

Alwyne Alfred Greenway.

Private, No. 4649, The 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Alwyne Alfred Greenway was born in the early part of 1891 in Tysoe, Warwickshire son of John and Emma Greenway but was not baptised until the 18th November 1892 in the village church of St. Mary. John was a self employed shoemaker and he and his wife together produced ten children.

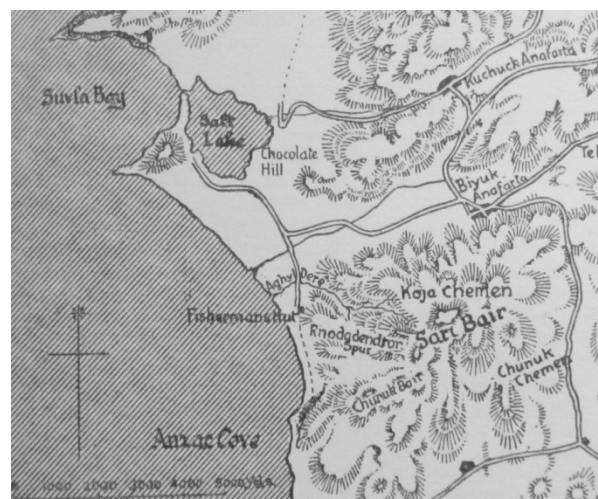
Alwyne probably arrived in Walton , Warwickshire as the first decade of the twentieth century was coming to its close when he came to take up the position of Footman in the employ of Lady Mordaunt at Walton Hall.

When war came, he enlisted at Warwick and joined the 9th (Service) Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment with the rank of Private, Service no, 4649. The Battalion had been formed in August 1914 in Warwick as part of Kitchener's New Army and came under the command of the 39th Brigade 13th Western Division.

With Turkey now in the war and only a foothold in the southern end of the Gallipoli Peninsula established, a larger force would be needed to make greater gains. The 9th Warwicks as part of the 39th Brigade sailed for the Balkans and landed on the 13th July 1915 near Cape Helles. For the next 2 weeks Alwyne, who appears to have been known more as Alfred, would have been moving in and out of the trenches; moving first to forward positions before returning to billets and then to reserve trenches and repeating the procedure again and again. On the 3rd August the Battalion embarked for Anzac Cove to take part in the major assault.

In his book, *The Story of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment*, C. L. Kingsford outlines the plan of Sir Ian Hamilton commanding the Allied forces as follows

' to endeavour to gain the heights of Koja Chemen (or Hill 971) and the seaward ridges by an advance from Anzac Cove, simultaneously with a new landing to be made further north at Sulva Bay The whole ridge, of which Koja Chemen is the highest point, is called Sari Bair. Underneath it on the north lies a long spur known as Rhododendron Ridge, below which a wide water course, split into two forks, both called Aghyl Dere, leads up to Koja Chemen.'



On the 6th and 7th August, the 9th Warwicks were in divisional reserve but following advancements by New Zealand forces, were ready to join the assault on Koja Chemen on the ninth. Kingsford's narrative continues:

‘The crisis of the attack came on August 9 with the assault of Koja Chemen. Three battalions—the 9th Royal Warwickshire, the 6th South Lancashire, and the 6th Gurkhas—reached the crest, whence they could look down on the waters of the Dardanelles and seemed to have victory in their grasp. But the troops on the right, through no fault of their own, were late, and when the Turks rallied to a counterattack our men were forced back to the lower slopes from whence they started. One company of the Royal Warwickshire held on, till they were surrounded, and, as it is supposed, all perished. Next day the Turks attacked in the early morning with disastrous results. The trenches were enfiladed by machine-gun fire, and since no supports were available it was impossible to hold the remainder of the crest on Chunuk Bair. When at night the Royal Warwickshire was withdrawn to reserve no officers and only 248 men were left..... During the four days 5 officers were killed, 9 wounded and 1 missing; of other ranks 57 were killed, 227 wounded and 117 missing. The fact that the battalion had lost all its officers probably explains why at the time its share in reaching the crest of Sari Bair was not recorded.

