

Cockey Moor in World War 2

Information from David Earnshaw

This is about David Earnshaw's uncle (his mother's brother) Robert Green, who lost his life in WW2

There is a second name for WW2 - another Harold Walker Brooks, both of whom are remembered on the plaque in the Methodist chapel

David remembers the War Memorial being unveiled and dedicated. It was made by Mr Eric Brook who was a monumental mason, along with his brother Gilbert. Their workshop was where the Day School Nursery now stands



the three pals Robert Green John Norris (Survivor) and Harold Walker Brooks. Both Robert and Harold died in WW2.



Robert was born at Windsor which was a small hamlet along Bentley Hall Road, Walshaw above Whiteheads Top Lodge

for this reason his name is on the war memorial at Walshaw.

Robert had two older brothers Fred and Allan and two sisters Minnie and Elsie.

There are two letters written by Robert Green before he was posted abroad

the first letter was sent ,after his mother Elizabeth Green had passed away, to his father and his sister Minnie (who was married to Norman who was serving overseas in Egypt)

Burnham
Somerset.

Wednesday

Burnham
Somerset
Wednesday

Dear Dad, Minnie & John.

Just a few lines to let you know I arrived safely about 7-30 last night & to say, thanks a lot for your very helpful letter & thanks for everything else, for looking after Mother so patiently & well & looking after us whilst we have been here. I think you have been swell all the time & shown us a fine example of courage & cheerfulness. I don't know what we should have done without you. I'm glad you're staying on with Dad. I know he will be alright as long as you are with him.

This parting has been a big blow to us all but we shall have to console ourselves with the thought that she will have no more troubles or worries & will be alright because if anyone ever lived a good life, she did & I am sure her life should be an example to

Dear Dad, Minnie and John

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us all.

I had quite a nice journey down with two Bury lads who are stationed down this way. I got a seat alright & so had no need to sleep in the "lav"

Well it looks as though we are for going overseas this time as nearly all our stuff is packed & we have been working until 8.30 tonight getting stuff ready. Also this morning young George (The King) came to have a look at us & when he comes to see you it is as good as a "cert" for overseas.

It has been put an order tonight that His Majesty the King was pleased with all he saw & tomorrow will be a general holiday for the whole company. So we shall be able to have an easy day tomorrow

I don't think we shall be off for a week or two yet as there are still a lot of lads who have not had

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leave & they have to have leave before
we go.

I think that is all for now &
lets all try to remember mother with
a smile, I'm sure that's the way she
would have liked it. Cheerio & once
again thanks for everything.

Love to you all
Bob

Ainsworth Village History Society

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I think that is all for now & lets all try to
remember mother with a smile. I'm sure that's
the way she would have liked it. Cheerio &
once again thanks for everything

Love to you all
Bob

the second letter was sent by Robert just before he left England.

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Burnham

Monday 7 P.M.

Burnham
Monday 7pm

Dear Dad Minnie & John

By the time you receive this letter we shall have left Burnham unless something unexpected happens. We are leaving in the morning about 3 AM. on the train & we have no idea when we are going, not that it makes much difference.

Thanks for your letter which arrived today & thanks for the cuttings they were lovely, what a pity mother won't be waiting when I come home but these things are beyond our control so we shall have to bear it cheerfully.

I think we shall be able to write from the port only letters from there will be censored so you will probably hear from me again before we sail.

I think that is all a till you hear from us again cheerio & don't worry.
Love

Bob

PS. Enclosed you will find a little for my "stocking"

2ND LETTER.

Dear Dad, Minnie and John

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Love
Bob

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Bob sent a Christmas Card to Elsie,
Walter Earnshaw and John



To Elsie, Walter, &
"Nephie" John Nellie

With best wishes for a
Happy Christmas
and
of Bright New Year

From: Bob





Form D.2.

Any further correspondence
on this subject should be
addressed to:-

The Director-General,
Graves Registration and Enquiries,
Wooburn House,
Wooburn Green,
High Wycombe, Bucks.
and the following number quoted:

THE WAR OFFICE.

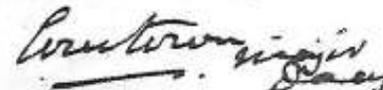
9th July 1942.

