

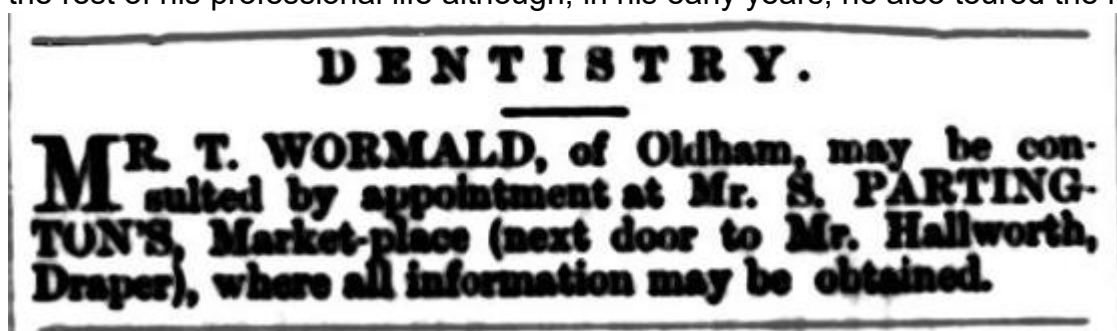
Sister Ada Hannah Wormald, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. – A.R.R.C

Queen Alexandria's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve

Associate Royal Red Cross & twice Mentioned in Despatches



Back in 1871, 22 years old Prestwich born Thomas Wormald set up his dental surgery at 188 Union Road Oldham, aka Rhodes Bank Chambers where he was to stay for the rest of his professional life although, in his early years, he also toured the locality.



Middleton Albion 14 Sep 1872

It transpires that Wormalds were a veritable dynasty of dentistry! Thomas Wormald's father Sidney was a Dentist, his cousin / nephew David Wormald was also a dentist as was his father! Yet another Sidney was a Stockport Dentist. Sidney, David and Thomas Wormald were amongst 150 or so celebrating the second anniversary of the London Dental Hospital in 1876.

In 1871 bachelor Thomas Wormald employed a middle aged housekeeper and a 12 years old 'Page' – I suspect a general dogsbody who was expected to maintain a degree of smartness whilst ushering in patients. The three-storey building was then newly erected and featured a chequerboard threshold and rich green tiles in the entrance. After a long stint in the early 20th C as a bed shop, the old place hit hard times before being revamped in recent years.



In 1878 Thomas and that assumed cousin, David from Bury, also a dentist and son of a Dentist, both gave 2 Guineas to the Dublin Dental Hospital. In 1879 Thomas Wormald married Mary Brown from Penrith; by the 1881 Census, their first child Ada, was 10 months old.

Trapp, C.E., of Higher Broughton.
WORMALD—BROWN.—On May 31st, at Shipley Parish Church, by the Rev. W. Kelly, vicar, Thomas Wormald, L.D.S., R.C.S., Oldham, eldest son of Sidney Wormald, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S., Stockport, to Mary Brown, eldest daughter of Mr. John Brown, Ridge House, Saddleworth.

Thomas was very keen to detail his qualifications in this census – Licensed by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland! A little surprising he had not got English qualifications but perhaps he was following a family tradition.

The 1891 census reveals that 3 children had been produced within 4 years – the family was complete and employing a live-in Governess to educate those children as well as a general servant.



BAPTISMS AT CHRIST CHURCH, GLODWICK, OLDHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.					
DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	PARENTS' NAME.	TRADE OR PROFESSION.	ABODE.	MINISTER.
1880		Thomas			
5th 23	Ada Hannah	+ Wormald	Dentist	Union St	Remond -
1880		Mary			
No. 171					

Christ Church Glodwick where the Wormald children were baptised. Closed in 1962 - demolished

The Governess must have done a good job as Ada Wormald gained a place at the Oldham Grammar School, being one of the first pupils to attend the school when it was opened in 1895

Unusually for the time, both boys and girls shared a single campus and some facilities such as the Assembly Hall although lessons were given separately.

