

Florence Nightingale

Florence was given the nickname, 'The Lady with the Lamp' by the soldiers as she walked around the wards at night with her lantern. She made sure the men were comfortable and sat with those who were dying to bring them comfort.

In 1860, Florence set up the Nightingale Training School in London to train nurses, the first beginning work in 1865.

Florence had a meeting with Queen Victoria; she informed the queen of the necessary improvements needed in army hospitals. The army began training doctors and hospital conditions improved.

Throughout the rest of her life, Florence campaigned to improve health standards and wrote over 200 books and leaflets on hospital planning. Some of these ideas helped influence practices which are still in existence today. In recognition of her hard work, Florence was awarded the Royal Red Cross by Queen Victoria in 1883.

Florence died in London on the 13th August, 1910. She was so well respected that her family received an offer to bury her in Westminster Abbey amongst monarchs and other significant historical figures, however, her family declined, preferring to bury her near to where she had grown up. Florence had never liked a fuss anyway.



A memorial to Florence can be found in the Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence, Italy; another can be seen in London and hospitals have been named after her.

Did You Know?

There is one known recording of her voice made in 1890: 'When I am no longer even a memory, just a name, I hope my voice may perpetuate the great work of my life. God bless my dear old comrades of Balaclava and bring them safe to shore.'