.....SSP/Libya/583/A.G.13.....

Dear Sir,

I write to tell you that information has now reached us
that your son, 1881811 Sapper R. Green, 232 Field Company.....
.....Royal Engineers.....
is buried at El Hanau Libya which is about 30 miles South.....
.....East of Derna.....

Yours faithfully,

for 
Director-General,
Graves Registration and Enquiries.

Mr. H. Green,
55, Lowercourt Road,
Bury.

In Memory of

Robert Green

Sapper

1881811

232 Field Coy., Royal Engineers

who died on

Saturday, 21st March 1942. Age 24.

**Additional
Information:**

Son of Harry and Elizebeth Green, of Bury, Lancashire.

Commemorative Information

**Memorial:
Grave Reference/
Panel Number:
Location:**

ALAMEIN MEMORIAL, Egypt
Column 48.

Alamein is a village off the main coast road approximately 130 kilometres west of Alexandria on the road to Mersa Matruh. The gardeners are in the cemetery Saturday to Thursday 0730 -1430, the cemetery is kept open during daylight hours.

In Memory of

Sapper

Robert Green

1881811, 232 Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 21 March 1942 Age 24

Son of Harry and Elizebeth Green, of Bury, Lancashire.

Remembered with Honour

Alamein Memorial



This is a letter sent to Robert's fathers Harry Green from one of his comrades after he was killed which is quiet touching.

2004952 G. Craighead
Section 1
232nd Field Coy

M.E.F.

Dear Sir
Let me first of all express
my sympathy at your sad & sudden
bereavement, the loss of your son,
my best friend.

I came to this
company two years ago & instantly
got acquainted with Bob through
the Methodist church & since coming
out East we have shared everything
& both in the same dugout.

Many a time in
the evening we lay & talked of home,
our work, our hobbies, our enjoyment
& very quickly he picked up my
Scots accent, which I think made
us firmer friends.

One night, I
remembered it well, we vowed that
if anything happened to the other we
would write home & erase all doubt
& anxiety from our people's mind. Little
did we imagine that it would be
necessary, but when it happened, I
remembered my promise but had to
wait until official word was sent
to you.

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232nd Field ??
MEF

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happened to the other we would write home & erase all
doubt & anxiety from our people's mind. Little did we
imagine that it would be necessary, but when it
happened I remembered my promise but had to wait
until official word was sent to you

Bob was killed in a bombing raid on the 21st of March, buried by his friends in a lovely valley the same day, where, I might be able to tell you at a later date. No suffering, death came instantaneous, as he said he would like it if ever it fell his lot.

The section mourns the loss of one of its most popular N.C.O.'s & being his personal friend they asked me to convey their heartfelt sympathy to you & his sisters in this bereavement.

If it ever be my lot to return to England I will try to get to see you personally if you so wish it as censor forbids a lot & if you care to answer this letter, please do so, then I will know his wish was fulfilled.

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The words of an old hymn
gave me courage at his death
"what tho' clouds are hovering
and I seem to walk ^{o'er me} alone.
When with battling with life's
seats I find instead of ^{problems} joy.
If I've Jesus, only Jesus.
I possess a lustre rare,
His the Lily of the Valley
And the Rose of Sharon Fair.
I am,
Yours sincerely,
George Craighead.

The words of an old hymn gave me courage at his
death "what tho' clouds are hovering o'er me,
And I seem to walk alone
When with battling with life's problems
Tears I find instead of joy
If I've Jesus, only Jesus
I possess a cluster rare
His the Lily of the Valley
And the Rose of Sharon Fair

I am
Yours sincerely
George Craighead

The WW2 names were only added in September 2004
paid for by the Rotary Club.