*Mistresses and some of the pupils
c1895.*



In 1901, middle child and only son Sidney was working as a clerk, both the girls had no employment – Ada was yet to launch her career. By 1911, the children had all left home. Sidney had been married 3 years, was working as a Commercial Traveller and mourning the death of his only child. Ada and Sidney both witnessed youngest sister Mildred's marriage to Arnold Riley in 8th March 1911 whilst 30 years old Ada was one of 33 nurses living in and caring for 129 in-patients at the Bolton Infirmary. After leaving Bolton she spent periods at the Maternity Hospital, Birmingham; the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge; and (immediately prior to the war) as a Ward and Theatre Nurse at Clayton Hospital, Wakefield. She was mobilised into the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (Reserve) in January 1915, received her military training at Edinburgh and was then appointed on the nursing staff at Edinburgh Castle. Her first patients were German sailors from the Blucher, which was sunk by our fleet in the North Sea.

Ada was one of a number of Hulme Grammar Old Girls who volunteered for overseas service. 2 qualified surgeons went to France, another 8 girls also went abroad either as qualified nurses or in Voluntary Aid Detachments – cooking, cleaning, changing beds and generally doing the less skilled but essential jobs.

Ada was sent out to Alexandria, serving there and also on hospital ships during the Gallipoli operations – including the Galeka. It was the work that she undertook on these hospital ships that earned her the Royal Red Cross decoration received in May 1916, post-dated to January. Whilst only the matron and Ada were decorated, Miss Wormald claimed that every sister on the ship deserved it.

The distinction she won was viewed as an honour to the school and the town in general.

OLDHAM NURSE HONOURED

Miss Ada H. Wormald, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Wormald, surgeon dentist, of Rhodes Bank, Oldham, has been awarded the Royal Red Cross Decoration for service in connection with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (Reserve). Miss Wormald was trained in the nursing profession at Bolton Infirmary and took up military nursing about eighteen months ago. She was then appointed on the nursing staff at Edinburgh Castle and her first patients were German sailors from the Blücher, which was sunk by our fleet in the North Sea. About twelve months ago she was sent out to Alexandria and she has served in Alexandria and also on hospital ships during the Gallipoli operations. She is now matron of the Government Hospital at Benha in Egypt.

Miss Wormald was educated at the Oldham Grammar School, she being one of the first pupils to attend the school when it was opened. The distinction she has won is an honour to the school and the town in general.

The Red Cross Decoration was not to be the last acknowledgement of her sterling service – she was twice mentioned in dispatches which indicates quite what extraordinary work and leadership she was doing in, often, very difficult conditions

Ada was then promoted to Matron of the Government Hospital at Benha in Egypt. In November 1918 she moved to the Armenian Refugee Hospital, Port Said from where she received a glowing reference from the Commanding Officer:

I have the honour to report that Miss A H Wormald, Sister, QAISNR was matron of the Armenian Refugee Hospital, Port Said for a period of six months. She showed herself to be a

capable organiser and performed her duties very efficiently. She worked well herself and got her subordinates to work well too. I should strongly recommend her for a further period of service.

**Re :
Ada Hannah Wormald
deceased**

**Notice Pursuant to the Trustee
Act 1925**

ANY person having any claim against or an interest in the estate of Ada Hannah Wormald deceased late of Eden House 29 Copp Hill Budleigh Salterton Devon who died on the 6th September 1967 is required to send particulars thereof to Lloyds Bank Limited, Executor and Trustee Department, Bridge House, Baldwin Street, Bristol, 1, the executor of the said deceased or to the undermentioned solicitors on or before 19th December 1967 after which date the estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**CHUBB, BERESFORD
& WYATT,
Solicitors.**



WW1 Nurses in Egypt

Ada did not return home until July 1919, and was demobilised 2 months later, in September

