

## Military Hospitals in France 1914 - 1918

The establishments available to the Military in France during peace-time were deemed to be insufficient to deal with the expected numbers of wounded soldiers in times of war. This necessitated the creation of many hospitals which were designated as Temporary Hospitals (HT); Complimentary Hospitals (HC); Auxiliary Hospitals (HA) or Voluntary Hospitals (HB). In 1914, these hospitals were assisted by three sections of the Red Cross: the Societé Française de Secours aux Blessé (SSBM); the Union of the Women of France (UFF) and the Association of French Ladies (ADF). The classification of these Hospitals was undertaken by each Military Region. Over 700 of the great old chateaux and many of the pre-war luxury hotels in France were utilised as hospitals because they were well-constructed buildings with large rooms and big kitchens. Most of the chateaux had large stables and barns that could also be used as wards. The Service Santé Militaire was carried out in three zones. Zone 1 contained the evacuation and rescue stations, ambulances, and transportation to the hospital of evacuation, HOE. Zone 2 was for the armies: hospitalization of wounded or patients "serious or light". Zone 3 was hospitalization "in the interior zone", via the regulating station and the distribution station. There were in excess of 9,300 of these hospitals, all of which were under the direct control of the French War Ministry. This enabled them to use the "FM" cachet for free postage. However, the French Minister of Commercial, Industry, Stations and Telegraphs insisted that the military origin of the letters should be made obvious and indisputable. To establish this, all correspondence was given to the mail service via the post orderlies who affixed the seal of the regiment or the hospital, before handing the mail on for distribution. These regimental and hospital cachets guaranteed the free delivery of the post to its destination. The following pages illustrate how some of these cachets were used.



The Chateaux de Passy transformed into the French Hospital of New York.

HB No 32 bis Passy-sur-Yonne - Propriété de l'Etat, à Véron - 157 lits - Fonctionne du 21 Mars 1915 -  
Hôpital français de New-York.

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The Trianon Luxury Hotel transformed into the English General Hospital No 3.



Hopital Hospice, Gerbeviller (M. et M.).



## Sœur JULIE

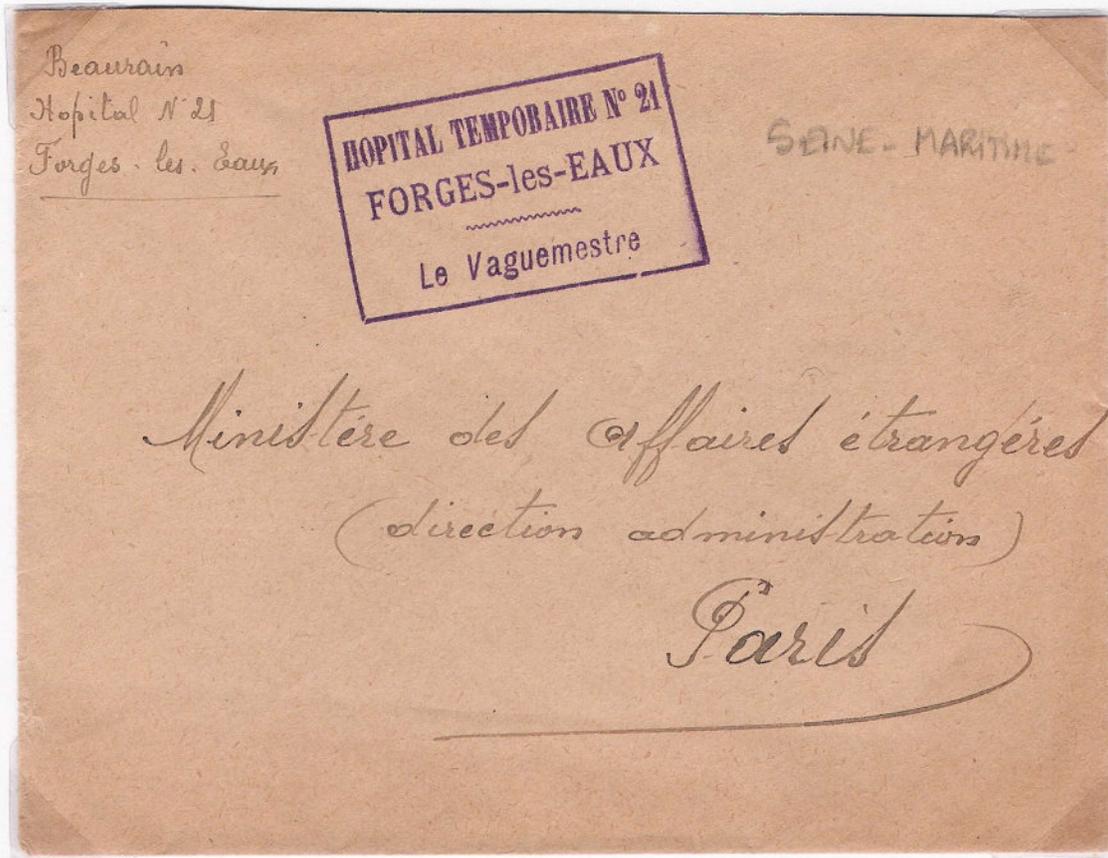
Religieuse de Saint-Charles de Nancy  
Supérieure de l'Hôpital de Gerbéviller  
Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur

