

**All Souls Cemetery,
Kensal Green, London, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



17663 MEMBER

D. ASHLEY

WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE

4TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 27

Dora ASHLEY

Dora Wood Ashley was baptised on 21st January, 1891 at St. Mary & All Saints Church, Bradley, Staffordshire, England to parents Edward Barlow Ashley & Fanny Ashley (nee Yardley).

The 1891 England Census recorded Dora Wood Ashley as a 3 month old, living with her parents at Aston Hall (3 separate Households were listed under Aston Hall), Seighford, Staffordshire, England. Her parents were listed as Edward Barlow Ashley (Agent, aged 25, born Bradley, Staffs) & Fanny Ashley (aged 24, born Seighford, Staffs). Also listed was Sarah Anne Dent, a 14 year old domestic servant.

The 1901 England Census recorded Dora Wood Ashley as a 10 year old, living with her family at Cross Way Hand, Southwick, Northamptonshire. Her parents were listed as Edward Barlow Ashley (Farm Bailiff, aged 35) & Fanny Ashley (aged 35). Dora was the eldest of six children listed on this Census – Dora then Joshua Norman Ashley (aged 8, born Northfield, Worcestershire), Frances Edna Ashley (aged 6, born Berkswell, Warwickshire) Edward Barlow Ashley (aged 4, born Barstoew, Warwickshire), Percy Douglas Ashley (aged 2, born Bickinhill, Warwickshire) & Daisy Victoria Ashley (aged 1, born Southwick, Northamptonshire).

The 1911 England Census recorded Dora Wood Ashley as a 21 year old, Kitchenmaid living with 8 other servants in a 19 roomed dwelling at 3 Hereford Gardens, St. George Hanover Square, London, England.

[The 1911 England Census recorded Dora's family living at 74 Devizes Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England in a 5 roomed dwelling. The family consisted of Edward Ashley, Fanny Ashley & their six children – Edward, Percy, Daisy, Winnifred, Ena & Edgar.]

[Mr E. Ashley (Farmer, aged 44), Mrs F. Ashley (aged 43) & their children – Mr J. Ashley (Labourer, aged 19), Miss Edna (aged 18), Master E. (aged 15), Master 9. (aged 11), Miss D. (aged 10), Miss M. (aged 7), Miss P (aged 5) & Master E. aged 3) were all passengers on the *Miltiades* which departed from the port of London, England on 21st December, 1911 bound for Melbourne, Australia. The ship arrived at the port of Brisbane, Australia on 1st February, 1912.]

[The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Flinders, subdivision of Drouin, Victoria listed Edward Barlow, Ashley, Farmer, his wife Fanny Ashley, Home Duties & their son Joshua Norman Ashley, Farmer, from Longwarry.]

Dora Ashley enrolled for duty with the Women's Royal Air Force (W.R.A.F.) on 24th June, 1918. She was aged 28 years & her religion was Church of England. Dora Ashley listed her occupation as qualified Driver. She was given a service number of 17663 & was posted to No. 10 Motor Transport Repair Depot, Women's Royal Air Force.

According to the death notice in the newspaper, Dora Ashley had been an Ambulance Driver for two years before her death.

Member Dora Ashley died on 4th November, 1918 at North Kensington, London from Pneumonia.

A death for Dora Ashley, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Kensington, London, England.

Member Dora Ashley was buried in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England – Memorial Reference 198.19.460933. Member Dora Ashley is remembered on a Screen Wall (section 213) within the Cemetery as her grave, along with others listed on the Screen Wall, could not be individually marked. Her death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Member Dora Ashley – service number 17663, aged 27, of No. 10 Motor Transport Repair Depot, Women's Royal Air Force. She was the daughter of E. B. and Fanny Ashley, of Woodlands, Longwarry South, Drouin, Victoria, Australia.

Women's Royal Air Force

The Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) was the women's branch of the Royal Air Force. It existed in two separate incarnations, from 1918 to 1920 and from 1949 to 1994.

