

**St. George's Churchyard,  
Fovant, Wiltshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2004 PRIVATE**

**H. E. HILL**

**60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**29TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 29**

*Death Takes The Loved Ones*

*From Our Homes*

*But Never From Our Hearts*

## Hector Ernest HILL

Hector Ernest Hill was born in Sydney, NSW in mid-1889 to parents George and Kate Eliza Hill (nee Jones).

Hector Ernest Hill was a 26 year old, single, Grocer's Carter from 19 Yule Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW when he enlisted at Casula, Sydney on 27th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2004 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Kate Hill, of 19 Yule Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was posted to "B" Company, 19th Battalion for recruit training on 27th January, 1916. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 31st Battalion on 29th February, 1916. Private Hill was transferred to Broadmeadows on 16th April, 1916.

Private Hector Ernest Hill embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 4th May, 1916 with 59th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 10th June, 1916.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was taken on strength at Tel-el-Kebir on 9th July, 1916.

Private Hector Ernest Hill embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on H.T. *Franconia* on 2nd August, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th August, 1916.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was marched in to 15th Training Battalion, Camp No. 26, Larkhill, Wiltshire, England from overseas on 21st August, 1916.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was transferred from 59th Battalion to 57th Battalion on 10th November, 1916 while posted in England.

Private Hector Ernest Hill proceeded overseas to France on SS *Golden Eagle* from 15th Training Battalion, via Folkestone on 11th November, 1916 to reinforce 57th Battalion.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was marched in from England to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 12th November, 1916.

Private Hector Ernest Hill proceeded from Etaples to join 60th Battalion on 22nd November, 1916. He was taken on strength of 60th Battalion in the field on 25th November, 1916.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 27th November, 1916 with exhaustion. He was discharged to duty on 1st December, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion on 2nd December, 1916.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was sent to Hospital sick on 23rd March, 1917. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 23rd March, 1917 with precipitate micturition then transferred to 5 DRS. Pte Hill was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on 31st March, 1917 with urinal incontinence. He was transferred by Ambulance Train on 3rd April, 1917 & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 4th April, 1917. Pte Hill embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 9th April, 1917.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was admitted to Reading War Hospital, England on 9th April, 1917 with Urinary incontinence. He was discharged to furlo on 2nd May, 1917 & was then to report to Command Depot at Hurdcott.

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.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 18th May, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 to 3 weeks).

Private Hector Ernest Hill proceeded overseas to France from H & D Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, via Southampton on 10th June, 1917. He was marched in from England to A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot)

at Havre, France on 11th June, 1917. Private Hill was marched out to his Unit on 25th June, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 8th June, 1917.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was wounded in action on 26th September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to right buttock then transferred to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. Private Hill was then transferred by No. 2 Ambulance Train on 26th September, 1917 & admitted to 8th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 27th September, 1917. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. George* on 8th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to buttock.

#### War Diary – 60th Battalion

Front Line Area – 26th September, 1917:

*During the day this Battalion reinforced the 31st Battalion on the right flank almost to the RED line from which the 31st Battalion had retired from that afternoon owing to threatened counter attacks. During this manoeuvre CAMERON HOUSE was captured.*

#### *Effective Strength*

<i>OFF</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Actually with unit</i>	<i>23 - 719</i>
<i>44</i>	<i>1011</i>	<i>In Field Ambulance</i>	<i>3 - 74</i>
		<i>In Brigade area</i>	<i>2 - 38</i>
		<i>Out of Brigade area</i>	<i><u>16</u> – <u>180</u></i>
			<i>44 - 1011</i>

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Hector Ernest Hill was admitted to 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell on 9th October, 1917. He was discharged to furlo from 17th November, 1917 to 1st December, 1917 & was then to report to Depot at Sutton Veny.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was marched in from furlo to No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 2nd December, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A2 (fit for overseas training camp in 3 to 4 weeks).

Private Hector Ernest Hill was written up for an offence while posted at Sutton Veny – A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from 6.30 pm on 1st January, 1918 until 6.30 pm on 2nd January, 1918. This was admonished by Lt. E. A. Hay. Private Hill forfeited 2 days' pay.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was medically classified as B1 A4 (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit) on 9th January, 1918 while at Sutton Veny

Private Hector Ernest Hill was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire from Sutton Veny on 14th January, 1918.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was marched in from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill on 23rd January, 1918 to 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire. He was attached to 14th Training Battalion & on command at Divisional Signalling School at Codford, Wiltshire from 24th January, 1918. Private Hill attended the 13th/14th Training Battalion course of Instruction in Signalling from 24th January, 1918.

