

War Memorial – The Green, Castle Bromwich
World War II 1939-1945

Chief Volunteer Mary Winifred Green (1910-1940) W/30246 Auxiliary Territorial Service died aged 30



Mary Green

Mary was born on 9th July 1910 in Stechford, Birmingham to parents John Robert and Ethel Nora Green (née Young).

In 1911 the family was living at 84 Lyttelton Road, Stechford and by 1939 the family home was at 19 Water Orton Road, Castle Bromwich.

Mary had qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist and was in charge of a chemist's dispensing department. By 1939 she was working at the dispensary at Radcliffe Infirmary while volunteering as an auxiliary ambulance driver in Oxford.

She forced her way into the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women's branch of the British Army, by omitting to reveal her profession at the beginning of the Second World War. The ATS was formed on 9th September 1938, initially as a women's voluntary service, and existed until 1st February 1949, when it merged into the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Mary and her friend had moved to Nottingham and were lodging with the Wright family in Bramcote Lane, Chilwell. On the night of 30th August 1940 six high explosive bombs and a number of incendiary bombs were dropped in the wider district. The Nottingham Evening Post on 31st August records Mrs Wright's recollection of the event: *"I was standing at the sink talking to the two girls when I heard an explosion and Mary fell to the floor. As she was getting to her feet, the other girl and myself scrambled over the debris into the hall to see how the children were..... We went back to the kitchen and Mary was lying on the floor, she was dead. Shrapnel must have struck Mary in the head while we were huddled together in the kitchen."*



She was the first member of the ATS to be killed on active service.

Mary was cremated at the Perry Barr Crematorium, the memorial inscription reads *"Daughter of John Robert and Ethel Nora Green of Castle Bromwich B.Pharm (I Lond) Ph.C"* and is commemorated at the war memorial at The Green and in St Mary & St Margaret's Church, Castle Bromwich.