

Excerpt taken from the presentation by Margaret Chadd MBE to Norfolk and General Hospital in 1987.

QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL, EAST GRINSTEAD, 1941-1945

...On arrival at East Grinstead, many patients had scar tissue which had developed and this first had to be allowed to heal before it could be cut away and replaced with healthy new skin from another part of the patient's own body. In many instances, bone structure was also destroyed; this too had to be removed and pieces of bone from the hip or shin, i.e. another part of the body, shaped and moulded by the surgeon's hammer and chisel, had to be finally grafted into the bone gap. Large areas of skin loss and missing skin were often repaired by tubes of skin, taken from the patient's abdomen or chest; these were called pedicles. Replacement noses, lost through burns, bullets or bombs could need 5 or more operations before a new nose was achieved. Thus without the use of photographic records, the task of record taking could never have done justice to the progress made. The photographic department was to be congratulated on the comprehensive pictorial record for each patient....