

In Memory of

Violet Elizabeth Davey

Women's Royal Air Force
Died 13 March 1919 age 25.



No image
currently
available

Remembered with honour:
The Women's National Memorial Screen in York Minster
North Elmham War Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Story of Violet Elizabeth Davey

Violet Elizabeth Davey was born on 8 March 1894 to Charles and Mary Davey. The family lived in North Elmham. Family memories record that Violet was keen to leave the village and she left home to work in domestic service at Caston Hall, Shipdham and in Norwich. An enthusiasm to see more of the world as well as the need for employment resulted in many women like Violet leaving home; often for domestic service and then to do their bit for the war.

Violet joined the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC) in October 1917. When the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) formed in April 1918, Violet transferred as did most women working for the Royal Flying Corps (RFC).

By December 1917 Violet was working as a driver at South Carlton Aerodrome in Lincolnshire. Such an opportunity would have been unheard of before the war. South Carlton was the base for the 45th training squadron of the RFC and a training depot station.



The photo above shows the women of South Carlton Aerodrome in March 1918 at the point when they transferred from the QMAAC to the WRAF. We know that Florence Lawrence is sitting on the front row second from left. Florence's service number was 5127; only five numbers separate her number from Violet's which was 5122 and they are likely to have known each other. Family records also show that Florence named her eldest daughter Violet. Coincidence? Where is Violet in this photo? As a driver she would be wearing gloves but it has not been possible to identify her.

Violet died of pneumonia on 13 March 1919. Her body was brought back to North Elmham and she was buried on 18 March 1919 in the village. Violet had had a daughter the year before and she was subsequently brought up by her grandparents.

Violet's name appears on the North Elmham Roll of Honour. It was added later as was often the case. About 600 women who died in service were issued with memorial plaques which were commonly known as Death Pennies. Violet was one of those. Her Death Penny remains with the family.

