

**Green, Harold Edwin**  
**Lance Corporal**  
**Queen's Own Cameron**  
**Highlanders of Canada**  
**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**  
**B/70505**



ULLAMH (Ready)



Harold Edwin Green was born on Friday, February 1, 1918, in Toronto, Canada's largest city and the capital of the province of Ontario. Eldest son of Edwin Lawson Green (1895) and Beachie Mable Willis-Green (1895), both born in England. They were married on March 14, 1916 in Toronto, Ontario. Harold had a younger brother, Gordon Albert Green (1921), and three sisters, Marjorie Edna Green (1920), Kathleen Mabel Green (1925) and Barbara Ann Green (1937). By faith they belonged to the United Church, Toronto, Ontario



*Gordon left and Harold on the right with their little sisters*

Father Edwin was a veteran of the First World War. Edwin Lawson Green served with the 75<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion with Army Number No.139734 as Private. He was wounded in France during the First World War.

He was shot in his right arm and right chest. He was operated several times. His right lung, right arm and fingers were removed. Edwin worked for the Metallic Roofing Company. This was one of the leading Canadian companies that manufactured sheet metal for architectural purposes and marketed it worldwide. It was located at 1184 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario. He owned a company car and traveled all over Ontario, taking orders for shed roofs. During the Depression, Father Edwin was fired and the family had to move from Toronto to Scarborough in 1929, because the rent was lower.

In 1938, the family moved back to Toronto to live in Grandfather Albert Green's house at 67 Kimberly Street.



*Kimberley Street 67*

Harold was educated from the age of five at Bowmore Road School which had been in existence since 1923 and then went to Bach Cliff High School. But he did not like going to school and at the age of 16 he left school to find a job. He was a quiet boy who never caused any problems. In 1936 he started working at Newsoms Grocery in Toronto, but after a year he gave up. During the Great Depression Harold jumped on closed train



wagons with peers and rode all the way west to look for work on the big prairie farms. They did not buy a ticket, they literally ran next to the train and illegally jumped on it. When he was eighteen, Harold found a job at a farm, but at the end of the summer of 1941 he returned home in the same way. He started looking for work again and in the same year Harold started working for a milk factory, 'York Diaries', as a salesman/driver. He delivered milk products and fresh products by horse and cart. Later he also learned to drive cars and trucks.

*Marjorie, Harold, Kathleen, sitting Gordon, Barbara*

At Marjorie's first wedding in 1941, Harold gave a box full of ice in the shape of bubbles. The bridal couple thought it was a nice treat. Harold worked as a milk seller for four years.

Harold Edwin Green had gray eyes and dark brown hair. He was 5 ft.6 tall and weighed 136, 4 lb. His hobbies were fishing and he liked dancing. Harold had little feet and often borrowed sister Marjorie's shoes. He always took her 'Oxfords' to use when dancing because his were in a bad shape. As a sport he liked to play baseball.

On April 9, 1942, Harold began his military career with the Queen's York Rangers, a reserve unit. From 9 to 20 April Harold received his Basic Training. He went to a summer camp under the National Resources Mobilization Act, and on October 26, 1942, he was registered in the Canadian Army in Chippawa, Ontario. On November 2, he was assigned to the Queen's York Rangers (1<sup>st</sup> American Regiment), Royal Canadian Armoured Corps. Harold was very interested in transport and indicated that he would like to continue to do so in the Canadian army. He could carry out repairs on cars and also liked to attend Driver & Mechanic Training. Harold got his first furlough from November 26 to November 29 and his New Year's leave from December 29 to January 3, 1943. Then Harold went on training at Camp Niagara, C.O.M.E. - Chief Ordnance Mechanical Engineer. He passed and was qualified as Driver Wheeled Class III, including motorcycle, on February 22, 1943.



On May 18, 1943 Harold went to the A-11 Canadian Infantry Training Centre at Camp Borden, Ontario, for further training. Both Camp Borden and RCAF Station Borden were the primary training facilities in Canada, providing military as well as flight training. Harold was allowed to wear the MARS Badge, and on July 10, 1943 he was qualified as a Class III Motorcycle Driver. Harold was given fourteen days of leave on July 14 before he made the overseas crossing to England on August 25. He disembarked there on September 1, 1943. There Harold was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit (CIRU) where he received further training. On March 14, 1944, he was assigned to the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, then the next month on April 3, Harold went to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit (CIRU). On July 23, Harold was assigned to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, Royal

Canadian Infantry Corps. The next day Harold crossed the Channel to France and arrived there on 25 July.



