

Durrington

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War II



5568479 PRIVATE

J.(G.) J. GREEN

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

18TH JULY, 1943

Giles John GREEN

Giles John Green's birth was registered in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire in the June quarter, 1913. His mother's maiden name was listed as Adams. Giles Green's parents – Thomas Green & Mary Adams married at the Amesbury Register Office in 1915. Their marriage was registered in the September quarter, 1915 in the district of Amesbury.

Giles John Green enlisted with the Wiltshire Regiment Infantry. He was given the rank of Private & a service number of 5568479. Private Jiles John Green's records show that at the time of his death he was attached to 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Theatre of War – Sicily.

Private Jiles John Green died on 18th July, 1943, aged 30 years.

Private Jiles John Green is remembered on the Cassino Memorial, Italy – Panel 10 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Private Jiles John Green, 5568479 as the son of Thomas & Mary Green, of Durrington, Wiltshire.

Cassino Memorial, Italy

Cassino War Cemetery lies in the Commune of Cassino, Province of Frosinone, 139 kilometres south-east of Rome

On 3 September 1943 the Allies invaded the Italian mainland, the invasion coinciding with an armistice made with the Italians who then re-entered the war on the Allied side.

Progress through southern Italy was rapid despite stiff resistance, but by the end of October, the Allies were facing the German winter defensive position known as the Gustav Line, which stretched from the river Garigliano in the west to the Sangro in the east. Initial attempts to breach the western end of the line were unsuccessful. Operations in January 1944 landed troops behind the German lines at Anzio, but defences were well organised, and a breakthrough was not actually achieved until 18 May, when Cassino was finally taken.

The site for Cassino War Cemetery was originally selected in January 1944, but the development of the battle during the first five months of that year made it impossible to use it until after the Germans had withdrawn from Cassino. During these early months of 1944, Cassino saw some of the fiercest fighting of the Italian campaign, the town itself and the dominating Monastery Hill proving the most stubborn obstacles encountered in the advance towards Rome. The majority of those buried in the war cemetery died in the battles during these months.

There are now 4,266 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated at Cassino War Cemetery. 284 of the burials are unidentified.

Within the cemetery stands the Cassino Memorial which commemorates over 4,000 Commonwealth servicemen who took part in the Italian campaign and whose graves are not known.



Cassino Memorial (Photo by Mike Thompson)



(Information & photos from CWGC)



Private G. J. Green is remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



Durrington War Memorial (Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)

The Wiltshire Regiment – 2nd Battalion

At the start of the Second World War, the Wiltshire Regiment found its two regular battalions stationed in India (1st Battalion) and Palestine (2nd Battalion). Eventually two more battalions would be raised for the war.

The 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire, began the war as part of the 13th Infantry Brigade, part of the British 5th Infantry Division of the BEF. The 2nd Wilts fought in a series of engagements during the Battle of France, most notably at the Battle of Arras. After being evacuated at Dunkirk, the Wiltshires participated in Operation Ironclad, the capture of Vichy-held Madagascar, known as The Battle of Madagascar. On 19 May the Battalion re-embarked on the Franconia to sail to India to rejoin the Fifth Division and were stationed in Bombay and Ahmednagar until August. The Wiltshires, as well as the rest of the brigade were then sent to the Middle East. As part of 13th Infantry Brigade, the Wiltshires spent the end of 1942 until early part of 1943 operating in Iraq, Persia, Syria and Palestine. Later the brigade participated in Operation Husky and the follow-on invasion of the Italian mainland in 1943. During the Italian campaign, the 2nd Wilts would win battle honours for its actions at Garigliano River crossing, as well as taking part in the Moro River Campaign, Anzio and the subsequent capture of Rome. Eventually the battalion, as well as the rest of the brigade would be withdrawn from the Italian Campaign. After a brief period to refit, in Palestine, the 2nd Wilts returned to Italy in late 1944. The 5th Division, which the 2nd Wilts were a part, joined the British 2nd Army in North-West Europe in to participate in the final drive into Germany in April 1945. They took part in the Elbe River crossing as well as the encirclement of Army Group B. When hostilities ended on 8 May 1945 they were at Lubeck on the Baltic Sea. The Battalion moved to Einbeck on 1 July and settled down to occupation duties. As the official history reads, "So ended a journey of over 25,000 miles through nearly six years of war."

(Wikipedia)

War Diary of 2nd Battalion – Wiltshire Regiment:

Location – D = 8 Day, (Paolo), Sicily

Entry: 1400hrs. At short notice Bn marches to area FORD in 8868 to force crossing of the RIVER SEMETO. On the way there is a tank alarm which later proves to be only our armoured cars who report GERMAN infantry and an 88mm Gun across the river. Bde Plan is two Bns forward and 2 CAMERONIANS in reserve. 2 WILTS on RIGHT to make good crossing by FORD 888687, and in 2 INNISKS on LEFT to seize BRIDGE 877697. 1600hrs. Two Coys move forward, D Coy on LEFT and C Coy on RIGHT. Across the river they meet GERMAN snipers and heavy LMG fire. GERMAN tracer sets the reeds on fire. The Coys go straight into the opposition and clean it out with the bayonet. Forty-eight GERMAN Ps/W are taken and later eight GERMAN dead and six automatics were found in their positions. The GERMANS were identified as Nos. 3 & 4 Coys of 3 SICILIAN REGT. Our casualties were D Coy - 1 Offr & 7 O.Rs wounded: C Coy - 1 Offr wounded, 5 O.Rs Killed and 8 wounded. 1630hrs. A Coy is sent up the RIGHT to cross RIVER to establish themselves by 90o EASTING and contact a tank squadron of Shermans, which they do. The only opposition they meet is slight mortar fire and they dig in about 904705. D Coy establish themselves in MASSA AGATA 894702: C Coy in area CAVALIERE 897697. About 1700hrs B Coy move to astride RIVER at 898695. Bn HQ remains at FARM 893683 where it is mortared. Position on front of 2 INNISKS on LEFT is obscure and firing continues from their area area all night.

(War Diary entry - [The Wardrobe](#))