George Green





Rank: - Corporal

Number: - 3131740

Regiment: - Reconnaissance Corps, R.A.C. 43rd (2/5th Bn. Gloucestershire Regt.)

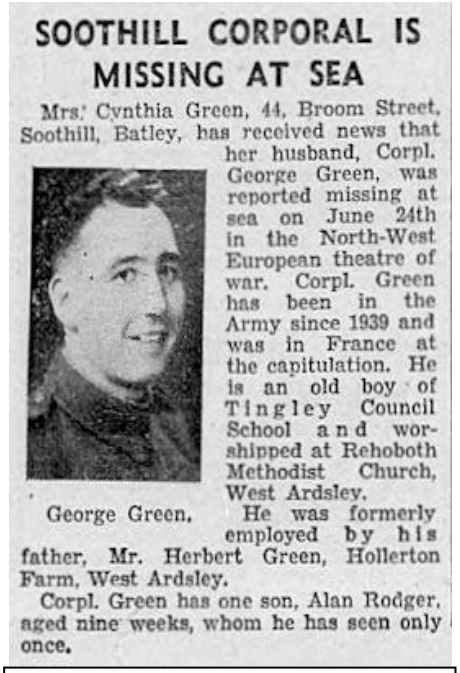
Died: - Missing, presumed Killed in Action at sea 24/06/1944 Age: 26 years.

Memorial: - Bayeux War Memorial, Calvados, France Panel 3.

George was born in 1918 the son of Herbert and Sarah Ann Green nee Limb who married on 24 March 1913 at St. Marys Church, Woodkirk.

George attended Tingley Council School and worshipped at Rehoboth Methodist Church, West Ardsley. He was formerly employed by his father Mr. Herbert Green, Hollerton Farm, West Ardsley. In 1939 he married Cynthia Slack of Batley and Alan was born in April 1944, and George only saw him once. Cynthia lived at 44, Broom Street, Soothill, Batley.

George joined the Army in 1939 and was in France when it capitulated in June 1940 and they had to evacuate. They were almost lost in its entirety at the Battle of Dunkirk.



SOOTHILL CORPORAL IS MISSING AT SEA

Mrs. Cynthia Green, 44, Broom Street, Soothill, Batley, has received news that her husband, Corpl. George Green, was reported missing at sea on June 24th in the North-West European theatre of war. Corpl. Green has been in the Army since 1939 and was in France at the capitulation. He is an old boy of Tingley Council School and worshipped at Rehoboth Methodist Church, West Ardsley.

George Green.

He was formerly employed by his father, Mr. Herbert Green, Hollerton Farm, West Ardsley.

Corpl. Green has one son, Alan Rodger, aged nine weeks, whom he has seen only once.

Batley News, 22 Jul 1944

On D-Day 6 June 1944 the first Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. George was in the Reconnaissance Corps which was in reserve and in the follow up invasion which included 600 men of the 3rd Reconnaissance Regiment. They found themselves crammed into the Derrycunihy anchored off Sword Beach awaiting improvement in the weather which would allow them to be landed safely. Things looked good early on the morning of 24 June- it was a fine day, with a flat calm sea. Captain Richardson weighed anchor and prepared to head for the landing point. Then disaster- the ships movement triggered a German acoustic mine, which split the Derrycunihy in two. The forward section remained afloat, but the stern section, though still attached by the keel plates, sank within 20 seconds. To make matters worse, an ammunition truck on the ship exploded, igniting the spilt oil on the surface of the surrounding water. Of the 600 men of the Regiment, 189 died and 150 were injured. Twenty-five of the crew, including a number of army gunners, also lost their lives. Most of the men who died had been trapped in the sunken stern section. It was the heaviest single British loss of life of the invasion beaches.

The Bayeux Memorial stands opposite the cemetery and bears the names of more than 1,800 men of the Commonwealth land forces who died in the early stages of the campaign and have no known grave.

George is remembered with Honour at The British Normandy Memorial, column 88; Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St Paul's); Rehoboth Methodist Church, West Ardsley and Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



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