

Cecil Green (1893 – 1968)

Cecil Green was born into a Farnhill family of five children.

He worked in the cotton industry and later as a chauffeur.

During the war he served in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.

Cecil was wounded, hospitalised in Penrith and Liverpool, and then discharged from the army as medically unfit. He subsequently worked as a tailor and in his own grocery business.

Cecil married twice and lived in the Newcastle area.



Photograph by kind permission of Meretta Warren

Pre-war life

Cecil Green was born, in Farnhill, on the 7th April 1893. He was the fifth child of John Green, a warp dresser, originally from Glusburn, and Phoebe (nee Cutler) from Foulridge.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT				SKIPTON						
1893 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Kildwick				in the County of York						
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
301	7th April 1893 Farnhill R.S.D.	Cecil	Boy	John Green	Phoebe Green formerly Cutler	Cotton Warp dresser	John Green Tailor Farnhill	7th May 1893	A. R. Dainton Registrar	

Cecil Green's birth certificate
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The 1901 census recorded the family living at 7 Mary Street, which was still their home ten years later, at the time of the 1911 census. By that time Cecil was 17 years old and was employed as a warp dresser in the cotton industry.

Members of the family, including Cecil and his sister Meretta, attended Farnhill Primitive Methodist Church.

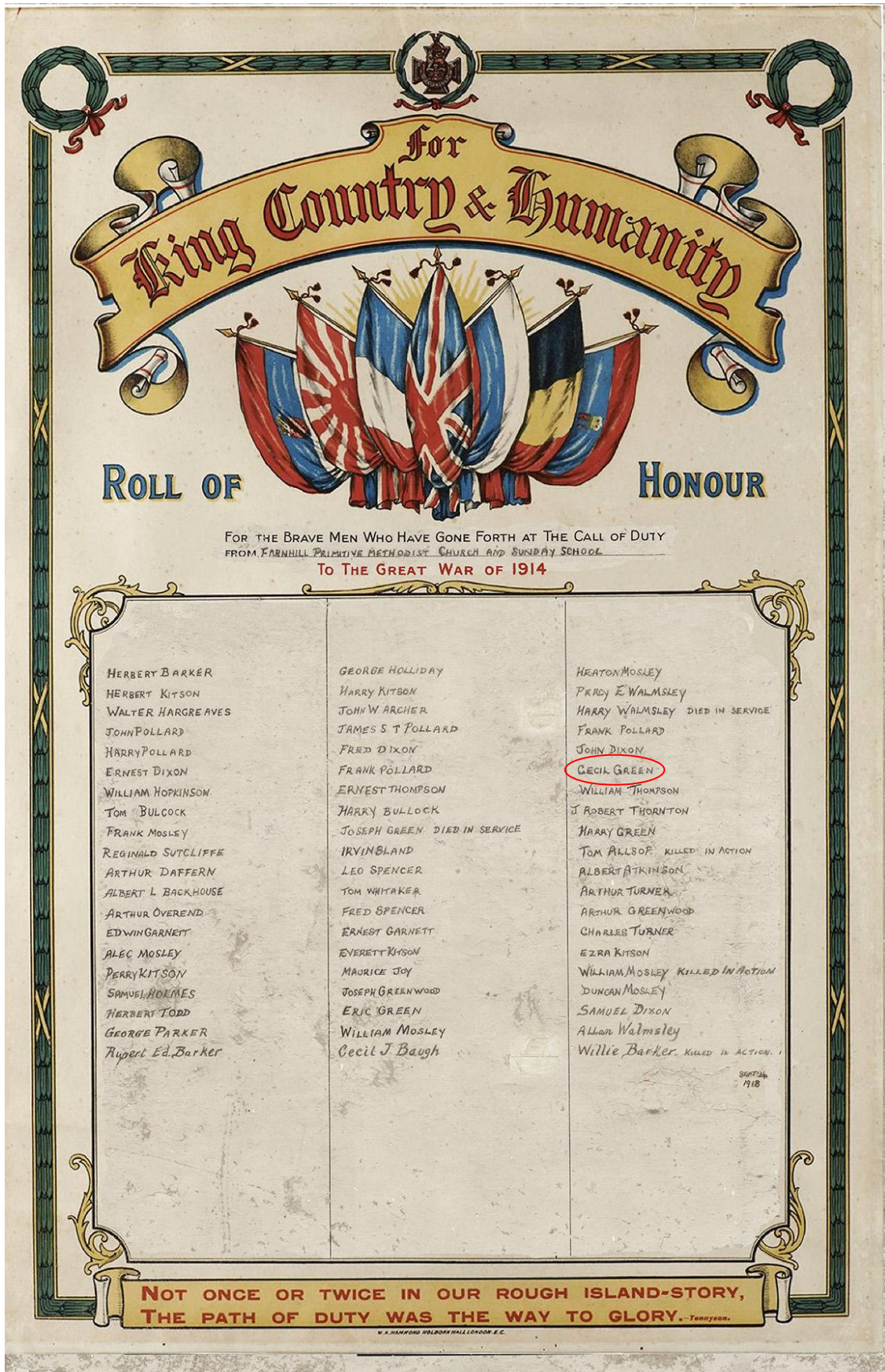


Meretta Green's Primitive Methodist membership card from May 1910.

WW1 service

Cecil Green served with the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. Although no war records with his date of birth or address can be found there is good circumstantial evidence that he was Private Cecil Green of 5th battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, service number 267141.

Details on a WW1 medal card and the Silver War Badge roll match information about him provided by his family, and this service number is very close to that of another of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers, Albert Kitson, whose service number was 267151 and is known to have served with the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.



The digitally-restored Farnhill Methodist Roll of Honour (1916)

Cecil's name was also included in a list of those men "connected with the [Methodist] Church in Farnhill who had gone to fight for King and country" which was read out at a service held in memory of Harry Walmsley (reported in the Keighley News, 6/1/1917).

Towards the end of March 1918 the 5th battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment came under severe assault from German forces when serving north-west of Arras in France, during the build-up to the latter's "Spring Offensive". The Regimental war diary records a number of chaotic episodes during which they incurred high levels of losses, totalling 32 killed, 121 wounded and 56 missing.

