

In Memory of

Amy Alice Victoria Goldsmith

Territorial Force Nursing Service

Died 5 March 1919 age 32.



No image
currently
available

Remembered with honour:

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

The Women's National Memorial Screen in York Minster

New Barnet War Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Story of Amy Alice Victoria Goldsmith

Amy Alice Victoria Goldsmith was born in 1886 to Edward and Mary Goldsmith. Her father was a farmer and the family lived at Bardwell Hall in Suffolk. They later moved to Bury St Edmunds.

By 1911 Amy was already a qualified nurse and working in Cambridge. She joined the Territorial Force Nursing Service (TFNS) a year before the war and was called up in 1914. To be eligible for the TFNS you had to be a qualified nurse with over 3 years' experience and over 23 years of age.

Amy worked at the 1st Eastern General Hospital in Cambridge until 1917. In April 1917 part of the 1st Eastern General Hospital were sent to France to help set up the 55th General Hospital at Wimereux near Boulogne. Amy applied to go and left for France 30 April 1917. Her war records describe her as "thoroughly reliable and conscientious." Kind and attentive to the patients and her manner to them is very nice." She achieved the highest rank in the TFNS as a staff nurse.

At the end of the war Amy indicated that she wanted to transfer to the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS). However, in March 1919, she became ill and died of pneumonia on 5 March in Marseilles Stationery Hospital. Her war records indicate she was suffering from "debility, gastritis and pleurisy."

Why was Amy in Marseilles? Had she already transferred to the QAIMNS shortly before she became ill?

Despite having nine siblings, no descendants of Amy have been traced. Her seven sisters also present an interesting picture. None of the sisters married and all took up professional roles of some kind e.g. pharmacist, hospital sister, governess. Most of the sisters lived together, first in East Barnet, London and later in Ipswich. Perhaps their single status was also a result of war.

There is no evidence that any of her siblings were involved in the war. After Amy's death her brother Henry spent much time winding up her estate. The wheels of bureaucracy turned slowly but matters were finally resolved in September 1919. A letter explained that pay due was £45 plus a war bonus of 8s 9d a week from 1 February 1919 until the date of her death. Resolving financial matters was a common problem for many families dealing with the deaths of their loved ones.

Amy is buried at the Mazargues War Cemetery in Marseilles. Her name appears on the New Barnet war memorial in London where most of her sisters lived. There is some debate as to why she is included in The Diocese of Norwich & the Great War 1914-1918 Book of Remembrance having never lived in Norfolk. However, diocesan boundaries stretched beyond Norfolk at that time and the family lived close to the Norfolk border.