THE ROTARY CLUB

of Tottington & Bury West

DISTRICT 1280

Re-dedication of Walshaw War Memorial

12 noon, Sunday 19th September 2004

1. Arrival of Mayor and Mayoress of Bury – Councillor and Mrs Briggs.
2. Parade of the Fusiliers' Corps of Drums from Stonehome Business Centre to the Memorial.
3. Welcome by Rotarian B. Thornley.
4. Dedication by Rev. S. Foster.
- ~~5.~~ 5. Unveiling of the Memorial by Mayor of Bury, Councillor Barry Briggs.
6. Reading of the names now added to the Memorial by Rotary President Derek Lomas.
7. Lowering of the Standards and Last Post by the buglers of the Corps of Drums.
8. 1 minute silence.
- ~~9.~~ 9. Raising of the standards.
10. Laying of the wreath by Rotary District Governor, David Ainsworth.
- ~~11.~~ 11. Reveille by buglers of the Corps of Drums.
12. Final prayer by Rev. S. Foster.
13. March off by the Corps of Drums, Standards etc.

The dignitaries, members of Tottington and Bury West Rotary Club and invited persons will then retire to Walshaw Sports Club

Never forgotten

FALLEN war heroes will be remembered at a special ceremony next month.

Walshaw's war memorial will be dedicated at a church service following a special project which has seen the names of local servicemen from the area who gave their lives during the Second World War engraved on the tribute.

As part of their centenary project, to mark 100 years of the Rotary International movement, Tottington and Bury West Rotary Club arranged for the names to be inscribed on the memorial. Up until then the names were remembered on plaque inside Christ Church.

A formal dedication ceremony will be held at noon on Sunday, September 19. Those attending will include Bury Mayor, Coun Barry Briggs, and Bury Mayoress, Coun Sharon Briggs, the Governor of Rotary District 1280, Rotarian David Ainsworth and representatives of local ex-servicemen's organisations.

The Rotary club is also inviting any surviving relatives of those whose names are shown on the plaque to attend the service, and for a buffet lunch at Walshaw Sports Club afterwards.

Those wishing to attend should contact Rotarian Norman Fleming on 01204887192, for catering numbers.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the dedication service.

New names on memorial

FALLEN war heroes were remembered at a special ceremony on Sunday.

Walshaw's War Memorial was dedicated following the completion of a project which has seen the names of service personnel who gave their lives during the Second World War engraved on the memorial.

Tottington and Bury West Rotary Club arranged for the names to be inscribed there as part of their community project to mark Rotary International's centenary. Up until now the names were remembered on a plaque inside Christ Church.

A parade led by the the Corps and Drums and Pipes of The Fusiliers'

Association (Lancashire) and made up of representatives of the army and naval cadets marched from Christ Church to the memorial. The dedication service was led by the Rev Steven Foster, vicar of Christ Church. It was attended by Bury Mayor Coun Barry Briggs and his wife Sharon, members of the Rotary Club, and friends and relatives of those named on the memorial.

Rotary President Derek Lomas read out the names of the fallen followed by the Last Post and a one-minute silence.

A wreath was laid by the Rotary District Governor David Ainsworth. Mr Foster ended the ceremony with a prayer.



● Remembering the fallen (bur200405343)

From the Bury Times



all Robert Green's nephews and nieces and some of their children.

Harold Walker Brooks died on 28th February 1944 and is buried in the Methodist Churchyard

In Memory of
Serjeant

Harold Walker Brooks

1514967, Royal Artillery who died on 28 February 1944 Age 25

Son of Ernest and Carrie Brooks, of Ainsworth; husband of Gladys Brooks, of Ainsworth.