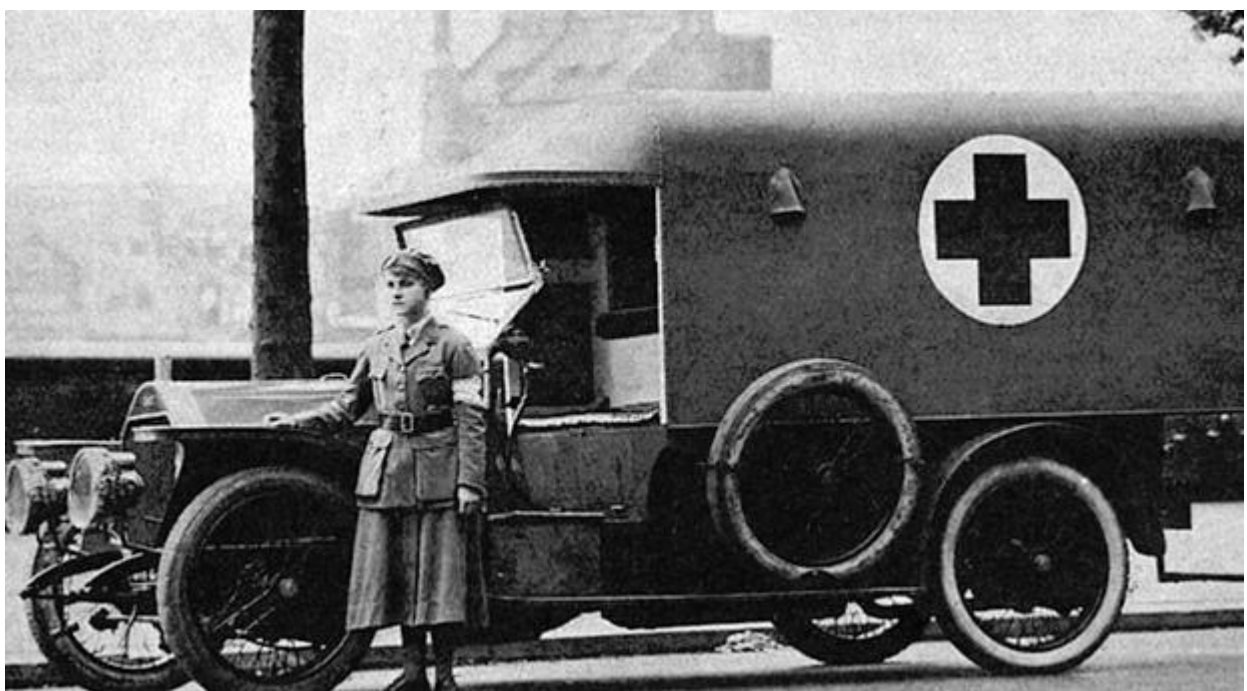
The first Women's Royal Air Force was an auxiliary organization of the Royal Air Force which was founded in 1918. The original intent of the WRAF was to provide female mechanics in order to free up men for service in World War I. However, the organization saw huge enrolment, with women volunteering for positions as drivers and mechanics and filling other wartime needs. This first WRAF was disbanded in 1920.

(Wikipedia)