But a New Zealander who had seen the exploits of the Royal Warwickshires bore witness to their heroism. He had watched them march up Aghyl Dere, and had been struck by their soldierly bearing, and, as an old Birmingham man himself, was proud of the imperishable renown which they won. He thus describes what he himself saw:

“They had immense difficulties to overcome. They were led the wrong way, and had to retrace their steps; they had to attack in full view of the enemy; their left was exposed to enfilading fire, and, in spite of all, they reached the Rhododendron Spur, and some the very ridge of 971. They held on like grim death, held on when first one and then another unit retired. They asked for reinforcements, but were told none were available, and still they stayed. They were now by themselves, and it was only when every officer save one was killed or wounded that three companies slowly retired. The fourth company, with its gallant major, [Major R. G. Shuttleworth of the Indian Army, who was in command of “A” Company] held on to the farm near the ridge till all were killed. With their ranks terribly thinned they came back as from parade, parched and hungry, but still undaunted. I was close by to their dressing-station, where a padre, Leighton, and a medical officer, O'Brien, and later the padre alone, worked night and day. Gurkhas, Maoris and Colonials, as well as their own men, were treated there with a cheerfulness and nerve that was amazing. As the last officer of the Warwickshire was badly wounded next day, deeds that should be known may not have hitherto found record. They are as noble as any of our own at Lone Pine. I saw a Warwickshire officer, I think Baker [Captain H. S. Baker ; he was a Canadian] was his name, dressed for wounds three times in one day, and, despite the medical officer's advice he went back to the firing-line, I saw the padre Leighton go out to a wounded engineer lying out under fire, bandage him up and place him in safety, and then, finding a wounded Gurkha, he hoisted him on his back and carried him to the Indian hospital halfway down the Aghyl Dere. This man was a sport in all conscience, and became a friend to all our boys in the gully. I saw him later wade through machine-gun fire to attend a man of the Connaughts, who lay mortally wounded. [The Rev. F. Leighton received the M.C.] Then there was a lance-corporal, Guillaume, of the machine-gun section, who stayed up near the Rhododendron Spur for six hours after all had retired, fired four thousand rounds, and then burying the tripod of his gun, walked back with the rest under his arm.

*I saw a quiet-mannered orderly bring his officer down the gully, and heard the latter telling how his man had seen him fall on the hill, and dashing up under heavy fire, had carried and slid with him to safety. I saw the same poor fellow a few days later lying in the padre's dug-out mortally wounded—**Greenway** was his name.*

I saw men tended there from this regiment, who smiled at death, just because they had been to the top of the hill and seen the Maidos road. A war correspondent has kindly spoken of our deeds as epic. Well, there was an epic here. As an eye-witness, I wish to testify to the work of these men from England, whose deeds made us proud to be counted their comrades.”



Alwyne Alfred Greenway died from his wounds on the 13th August 1915. He was mentioned in the dispatches of Sir Ian Hamilton, Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, for his services in the Battalion’s operations on the Gallipoli Peninsula¹. He received the 1914 -15 Star, the British War medal and the Victory Medal.



He is believed to be buried in the 7th Field Ambulance Cemetery, Turkey and is commemorated on a special memorial there. His name also appears on the Roll of Honour of St. James Church, Walton, Warwickshire, the Tysoe and Compton Wynyates War Memorials, The Memorial Tablet, Remembrance Chapel, St. Mary’s Church, Tysoe and on the War Memorial of Walton, Warwickshire.

Alwyn’s brother, Private Vincent Greenway of the 2nd Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment was killed on the 4th May 1917.

Researched by Grev Hudson (March 2014) (grev.hudson@tinyworld.co.uk)

¹ Stratford Upon Avon Herald 5/2/1916
 (National Archives: WO95/4032 War Diaries 13th Div. 39th In. Brigade (9th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regt. 1915 Aug - 1916 Jan))
 (C.L.Kingsford: The Story of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment) The copy of a letter inserted into the 9th Battalion’s War Diary (as above) dated the 17th January 1931 indicates that C.L.Kingsford’s chapter on the Gallipoli campaign was based on information provided by Major C.C.R Nevil, D.S.O., C.B.E. of the Battalion.