

Aircraftwoman 2nd Class BARBARA MARY DEE

2071844, Women's Auxiliary Air Force

who died, age 20, on 3 August 1942

Remembered with honour in TEWKESBURY CEMETERY

Barbara Dee is the only woman whose death in the war is commemorated on Tewkesbury's War Memorial - but in World War I there appeared no woman's name.¹

We shall let the *Tewkesbury Register* of 08/08/1942 tell the story in its own words under the headline:



SAD DEATH OF TEWKESBURY W.A.A.F

We regret to learn that Miss Barbara Mary Dee, the younger daughter of Mrs. Cecilia. Lilian Dee (of Barton Road) died on Monday morning at a hospital at Oxford following an operation on Saturday for head injuries.

Miss Dee, who was only 20 years of age, was educated at Tewkesbury High School for girls. Upon Leaving school she joined the staff of Messrs. Bannister and Thatcher, chemists, of High Street, Tewkesbury, for four years.

In November last year last year (1941) she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Widespread is the sympathy extended to her mother, who only about a month ago received news that her younger son, Signaller Kenneth Dee had been posted missing in the Middle East. Nothing further has been heard of him. Mrs Dee's elder son is on Military Service.

According to CWGC, she died at the Military Hospital at St Hugh's College, Oxford but we were not told the cause of the head injuries. Kathleen Hall told me that she was killed when a barrage balloon cable broke loose. She was a friend of the family which lived at *Ferndale*, Barton Road, next to the Hospital.



¹ In Tewkesbury Cemetery, there lies the body of 'Worker' 11334 **Kathleen Sollis**, of the *Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps* who died in Tredington Isolation Hospital of influenza, as did millions of others at the end of the war. B.R. Linnell in *Tewkesbury Gossip* (Theoc Press 2000) p 35: "She died on active service and as such is entitled to have her name recorded SO why was her name left off?" **Stop Press: Her name was re-instated on the War Memorial on Armed Forces Day 2018**