



Bringing nature nearer

Suntrap Shared Stories

Mrs Joyce Colder, Willingagle, Essex

Patient at Suntrap when a maternity home

'During 1944 I attended the maternity clinic at Howards Road, Plaistow, E13 and as the bombing was a little bit naughty, I was advised to have my baby at Suntrap. I duly arrived there on 8th December 1944 and my daughter as born on 9 December 1944. The sister in charge was named Cook and the nurses attending me were CR King and P Herigham.

My memories are a little vague, but on entry I was upstairs in a largish room but then I was transferred to a small room large enough for two patients. The lady in there was a private patient but she a little lonely, so I was asked if I would mind joining her, naturally I didn't, and I had private treatment without any cost. Unfortunately, in those days we were confined to bed at the time, so I was unable to explore the home.

My loveliest memory, apart from my baby was on Christmas morning. Firstly I was being collected to go home that day by my husband who was on leave from the Navy, but early in the morning we were awakened by the nurses singing carols and they were wearing their capes inside out revealing a lovely red glow. We each had a stocking filled with a comb, flannel and soap for 'mums' and for my daughter a pair of bootees. Breakfast that day was wonderful as we had egg and bacon, a rare treat, and then home to East Ham.

The next day 26 December 1944 a bomb dropped very near Suntrap, so I was glad that I missed that!

Extract from her letter to Georgina Green, date 16 September 1984

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