Citée à l'Ordre du jour de l'Armée du Général de Castelnau  
pour sa conduite héroïque devant l'ennemi  
Décorée par le Président de la République

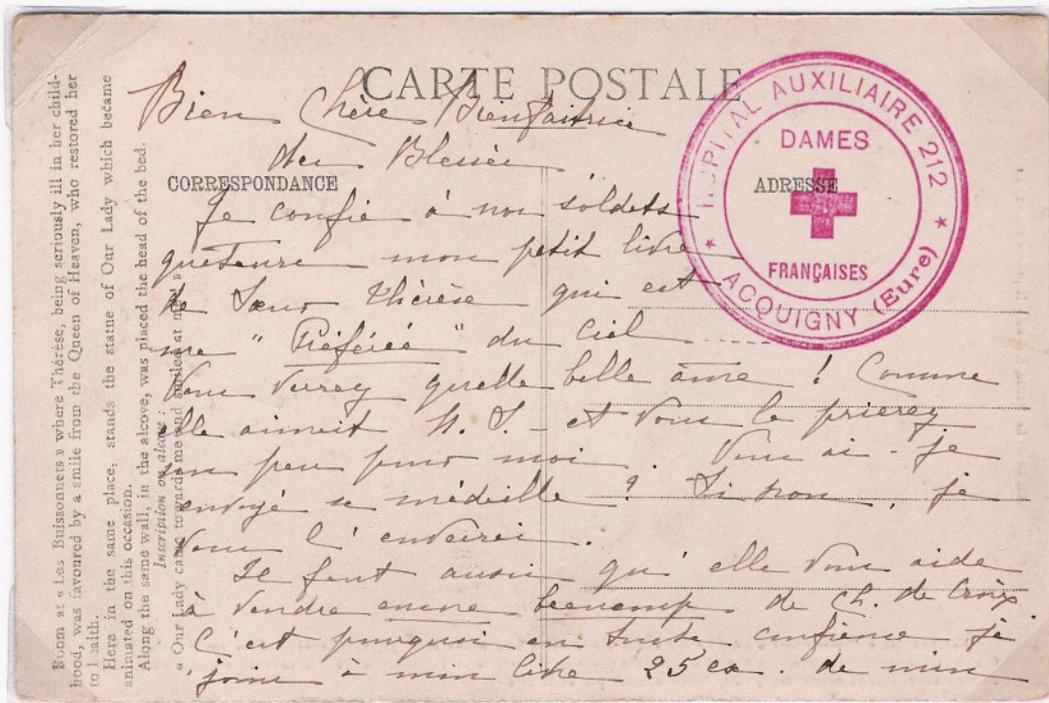
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Giché A. Gautherot - Droits de reproduction réservés





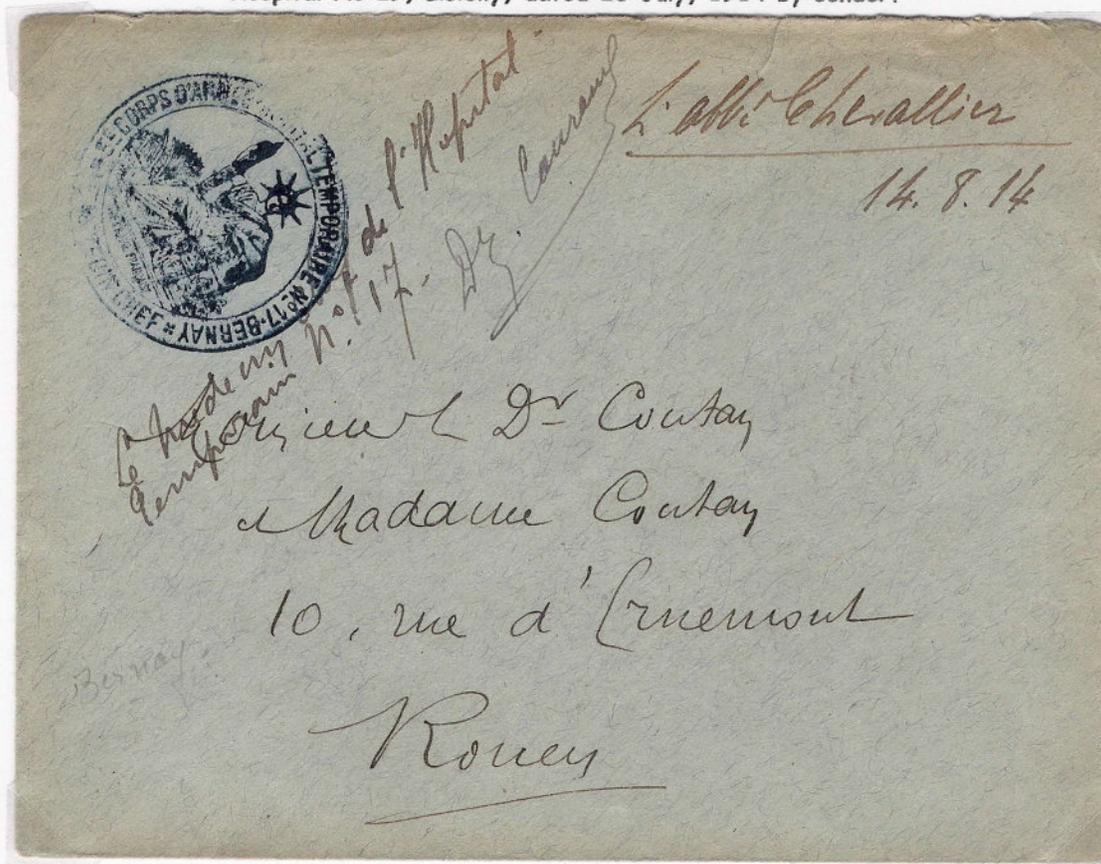
Temporary Hospital No 21, Forges-les-Eaux, Le Vaguemestre.



