

137: Joseph Henry Green

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Joseph Henry Green

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 2/5th Battalion Manchester Regiment

Service Number: 202094

Date of Death: 21 March 1918

Age at Death ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Jeancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Jeancourt, Departement de l'Aisne, Picardie, France

Additional information given by CWGC: None

Joseph Henry Green was the third child of Henry and Annie Green of Shropshire. Henry Green married Annie Sutton in the Wem district of Shropshire in late 1888 and Joseph was born in Stokesay, less than a mile south of the small town of Craven Arms, around six miles northwest of Ludlow. His birth was registered in the 3rd quarter of 1894.

At the time of the 1901 census the family had moved a short distance northwards and were living at Chirbury, a small village in west Shropshire and just south of Welshpool:

Henry Green	Head	M	38	Bakery & Grocer Shopkeeper	Employer	Shropshire Nantwich
Annie Do	Wife	M	40			Salop Prees
Elizabeth Do	Daughter		10			Salop Prees
Lillian Do	Daughter		8			Salop Prees
Joseph H. Do	Son		6			Salop Stokesay
Ernest V. Do	Son		3			Salop Stokesay
Joseph Sutton	Father-in-law	Wid	78	Ret. J. B. Farm Bailiff (Retired)		Salop Whitchurch

1901 census (extract) – Malthouse, Chirbury, Shropshire

Henry Green	38	bakery & grocer, shopkeeper	born Nantwich
Annie	40		born Prees, Salop
Elizabeth	10		born Prees, Salop
Lillian	8		born Prees, Salop
Joseph H.	6		born Stokesay, Salop
Ernest V.	3		born Stokesay, Salop
Joseph Sutton	78	father-in-law, widower, farm bailiff (retired)	born Whitchurch

By the time of the 1911 census Joseph, 17, had left home and was working for farmer Joseph and Sarah Powell as a 'waggoner on farm' at Walton Hall, Worthen, around seven miles east of Welshpool. His birthplace was recorded as Craven Arms.

Elizabeth Green (21), his sister, had also left home and was a parlourmaid at High Legh, six miles northwest of Knutsford. Lillian Green, Joseph's other sister, has not been located in the 1911 census but Joseph's father, Henry, and Ernest were living at Pontesbury, midway between Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Strangely, Henry was then recorded as being married to Agnes and it was noted that they had been married for 14 years and had one child, still living. As Ernest, 13, is the only child shown in the household the implication is that *he* is the child of this marriage (and Henry and Agnes

are specified clearly as 'father' and 'mother'), yet it is recorded in 1901 that he was the son of Henry and Annie. No record of the death of Annie Green has been found and she has not been located in the 1911 census, and no suitable record of the marriage of Henry Green and an Agnes has been found. Clearly, Annie (born Prees) and Agnes (born Abergale [probably a corruption of Abergale]) were not the same individual, and it is impossible to reconcile the contradictory information recorded here:

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.													219	
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.													Number of Schedule (To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)	
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.														
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (Gives Birth-day and SEX.)		PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.			PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.			BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.		
		For Infants under one year state the age in months at "under one month," "one month," etc.	For Males.	For Females.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 10 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Total Children Born Alive.				Children Living.	Children who have Died.
<p>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who</p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one also must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>														
<p>Personal Occupation.</p> <p>The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.</p> <p>If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated.</p> <p>(See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>														
<p>Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.</p> <p>Whether Working at Home.</p> <p>Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry—</p> <p>(1) "Employer" (this is including persons other than domestic servants).</p> <p>(2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or</p> <p>(3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).</p> <p>Write the words "At Home" opposite the names of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.</p> <p>NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "British" or "Visitor" in this Country.</p>														
<p>(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.</p> <p>(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.</p> <p>(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.</p> <p>(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."</p> <p>NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "British" or "Visitor" in this Country.</p>														
<p>State whether—</p> <p>(1) "Totally Deaf" or "Deaf and Dumb,"</p> <p>(2) "Totally Blind,"</p> <p>(3) "Lunatic,"</p> <p>(4) "Imbecile," or "Feeble-minded,"</p> <p>state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.</p>														
1	Henry Green	Father	48		Married	14	1	1			Baker Confectioner	Nantwich Cheshire	British	
2	Agnes Green	Mother	48		Married	14	1	1			at home	Abergale	British	
3	Ernest Valentine Green son		13								Assistant Baker	Craven Arms	British	

1911 census (condensed) – No. 1 Engleside Cottage, Pontesbury, Shropshire

Henry Green	48	baker, confectioner	born Nantwich
Agnes	48	at home	born Abergale
Ernest Valentine	13	scholar, half time, and baker's assistant	born Craven Arms

It was recorded that Henry and Agnes had been married for 14 years and that they had one living child (although this cannot be reconciled with other information).

