

Civilian HUBERT DUDLEY, Civilian War Dead

who died age 40 on 18 June 1944

Sjt., Home Guard; of 103 Norroy Road.

Husband of Dorothy Dudley. Died at 300 Upper Richmond Road.

Remembered with honour at WANDSWORTH, METROPOLITAN BOROUGH



Unlike the *Great War*, World War II was characterised by the killing of more civilians than service personnel. Certainly the death of one former Grammar School pupil has been commemorated on Tewkesbury's War Memorial. Another who suffered a similar fate, however was omitted.

The *Register* of 1 July 1944 told the story in great detail.

TEWKESBURIAN MISSING IN AIR RAID.

Mr Hubert (Bert) Dudley, the elder son of Mr James Hubert Dudley, of Foresters Road, and the late Mrs Dudley, has been reported missing after an air raid in southern England, and his father injured in the same raid.

It appears that the father was on a visit to his son, and on Sunday morning, about 10-15, the son left the house to fetch some newspapers, saying he would probably call at a chemist's shop. Soon after he left the house there was a terrific explosion, which shook the son's house in which Mr Dudley was staying, dislodged tiles from the roof, blew in the windows, brought down the ceiling, and Mr Dudley received a nasty laceration of the head, from the falling debris, which necessitated treatment at a nearby dressing station. Unhappily no news has been received of the son. The premises of the chemist's shop were demolished, and the chemist and his wife both found dead. Mr Bert Dudley was educated at Tewkesbury Grammar School. He left Tewkesbury some years ago, and holds an important post at his home town, where he is an instructor in the Home Guard. Mr J.H. Dudley has returned to his home in Forester's Road, and beyond the shock of his terrifying experiences, is little the worse. The missing son has a wife, but no children.

Then again on 2 September 1944:

TEWKESBURY FLYING BOMB VICTIM¹: BODY FOUND AFTER SEVEN WEEKS.

On the 1st of July we reported that the elder son of Mr James Hubert Dudley, of Foresters Road, was missing after an air raid in southern England, in which his father was injured whilst on a visit to his son's house. We now learn that Mr Dudley's body was found seven weeks later, buried in the basement under the debris, of a five-story house. Mr Dudley on that fatal morning left his home with the intension of buying newspapers, saying that he would call at the chemist's shop. It was adjacent to the chemist's shop, were he met his end. The deceased was 40 years of age, was educated at Tewkesbury Grammar School, and at the time of his death, held an important post as civilian instructor-chef, at a school of cookery. He leaves a widow but no children. He held the rank of Sergeant, and Musketry instructor, in the Home Guard of his town.

We must remember how much the attacks with these **V-Bombs** shocked Britain. They came at a time when it was hoped the war would end soon. First in June 1944 the **V1s**: pilot-less planes which dropped after their engines cut out. They could be shot down or put off course by newly developed Meteor jets tipping their wings. However, in September came the V2 attacks and there was no known way of prevent this attack. Fortunately, it was ended when allied troops captured the V2 bases in Europe.

¹ Picture of V1 *Vergeltungswaffen (Vengeance)* 1 website www.spacemodel.com/pic392.html