**Idris Green**

Idris Green, born in the coal-mining town of Pontypridd, Glamorgan on 27 January 1897, was the son of Thomas and Bessie Green, one of thirteen children, five of whom died in childhood. His father was a coal miner and the family moved regularly to find work in collieries around the country. Soon after Idris was born, the family spent a short time in Mangotsfield, a village in south Gloucestershire. Most of the villagers were poor folk, mainly employed as miners, agricultural labourers or quarrymen and it is likely that Thomas Green worked at Parkfield Colliery, a big pit nearby, which provided employment for many Mangotsfield men, who walked across the fields to work every day.

By the time of the 1901 census, when Idris was 4, the family had moved to Lancashire and was living at 65 Little Scotland, Blackrod near Bolton, where the Scot Lane Colliery employed hundreds of men underground. In 1908 Idris was a pupil at Scot Lane Church of England School, Blackrod. The following year, the family moved just a few miles to Chorley Road, West Houghton and Idris and his older brother, Emrys, and younger sister, Margaret, attended Fourgates School, Westhoughton. Idris and Margaret left the school in August 1909 and by the time of the 1911 census, the family had moved again, this time to 141 Station Road, Haydock, near Warrington, Lancashire, to find work at one of the Haydock collieries. Idris, who was 14, was employed as a Collier Haulier, working below ground and his father and three older brothers also worked down the mine.

In 1914, when Idris enlisted at the age of 17, the family was living at 6 Potter Street, Worksop in Nottinghamshire. Idris had been employed at Manton Colliery. He initially joined the Notts & Derby Regiment (The Sherwood Foresters) as Private 2836. From August 1915, the Sherwood Foresters trained in Watford, prior to moving to Ireland in April 1916 to quell disturbances in the Dublin Rebellion. The troops were abruptly taken out of basic training in Watford, and ill equipped, thrown into street fighting against the Irish Rebels in Dublin. Most had less than 3 months military service, were unfamiliar with their weapons and had not yet had live firing practice. There were many fatalities.

Idris Green was then transferred as Private 27539 to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and served on the Western Front, where he died on 18 November 1916. Details of his military service are included in the following obituary, published in *The Worksop Guardian* 25 January 1918, two years after his death:

Mr. Thomas Green, 6, Potter Street, Worksop, has received official information that his son, Pte. Idris Green, Warwickshire Regiment who has been missing since November 18th, 1916, is now reported dead. Nothing further has been heard of him, and it is concluded that he must have been killed on or about that date. Pte. Green was only 17 when he enlisted in the 28th Sherwood Foresters, and took part in the Dublin Rebellion, being transferred later to the Warwick’s, with which regiment he saw much fighting. Prior to enlisting he worked at Manton Colliery. The deceased was a smart and steady lad and liked by all who knew him. He was held in great affection by his comrades and the NCOs and men of the Sherwood Foresters, who speak in high terms of him as a soldier. Mr. Green and his family will have the sympathy of many friends in their sorrow. Pte. Idris Green, had he lived, would have completed his 21st year next Sunday

Idris Green, Private 27539, 10th battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was 19 when he died and is remembered with honour at Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B.

Between August 1915 and their deployment in Ireland, the Sherwood Foresters were stationed in Watford and during this time Idris must have met Annie Beament. Annie, born in 1892, was the daughter of Henry and Mary Beament from Whitechapel. At the time of the 1911 census she was living with her married sister at 29 Vale Road, Bushey, near Watford. Annie and another sister were employed as domestic servants. Idris and Annie married in Watford in April 1916, just before he left for Ireland and had been married just 8 months when he died. The UK Army Registers of Soldiers Effects shows his belongings were sent to Annie, his widow. He is commemorated on the Bushey war memorial and at St James’ Parish Church, Bushey. It is possible that members of his family never met Annie and may not have known about his marriage.

[](http://www.cwgc.org/dbImage.ashx?id=12616)

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