

In Memory of

Anna Marjorie Whall

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps

Died 6 December 1918 age 36.



No image
currently
available

Remembered with honour:

The Women's National Memorial Screen in York Minster

Barsham War Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Story of Anna Marjorie Whall

Anna Marjorie Whall was born on 20 September 1882 to Edward and Elizabeth Whall. Although Anna was born in Springfield, Essex, the family moved to Norfolk when Anna was four. Her father was the vicar at North Barsham and the family lived in the rectory there.

Anna had four siblings. Her brother Edward was a 2nd Lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He died on 20 September 1917 and was buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium. No descendants have been found of three sisters.

Violet was well educated. She was taught at home by a governess then attended a boarding school in Hunstanton. She studied French for 18 months at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Ghent, Belgium.

Between 1903 and 1918 Anna worked at the Brenting Certified Institution in Westbury-on-Trym near Bristol as a clerk and a cashier. She enrolled in the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC) in June 1918 and her service officially started on 8 July 1918. Her service number was 43048.

Her application noted that she was 5' 3" tall and had flat feet. The references she had to provide were highly complimentary. The Reverend Frank Brownson from Compton Greenfield near Bristol had known Anna for 15 years; *"I cannot speak too highly of her in every capacity. She is a lady, well-educated, a clergyman's daughter and a thoroughly reliable and efficient business woman."* Mrs Loweth, the matron at Brenting wrote that Anna was *"exceptionally tactful in dealing with subordinates & those with whom she is working . . . entirely trustworthy . . . I cannot speak too highly of her devotion to her work."*

Anna worked as a forewoman clerk at the QMAAC Depot Hostel in Clifton, Bristol. While there she was promoted to assistant administrator on 30 October 1918. Anna had enrolled for home service only but maybe because of her capabilities and her knowledge of French she was sent to France.

Anna was not in France for long before she became ill. On 26 November 1918 a telegram was sent to her father reporting that she was dangerously ill and was in the 2nd General Hospital Le Havre. He was instructed to take the telegram to the nearest police station if he wished to visit her.

We do not know whether Anna's father managed to visit her in France before she died on 6 December 1918. She was buried at Ste Marie Cemetery Le Havre and her grave inscription reads "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

Anna's name also appears on the Barsham war memorial alongside her brother's.

