

## **Hannah's memories of her Mum**

Simon is absolutely right in saying that my mum was at her happiest over the past 15 years. She really was. She'd found her niche in life doing something she absolutely loved, met lots of good and interesting people along the way, and she'd become respected for her expertise in military nursing history. In fact someone on one of the forums told me that they had nicknamed her 'The Oracle'.

She appeared on women's hour, filmed a BBC1 documentary with Jo Brand, was asked to give talks all over the country, as well as assisting in countless other research requests. I am so very proud of all these things.

But I was even more proud of her as my mum - she worked so very hard when I was growing up, and she was such a good mum, and I will miss her very, very much. And I'll miss her chocolate brownies even more (which she sometimes used to post to me).

I have some very happy memories of the two trips I took with her to the Somme a few years back when she was doing some research. An incredibly sombre and moving place, but we also had some laughs along the way, especially when we found the woods and some remaining trench lines where her uncle Wally had his leg blown off. Wally survived due to some pioneering medical techniques. We, however, almost weren't as lucky. We got ourselves hopelessly lost that day (on land we really shouldn't have been trespassing on in the first place), and ended up in fits of giggles about not being able to navigate ourselves away from enemy lines.