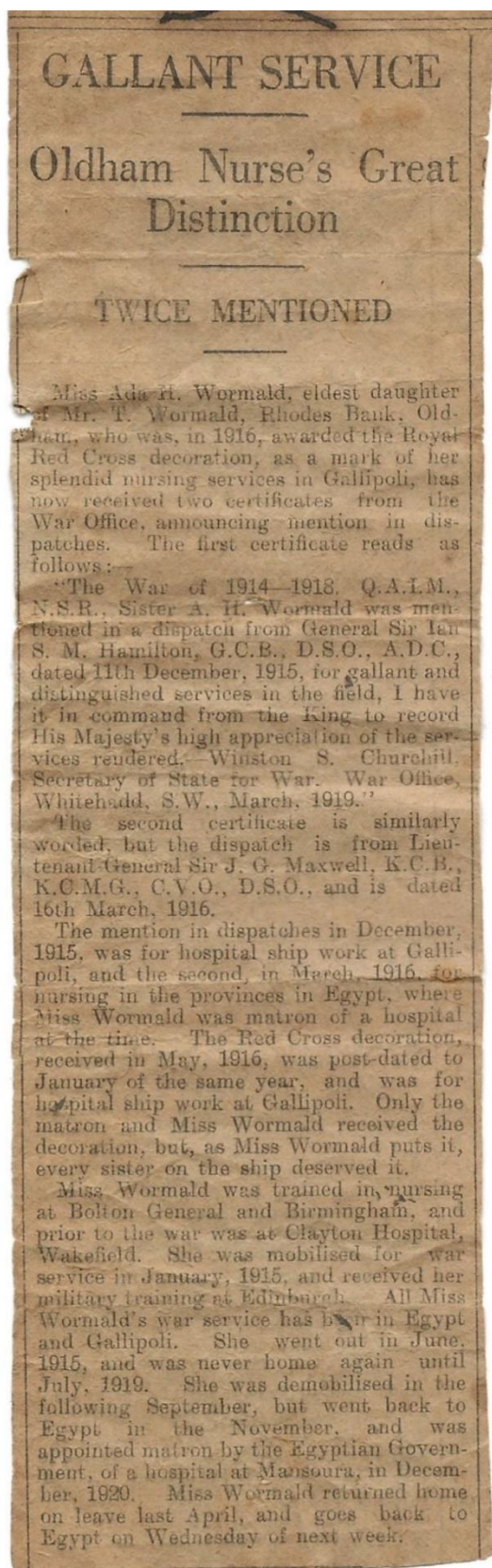
However, her horizons had been broadened and she returned to Egypt in November 1919, and was appointed matron by the Egyptian Government, of a hospital at Mansoura, in December 1920.

Ada Hannah Wormald died at Budleigh Salterton, Devon in 1967, having retired to a

delightful bungalow set in a pleasant green garden.

Twice Mentioned in Dispatches – M.I.D.

Miss Ada H Wormald, eldest daughter of Mr T Wormald, Rhodes Bank, Oldham, who was, in 1916, awarded the Royal Red Cross decoration, as a mark of her splendid nursing services in Gallipoli, has now received two certificates from the War Office, announcing mention in dispatches.



The first M.I.D. certificate reads as follows: -

The War of 1914-1918. Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. Sister A.H. Wormald was mentioned in a dispatch from General Sir Ian S.M. Hamilton G.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., dated 11th December 1915, for gallant and distinguished services in the field, I have it in command from the King to record His Majesties high appreciation of the services rendered. – Winston S. Churchill, Secretary of State for War. War Office, Whitehall S.W. March 1919.

This first mention in dispatches in December 1915, was for hospital ship work at Gallipoli.

The second M.I.D. certificate reads as follows: -

The War of 1914-1918. Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. Sister A.H. Wormald was mentioned in a dispatch from Lieutenant General Sir J.G. Maxwell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., dated 16th March 1916, for gallant and distinguished services in the field, I have it in command from the King to record His Majesties high appreciation of the services rendered. – Winston S. Churchill, Secretary of State for War. War Office, Whitehall S.W. March 1919.

The second mention in dispatches in March 1916, was for nursing in the provinces in Egypt, where Miss Wormald was matron of a hospital at the time.