Joseph Henry Green, 23, married Lily Norman of Badger Bait, Little Neston, at Neston Parish Church on 6 June 1917. Joseph recorded that he was a soldier and his residence was given as *servicing with 2/5th Battn. Manchester reg^t*; his father was named as baker Henry Green. Lily was 19 and her father was collier George Norman.

Joseph Green was living in Little Neston when he enlisted, in Liverpool, and that he was serving with the 2/5th Battalion Manchester Regiment when he was killed in action on 21 March 1918. It is unknown when, or why, Joseph came to Neston and as his Service Record has not been found details of his army service and death are unknown.

The 2/5th Battalion (Territorial Force), a second line unit, was formed in August 1914 in Wigan and in November 1914 joined the 199th Brigade of the 66th (2nd East Lancashire) Division and remained in Lancashire until May 1915 when they moved to Crowborough in East Sussex on the edge of Ashdown Forest.

In March 1916 the troops moved to Colchester and in February 1917 they mobilised for war and landed in France where the Division was involved in actions on the western

front including, in 1917, The Operations on the Flanders Coast, The Battle of Poelcapelle and The Third Battles of Ypres.

During 1918 the Regiment saw action at The Battle of St Quentin (21 - 23 March) and it was on the first day of this conflict that Joseph Henry Green was killed in action.

During this battle the 2/5th Battalion Manchester Regiment was part of the XIX Corps (commanded by Sir H. E. Watts, KCB, CMG) in the British Fifth Army under the command of General Sir Hubert de la Poer Gough, GCB, GCMG, KCVO.

The XIX Corps had a frontage of nearly 13,000 yards southward from the lines held by the XII Corps under Sir Walter Norris Congreve, VC, KCB, MVO (of Burton Hall) to about 1500 yards south of Pontruet, across the river Omignon. There were two divisions in line, both below strength.

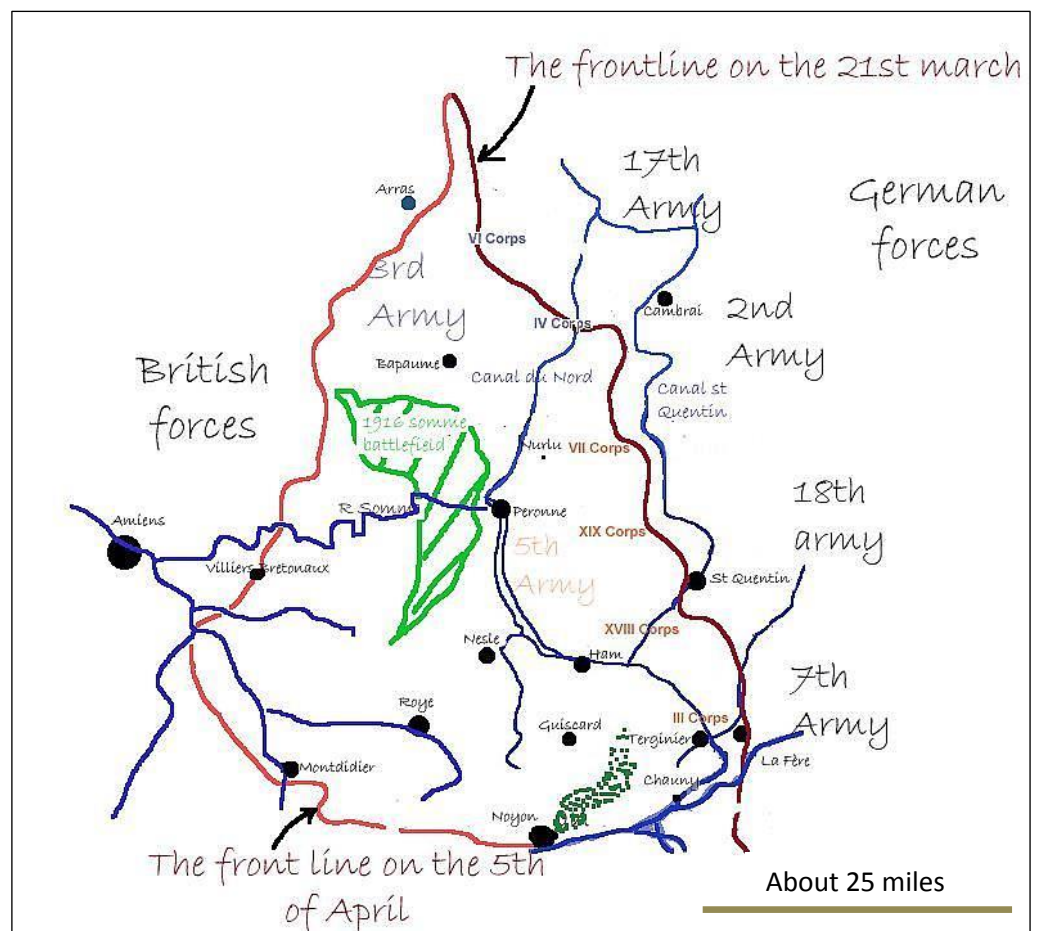
At 3.30am on 21 March British artillery began to fire deterrent bursts on selected German positions and poison gas was released from British cylinders facing St. Quentin.