The battalion's war diary for the 20th and 21st March, the start of the German offensive, recorded:

20th – Enemy artillery was more active than usual on our Trench system. During the night 20th/21st there was a change in enemy attitude.

An unusual amount of Movement and talking in the enemy trench was heard. Two enemy patrols were seen and dispersed during the night.

21st – At 5 a.m. a heavy counter Battery fire was opened by the enemy. At first the fire on our front was at a much slower rate than on the front of Corps on our right, but increased in intensity about 5.30 a.m. About 10 a.m. the situation quietened down.

Cecil Green was severely wounded and was returned for hospital treatment in the UK.

His daughter has told the project:

My father was wounded on the 21st March 1918 ... He was then taken over to Dover and put on a train. The train was travelling as far as Glasgow. En-route the train stopped at various places putting off those who had died and the wounded soldiers where there was accommodation for them. My father was put off the train at Penrith. He was barely alive on arrival.

Early in April 1918 reports similar to the one shown below appeared in all the local newspapers.

The Wounded.—The parents of Private Cecil Green, Mary Street, Farnhill, have received information that he is wounded and in hospital at Penrith, Cumberland, but no details are yet to hand.

By kind permission of Craven Herald

Cecil remained in hospital for over a year and was operated on multiple times; procedures that were successful in saving his right leg.



Penrith military hospital. Among the men wearing hospital “blues” is Cecil Green, front-centre, with a leg brace
Photograph courtesy of Meretta Warren

In 1919, while still in the army, Cecil married one of the nurses at the Penrith hospital, Isabella Rochester, who was 20 years his senior– although by this time he appears to have been transferred to a hospital in Knotty Ash, Liverpool.

1919.		Marriage solemnized at <u>Christ Church</u>		in the <u>Parish</u>				
		of <u>Christ Church, Penrith</u>		in the County of <u>Cumbria</u> .				
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
66.	22 February 1919.	Cecil Green.	26	Bachelor.	Pt. W. King	Hypothetical	John Green.	Warp. Drum.
		Isabella Rochester	46	Spinster	—	Woodlands, Penrith.	William Rochester (deceased).	Colliery Manager.
Married in the <u>Church of Christ Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Evangelical Church</u> by <u>Frederick</u> or after — by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		{ <u>Cecil Green.</u> <u>Isabella Rochester</u> }		in the Presence of us,		{ <u>Elizabeth Eliza Walton.</u> <u>Alfred Charles Tate.</u> }		
						{ <u>Claude Morn.</u> <u>Church of Penrith.</u> }		

Cecil Green – Isabella Rochester, marriage certificate
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On 10th April 1919, Private Cecil Green was discharged from the army as "no longer physically fit for war service". He was awarded a Silver War Badge.

