

teachwire

**KS1 History:  
Significant People**



Nellie Spindler was born in Wakefield in 1891. Her father was a policeman.



In 1912 Nellie went to train to be a nurse at the Township Hospital in Leeds. In 1915 she went to be a nurse in a military hospital in Lichfield.



Nellie Spindler, Queen Alexandra's  
Imperial Military Nursing Service,  
who was killed when the Germans  
bombed a French hospital. 21.8.1918

Nellie signed up to go to the front with the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. She writes down her birthdate as 1889 rather than 1891. Did she do this on purpose?





In April 1917 Nellie moved to a hospital near the battlefield so she could help soldiers with very serious wounds to get treatment quickly.

In July 1917 Nellie was hit by a bomb when she was tending soldiers near the Battle of Passchendaele. She died 20 minutes later from her injuries.





On the 21st August 1917 Nellie was buried with full military honours at a cemetery in Lijssenthoek in Belgium. She is the only female buried there, alongside 10,000 men.

Her gravestone is inscribed 'Noble type of heroic womanhood'.

Nellie had a strong Roman Catholic faith. She loved to visit churches. She included a weeping angel necklace for her sister Lillie in her last letter home from the war. This arrived two weeks after a telegram saying Nellie had died.



In 2017 a road in her hometown of Wakefield was named after her. A blue plaque was put up on a building near where she used to live. She has been given the nickname 'the real angel of Passchendaele'.