At 4.40am a tremendous German bombardment began - the largest ever seen on the Western Front - and although the British artillery began to reply communication links were shattered and

many of the British guns were damaged or destroyed over the next few hours of shelling.

Initial German advances began at 5.30am when some German infantry made localised attacks and at 6.10am German infantry began to attack south of the River Oise.

Progressively, in thick fog and with the troops wearing gas masks for much of the day, the British positions were attacked in overwhelming strength from all sides



"Frontline 21031918 copy". Licensed under Public Domain via Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Frontline_21031918_copy.jpg#/media/File:Frontline_21031918_copy.jpg



The ruins of St Quentin and surrounds in September 1918
[Source: <http://battlefields.com.au/battle-of-mont-st-quentin-1918/>]

and German infantry broke through gaps in the defences and were able to attack from the rear.

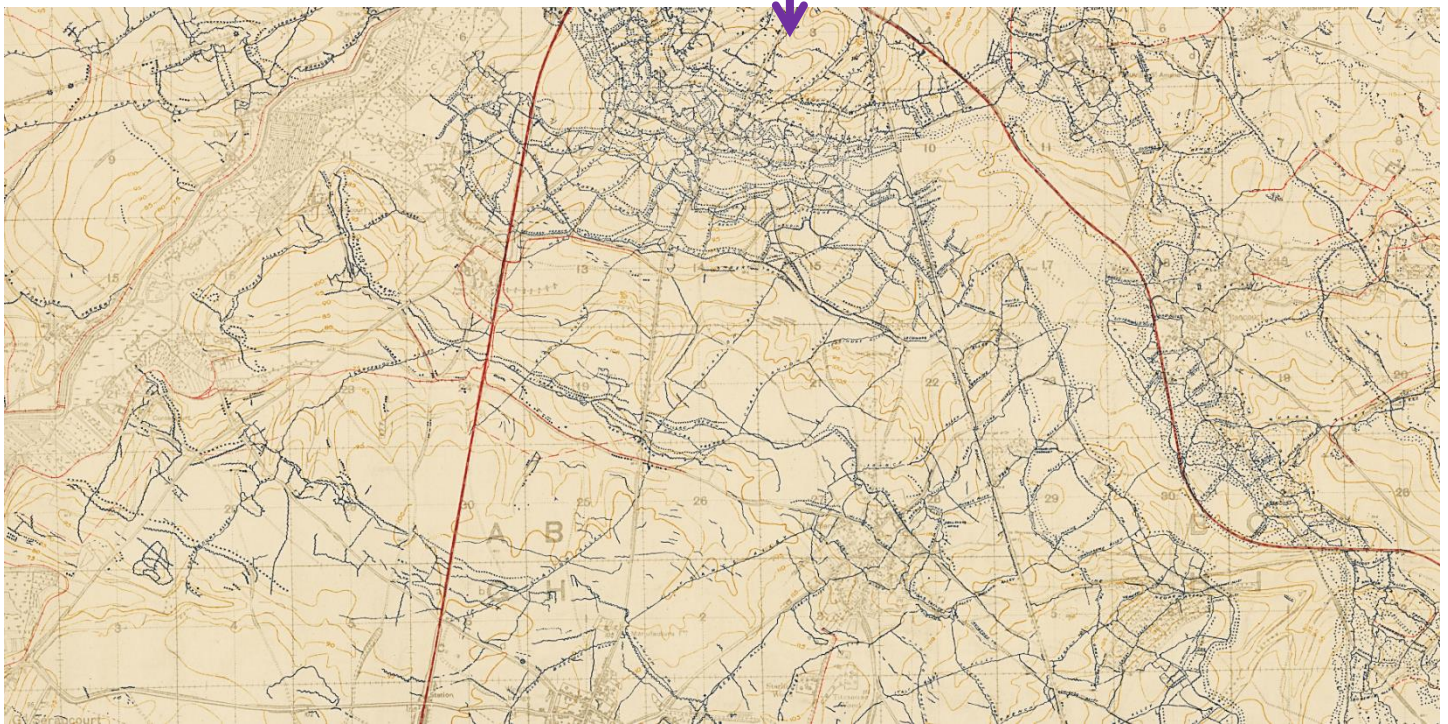
Thousands of British troops were killed and many were captured and the Germans drove deep into the British positions in several areas, occasioning retreat and creating a chaotic situation that persisted over the next several days.

