

MEMBER ETHEL MAUD LILIAN RICHARDS



In memory of

Member Ethel Maud Lilian Richards. Women's Royal Air Force.

Died: Wednesday 2 October 1918 Aged 26. Influenza, The Bevan Hospital, Sandgate, Kent.

Ethel was born in 1891, the daughter of William Henry and Maria Richards, of Cwmbran, Monmouthshire.

During the First World War, members of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) worked on air stations belonging to the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). When the decision was taken to merge the RFC and RNAS to form the Royal Air Force (RAF), concerns were raised about the loss of their specialised female workforce. This need for a separate women's air service led to the formation of the WRAF on 1 April 1918. As Ethel's rank was given as member, there is a possibility she was originally from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Ethel died of Influenza/Pneumonia on October 2nd 1918 at the Bevan Military Convalescent, Hospital in Sandgate, Kent.

She was laid to rest in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Kent.

Grave O. 679.