Harold Edwin Green was deployed as a motorcycle orderly and was a courier and scout. He also accompanied columns and transferred intelligence to prevent radio messages from being intercepted by the enemy. One of the engines used for this was the Harley Davidson-Liberator WLC or the Norton 16H.

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada were engaged in battle at Grentheville near Caen on July 25. Harold got immediately acquainted with the horrors of war: that day a German shell hit a truck in the "I" section, it was a direct hit. This grenade also hit a trailer and two motorcycles, and five people were injured. In the afternoon they were still under occasional heavy shell fire, otherwise the day was fairly quiet. The next day on July 26 there was a heavy air raid on the regiment with some bombs in their area, but fortunately there were no casualties. At 2 p.m. a message was received that the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada would exchange positions with The North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment at Bourguébus, south of Caen.

Then the regiment went to Fontaine-Henry and moved to Belgium via Northern France, where they were active at the Leopold Canal, among other places. On October 10 at 5.15 p.m. they crossed the border into The Netherlands at Sas van Gent, and took part in the Battle of the Scheldt



and the Breskens Pocket. On November 3, 1944, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada were in Westkapelle and it was reported that the men were going to Ghent to rest. This naturally put the men in a great mood and the big question on everyone's mind at that moment was: *"How long will we be there?"*

On November 9 there were orders to move to Nijmegen, and at 8 a.m. on November 11 the regiment was ready for the move to The Netherlands.

The long journey to Nijmegen started at 4.30 p.m., an hour later they were in Ghent. They headed in the north-easterly direction and passed through Lokeren and Sint-Niklaas, and at 9:30 p.m. they arrived in Antwerp. When entering the city from the west, the main road ran through a tunnel under the Scheldt. The convoy stopped for about an hour and the men took the chance to take a nap. At 10.30 p.m. they continued in the direction of Tilburg and via 's-Hertogenbosch they arrived in Nijmegen on November 12 at 11 a.m. and the next day they set up camp in the area of Berg en Dal. During the winter of 1944, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada stayed in the vicinity of Driehuizen, where they again had to deal with "Moaning Minnie", the German Nebelwerfer. In Ooij they relieved the Stormont Dundas and Glencarry Highlanders on November 22. On December 7 they received orders to go to the Wylerberg, a hill near Ubbergen and Groesbeek on the border with Germany, where they stayed until December 24.

As a motorcycle orderly, Harold Edwin Green was often on the road to convey various messages between the regiments, and in December 1944 he stayed at a farm with the father of Mrs. Bets van Hees in Katwijk aan de Maas. Mrs. Bets van Uden, born Van Hees in Katwijk aan de Maas (now in the municipality of Cuijk), was twelve years old in 1940 when the war broke out. Her father, who was a butcher at first, had a pub in the village in the Dorpsstraat at number 19. The house was still there in 2015, only the street had a different name: Liefkeshoek.

During the war, the Van Hees family regularly had to flee to the farm of acquaintances because of shelling by the Germans, who removed

everything from their house and pub before 1944. At the end of 1944, when they returned from the farm, they found Canadian soldiers billeted in their house. The family could stay in the kitchen-diner. Five different regiments had lived in their home. She knew that Harold Edwin Green was a motorcycle ordinance with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada.



She could still remember him: short in stature, round face with his "cap" crooked on his head. Her father always set up a homemade crib at Christmas. While the



Canadians were there, he set it up in the corner of the pub so that they could enjoy it, too. They sang beautiful English Christmas carols together. Once a soldier fell on the crib, luckily there was not much damage. She still cherished the porcelain baby Jesus that lay in the manger then as well.



She said that there were 'carriers' behind their house. One night a grenade fell on one of the carriers, causing all people to flee in panic, including the soldiers!

At the beginning of January 1945, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada stayed in the vicinity of Groesbeek at Huize Rhatia. They were regularly attacked by German mortar shells and snipers were active there. There were many patrols and there was regular contact with The North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment and Régiment de la Chaudière at about 6 p.m.

On January 17 there were orders to move to a new area near the hamlet of Kapel, north of Gendt. On January 18 in the afternoon there was a pay parade and a beer parade, everyone got two bottles of good beer. The men enjoyed their rest as best they could, and the next day there was the opportunity to watch the film 'Two Girls and a Sailor'. On January 25, there were new orders to go to the area around Mook and Middelaar, and after five days to return to the area around Ubbergen.