The night of 21/22 March witnessed a frenzy of activity as near-reeling British Divisions readjusted to the incursions into their defensive zones and German forces were reinforced to inflict further damage.

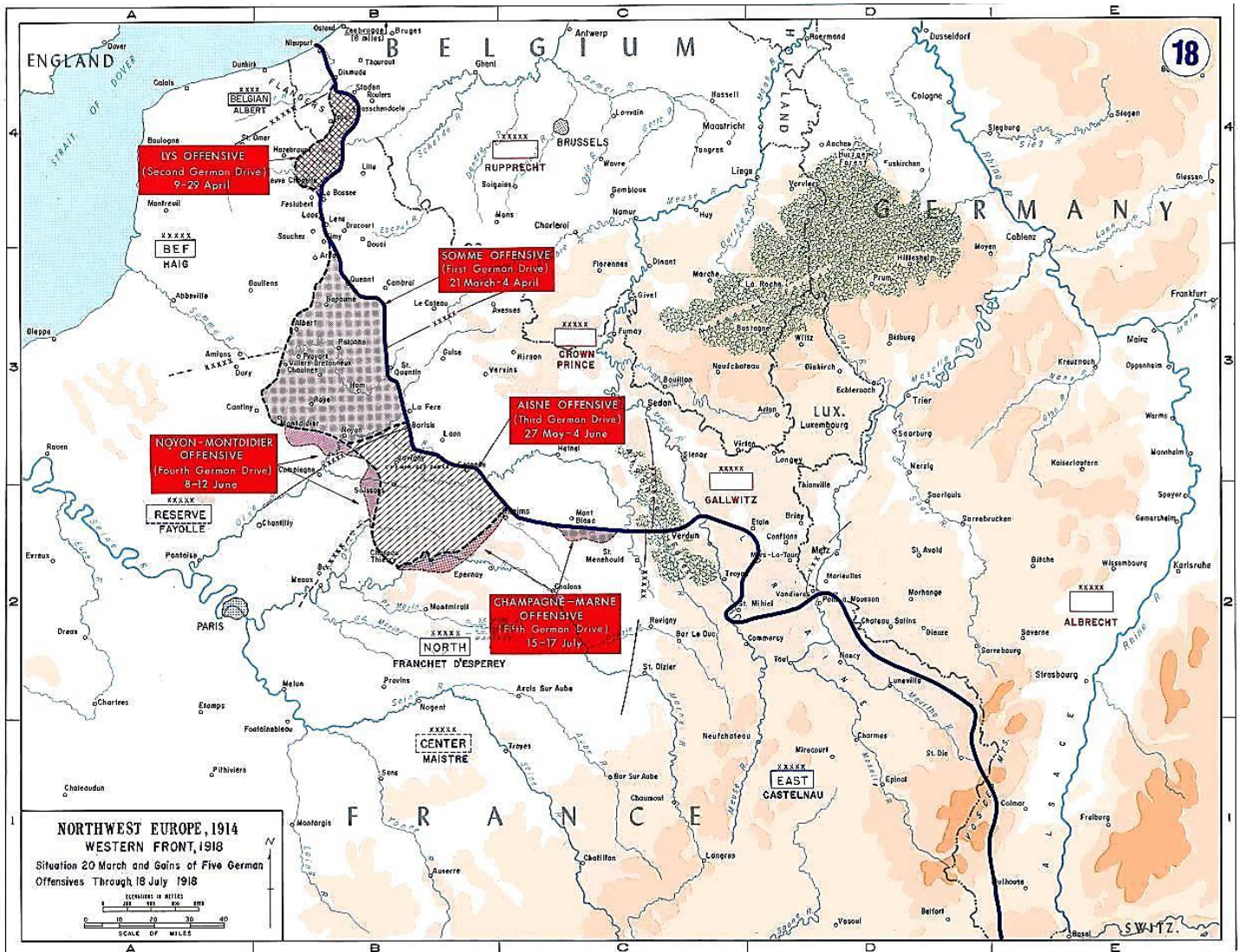
[Adapted from: <http://www.1914-1918.net/bat22-1.html>
<http://www.1914-1918.net/bat22.htm>
<http://www.cwgc.org/spring1918/content.asp?menuid=34&submenuid=35&id=10&menuname>
The Fifth Army in March 1918 W Shaw Sparrow London: John Lane, The Bodley Head 1921]