Auxiliary Hospital No 212, Acquigny (Eure), Dames Françaises.



Hospital No 29, Lisielly, dated 28 July, 1914 by sender.



Hospital No 17, Bernay, dated 14 August, 1914 by sender, franked on reverse.

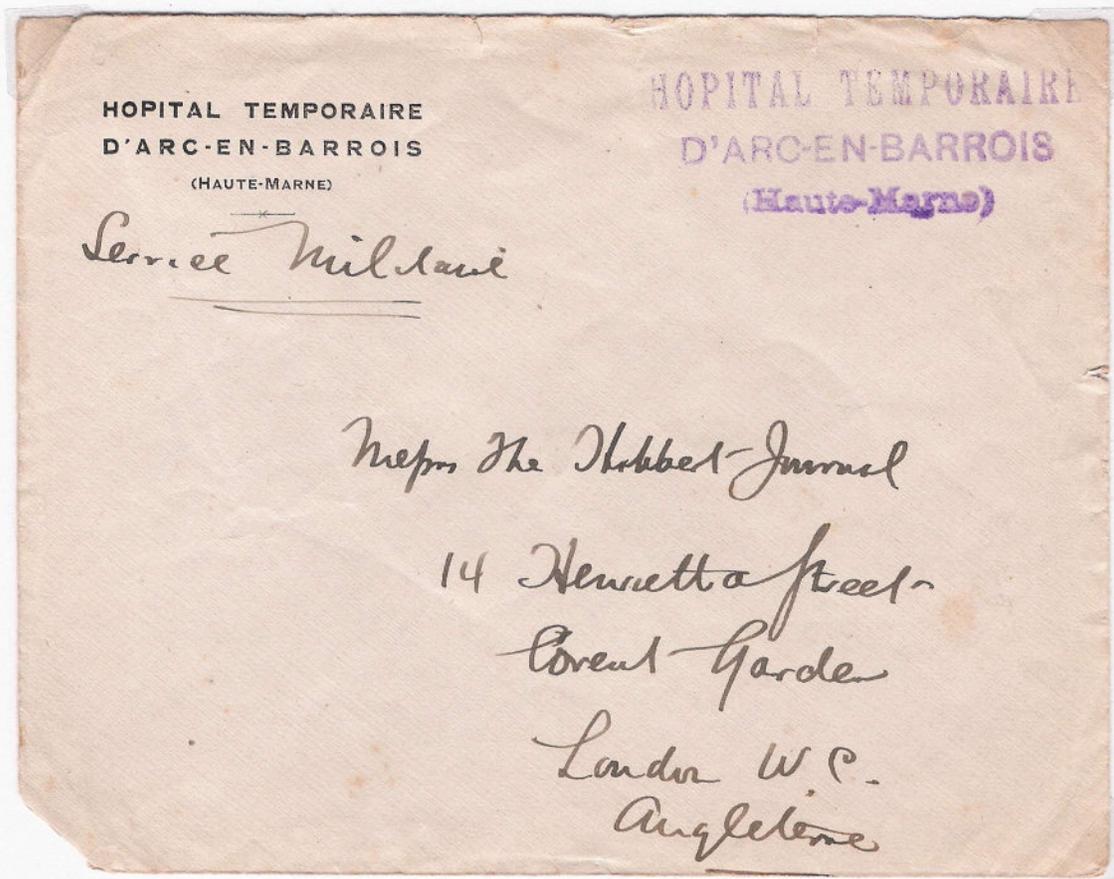
HC No 17 Bernay - Couvent du Saint-Sacrement - 117 lits.

