

In Memory of

Minna Frost

Territorial Force Nursing Service

Died 1918 age 29.



No image
currently
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Remembered with honour:

The Diocese of Norwich & the Great War 1914-1918 Book of Remembrance

The Story of Minna Frost

Minna Frost was born in 1889 to Clement and Susan Frost. The family lived on St Clement's Hill in Norwich and Minna, also known as Minnie, was one of thirteen children.

Minna joined the Territorial Force Nursing Service (TFNS) in March 1917. Her war records show her rank as a Special Military Probationer (SMP). The role of SMP was created in 1915 as the difficulty of staffing hospitals increased. SMPs were employed directly by the War Office and served under identical terms and conditions to the Voluntary Aid Detachments working for the Joint War Committee (JWC). The JWC was a wartime amalgamation of the British Red Cross organisation and St John of Jerusalem. As a SMP Minna would have had a three month period of nursing experience in a military hospital.



Nurses at the Cornelia Hospital in Poole

Minna worked at the Cornelia Hospital and the Naval Sick Quarters in Poole. Records show she left Poole on 28 March 1918 to train fully as a nurse. For her training she went to the 4th London General Hospital in Denmark Hill, London.

Minna died in 1918 in London. The cause of her death is unknown. She may have been a victim of the 1918 influenza pandemic. In September 1920 Maud McCarthy, Matron-in-Chief of the TFNS wrote to Miss Ray, the Principal Matron of the TFNS, asking for details about Minna so that any gratuities owing could be paid. Miss Ray replied that she believed Minna had died after taking up general training in London but no other details were known.

Of her many siblings only Minna's sister Winifred appears to have had any direct involvement in the war. She worked as a volunteer with the Red Cross at the Freemason's War Hospital in London where she lived.

Minna is recorded on the Norwich Cathedral Roll of Honour as coming from Honingham. This is where her parents were living at the time of her death.