

In Memory of

Alice Long

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

Died 12 September 1918 age 46.



Remembered with honour:

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

The Story of Alice Long

Alice Long was born on 10 August 1872 to Frederick and Helen Long. The family lived in Wells and her father was a doctor at Wells Hospital.

Alice was one of seven children. None appear to have had any direct involvement in the war. Her brother Sydney Herbert Long was the founder of the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust.

Alice was educated privately at Clifton School then trained at University College Hospital from 1896 to 1899 where she qualified as a Staff Nurse. She worked at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital as a Sister then in 1901 she worked at Wells Hospital.

In 1909 she went out to Zululand and worked there for six years. She returned to England on 21 May 1915 travelling on the Llandovery Castle from Natal. The journey had cost Alice £29 6s 0d, a sum her sister Mary tried to claim back after Alice's death without success.

Alice joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) in 1915 as a nurse but later became a Sister. She was eligible to join as she was a qualified nurse between the age of 25 and 35, single and well educated. She went out to Malta on 25 May 1915 and was in there until 30 October 1916 working at St Paul's Hospital. The prime contribution of the hospitals on Malta was humanitarian; receiving sick and wounded soldiers from the Dardanelles (April 1915 to January 1916) and from Salonica (October 1915 to September 1918).

Alice fell ill in July 1916 in Malta and the word cardiac is noted on her medical report. She returned to England in October and attended a medical board at Lakenham Hospital. Heart problems were diagnosed but nothing she felt that prevented her from working. It was thought her problems were linked to her having had rheumatic fever some 18 years previously. The report stated that her condition was not caused by military service but aggravated by the climatic conditions under which she was working.

Alice was invalided out of the QAIMNS but deemed fit for secretarial or housekeeping duties. This must have been devastating news for Alice. In March 1917 she asked to be re-employed by the QAIMNS but was refused.

Alice did not recover from her illness and died on 12 September 1918 at her father's home, 10 The Close, Norwich.

