

In Memory of  
**Mary Maria Matthews**

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps  
Died 17 February 1919 age 28.



Remembered with honour:  
The Diocese of Norwich & the Great War 1914-1918 Book of Remembrance  
The Women's National Memorial Screen in York Minster  
Buxton War Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# The Story of Mary Maria Matthews

Mary Maria Matthews was born on 25 January 1891 to Walter and Ellen Matthews. She had eight siblings and the family lived at the Old Workhouse Cottage in Buxton near Aylsham where her father worked as an agricultural labourer.

We do not know when Mary joined the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC) as a nurse, but her photo and autograph album show that she was at Crown Point Hall in Trowse in 1913 and Moulton Paddocks in Newmarket in 1914. Both were recuperation hospitals, but were not run by the Red Cross or St John's. They are both referred to in The British Nursing Journal.

Mary is pictured below with friends A Covington and Lottie Layte. Did they serve with Mary?



1915 entries in the album show Mary to have been at Branksome Dene Gardens in Bournemouth. From then it is not clear when Mary went abroad, but she served in Salonika and France. Her service number was 47814.

Mary died on 17 February 1919 age 28. It was the height of the influenza pandemic, however the cause of her death is unknown. She was buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Mary was awarded the Victory and British war medals and her name is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Norwich and in York. Her name also appears on Buxton's war memorial along with her brother Redcar's, who died in France in 1917.

Without her album we would know much less about Mary's life during the war. It contains photos of friends and soldiers she would have met during her service. The album was almost lost but was rescued by her nephew Victor Myhill who has enabled Mary's story to be told.

A 1917 entry in Mary's album reads:

*"Life is short, old age will come, so go it Mary while life is young."*  
Old age never came to Mary.