The presence of many types of equipment and hundreds of tanks in the vicinity of Nijmegen had led to wild rumors among people. Field Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery had been spotted in town. This was in preparation for Operation Veritable, which started on February 8. All companies left at twelve o'clock for a meeting point close to Ooij I order to leave the next day early in the morning for Millingen aan de Rijn. They took ten German soldiers prisoners of war and took their positions. On February 10, the C Company crossed the German border and arrived in Bimmen. Millingen aan de Rijn and the surrounding area had been considerably

flooded as a result of dikes being blown-up by the enemy, making it impossible to move in this area without a boat.

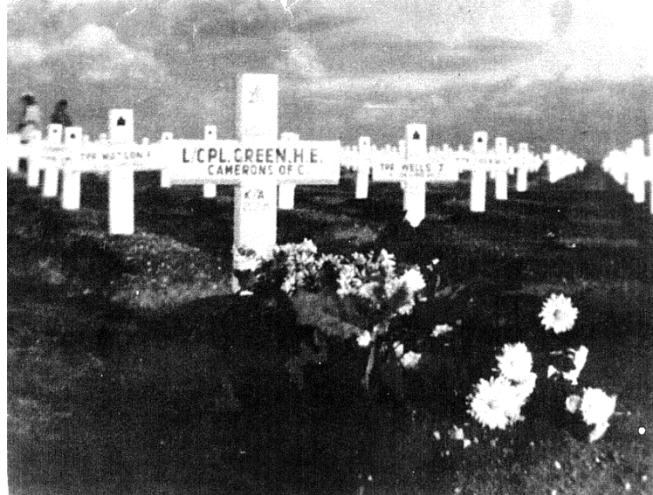
Five Dutch citizens crossed the Rhine in a boat and they waved a white flag. They were taken and held for questioning by the A Company. In some areas it was impossible to see over the other side of the embankment due to very heavy smoke deposited by the Royal Engineers. On February 14 about three hundred enemy shells dropped in the area around Millingen, killing three soldiers of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada. On February 16, 1945, the water had dropped sufficiently so that the platoons could again move into houses in Millingen aan de Rijn. German soldiers fired MG42 guns (Maschinengewehr 1942) at the regimental positions and the Canadians fired back with their Vickers machine guns.

From the other side of the river, the German soldiers shot a lot at the Canadian soldiers, and many grenades were also fired at them. On February 20, the order came that the regiment was to withdraw to the area around Ubbergen, and with Buffaloes to Beek and the area around Nijmegen. On February 22 they left the area around Nijmegen and continued via Groesbeek to the Reichswald, over a road recently constructed by the Royal Engineers. Then to Kleve, Donsbrüggen, and to their destination area in Germany. On February 25, they prepared for Operation Blockbuster, which was the completion of Operation Veritable by the First Canadian Army, reinforced by the 30<sup>th</sup> (XXX) Corps of the British Second Army from late February to early March 1945. They departed for Uedem and Xanten, located on the German Niederrhein (Lower Rhine).

On February 26, 1945, Harold Edwin Green as a motorcycle ordinance had to deliver messages to the men who were already further into German

territory. Along the way, he was hit by a shrapnel and died at the age of 27.

He was temporarily buried in Bedburg and was reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, on September 18, 1945, grave reference **X. D. 2.**



*The grave as it first appeared, in 1954 the wooden crosses were replaced by tombstones, the family could then suggest a text.*

Harold Edwin Green's brother, Gordon Albert Green, also served in the Canadian Army and was in Italy with a tank corps. Sister Marjorie knitted socks for both of her brothers when they served in the war. The Red Cross was asked to send these socks to them.

Harold Edwin Green's awards:

- 1939- 1945 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp



**FACES TO GRAVES**

Stichting Faces to Canadian  
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story: Gijs Krist, Research Team Faces To Graves.



\* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl)

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves  
Library and Archives Canada  
qormuseum.org  
Bets van Hees  
Taecke Halma

Marjorie Mc Caffery-Green  
Jay Okkerse

NEDERLANDSCH OORLOGSGRAVENCOMITÉ  
AFDEELING GROESBEEK

**ADOPTIE**

Het Nederlandsch Oorlogsgravencomité, Afdeeling  
Groesbeek verklaart, dat  
T. Halma  
wonende te Nijmegen, Vossenlaan 63

op het Canadeesch Kerkhof aan den Zevenheuvelenweg te  
Groesbeek, overeenkomstig de gestelde voorwaarden, geadopteerd  
heeft het graf van held  
Harold Green L/Cpl B 70505

Gevallen: 26-2-45  
Begraven:  
Godsdienst:  
Graf: Plot 10 Row D Grave 2  
Home-Address: *mog niet bepalen.*

als uiting van dankbaarheid voor de herwonnen vrijheid.