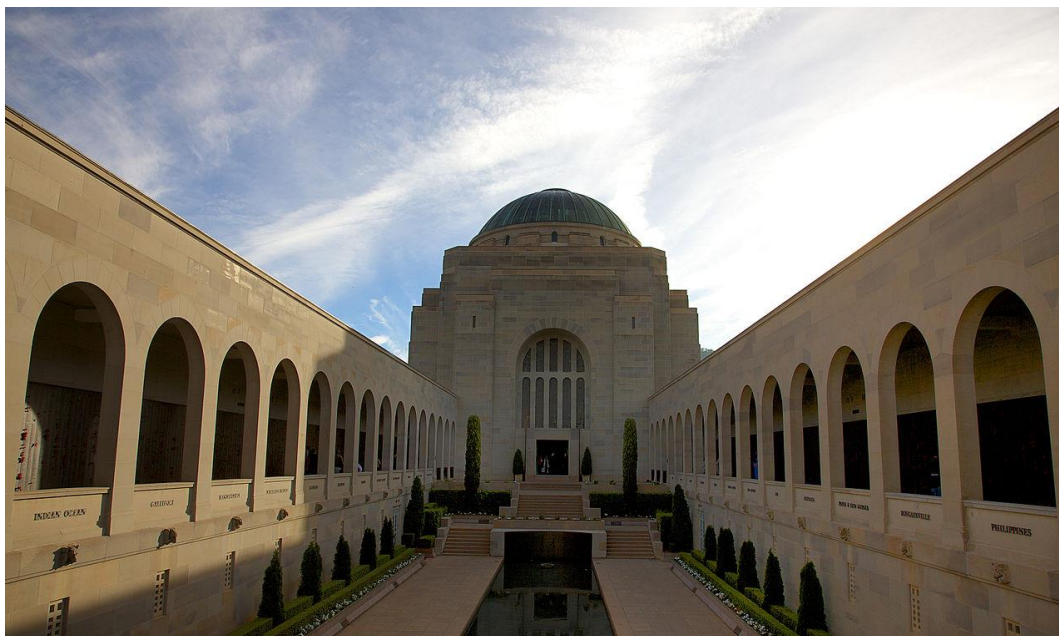
WW1 Poster



Female Ambulance Driver

Dora Ashley is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

(Note: It appears that Dora Ashley's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that her next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore it was assumed she would be Australian.)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial *(Capital Photographer)*

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

DEATH

ASHLEY – At North Kensington, London, Dora W. Ashley, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. B. Ashley, Athlone, aged 27 years, from pneumonia. For two years motor ambulance driver. By cable.

(Gippsland Independent, Buln Buln, Warragul, Berwick, Poowong and Jeetho Shire Advocate, Victoria – 28 November, 1918)

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England

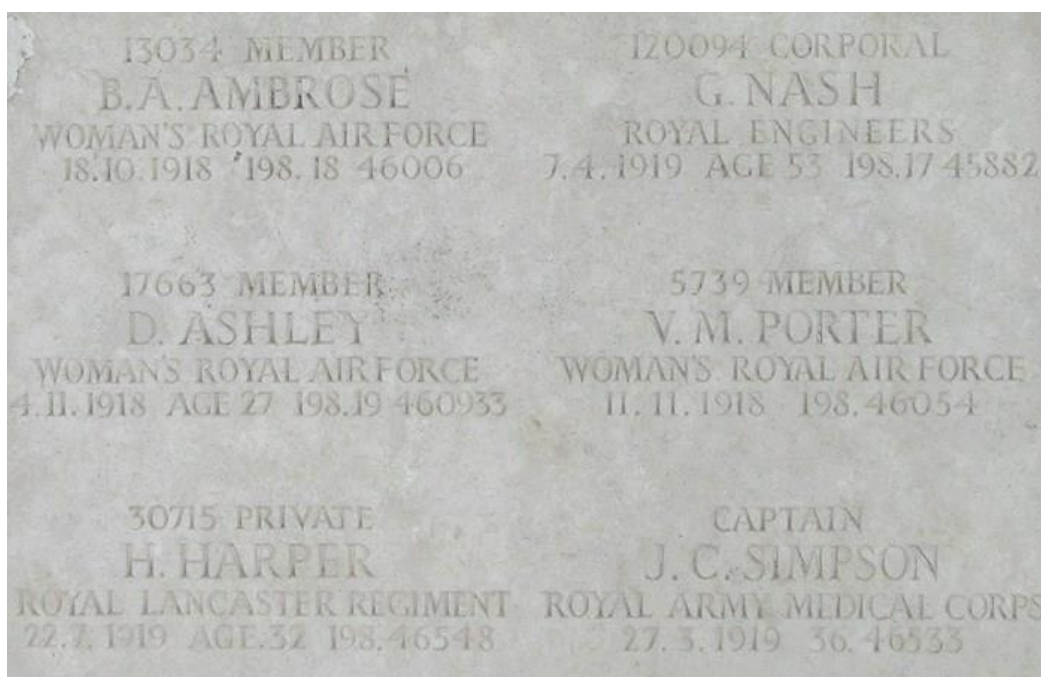
All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green contains burials of both wars - 538. Half of the 482 First World War graves form a plot in the south-west section of the cemetery, the rest form small groups or are scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 5s Second World War graves are scattered. There are also 2 non war burials here. A screen wall in the First World War plot (Sect. 213) records the names of casualties of both wars whose graves could not be individually marked. Also recorded on the wall are the names of five servicemen whose remains were cremated in Kensal Green Crematorium.

(Information from CWGC)



All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green *(Photo by Rodney Burton)*

Photo of Member D. Ashley's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England.





**Cross of Sacrifice & the WW1 Screen Wall area in the Crematorium Memorial Garden
- All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green** (Photo by Chris Doran)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission originally had Dora Ashley listed on the Screen Wall (section 213) in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England as "P. Ashley". The correct initial was amended in September, 2007.



Original details on Screen Wall at All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green showing the incorrect initial.