Remembered with Honour
Ainsworth Methodist Chapelyard



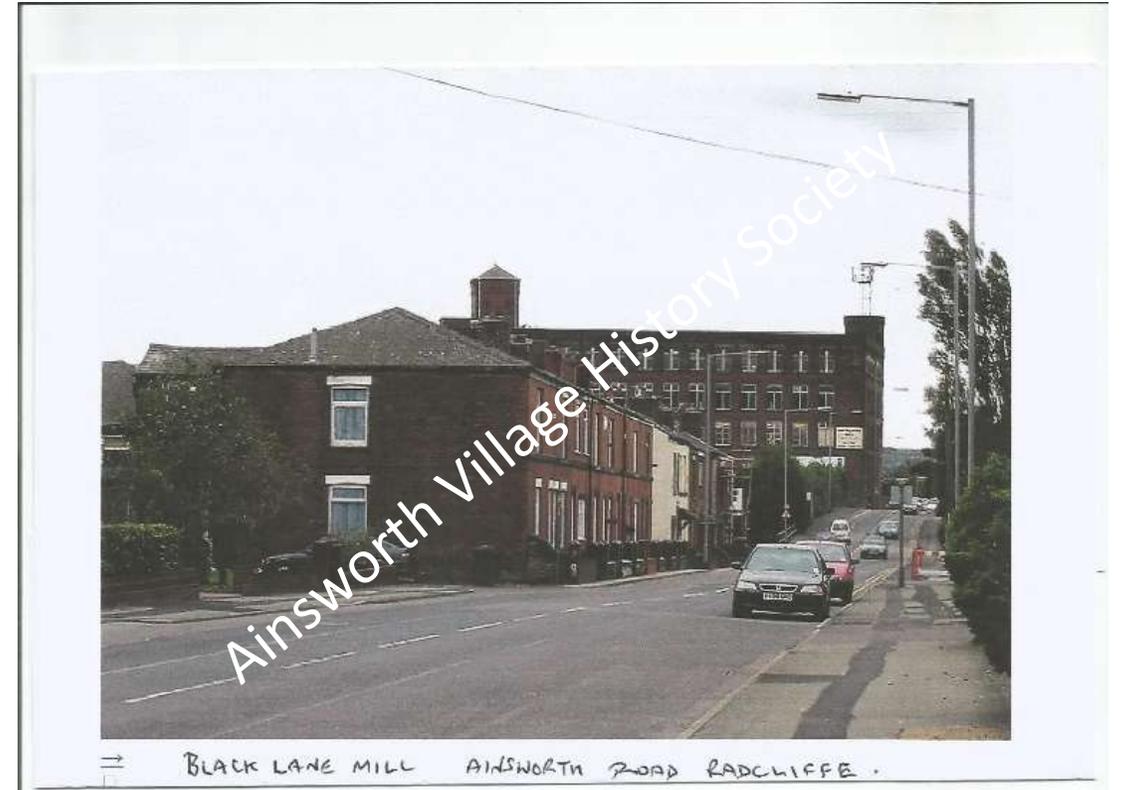
Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



David says that he doesn't remember much about the war but remembers the air raid shelters where the vicarage now stands in Ainsworth Hall Road and that there were also shelters at the top of Delph Lane and he assumes that there must have been others. He also recalls that the siren was on a telegraph pole behind the library

War time memories told to me by my father

My father Walter Earnshaw because of having had rheumatic fever and working in banking was commissioned to the Pay Corp. He was stationed in Shrewsbury and then at Black Lane Mill Radcliffe. He told me that at Black Lane the toilets were canvas huts placed by the railway line and when the trains went by the canvas flaps would lift !!!!! I should imagine the passengers saw a few things they were not expecting to see.



War time memories told to me by my father

Whilst at Black Lane he invited one of his men for an evening meal with him and the following day he said to my father “Walter you have let very lucky with your digs and what a lovely landlady you have” My father said well Bradley Fold Road that is my home and the landlady is my wife he had not thought to tell his friend that he was billeted at home with being so close. Their fellow comrades had a real good laugh

War time memories told to me by my father

My mother's sister Minnie Mills and her son John spent time at our home 50a Bradley Fold Road as her husband Norman was serving in Egypt. Norman came home to Lowercroft Road to find no one home. Knowing they would be at Walter and Elsie's he made his way to Bradley Fold Road.

When he got there it was well into the evening he knocked on the door and the bedroom window opened and Walter leaned out and quoted Luke Ch11 v 7
"Do not bother me. The door is shut for the night, my children and I have gone to bed and I cannot get up and give you what you want "

Every time this bible reading came up during a Church Service we would all look at each other and smile



THE GREEN FAMILY

ALLAN ELSIE HARRY ELIZABETH MINNIE FRED.
ROBERT (BOB)

PHOTO TAKEN BACK OF LOWERCROFT ROAD
WOODSIDE TERRACE
KNOW AS PIANO ROW.



THE EARNSHAW FAMILY
EDNA EDNA GERTRUDE WILLIAM MARGARET WALTER
PHOTO TAKE BACK OF DELPH LANE .