



**LILIAN BADER**

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Lilian Bader is important as she was the first black woman in the RAF. She was born in 1917. Watch this video to find out a bit more about her life

- <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=you+tube+lilian+bader&&view=detail&mid=A53D3F85F242D74FAE1CA53D3F85F242D74FAE1C&&FORM=VRDGAR>



- Lilian was born in Liverpool in 1917.
- When she was 9 years old her parents died and she went to live in a convent.
- When World War Two began in 1939, to help out the war effort, she went to work as a Canteen Assistant at the Army, Navy and Air Force Catterick Camp.
- Unfortunately, seven weeks later, Lilian was dismissed from her job because her father was born outside of the UK. This made Lilian very sad as it was so unfair.



- Lilian still wanted to join the armed forces and in 1940 she began working on a farm near RAF Topcliffe, feeding soldiers.
- In 1941, she had another chance to join the army.
- She heard some West Indians being interviewed on the radio. They'd been turned down by the Army and accepted by the RAF.
- Lilian decided to join the RAF and was accepted into the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.



- Lilian took part in a twelve-week training course to become an Instrument repairer, checking for aircraft faults, a relatively new job that had only been made available to women in 1940. Before this, only men were allowed to do the job.
- She passed several exams, and graduated as a First Class Airwoman. She was so good at her job, that she was soon promoted to Corporal and leading Aircraftwoman.
- She did some very important work for the war and is remembered as a Community Hero.
- Lilian married Ramsay Bader in 1943 and in 1944 she left the army to start a family.



- Lilian Bader's achievements did not stop once she left the army. After having two children, she went back to school, achieved 'O' and 'A' levels and then went on to get a degree at The University of London.
- She then became a teacher, and carried on teaching for many years.
- Lilian Bader died in 2015 at the age of 97.



- Giraffe Class really enjoyed learning about Lilian Bader and her achievements. They thought that it was very unfair that she was sacked from her first job because her dad wasn't British. They were really impressed with all the amazing things that she achieved in her life.