During WW1 the 2/5th (TF) Battalion lost 248 men.

Southern extent of St Quentin



Trench map of the area south, west and east of St Quentin on 20 March 1918, the day before Joseph Henry Green was killed. On this map the German trenches and positions are shown in blue and the two prominent red lines are railway lines. [Source: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/index.cfm#zoom=14&lat=49.8030&lon=3.2930&layers=101465335&b=1>]



Map of the final German offensives on the Western Front (World War I), 1918. From the History Department of the US Military Academy, West Point.

[<http://www.dean.usma.edu/history/web03/atlas/great%20war/great%20war%20index.ht>]

19 March 1918 St. Quentin Operation Michael Offensive



Photograph showing German troops in the streets of St. Quentin, France preparing for the Operation Michael Offensive, 19 March 1918. Operation Michael, which began on 21 March, was the first of a series of offensives that would bring the German Army to the gates of Paris. The offensives would also bleed the Germany Army dry, leading to its ultimate defeat.
(Source: Imperial War Museum, Great War100)

[<http://www.citiestips.com/view/-366991>]

German reserves advancing through St. Quentin during 'Operation Michael', March 1918

[<https://www.seaforthighlanders.ca/people/703>]

Although Joseph Henry Green is buried at Jeancourt Communal Cemetery Extension it is most probable that, originally, he was buried elsewhere and that his body was reinterred at Jeancourt after the Armistice.

866859	E/773675	Green Joseph Henry	45 Mch to 01 June 1918 He 4.3.18 4.19 202094 Death presumed	16 11 5	13/19/1	Widow Lily.	16	11	5	Leaf.
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Including War Gratuity £9

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. Joseph's widow, Lily, received a payment of outstanding wages of £7 11s 5d from the army and a War Gratuity of £9. This, a total value of £16 11s 5d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £2550 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

Name	Corps.	Rank	Regt. No.
GREEN	Branch. R.	Pte.	202094
Joseph H.			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	H/1012 25	1228	V.M. ret'd (1743 K.R.) 8149/adr
BRITISH			
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380,
8149/adr

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

No details are known of the parents or siblings of Joseph Henry Green although it is believed that his brother, Ernest Valentine Green, died in the Bradford district in mid-1974 aged 73.

Ernest married Florrie Padgett in a Civil Marriage at Hawarden in mid-1926 and, in the 1939 Register, they are recorded as living at "Denstone", off Church

Road, Buckley:

Ernest V Green

born 14 February 1898

baker, confectioner, master
cake maker

Florrie

born 13 May 1902

Ernest, 57, died in the Hawarden district on 23 May 1955 when he was recorded as living at "Birchwood", Padeswood Road, Buckley. His Effects were recorded as £3494 9s 2d, equivalent to a purchasing power of £98,000 in 2018.

Florrie died in the Wrexham district in mid-1968 aged 66. No children are known from the marriage.