

In Memory of

Ivy Hilda Lavinia Easter

Women's Royal Air Force

Died 1921 age 22.



No image
currently
available

Remembered with honour:

Nowhere

The Story of Ivy Hilda Lavinia Easter

Ivy was born in 1899 to Herbert and Deborah Easter. She had one sister Stella and the family lived in Middleton near Kings Lynn.

Ivy went to Kings Lynn to enrol in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on 11 March 1918, a day after her sister. Her service number was 3330. Although she signed up for the WAAC a few weeks later she transferred to the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) when it formed on 1 April 1918. Ivy travelled each day to work at Narborough Aerodrome along with many other young women from Kings Lynn and the surrounding villages.

Ivy's war record states she was a fabric worker. She worked alongside her sister Stella 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.



Ivy was discharged from the WRAF on 9 December 1918. Her war record states she was discharged "on grounds of inefficiency". At that time the aerodrome would have been letting some women go while retaining others until it closed in December 1919.

Ivy died in the first quarter of 1921. Her death, confirmed by family sources and the Narborough Airfield Research Group, was attributable to working in the doping sheds.

Ivy's sister Stella kept an autograph book of her time at Narborough. In it Ivy had written:

One never knows, what one does know, Till one does know, does one.

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