Note: Silver War Badges (SWB), sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", were awarded to men who were unable to continue in the services due to illness or wounds sustained. They were intended to be worn on civilian clothing by men who had wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance.

Regtl. No.	Rank	Name (in full)	Unit discharged from	No. of badge & Certificate (to be completed at War Office)	Date of:- Enlistment	Discharge	Cause of discharge (wounds or sickness & Para. of R.L.)	Whether served overseas (Yes. or No.)
2070.	Private.	MORAN. T.	WEST RIDING REGIMENT.	B216762	15.8.1914	17.2.1915.	37. Sickness.	No
241322.	Private.	HANN. Arthur Eli.		B216763	21.8.1915	27.2.1919.	29. Wounds.	Yes
308110.	Private.	CONSTABLE. Alfred.		B216764	10.12.1915	6.3.1919.	25. Wound ds.	Yes
202319.	Private.	HORSFALL. Teddy.		B216765	16. 3.1916	11.4.1919.	26. Wounds.	Yes
235212.	Private.	NASH. Edward.		B216766	5. 4.1916	11.4.1919.	27. Wounds.	Yes
267141.	Private.	GREEN. Cecil.		B216767	11.12.1915	10.4.1919.	28. Wound ds.	Yes
267256.	Private.	TURNER. James Clarence.		B216768	28.2.1916	12.4.1919.	26. Wound ds.	Yes
268356.	Private.	GOTHARD. Ernest.		B216769	11.2.1916	11.4.1919.	31. Wounds.	Yes
235138.	Private.	DRAV. Fred.		B216770	2. 7. 1915	31. 7. 1919.	26. Wounds.	Yes

Extract from the Silver War Badge roll, including service dates and reason for discharge of Private Cecil Green (267141)
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As a result of his wounds Cecil was awarded a pension of 28s (£1 40p) per week for what was judged to be a 70% disability. Payments continued until at least 1924.

Form No. S.B 36

Surname **GREEN.** Christian Names **Cecil** Regional No. **2/M G/ N° 652**

Unit and Regiment or Corps **West Riding** Regtl. No. **267141.** Rank **Pte.**

Date of Discharge **10. 4. 19.** Year of Birth **1893.** Marital Status { S. = Single
W. = Widower
M. = Married } **16.**

Address **River View, Ryton-on-Tyne.** **6. Durham.** Date of commencement of Pension **11.4.19.**

Disabilities:— State whether attributable to or aggravated by Service or non-attributable:—

1. **Swollen leg** 3. _____ 1. _____ 3. **16**

2. _____ 4. _____ 2. _____ 4. _____

AWARDS OF PENSION, GRATUITY OR WEEKLY ALLOWANCE.									
Date of Award or other Action	Degree of Disablement	Nature of Award			Weekly Rate			Period of Award	REMARKS: Note—This column is to be used for explanatory remarks where necessary, e.g., that an award is made or revised under Article 9, or as the result of an appeal to the Tribunal, or for increase of Pension
		Art. under which granted (and Warrant if necessary)	Whether Pension Gratiuity or Weekly Allowance	Whether Permanent, Conditional or Final	Man	Wife	Child	From To	
24.3.20	70%	Art. 10. 19	P. C.	28				11/4/20 12/4/21	
8.4.21	76%	" 11/19	P. C.	38				13/4/21 11/4/22	
10.4.22	78%	" 11/19	P. C.	38				17/4/22 10/4/23	
20.3.23	70%	"	P. C.	28				11/4/23 8/4/24	

Extracts from Cecil Green's WW1 pension ledger (SB 36)
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Post-war life

Cecil Green's name was included on the 1918 electoral roll for Farnhill – he was an absent voter eligible due to his military service – however, he did not return to the village after the war.

After their marriage, Cecil and Isabella moved to Newcastle and set up home at 58 Lavender Gardens, West Jesmond – possibly to be closer to Isabella's family, she had been born in Ryton just west of Gateshead. (The pension ledger, created in 1919, gives Cecil's address as "River View" Ryton, which may indicate that they lived there, perhaps with Isabella's family, for a short time after their marriage.)