No. 55 De Voorzitter van het  
Nederlandsch Oorlogsgraven-Comité  
Afdeeling Groesbeek.

Groesbeek, 13 Juni 1946.

Hb

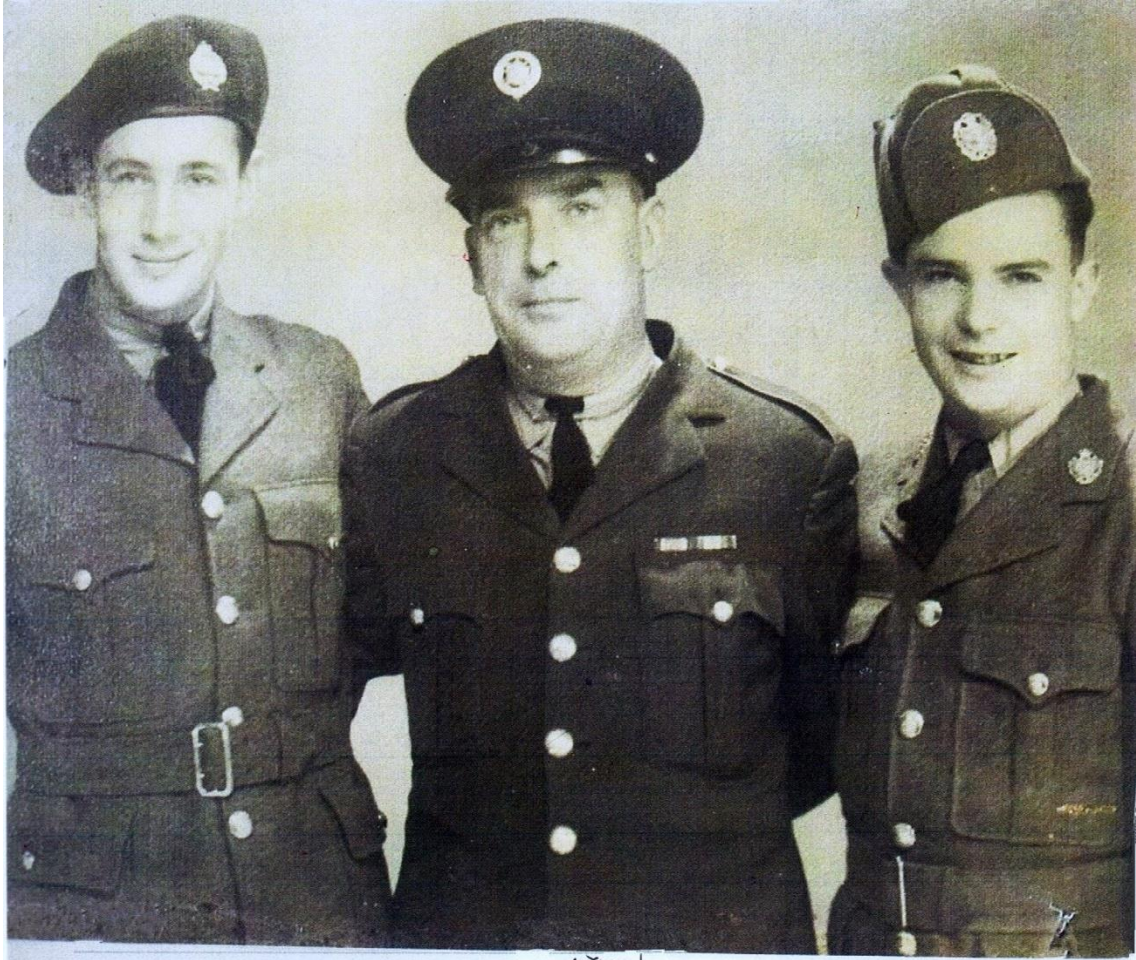
In Nijmegen Harold was billeted with the T. Halma family for some time. They adopted his grave after the war, see adoption form.

At the end of 2019, Taecke Halma, grandson, contacts the family again after he had found papers from Harold Green in a

folder, which his grandfather had kept.

He approached Faces to Graves, but unfortunately they could not help him. But in July 2020 the message arrived that he had found the family indirectly. The daughter of Harold's sister Marjorie sent photos. Her mother made a scrapbook about her brother's life, she turned 100 in October.

She was very happy that contact had been restored and that her brother will not be forgotten.