3<sup>e</sup> CORPS D'ARMEE  
HOP. TEMP. N°29 LISIEUX

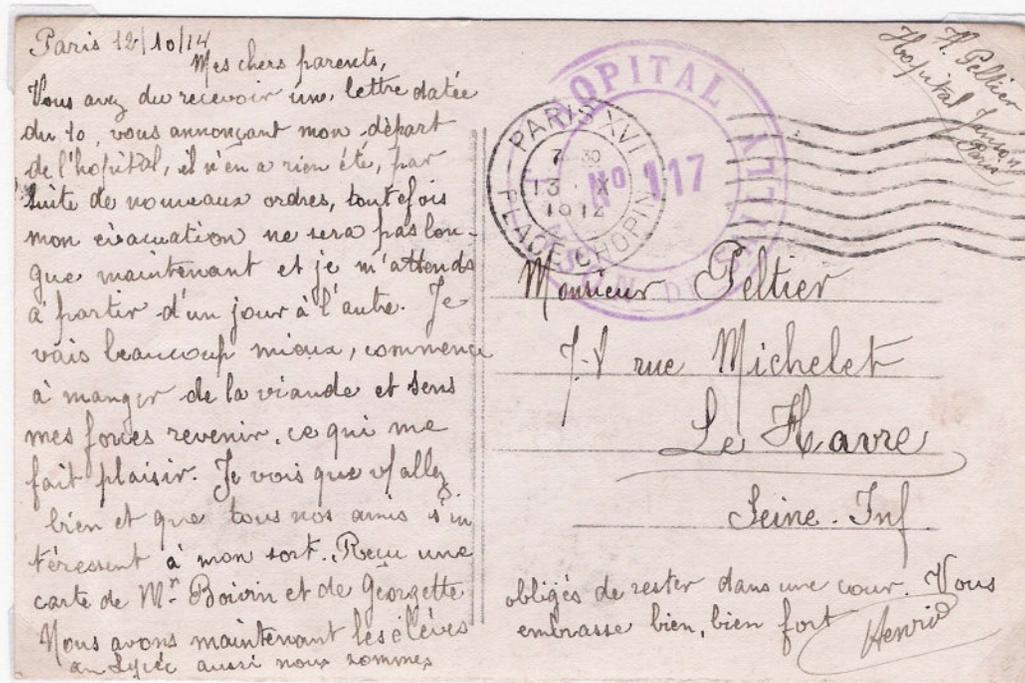
20 JUIL 1914



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Temporary Hospital, d'Arc-en-Barrois (Haute-Marne).



Hospital No 117, Paris, dated 12 October, 1914 by sender.

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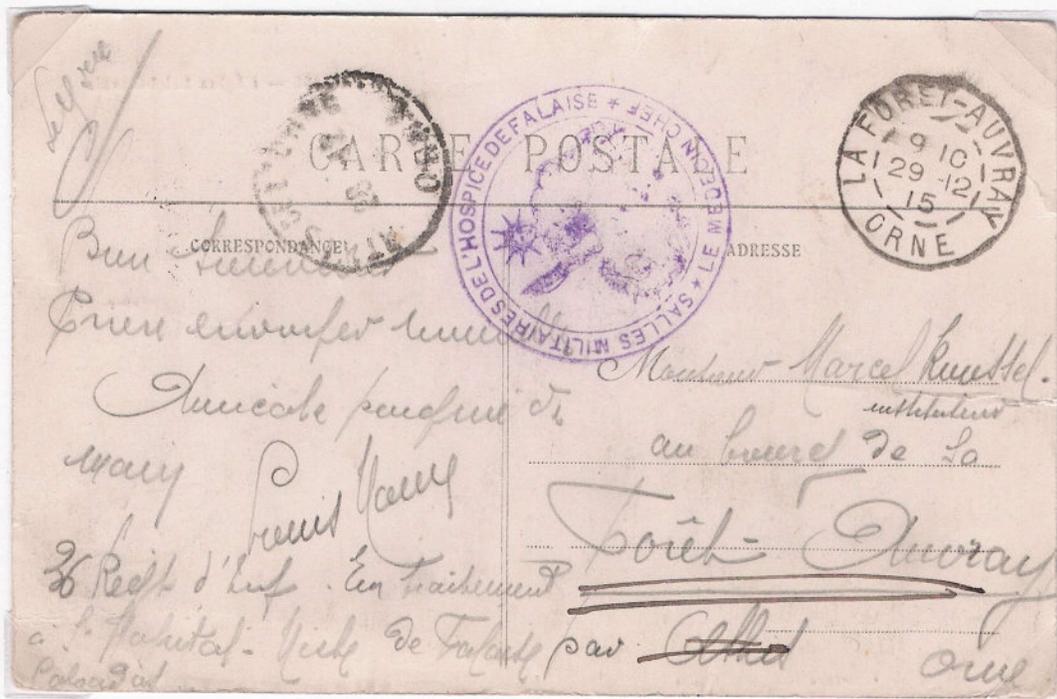


Complimentary Hospital No 49, Coutances (Manche), franked on 9 August, 1915.



Auxiliary Hospital No 86, Dax (Notre-Dame du Pouy), posted on 25 February, 1915.

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Salles Militaires de l'Hospice de Falaise, Le Medecin Chef, Orne, franked on 29 December, 1915.