Private Hector Ernest Hill proceeded overseas to France from 14th Training Battalion at Codford, via Folkestone on 17th May, 1918. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 19th May, 1918. Private Hill was marched out to his Unit on 24th May, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion in the field from being wounded on 6th June, 1918.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was sent to Hospital sick on 24th August, 1918. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 24th August, 1918 with I.C.T. (inflammation of connective tissues) Right Heel then transferred the same day to 41st Casualty Clearing Station. Private Hill was transferred by Ambulance Train 22 & admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 25th August, 1918. Private Hill embarked for England on 26th August, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Western Australia*.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England on 27th August, 1918. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 11th September, 1918. He was discharged to furlough from 12th September, 1918 to 26th September, 1918 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from furlough on 28th September, 1918.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital at Sutton Veny on 13th October, 1918 with Myalgia (& suspected Cerebro Spinal Meningitis). The results came back negative to Meningitis & he was discharged from No. 2 Group Hospital on 27th October, 1918 & marched in to No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 28th October, 1918.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was admitted to Observation Hut, No. 9 Camp, Hurdcott at 2.40 am. on 29th October, 1918.

Private Hector Ernest Hill died at 7.20 am on 29th October, 1918 at No. 4 Command Depot – Medical Observation Hut, No. 9 Camp. *“Death was out of Hospital. Body brought to Hospital Mortuary from No. 4 Command Depot A.I.F. on 29.10.18.”*

A Court of Enquiry was held on 30th & 31st October, 1918 enquiring into and reporting on the death on 29th October, 1918 of No. 2004 Private Hector Ernest Hill, 60th Battalion. A Post Mortem was conducted on the morning of 30th October, 1918 at the Mortuary in Fovant Military Hospital. The cause of death was Leptomeningitis and intracranial haemorrhage. The Court found that Private Hector Ernest Hill had died from natural causes & had received proper medical attention from the Hut Corporal, Medical Officer and the Corporal of the Medical Observation Hut.

A death for Hector E. Hill, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was buried on 2nd November, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England, – Plot number I. B. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Hill - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honours. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from No. 4 Australian Command Depot, Hurdcott. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. Three Officers and 80 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Unit followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. A large wreath from Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of No. 4 Command Depot was placed on the grave. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Hector Ernest Hill contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into the wounds, death and burial of Private Hill. A reply was sent from Charles H. Brown, No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire which reads: *“Re 2004. Hill, Pte H.R. 60 Battalion. His death took place in the Observation Ward of this Depot at about 7 am 29-10-18.*

*He arrived at the Depot on the 28th October from No. 2 Group Clearing Hospital. At 2.30 am he was taken ill, Capt Nankervis saw him and ordered his removal to the Observation Ward. Hill was seen again at 3.30 am by Cpl. Adams and he was sleeping quietly. When next seen at 7.20 am he was dead.*

*The cause of death was septic-meningitis. I can not find anyone who knew this man personally.....”*

## 60th Battalion

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the A.I.F. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia.

Having only arrived in France on 28 June, the 60th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the battalion. In a single day, it was virtually wiped out, suffering 757 casualties. These losses meant the battalion saw little further offensive action in 1916.

Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, but it was spared having to assault it. It did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 60th's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September. This assault was a success - a product of the systematic way in which the early actions during the third battle of Ypres were fought.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie. During this defence, the 60th Battalion participated in the now legendary counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April. When the Allies launched their own offensive around Amiens in August, the 60th Battalion was amongst the troops in action on the first day.

*(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Hector Ernest Hill requested in his Will dated 19th September, 1917 that all his real estate be bequeathed to his mother – Katherine Hill of 19 Yule Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW.

Base Records contacted Mrs K. Hill, mother of the late Private Hector Ernest Hill, in June, 1920 asking if the father of the late Pte H. E. Hill as still alive & if so his present address. The "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mr G. H. Hill, brother of the late Pte Hill, advised on behalf of his mother, that his father was still living & was aged 84 years & was at the same address as his mother - 19 Yule Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW.

Private Hector Ernest Hill was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hill's father as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Hector Ernest Hill – service number 2004, aged 29, of 60th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Kate Eliza Hill, of 19 Yude St., Dulwich Hill, Sydney.

