

PRIVATE FRANK NOEL GREEN

36799, 1st/6th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Died aged 22 on 16 June 1918

Buried with honour in *Boscon British Cemetery, Asiago, Italy*; 1 C 5

Commemorated in Tewkesbury at the Cross and in the Abbey



Boscon British Cemetery, Asiago



Gloucestershire Regiment

FRANK NOEL GREEN was born in Tewkesbury in 1896. He was the second (surviving) son and third child of Francis W. Green, a Joiner, and Emma Maria (formerly Gill). Francis was a native of Tewkesbury whilst Emma originated from Blockley in Worcestershire. Frank's birth was registered with the middle name of Noah but the census return for 1901 quotes a middle initial of W and that for 1911 records a middle name of Noel, as does the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database. In 1901 the extended family was living at Cowpen Farm with Frank's grandfather, Thomas, a Farmer. In 1911 Francis, his wife and three sons were living at 2 Cotswold Place. The main local building employer, Collins & Godfrey, constructed these houses so it is likely that Francis was working for them. At that time the eldest son, George Inkerman Green, was employed as a Fireman on the Midlands Railway and Frank was attending school, although his obituary indicated that he had worked for William North, the printer, until he volunteered for military service.

Frank joined the 1st/6th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, although it is not clear when he enlisted. According to the medal rolls, Frank did not qualify for the '1914-1915 Star' so he would have joined the battalion sometime in 1916, quite possibly later. The battalion was a Bristol-based battalion formed originally in April 1908 as part of the Territorial Force whose pre-war role was confined to home defence; such units were not intended to be used for overseas service.

On the outbreak of war, however, the Territorial Force was mobilised and territorial soldiers were asked to volunteer for overseas service. The 1st/6th embarked for France in 1915, landing at Boulogne on 29 March. The battalion had originally been part of the Gloucester and Worcester Brigade, South Midland Division, but on 15 May 1915 the formation was re-named as the 144th Infantry Brigade, 48th (South Midland) Division.

The 48th (South Midland) Division, including the 1st/6th Gloucesters, was transferred to Italy on 24 November 1917 after two and a half years on the Western Front. Italy had joined the war on the Allied side in May 1915 but, by 1918, the Italian Army was on the defensive and required support from British and French forces. In March 1918, XIV Corps (the 7th, 23rd and 48th Divisions) relieved Italian troops on the front-line between Asiago and Canove. The front was comparatively quiet until the Austrians attacked in force from Grappa to Canove in the *Battle of Asiago* (15-16 June 1918).

Private Frank Noel Green was killed during this battle. According to a report in the *Register*, he was killed by machine-gun bullets whilst '*charging the enemy*' on 16 June 1918. He was buried in *Boscon British Cemetery* in Asiago, one of two men from the battalion buried in the cemetery who were killed on the same day. Another Tewkesbury man, **Sgt. Albert Coopey** [†] of the 1st/5th Gloucesters, was killed on the previous day (15 June) and is also buried in the cemetery.