

# **Durrington**

## **Roll of Honour**



*Lest we Forget*

### **World War II**



**818600    CORPORAL**

**J. L. CONN**

**ARMY CATERING CORPS**

**Attached to ROYAL ARTILLERY**

**19TH SEPTEMBER, 1943**

## Joseph Laidler CONN

Joseph Laidler Conn's birth was registered in the district of Gateshead, Durham in the March quarter, 1910. His parents – John Conn & Hannah Fuge had married in 1905 & their marriage was registered in the district of Houghton le Spring, Co. Durham in the June quarter, 1905.

The 1911 Census recorded Joseph Laidler Conn as a 1 year old living with his family at 20 White Street, Fellington on Tyne, Heworth, Durham, which was a 3 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as John Conn ( Miner – Caol Hewer, aged 24, born Houghton-le-Spring) & Hannah Conn (aged 28, born Houghton-le-Spring). Joseph's parents had been married for 5 years & had 4 sons – John Thomas (aged 4, born Houghton-le-Spring), William (aged 3, born Hetton-le-Hole), James Leonard (aged 2, born Houghton-le-Spring) then Joseph (born Heworth). Also listed was James Conn (Boarder, aged 21 Miner – Shiftworker, born Houghton-le-Spring) & Sarah Lydia Fuge – Aunt (single, aged 57, born Lanciston, Cornwall).

Joseph L. Conn married Margaret L. M. Dimmer at St. Alban the Marytr, Larkhill in 1935. Their marriage was registered in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire in the September quarter, 1935.



**Durrington - Larkhill - St. Alban The Martyr (Garrison Church of Larkhill Camp)**

*(Photo by Chris Talbot 2010)*

Joseph Laidler Conn enlisted with A. R. on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1938. He was given the service number of 818600. He transferred to A.C.C. (Army Catering Corp) on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1942. Corporal Joseph Laidler Conn's records show that at the time of his death he was with the Army Catering Corp, attached Royal Artillery.

Corporal Joseph Laidler Conn died on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1943, aged 33.

The GRO War Deaths – Army Other Ranks (1939-1948) record Conn, Joseph L., Cpl., 818600, A.C.C., 1943 (Volume 11, page 144).

Corporal Joseph Laidler Conn was buried in Salerno War Cemetery, Italy – Grave reference IV. A. 2. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Corporal Joseph Laidler Conn, 818600, as the son of John and Hannah Conn; husband of Margaret Lottie May Conn, of Durrington, Wiltshire.

Corporal Joseph Laidler Conn is remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



**Durrington War Memorial** (Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)

## Salerno War Cemetery, Italy

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. Allied objectives were to draw German troops from the Russian front and more particularly from France, where an offensive was planned for the following year.

Commonwealth and American forces landed near Salerno on 8-9 September 1943 and there was fierce fighting for some days in the bridgehead that they established. The site for the cemetery was chosen in November 1943 and it contains many burials resulting from the landings and the fighting that followed, but graves were also brought in later from a wide area of south-western Italy. The 59th General Hospital was in the vicinity of Salerno at the end of 1943 and early in 1944.

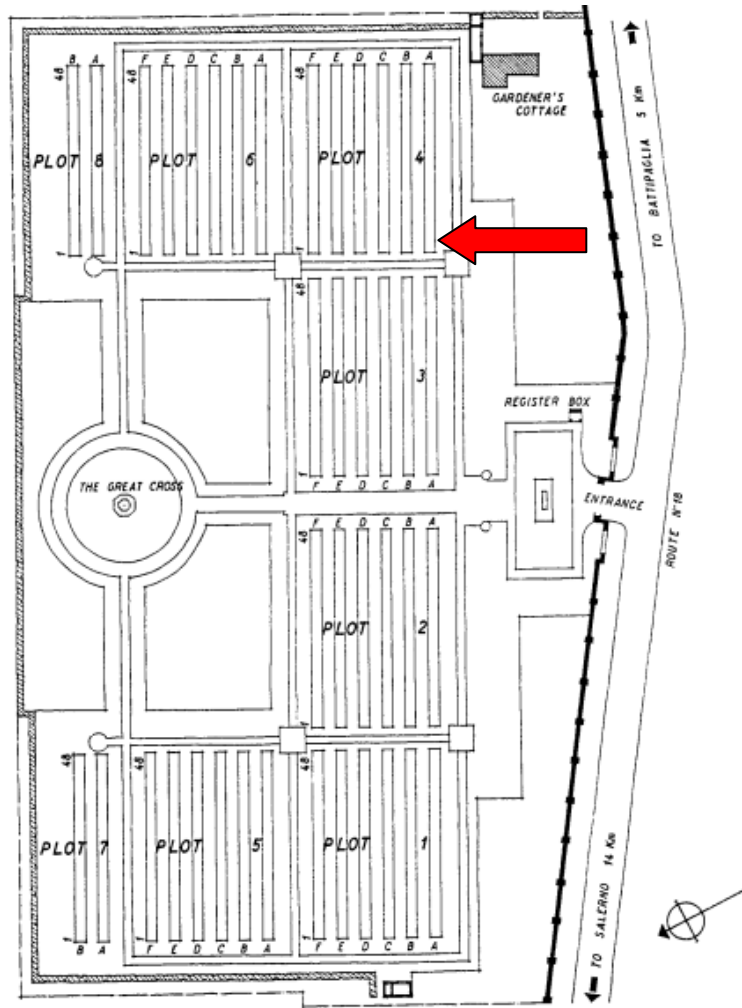
Salerno War Cemetery contains 1,846 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 107 of them unidentified. One casualty of the First World War is also commemorated in the cemetery by special memorial, his grave in a local civil cemetery having been lost.



Salerno War Cemetery (Photos & information from CWGC)



*(Photo from TWGPP)*



**SALERNO WAR CEMETERY**