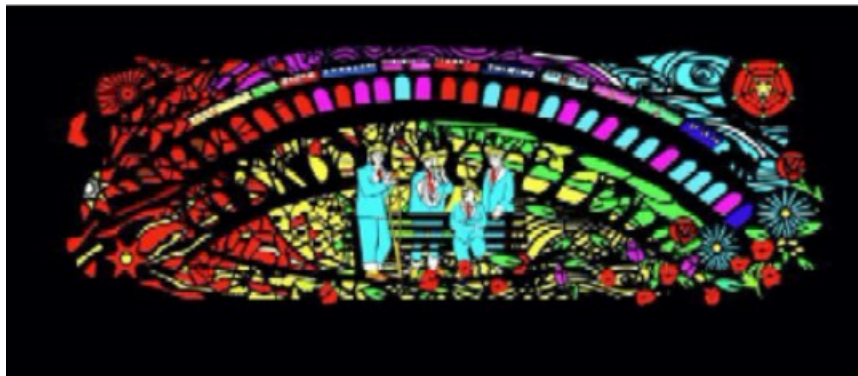


# Memorial commemorating the railway line to Queen Mary's Military Hospital, Whalley



This memorial at Whalley station is close to where trains would have left the main line

This memorial has been developed from artwork by children at Whalley Church of England Primary School by Lancashire artist Alastair Nicholson. The image of the hospital trains crossing Whalley Arches illustrates the journey from the danger of the battlefields to the safety of Queen Mary's Military Hospital, set in the countryside of Lancashire.

For the wounded soldiers on these hospital trains, this was a journey which they hoped would lead to healing and recuperation and this is shown by the way that the colours transform from the sharp jagged reds to the cooler blue and greens.

Sadly for some, their injuries were too great and that journey could not be completed. The cemetery next to the hospital contains the graves of 33 soldiers and a memorial to the nearly 300 that died. Around 60000 casualties were cared for at the hospital before its closure in 1920.

The image of the long train with different coloured carriages is based on reports from local people at that time. They noticed that after major battles, long hospital trains containing many carriages of different colours waited on the top of Whalley Arches. These carriages belonged to different railway companies from all over the country.

In the Great War, hospital trains were the main way to get the wounded from ships arriving at ports to different hospitals located around the country. One such was the newly built Calderstones Hospital near Whalley. This had been lent to the military for the duration of the war to care for the wounded. It opened in 1915 as Queen Mary's Military Hospital. The injured travelled to Whalley in specially fitted out trains which were brought from the main line along a private railway line to covered rail platforms sited within the hospital grounds. From here, the wounded were taken directly to the wards.

During their stay the soldiers wore distinctive blue suits with white lapels and turn ups along with white shirts and bright red ties. However they continued to wear their regimental caps.

I'M PICKING-UP  
SPLENDIDLY AT WHALLEY.