BROTHER EDWIN GREEN BROTHER  
GORDON GREEN DAD HAROLD GREEN

THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN BEFORE  
GORDON AND HAROLD WENT OVERSEAS.  
GORDON ALBERT GREEN BORN DEC. 23, 1921  
HE WAS A TROOPER IN W.W. 2 WITH THE TANK CORP.  
HIS OUTFIT WENT THROUGH ITALY, AFRICA, (HE  
GOT MALARIA IN AFRICA,) GERMANY AND  
HOLLAND.  
WHEN GORDON CAME HOME AFTER THE WAR,

Marjorie Mc Caffery, Harold's sister writes:

HE WASN'T HIMSELF

HE WAS DEPRESSED ALL THE TIME

MOTHER TOOK HIM TO DOCTORS, HE HAD THREE SHOCK TREATMENTS, NOTHING WORKED.

AT THAT TIME MY HUSBAND MIKE AND I HAD A FARM IN "KINGAL" ON ITS WEST OF ST. THOMAS MY MOTHER PHONED AND ASKED IF SHE COULD PUT GORDON ON A TRAIN AND SEND HIM UP TO US, MAYBE FARMING WILL HELP HIM.

WE MET HIM AT THE TRAIN, HE WAS QUIET. MIKE TOOK HIM OUT EVERY DAY ON THE FARM HAD HIM MILKING COWS, PLOWING, BUILDING A HAY STACK, ETC.

BEFORE WE KNEW IT, HE WAS SMILING, TALKING,

HE SPENT THE SUMMER WITH US.

I PHONED MOTHER, TOLD HER TO MEET HIM AT THE TRAIN, YOU WON'T RECOGNISE HIM HE'S A NEW MAN.

THE NEXT DAY HE WENT OUT AND GOT A JOB

MY DAD IN THE PICTURE, WELL DURING W.W.2

HE GOT A JOB AS A GUARD AT A FACTORY IN "AJAX", HE HAD TO WEAR THAT UNIFORM.

MY DAD'S NAME EDWIN LAWSON GREEN

BORN JULY 19, 1896 IN "BIRMINGHAM," ENGLAND. CAME TO CANADA AT AGE 14.

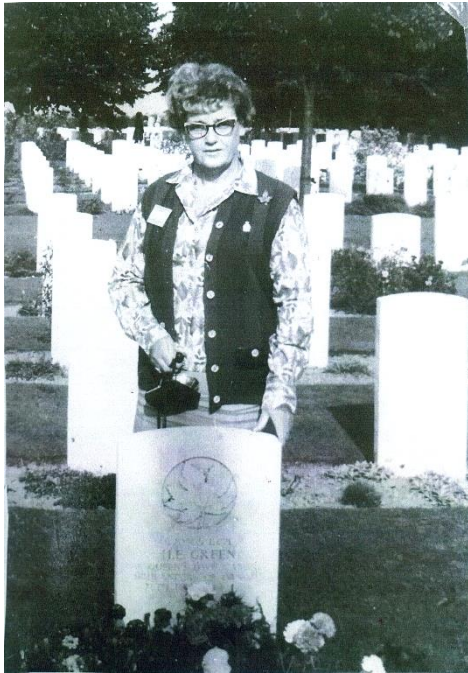
HE WAS IN W.W.1 - HE WAS WOUNDED IN "FRANCE"

SHOT IN THE RIGHT ARM AND RIGHT CHEST

AFTER 26 OPERATIONS, THEY REMOVED HIS RIGHT LUNG, HIS RIGHT ARM AND FINGERS, ALL TWISTED.

HE WAS WITH THE 75<sup>TH</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION

Marjorie visited her brother's grave in 1969, during a pilgrimage organized by the Dutch War Graves Committee.



Netherlands War Graves  
Committee

★  
*Canadian Pilgrimage*  
★

10th - 18th September 1969

CENTRALE VERVOERDIENST  
AFD. PERSOONVERVOER  
GEMEENTE NIJMEGEN

Name: Mrs M. Mc Caffery

Accommodation-address: Family A.D.M. van Hoffen  
Van Nispenstraat 51  
Groesbeek

Bus: C

Stop: Gelria

Through the friendly co-operation by the Municipality of Nijmegen, this booklet enables you to travel free of charge on all bus routes in Nijmegen. You only need to show it to the conductor.

De Gemeente Nijmegen verleent de houder van dit boekje vrij vervoer op alle bussen der Gemeente Nijmegen.



She stayed with the Van Hoffen family from Groesbeek for 10 days.



Marjorie on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday together with her daughter Jane and son-in-law Jay.