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital

Opened in 1895 as the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital in Lauriston Place, it closed in the 1990s and converted into a hotel. Some women had their babies in **Craiglockhart Hospital** but one new mother wrote to Miss Stagg to say she did not like the care there:

Simpsons Memorial Hospital copyright Kim Traynor, [geograph.org.uk]

"I don't care for the way they treat the babies here, so if I can get my wee girl boarded out I think she would be better looked after. I only see her at feeding times and they just have to cry if they waken till the time comes round and often lying very wet which is not good for them."

Chrissie, 1923



Dear Miss Stagg,
I wrote to you a few days ago telling you I have got over my trouble. I was in the Maternity Ward then, but have since been transferred down to Dr 6 again. I don't care for the way they treat the babies here, so if I can get my wee girl boarded out I think she would be better looked after. I only see her at feeding times & they just have to cry if they waken till the time comes round & often lying very wet which is not good for them, so would you let me know if you can help me, as I have to let my people I work too know when I can go back again.
yours faithfully