

Did you know?

“Parachutes need to be re-packed regularly.”

Patsy and Sandra, Musselburgh

Parachute packing was a job done by Women’s Auxiliary Air Force personnel during the Second World War. These WAAF’s

had a reputation for careful work, greatly appreciated by the aircrew who relied on their parachutes as a life-saver.

Don’t miss the *Parachute Store*, restored to its original Second World War appearance.



Diane’s mother was in the WAAF, and was a telephonist here at East Fortune Airfield.

“Her name was Agnes but was known as either Anne or Nan/Nancy. She was a telephonist and when on duty would be escorted by two guards to the telephone exchange in a small isolated hut to take over her shift. Here she would remain alone, locked

in for the duration of her shift until another WAAF took over. She was also a member of the ‘concert party’ who regularly entertained everyone at East Fortune.”

Diane, Musselburgh

Watch our films in *Hangar 2, Military aviation* and *Hangar 3, Civil aviation* for more inspiring stories.

What did you learn about females in flight today?



This trail has been produced by members of the local community, who selected their highlights and shared personal stories of the site.

Did you know?

“Sheila Scott flew around the world in 33 days.”

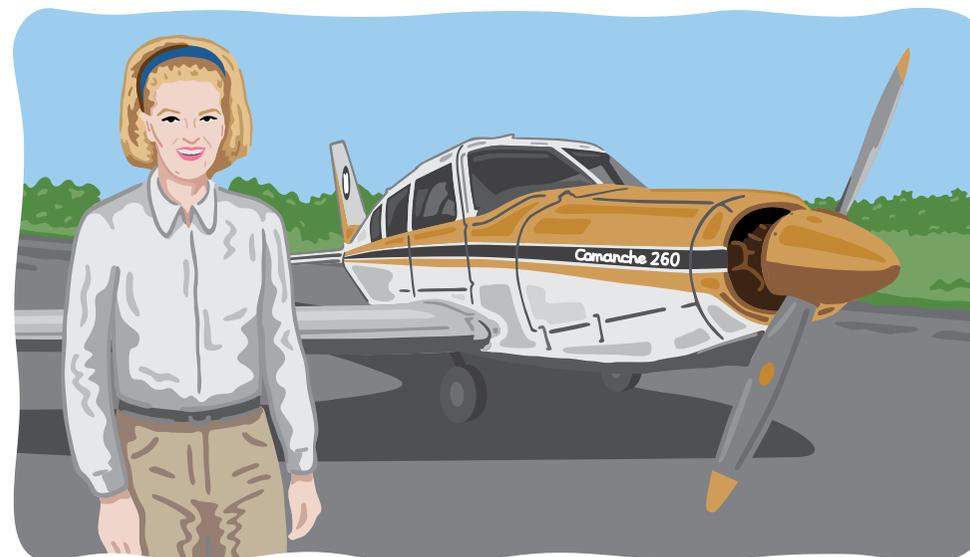
Fran, Musselburgh

Myth Too was Sheila Scott’s plane that she flew solo round the world in 1966.

Sheila was an extraordinary woman. She didn’t have the support crews or GPS satellite positioning that pilots

have today. She used coffee to stay awake on night flights and had to endure many physical hardships whilst breaking the round the world record.

Sheila’s Piper Comanche 260B G-ATOY, Myth Too, can be found in *Fantastic Flight*.





Did you know?

Like men, young women were required by law to serve in the war effort. By volunteering for a particular service, people could have some choice in how they spent the war.

The vast majority of people serving at the airfield worked on the ground. Male ground crew were called 'erks'. Women were known as 'WAAFs' – from the initial letters of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Men and women did a range of jobs. Some worked on aircraft. Others were in support roles such as clerks, drivers and storemen.

Must see:

Women's Auxiliary Air Force uniform.
Fortunes of War

Service dress uniform. This was the smartest uniform issued to RAF personnel.



From scissors to supersonic

"The hairdresser who self-taught to become a pilot and eventually flew Concorde, inspirational!"

Lauren and Adam, North Berwick

"A person who taught herself to fly and then she flew the Concorde."

Johnny, North Berwick

Barbara Harmer left school to be a hairdresser but, after 6 years, she left

to be an air traffic controller at Gatwick Airport. After teaching herself from textbooks and taking flying lessons she took a job with a small commuter airline. She left in 1984 to join British Caledonia and when British Airways took over British Caledonia in 1988, Barbara seized the opportunity to take a Concorde pilot's conversion course. By 1993, she was flying supersonic.