

This is A Few Forgotten Women Story



This is one of a series of stories about those who served with the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

A Batley Woman's Service – The story of Dorothy Turner

Dorothy Turner was born on February 5, 1894, at 12 Caledonia Road in Batley, West Yorkshire. She was the daughter of Benjamin Turner, a rag merchant, and Mary Jane Whitaker. Growing up in a working-class community in northern England, Dorothy's early life unfolded against the backdrop of Batley's bustling textile industry.

ACCORDANCE OF ENROLLMENT.		of Registrar.		Registration of Birth.
1/15	5th February 1894 12 Caledonia Road W.S.D.	Dorothy	and Benjamin Turner	Mary Jane Turner formerly Whitaker
				Reg Merchant
				Benjamin Turner Tailor 12 Caledonia Road Batley
				Seventh March 1894
				Benjamin Whitaker Registrar

Undoubtedly the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914 changed the course of Dorothy's life, as in September 1915, at the age of 21, she joined the British Army as a Nursing Sister with the British Red Cross Society Volunteers during World War I. Her commitment to helping others during this tumultuous period is a testament to her courage and altruism.

This decision led her to the forefront of the war effort, far from the familiar streets of Batley. Dorothy's service began at the Croydon War Hospital, where

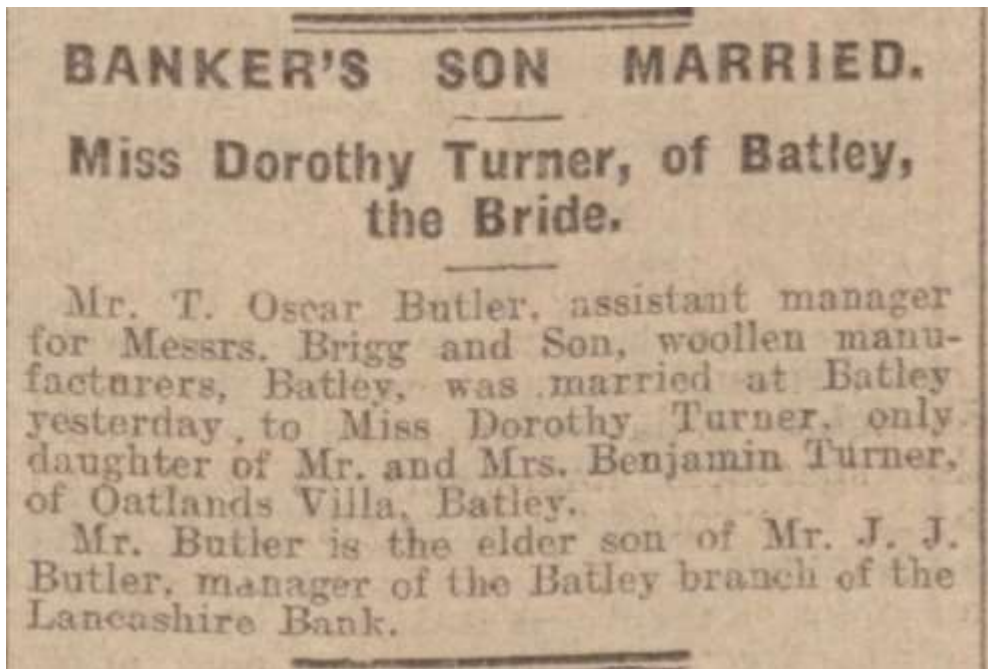
she provided essential care to wounded soldiers. Her work here was crucial in preparing her for the demanding conditions she would face on the front lines.

She was then deployed to France, where she served in two significant hospitals. Her postings included a nine-month stint at No. 7 General Hospital in S.Omer and a subsequent thirteen months at No. 3 General Hospital in Le Treport. These experiences, undoubtedly filled with hardship and compassion, would have left an indelible mark on Dorothy.

Following her tenure in Saint-Omer, Dorothy was transferred to No. 3 General Hospital in Le Tréport. Under the command of L.I. Gatie, Commandant of V.A.D. No. 6, West Riding of Yorkshire, Dorothy served for 13 months. Her work in Le Tréport involved treating severe injuries and managing the high volume of casualties, a testament to her resilience and expertise.

During this period, Dorothy's personal life intertwined with the tragedy of war. Records indicate her engagement to William Brooke Ineson, the son of Frederick and Alice Ineson of Batley. Sadly, William, a young man of 25, was killed in action on October 25th, 1917. This loss must have been a profound blow to Dorothy amidst the horrors of war.

On March 3, 1927, she married Thomas Oscar Butler, the son of a banker. Thomas worked as an assistant manager for a woollen manufacturer in Batley, a fitting connection given Dorothy's roots in a region deeply intertwined with the textile industry.



The Leeds Mercury, Friday, March 4, 1927

Dorothy and Thomas settled into their life together, embodying the post-war resilience and return to normalcy that many sought. Dorothy's story did not end in Batley; she later moved to various places and finally moved to Kendal in Westmorland, where she lived until her passing in 1980.

Dorothy Turner's life serves as a reminder of the unwavering spirit and dedication displayed by countless women during the First World War. Her story, a testament to courage, compassion, and resilience, deserves to be remembered.

Sources:

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