

**In Memory of
Private JAMES LEONARD WEARN
5386976, 7th Bn., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry
who died, age 29, on 27 September 1943
Son of James Henry and Annie Wearn;
Husband of Gillian Wearn, of Faringdon, Berkshire.
Remembered with honour
Faringdon War Memorial and
SALERNO WAR CEMETERY**



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

On 3 September 1943 the Allies invaded the Italian mainland, the invasion coinciding with an armistice made with the Italians who then re-entered the war on the Allied side.

Allied objectives were to draw German troops from the Russian front and more particularly from France, where an offensive was planned for the following year. Commonwealth and American forces landed near Salerno on 8-9 September 1943 and there was fierce fighting for some days in the bridgehead that they established.

The site for the cemetery was chosen in November 1943 and it contains many burials resulting from the landings and the fighting that followed, but graves were also brought in later from a wide area of south-western Italy.

The 59th General Hospital was in the vicinity of Salerno at the end of 1943 and early in 1944. Salerno War Cemetery contains 1,846 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 107 of them unidentified.

One casualty of the First World War is also commemorated in the cemetery by special memorial, his grave in a local civil cemetery having been lost.

James was born in 1914 in Southwark to James Henry and Mary Annie Wearn (née Luker of Great Coxwell). James Henry was killed on 31 July 1917 in the third battle of Ypres. In 1919, Mary, or Annie as she was then known, married Percy N Akers of Great Coxwell and had three further children. James married Gillian Bryan in 1940.