Private H. E. Hill is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 170.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*

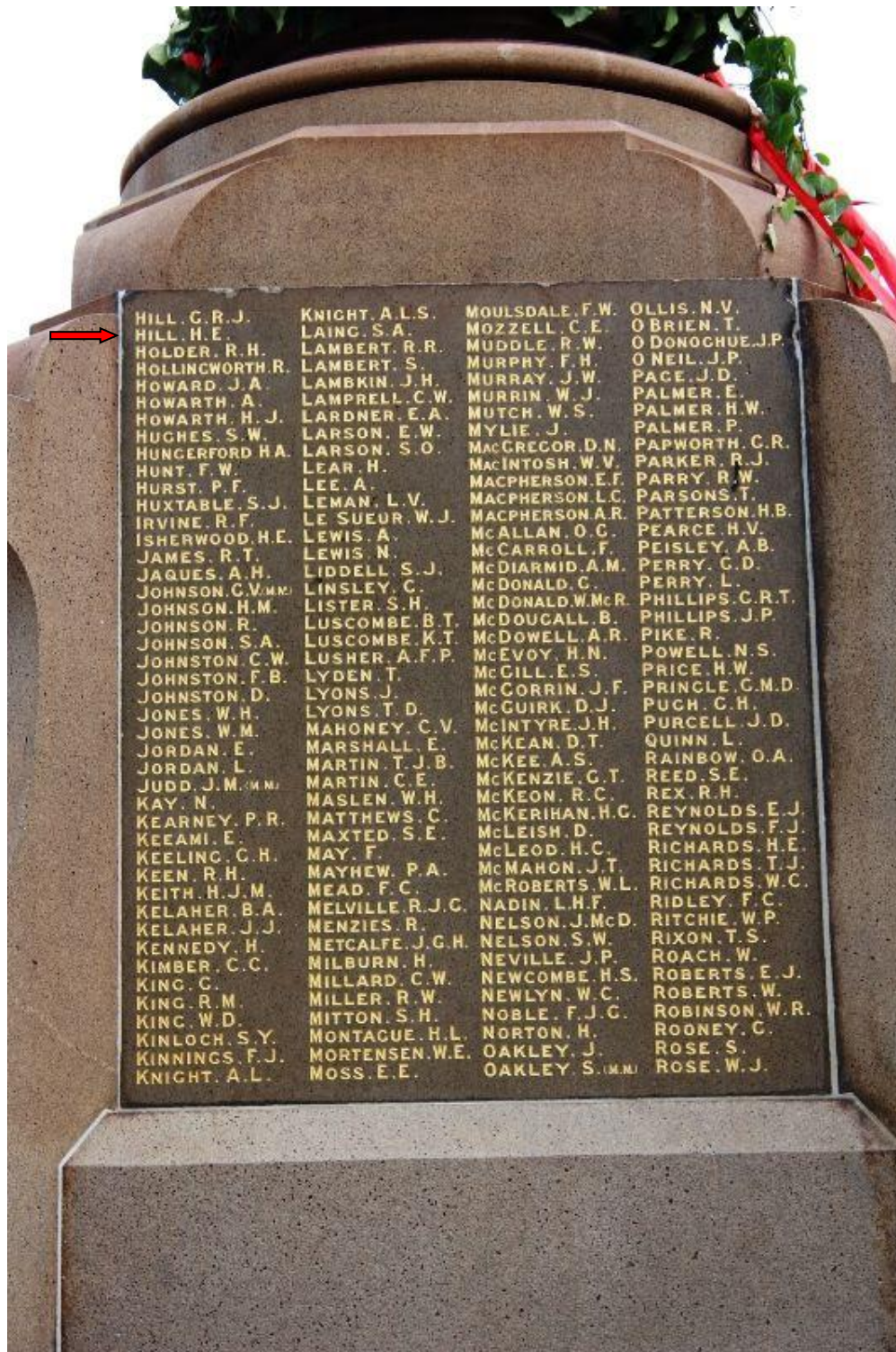


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

H. E. Hill is remembered on the Marrickville Soldiers' Memorial located outside the Town Hall, Marrickville Road, Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.



