

## Olive Smith (1880-1916)

Olive was educated at Durham College and then at Madame Bergman Österberg's Physical Training College, where she completed her training in 1900. Olive worked for a year in Wolverhampton and, in 1901, moved to Glasgow where she undertook educational and remedial work. Olive taught crippled children in Glasgow University's Queen Margaret College Settlement and, three times a week, instructed the women prisoners of Duke Street Prison in gymnastics, the first woman to do so. In 1909 Olive was appointed Head of Physical Training Department at Dundas Vale, founded in 1837. It was one of the first institutions in Britain to train teachers professionally. In October 1915 Olive was given permission by the Glasgow Provincial Committee to go to war service.

In the spring of 1916 she helped at the Almeric Paget Centre in London and studied in order to obtain the certificate of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses. Olive joined Dr Agnes Bennett's Unit (Scottish Women's Hospitals) which left for Salonica on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The unit travelled to Ostrovo on 6<sup>th</sup> September and the field hospital, under the command of the Serbian Army, opened 10 days later. Dr Bennett recorded: the first day they took 24 cases: *all terribly bad wounds - abdominal, chest, head and compound fractures*. On 25 September she wrote: *We now have 160 cases, all bad and it is terribly hard work*.

Olive worked in the operating theatre, in the wards and in the reception tent. She died of malignant malaria on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1916 (according to the Gregorian calendar) and was buried at the Allies Cemetery in Salonika. Olive's name appears on the Glasgow Training College War Memorial.

See obituary in BÖU Magazine 1917.

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/33956>

<https://salonikacampaignsociety.org.uk/salonika-centenary/two-salonika-graves/>

<https://sivenas.wordpress.com/2016/03/16/the-scottish-womens-hospitals-the-american-unit-1/>