Société Française de Secours aux Blessés, Auxillary Hospital No 1, Marmontier, franked on 24 November, 1915.

# Military Hospitals in France 1914 - 1918



Temporary Hospital No 22, Cholet, franked on 27 February, 1915.

HC No 22 Cholet, Institution Saint-Marie, rue Saint-Bonaventure - 170 lits, Fonctionne du 14 Août 1914.



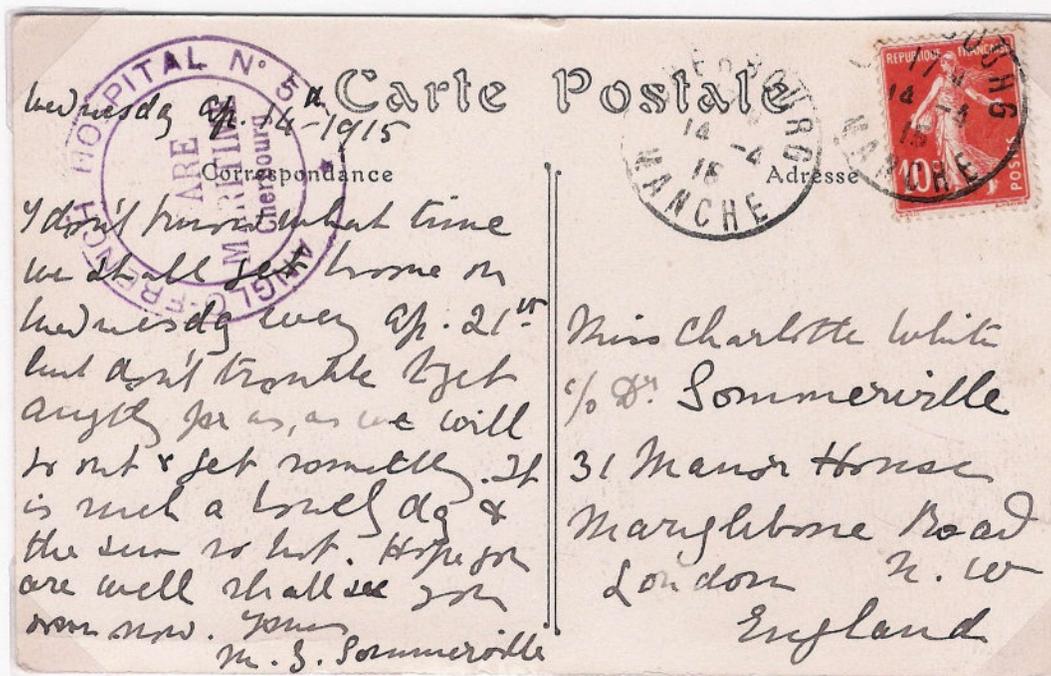
Auxiliary Hospital No 80, Bordeaux, franked on 22 July, 1915.

# Military Hospitals in France 1914 - 1918



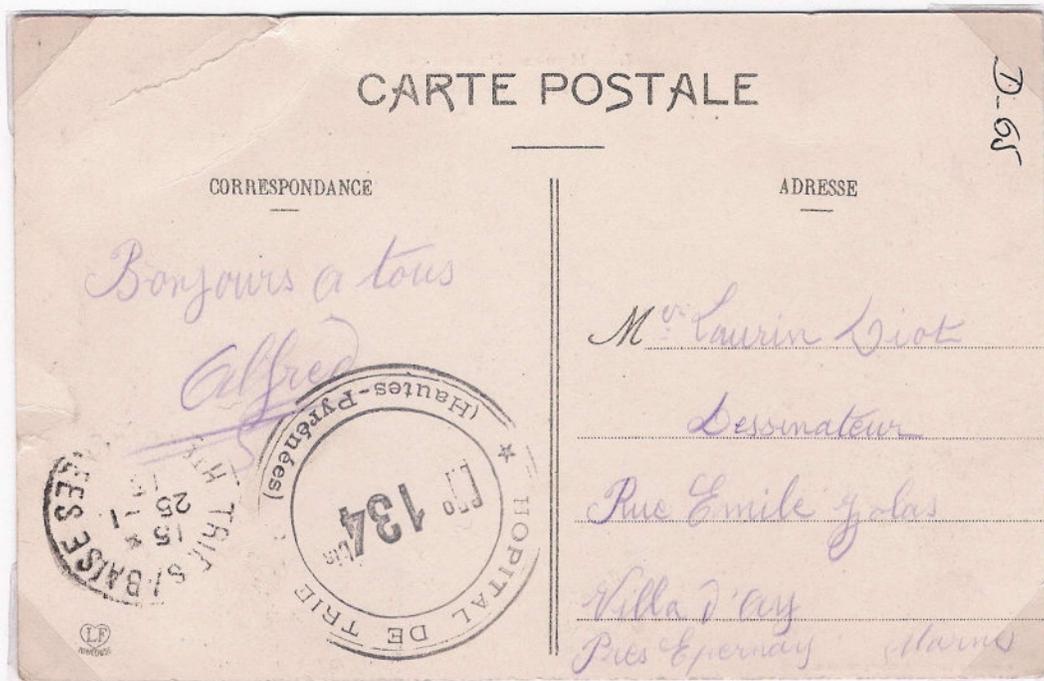
Auxiliary Hospital No 4, Angoulême, franked on 1 May, 1915.