Miss Ada Hannah Wormald was also awarded campaign medals:

From Left to Right. The 1914-15 Star, The British War Medal & The Victory Medal

The **1914–15 Star** is a campaign medal of the British Empire which was awarded to all who served in the British and Imperial forces in any theatre of the First World War against the Central European Powers during 1914 and 1915. The medal was never awarded singly and recipients also received the British War Medal and Victory Medal.



The **British War Medal** is a campaign medal of the United Kingdom which was awarded to officers and men and women of British and Imperial forces for service in the First World War.

The **Victory Medal** (United Kingdom) was issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or the 1914–15 Star, and to most of those who were awarded the British War Medal. It was not awarded singly.

Pip, Squeak and Wilfred are the affectionate names given to the three WW1 campaign medals — The 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal respectively. These medals were primarily awarded to the Old Contemptibles (B.E.F.). and by convention all three medals are worn together and in the same order from left to right when viewed from the front. The set of three medals or at least the British War Medal and the Victory Medal are the most likely medals to be found among family heirlooms.

When the WW1 medals were issued in the 1920's it coincided with a popular comic strip published by the Daily Mirror newspaper. It was written by Bertram J. Lamb (Uncle Dick), and drawn by the cartoonist Austin Bowen Payne (A.B. Payne). Pip was the dog, Squeak the penguin and Wilfred the young rabbit. It is believed that A. B. Payne's batman during the war had been nicknamed "Pip-squeak" and this is where the idea for the names of the dog and penguin came from. For some reason the three names of the characters became associated with the three campaign medals being issued at that time to many thousands of returning servicemen, and they stuck.

The Royal Red Cross entry in The London Gazette

Cross	...	...	...	4429
Woollett, Staff Nurse Miss D. M. H., 2nd Class, Royal Red Cross	...	...	...	5601
Woolmer, Staff Nurse Miss D. M., 2nd Class, Royal Red Cross	...	...	...	5601
Wormald, Sister Miss A. H., 2nd Class, Royal Red Cross...	...	...	...	4420
Worsley, Maj. Richard S., Companion, Distinguished Service Order	...	...	...	4428
Wraxall, Sister Miss E. G., 2nd Class, Royal Red Cross...	...	...	...	5579

Mention in Dispatches

WORMALD A.H. Sister

Q.A.I.M.N.S. (Reserve)

M.I.D.

Reg. 5.5.16.
Page 4519.

1914-15 Star

(4 28 20) W/1001-127222 52,000 719 NWY/1001 127222 (To be rendered in duplicate.)

Q.A.I.M.N.S. Regiment or Corps when Decoration was earned.

Nurses 2. ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Decoration granted under Army Order of 120.

To be left blank	On date of Discharge		NAME	Date of Discharge	REMARKS (a) If non-effective:—Cause, etc. (b) If transferred:—Present Regt. No., Rank and Unit. (c) If forfeited:—Cause.	Record of disposal of decoration (a) Presented (b) Dispatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	To be left blank for use in War Office
	Regt. No.	Rank					
			S/Nurse. J. FARGING (Mrs. J. C. Farging)	12.10.15		N/2/1916. 12.10.15. 1/4. 9. 1928.	
			S/Nurse. J. E.	11.9.15 (France)		N/2/1916. 11.9.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			S/Nurse. J. E.	10.11.15 (France)		N/2/1916. 10.11.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			S/Nurse. CAMPBELL	12.10.15 (France)		N/2/1916. 12.10.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			SISTER THOMPSON	5.12.14		N/2/1916. 5.12.14. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			S/Nurse. MACDONALD	10.6.15 (France)		N/2/1916. 10.6.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			S/Nurse. AYRES	6.10.15		N/2/1916. 6.10.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			SISTER WILSON	25.11.15 (France)		N/2/1916. 25.11.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			Sister CUMMING	9.6.15 (France)		N/2/1916. 9.6.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			S/Nurse. HELYAR (Mrs. H. Helyar)	7.10.15		N/2/1916. 7.10.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			S/Nurse. HOMAN (Miss)	E.M. Egypt. 20.5.15		N/2/1916. 20.5.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	
			SISTER WORMALD (R.R.C.)	A.H. Egypt. 19.7.15		N/2/1916. 19.7.15. 1/4. 2. 1929.	

