

In Memory of  
**Stella Irene Easter**

Women's Royal Air Force  
Died 1921 age 21.



No image  
currently  
available

Remembered with honour:  
Nowhere

# The Story of Stella Irene Easter

Stella was born in 1900 to Herbert and Deborah Easter. She had one sister Ivy and the family lived in Middleton near Kings Lynn.

Stella went to Kings Lynn to enrol in Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) the on 10 March 1918, the day before her sister Ivy did the same. Her service number was 9828. Although she enrolled in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, a few weeks later she transferred to the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) when it formed on 1 April 1918. Stella travelled each day to work at Narborough Aerodrome along with many other young women from Kings Lynn and the surrounding villages.

Stella's war record states she was a sailmaker. She worked alongside her sister Ivy in the doping sheds at Narborough. Nitrocellulose dope was a laquer applied to the aircraft fabric to make them weatherproof and airtight. It was also highly inflammable. The constituents of the dope liquid were toxic and caused damage to the liver and heart muscles. It became known as toxic jaundice.



Stella continued to work at Narborough after the Armistice and was not demobbed until 15 September 1919, a few months before the aerodrome closed in December 1919.

Stella died in 1921, a few months after her sister Ivy. Her death, confirmed by family sources and the Narborough Airfield Research Group, was attributable to working in the doping sheds.

Stella kept an autograph book of her time at Narborough which has been valuable in identifying many others who worked at Narborough during the war. One contribution to Stella's autograph book, by L.C. reads:

*In life's fair garden  
Where sweet blossoms grow  
The rose of friendship blooms  
Mid Christmas snow.  
In remembrance of Ivy and Stella.*

Stella did not know that her work in the WRAF would lead to her death. Her parents lost both of their children. Like her sister Ivy, Stella is not commemorated anywhere, but will always be remembered by her family.