HA No 4 Angoulême - Institution Saint Marie de Chavagnes, 171 rue de Paris-204 lits-SSBM-Fonctionne du 25 Août 1914.



Anglo French Hospital No 5, Cherbourg, franked on 14 April, 1915.

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Hospital No 134, Trie (Hautes-Pyrénées), franked on 25 January, 1915.

HB No 134 bis Trie-sur-Baïse - Orphelinat - 32 lits.



Auxillary Hospital No 16, Aix-les-Bains, franked on 1 June, 1915.

HA No 16 Aix-les-Bains - International Hotel - 54 lits - SSBM - Fonctionne du 19 Mars 1915.



Military Hospital, Chalons-sur-Marne, franked on 14 August, 1916.



Auxiliary Hospital No 81, Paris, franked on 7 November, 1916.

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Evacuation Hospital No 11, Tresoret, franked on 31 January, 1916.

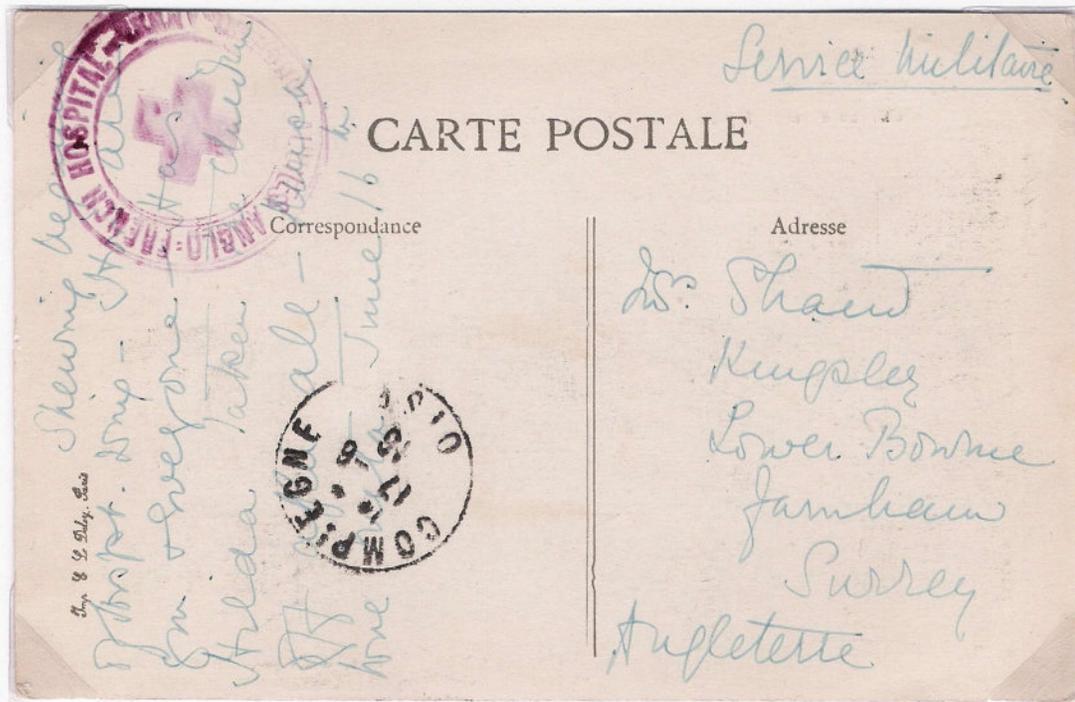


Auxillary Hospital No 201, Marseille, franked on 6 October, 1916.

Grand Lycée de garçons, place du Lycée - 510 lits - ADF - Fonctionne du 10 Août 1914. Une salle de 100 lits - ADF - Fonctionne du 28 Octobre 1914 pour les combattants musulmans originaires d'Afrique du Nord.