Unable to resume his previous career as a chauffeur, Cecil became a tailor.

The couple appear on the electoral roll at that address in 1928 and 1929, but Isabella is missing thereafter and it is likely that she died in late 1929 or early 1930, aged 56.

Cecil continued to live at 58 Lavender Gardens and on the 18th June 1932 he married for a second time, to the 25 year-old Marjorie Douglas at St. Hilda's Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. One of the witnesses to the marriage was Harry Slater, the husband of Cecil's sister Meretta. (Cecil had witnessed their marriage in 1915.)

1932. Marriage solemnized at <u>the parish church</u> in the <u>parish</u> of <u>St. Hilda, Newcastle-upon-Tyne</u> in the County of <u>Newcastle-upon-Tyne</u> .								
Column - No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
123	18th June 1932.	Cecil Green.	39	Widower.	Tailor.	58 Lavender Gardens, W. Jesmond.	John Green (decd).	Wagon driver.
		Marjorie Douglas.	25	Spinster.	—	58 Lavender Gardens, W. Jesmond.	John Douglas.	Small holder.
Married in the <u>parish church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Church of England</u> by <u>licence</u> or after <u>—</u> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Cecil Green</u> <u>Marjorie Douglas</u>	In the Presence of us,		<u>Harry Slater</u> <u>Flora Bradley</u> <u>S. A. S. Kirk</u> <u>Minors</u>			

Cecil Green – Marjorie Douglas, marriage certificate
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Cecil and Marjorie had two children: a boy called John Peter, born in 1933; and a girl, called Meretta (named after her aunt), born in 1937.

The 1939 Register, created in September 1939 in preparation for WW2 rationing, recorded Cecil and Marjorie living at 8 Mistletoe Road, Jesmond.

1	Green, Cecil	-	M. 1st Apr 93	M. Master Tailor.
2	Green, Marjorie	-	F. 2nd Feb 07	M. Unpaid Domestic Duties

1939 Register entry for 8 Mistletoe Road, Jesmond
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During WW2, when material became scarce, Cecil gave up tailoring and became a general dealer, owning two grocery stores in Newcastle.

The family continued to live in Mistletoe Road until at least 1959, although they moved from number 8 to number 15 in 1953.

After Cecil's retirement, he and Marjorie moved to Whitley Bay, which is where Cecil died on 11th December 1968. He was aged 75.

Marjorie died on 10th April 2000, aged 93.

Cecil Green – a life in summary

Born: 7/4/1893, Farnhill
Died: 11/12/1968, Whitley Bay **Aged:** 75
Home address: 4 Norma Crescent, Whitley Bay

Parents

Father: John; b. 1853, Glusburn; d. October 1930
Mother: Phoebe (nee Cutler); b. 1856, Foulridge; d. February 1935, Farnhill
Married: 1875, Skipton (Registration district)

Siblings

Edith; b. 1876, Glusburn; d. March 1939, Sutton
Herbert; b. 1880, Glusburn; m. Frances Ridsdale, 29/6/1904, Kildwick; d. 12/4/1938, Farnhill
Marian; b. 1883, Farnhill; m. William Spencer, 8/8/1908, Kildwick;
d. 1964, Claro (Registration district)
Meretta; b. 1886, Farnhill; m. Harry Slater, 2/10/1915, Kildwick;
d. 1957, Staincliffe (Registration district)

plus one other who died prior to the 1911 census

WW1 service

Service period: 11/12/1915 to 10/4/1919
Regt.: 5th battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (Pte. no. 267141)
Medals: Victory Medal, British War Medal, Silver War Badge
Home address: 7 Mary Street, Farnhill

Marriage

Wife: (1) Isabella Rochester; b. 1873, Ryton, Co. Durham;
d. late 1929 / early 1930, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Registration district)
(2) Marjorie Douglas; b. 24/2/1907; d. 10/4/2000
Date: (1) 22/2/1919; Christ Church, Penrith
(2) 18/6/1932; St. Hilda's Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Children

John Peter, b. 25/4/1933; Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Registration district); m. 2/4/1960; d. 29/12/2014
Meretta I., b. 1936; Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Registration district);
m. Matthew L. Warren, 1958, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Registration district)