

Harry Frederick Green 1897 - 1960

Many of us will have, tucked away in an old photo album, a postcard of a soldier or seaman of the Great War period.

This article looks at one of these photographs, of Harry Frederick Green, and highlights some of the ways you can find out more about your relative.

The photographs for this article were provided by John Green (IW FHS Member number 2394) and relate to his father.

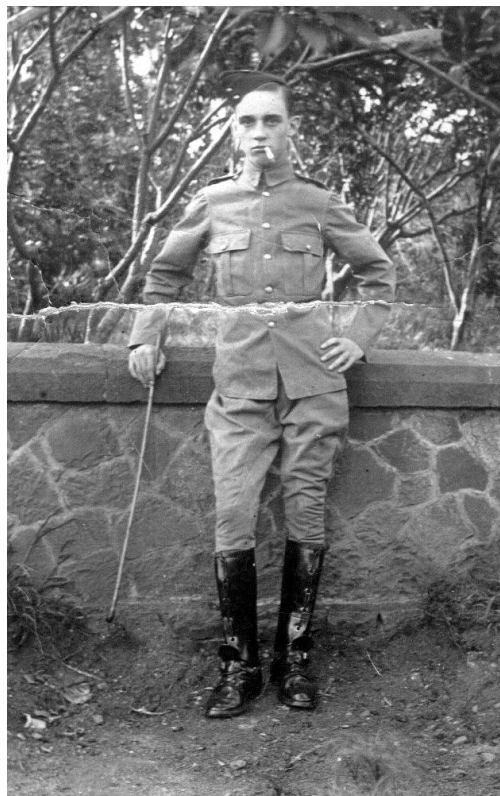
Harry Frederick Green was born in 1897 in Northwood, Isle of Wight, the second child and eldest son of Harry and Julia Green (nee Dent).

In the 1911 Census the family were living at Bembridge View, Furzyhurst, Northwood, and Harry Green described himself as an Engineer's Turner – metal, while the 14 year old Harry Frederick Green was an Apprentice Engineer's Turner. They worked in the ship building industry, at J S White's.

1	Harry Green	Head	41	Married	16	6	6	—	Engineer's Turner (Metal)	Shipbuilder	Worked	Lamborough 180
2	Julia Green	Wife	39	Married	16	6	6	—	Engineer's Turner (Metal)	Engineer	Worked	Southampton 180
3	Ada Carrie Green	Daughter	16	Single					At home			Lower S.O.M.
4	Harry Frederick Green	Son	14						Engineer's Turner Apprentice		Worked	" " " "
5	Bredrose Mary Green	Daughter	11						School			" " " "
6	Kathleen Gertrude Green	Daughter	10						School			" " " "
7	George William Green	Son	6						School			" " " "
8	Milla Florence Green	Daughter	2									Northwood N. Newport 30

Army records (Service Papers, Pension Records, and Medal Index Cards) have been made available through Ancestry.co.uk, but since many of the Service Papers and Pensions records were destroyed in the London Blitz in 1940, it is not surprising that no record exists of Harry F Green's war service. He served with both the Royal Engineers, as a Sapper, presumably building on his engineering experience, and the Royal Field Artillery as a Driver, which is how he is pictured in the postcard.

The cigarette hanging carelessly from his mouth contrasts sharply with the highly polished riding boots! At the time he would have been driving a team of horses pulling gun carriages or other rigs carrying ammunition and supplies. He served in Baghdad, in what was then Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) fighting the forces of the Turkish Ottoman empire.



Having survived the war, he was awarded the standard medals – the British War Medal and Victory Medal, as well as the Territorial Forces Medal, which would

indicate that he had volunteered for service overseas with the Royal Engineers, as normally Territorials were not expected to serve abroad.

271399 - R.F.A. X

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
GREEN	R. G.	Spr	271399
	R.F.A.		850762
	R. G.		WR/309038
Harry F			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	R G/104 B 3	736	
BRITISH			
STAR			
T.F.War x RE/TFM/1 426			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

Unusually, he has two Medal Index Cards, cross referenced by Corps, and he has also managed to acquire three army service numbers. A search for his Service Papers would need to be made against all three numbers to make sure that the papers had not been missed.

Harry Frederick Green married Annie May Richards in 1921. They had a family of nine children.

271399 - R.E. X

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
GREEN	R.F.A.	Dir	4484
	R.E.		WR/309038
Harry F			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	x RE/104 B 3	736	
BRITISH			
STAR			
T.F.War x RE/TFM/1 426			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

T.F.M. prints: re-issued - 5th Dec 1980

During the Second World War he worked at Saunders Roe manufacturing parts for Sunderland flying boats.

Harry Frederick Green died at home on 8th April 1960 aged 63, and is buried in Northwood Cemetery. His medals have been passed down to his son John.



Sources :

IoW FHS BMD Indexes
 Findmypast / 1911 Census
 Ancestry.co.uk Medal Index Cards