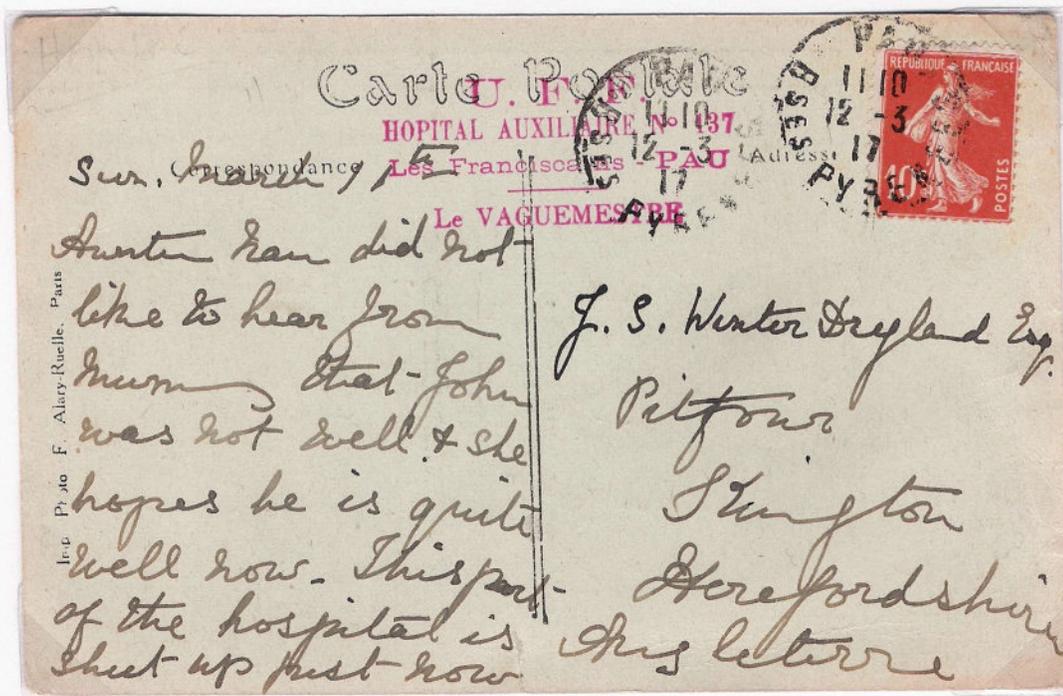
Hospital No 901, Le Havre, franked 16 October, 1916.



Anglo French Hospital, Compiègne, franked on 17 June, 1916.



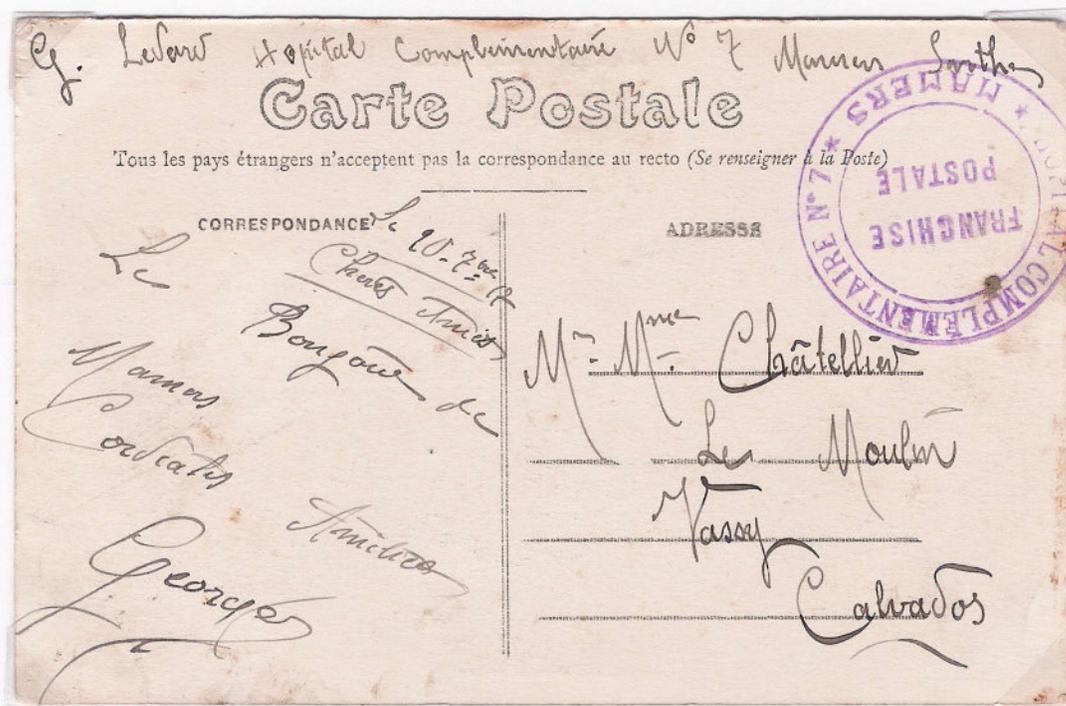
Hospital No 31, Le Havre, date written by sender on front of card is 6 October 1917.



Auxillary Hospital No 137, Pau, franked on 12 March 1917.

