

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**14873 DRIVER**

**F. J. HILL**

**AUST. ARMY SERVICE CORPS**

**20TH APRIL, 1919**

*CWGC Headstone for Driver F. J. Hill is located in  
Grave Plot # 84. L. 4. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

# Frank John HILL

Frank John Hill was born in London, England in 1875 to parents Frank Boulton Hill & Mary Hill (nee Hansell). His birth was registered in the September quarter, 1875 in the district of Poplar, Greater London/Middlesex.

Frank John Hill, Cellarman, aged 26, married Emily Chapman (signed as Elizabeth Chapman), Machinist, aged 27, on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1900 in St. Thomas' Church, Bethnal Green, Middlesex, England. Frank's father was listed as Frank Boulton Hill, a watchmaker & Emily's father was listed as William Chapman (deceased, porter).

The 1901 England Census listed Frank Hill (born Tower Hamlets) as a 28 year old Cellarman – Wine, living with his wife Emily Hill, aged 30. They were living at 72 Downs Park Road, Hackney, London.

The 1911 England Census listed Frank Hill (born North Bow, London) as a 36 year old, "Manager at Off. Licence", living with his wife Emily Hill, aged 40, Assistant. They had been married for 11 years & had one child – Fred Hill (aged 8, born Hackney). Also listed was William Chapman (aged 41, Widowed, Assistant in Business) (Assume that this would be Emily's brother).

Frank John Hill was a 41 year old (1 month short of 42), married with 2 children, Storeman from Indooroopilly, Qld when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 with the Army Service Corps of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 14873 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Emily Hill of Indooroopilly, Qld.

Frank John Hill signed a Statutory Declaration on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 stating that he was a married man with two children under the age of sixteen, the eldest being 14 years of age on the 8<sup>th</sup> February last.

Driver Frank John Hill embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

Driver Frank John Hill was marched in to A.S.C. (Army Service Corps) Training Depot at Parkhouse from Australia on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1917.

A death was registered in Queensland in 1918 for Emily Hill (father - William Chapman, mother - Mary Ann), aged 47 years. Emily had died on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 & was buried on the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1918. A memo to Base Records advised that upon the death of Mrs E. Hill, wife of Driver Frank John Hill, A.S.C., that Mr Frederick Hill c/- Mr E. Clegg, Surrey Street, Nundah, Brisbane be recorded as the next-of-kin.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Driver Hill was marched in to Boyton, Wiltshire A.A.S.C. detachment on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1918 to 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1918.

Driver Frank John Hill proceeded overseas to France from Parkhouse via Southampton on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. He was marched in at Rouelles on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. He was marched out to 4<sup>th</sup> Div. A.S.C. on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1918.

Driver Hill was marched out to Base Depot for Demobilisation on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1919 & marched out to England on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1919. He disembarked at Southampton to report to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1919.

Driver Frank John Hill was sent sick to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 & admitted the same day seriously ill with Influenza.

Driver Frank John Hill died at 11 p.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 at the No. 1 Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for F. J. Hill, aged 43, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Driver Frank John Hill was buried on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 84. From the burial report of Driver Hill - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full*

*Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from No. 1 Australian Training Brigade, Sutton Veny. Six of Deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A number of Australians followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

*Also in attendance at the funeral were Mr and Mrs Beach (Sister-in-Law) of 2 Enfield Road, Brentford, Middlesex.*

Driver F. J. Hill is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 181.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Driver Frank John Hill was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Driver Hill's next of kin, as his wife was deceased (1918).

According to a Memo the War medals of Driver Hill were sent to "Untraceables for the present" 12th October, 1921.

According to a letter in the Service Record File of Driver Hill, dated 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1921 his estate was administered by the Public Curator, Brisbane to the beneficiary in the will of the deceased, namely Mr F. B. Hill on 30 Kempton Rd, East Ham, England. (Note – this being Driver Hill's father)

After much investigation, Driver Hill's next of kin was his son – Fred Hill of Red Hill, Brisbane, Queensland. This was ascertained after contacting several relatives – including Mr Clegg of Nundah whom the "children" of Driver Hill were living with. He advised that Driver Hill's deceased wife's sister in London would know the whereabouts of Driver Hill's father. A letter was returned stating that Mrs Beech was deceased (Sister-in-law) & that Driver Hill's father in London was also deceased. A letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1923 to Mr F. Hill c/- Mr F. Mohr of Windsor Rd, Red Hill, Brisbane, Queensland was sent from Base Records & in part reads "I understand that you are the adopted son of the late No.4873 Driver F. J. Hill" the letter goes on to read that the medals will be handed over to Mr F. Hill on the condition that they will be returned to the Department at any time upon receipt of its demand in writing. Driver Hill's Service Records have been stamped "War Medals etc to Adopted Son (Under bond) – Mr Fred Hill". A Statutory Declaration was signed by Fred Hill of Windsor Rd, Red Hill, Queensland on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1923 stating that he would "preserve with due care any War Medals and other items given into my custody on account of the service of

the late No. 14873 Driver F. J. Hill, 4<sup>th</sup> Divisional Train, Australian Imperial Force, and will return them to the Department of Defence at any time upon receipt of its demanding in writing.”

A letter from Department of Repatriation on 1923 to Base Records replies to an enquiry stating that “the pension file in the above name (the late No. 14873 – Dvr F. J. Hill) discloses the fact that Miss Ethel May Hill is the adopted daughter of the abovenamed deceased soldier.” Another letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1923 from Department of Repatriation states that a War Pension was being paid to Ethel May Hill, in the sum of 25/- per fortnight, as the daughter of Driver Hill. She “resides with Mr Edward Clegg of Sydney St, Nundah, Queensland. This child is the only dependant according to our records”

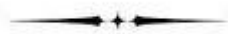
Driver Hill’s records show that his War Medals & Memorial Scroll & Plaque were returned unclaimed. Letters to Mr Fred Hill of Red Hill were also returned unclaimed in 1924.

(Note – it is unsure if Fred Hill & Ethel Hill were actually Frank Hill’s blood children or adopted children. Conflicting references are found within the Services Record file).

The CWGC lists Driver F. J. Hill, 14873, of 4th Div. Train, Australian Army Service Corps, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

(79 pages of Driver Frank John Hill’s Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **Died from Other Causes**

Driver F. J. Hill (Nundah – illness)

*(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland - Saturday 31 May 1919)*

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#### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones**

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

*(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

A letter from Base Records to Mr F. Hill c/- Mr Clegg, Nundah, Brisbane, dated 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, advised that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on Driver F. J. Hill’s Headstone in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

Driver Frank John Hill does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Driver F. J. Hill's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



**Photo of original crosses placed on the graves – Driver F. J. Hill (centre)**

*(Photo from Australian War Memorial)*



**War Graves at Sutton Veny** *(Photos from CWGC)*