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Decoration as detailed above.

Place _____ Date _____ Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

British War Medal & Victory Medal

Q.A.I.M.N.S. (RESERVE) REGIMENT OR CORPS.

Nurses 2. ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders of 19. 847.

Regt. No.	Rank	NAME	In support of the Corps particularly served with by each individual and Regt. No. (showing the highest rank, whether permanent, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless awarded for operations, being shown against the name of the Regiment or Corps which is to be mentioned on the Medal)	Theatre of war in which served	Groups awarded (to be left blank)	REMARKS (a) Presented (b) Dispatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock
		SISTER CROSBIE G.				N/2/22067 B.W.M. 1/4. 3. 18. 1/4. 7. 30.
		S/Nurse. HOPPS E.E. (Now Mrs. C. HOPPS)				N/2/22067 B.W.M. 1/4. 3. 18. 1/4. 7. 30.
		SISTER WORMALD A.H. (R.R.C.)				N/2/22067 B.W.M. 1/4. 3. 18. 1/4. 7. 30.
		TURNER C. MISS (Now Mrs. C. BURGE)		Civilian Nurse employed by War Department		N/2/22067 B.W.M. 1/4. 3. 18. 1/4. 7. 30.
		SISTER JONES M.A.				N/2/22067 B.W.M. 1/4. 3. 18. 1/4. 7. 30.
		S/Nurse. STEWART C. (Miss)				N/2/22067 B.W.M. 1/4. 3. 18. 1/4. 7. 30.
		S/Nurse. TILBROOK S.G. (Miss) (Now Mrs. S.G. HAMMAN)		Served in Malta		N/2/22067 B.W.M. 1/4. 3. 18. 1/4. 7. 30.

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place _____ Date _____ Signature and rank of Officer certifying.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

It is only recently that women have been admitted into the British Army in any numbers, but there has been one area where women have held a key role for many years, namely nursing.

It was during the Crimea War that the nursing care of British soldiers was exposed for its inadequacies. A nurse, Florence NIGHTINGALE was instrumental in forming a nursing service in the Crimea to care for sick and injured soldiers. By 1860, an Army Training School of nurses had been opened at the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, near Southampton. Six years later, nurses had been appointed to all military general hospitals both home and abroad. In 1881, these nurses were brought into an Army Nursing Service.

Sisters were also appointed to hospitals, including in Gibraltar and Malta, so by 1883, every military hospital with more than 100 beds had a staff of sisters and nurses. The South African War on 1899 until 1902 led to a further reorganisation of Army Nursing Service. In 1902, by Royal Warrant the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (Q.A.I.M.N.S.) was formed, with Her Majesty as president until her death in 1925.

During the First World War, the Q.A.I.M.N.S. provided nurses across the world, with a Territorial Force Nursing Service being formed. A branch of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. was formed in India.

During the Second World War, the Q.A.I.M.N.S. expanded in order to provide nurses and sisters at all Military General Hospitals. In this capacity, nurses served in all the theatres of operations where British and Indian troops were deployed.

The Service was in effect officers only. The lowest rank was Staff Nurse, but this was phased out by 1944. The other ranks and their Army equivalents were:

Sister – Lieutenant;

Senior Sister – Captain;

Matron – Major;

Principal Matron – Lieutenant Colonel;

Chief Principal Matron – Colonel;

Matron-in-Chief – Brigadier.

Members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., although treated as officers, were not in fact commissioned officers of the British Army, until this anomaly was rectified in 1949. At the same time, the service was admitted as a corps of the British Army, being redesignated as the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. In 1950, servicewomen were recruited as other ranks, and student nursing training commenced. In 1992, male nurses were admitted to the corps.