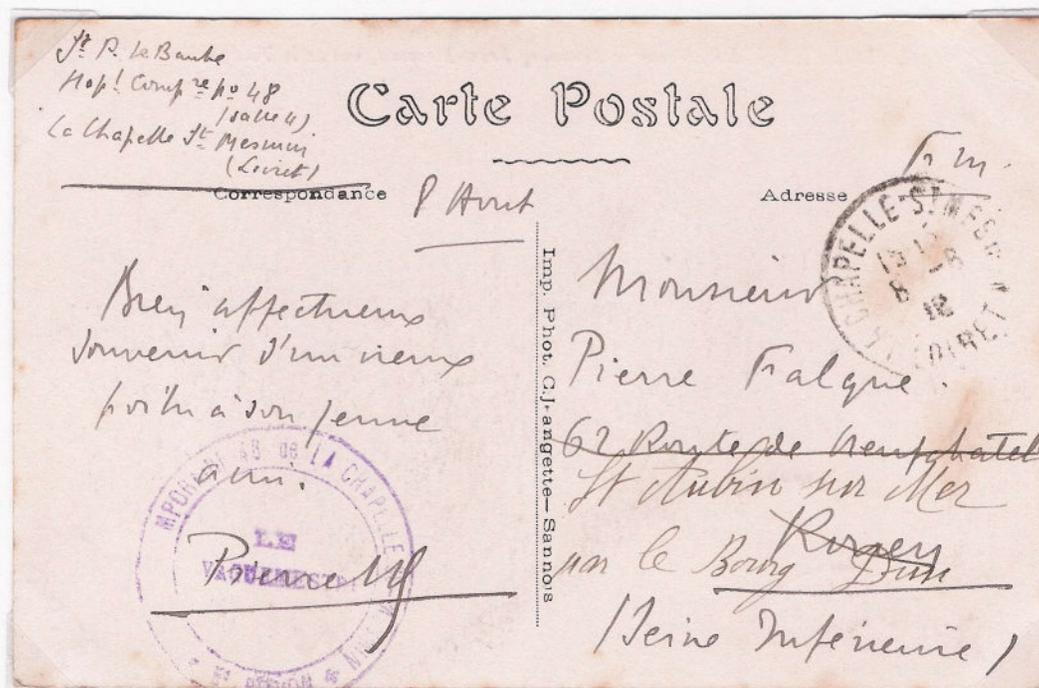
Couvent des Franciscains, rue Michel Hounan - 250 lits - UFF - Fonctionne du 4 Novembre 1915.

# Military Hospitals in France 1914 - 1918



Complimentary Hospital No 7, Mamers, dated 20 September, 1917 by sender.

HC No 7 Mamers - École supérieure de garçons, rue de la Poste - 110 lits - Fonctionne du 2 Août 1914.

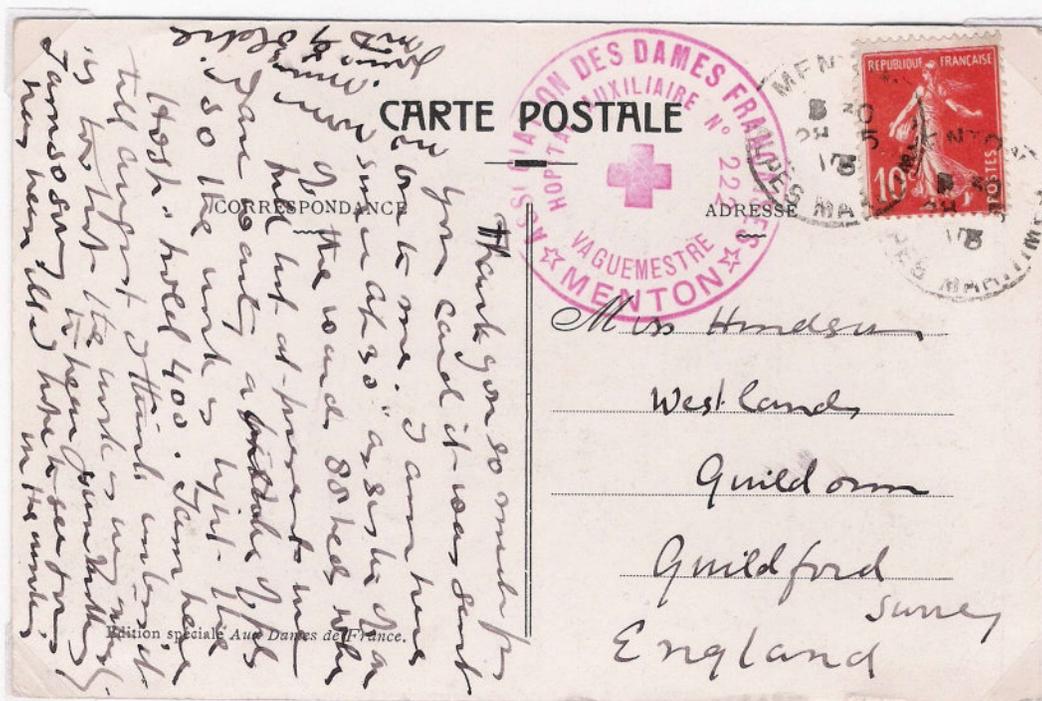


Complimentary Hospital No 48, Liviet, franked on 8 August, 1918.

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Base Hospital, British Red Cross Society & St John of Jerusalem, cachet dated 28 January, 1918.



Auxiliary Hospital No 222, Menton, franked on 28 May, 1918.

Hotel Imperial, Avenue Carnot - 400 lits - ADF - Fonctionne du 3 Avril 1915.