**Marrickville Soldiers' Memorial** (*Photos from Monument Australia*)



**Marrickville Soldiers' Memorial**

(100 pages of Private Hector Ernest Hill's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

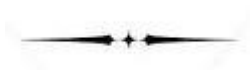
*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA14720

**Private Hector Ernest Hill**





## **Newspaper Notices**

### **CASUALTY LIST**

ILL

H. E. Hill, Dulwich Hill (2nd occ.)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 30 November, 1918)

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

HILL – No. 2004, Signaller Hector Ernest Hill, passed away October 29, 1918 in England, of cerebro spinal meningitis, late 60th Batt., after 2 years and 10 months' active service, dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs George Hill, Daytona, 19 Yule-street, Dulwich Hill. Sadly missed.

Could I, his mother, have clasped his hand,  
The son I loved so well,  
Or kissed his brow when death was near,  
And whispered "My son, farewell."  
I seem to see his dear, sweet face  
Through a mist of anxious tears,  
But a mother's part is a broken heart,  
And a burden of lonely years.

HILL – No. 2004, Signaller Hector Ernest Hill, passed away October 29, 1918 in England, of cerebro spinal meningitis, late 60th Batt., after 2 years and 10 months' active service, dearly loved brother of Emily, Gordon and Ruby Hill. Duty noble done.

May the winds of heaven blow softly  
O'er that hallowed spot unknown,  
Where sleeps our dear brave brother  
So far away from home,  
We miss our dear one's face,  
Where'er we turn, where'er we look,  
We see his vacant place.  
He always had a willing hand  
For those who needed help,  
He never spoke of what he did,  
He kept it to himself.

HILL – No. 2004, Signaller Hector Ernest Hill, passed away October 29, 1918 in England, of cerebro spinal meningitis, late 60th Batt., after 2 years and 10 months' active service, dearly loved brother and uncle of Albert and Beatrice Hill and their children, Fraser-street, Dulwich Hill.

His duty called him, he was there,  
To do his bit and take his share.  
His heart was true, his spirit brave,  
And there he sleeps in a hero's grave.  
The hardest part has yet to come  
When the other boys return.  
We'll miss among the happy throng  
Our dear brother, who never will return.

HILL – No. 2004, Signaller Hector Ernest Hill, passed away October 29, 1918 in England, of cerebro spinal meningitis, late 60th Batt., after 2 years and 10 months' active service, dearly loved brother and uncle of Arthur and Alice Hill and their children, of Piggott-street, Petersham.

If we could have clasped his dying hand  
Or heard his last farewell,  
It would not have been so hard to part  
With a brother we loved so well.  
We often pictured him returning,  
And longed to clasp his hand,  
But death has postponed the meeting  
Till we meet in a better land.

HILL – No. 2004, Signaller Hector Ernest Hill, , late 60th Batt., passed away October 29, 1918 in England, of cerebro spinal meningitis after 2 years and 10 months' active service, dearly loved brother and uncle of Rosie, Carl, Boye and family, Yule-street, Dulwich Hill.

Far away from home and loved ones,  
In a hero's grave he lies.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 30 November, 1918)*

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### **On Active Service**

HILL – In sad and loving memory of our dear son, Sig. Hector Ernest Hill, late 60th Batt., died of illness in England, October 29, 1918.

Sleep on, dear one, as days go by,  
No flowers can we place on your grave where you lie.  
For the broad, wide ocean doth keep us apart,  
But your dear, kind face will ever live in our hearts.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother and father.

HILL – In loving remembrance of our dear brother, Sig. Hector Ernest Hill, late 60th Batt., died in England, October 29, 1918.

No hero comes to our empty arms,  
For him no banners wave.  
We only see through a mist of tears  
Our hero's far-off grave.  
In life missed, in memory ever present.

Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers, also his loving comrade, Sig. W. F. Holloway (returned).

HILL – In proud and loving memory of our dear brother, Sgt. H. E. Hill (Hector), 60th Batt., died of illness abroad, October 29, 1918. A young life given in honour's call. Inserted by sister and brother-in-law, Mrs and Mr C. Boye, and family.

HILL – In loving memory of Sig. Hector Ernest, 60th Batt., who died on active service abroad, October 29, 1918. Inserted by his brother and sister-in-law, Mr and Mrs Rowland Hill, Enmore.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1919)*

### **On Active Service**

HILL – In sad and loving memory of Sig. Hector Ernest Hill, who died in England, October 29, 1918.

Until the day breaks and shadows flee away.

Inserted by his loving cousins, Frank and relatives across the sea.

HILL – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sig. Hector Ernest Hill, died in England, October 29, 1918.

O'er the sea our sad thought roam  
To where dear Hector sleeps, far from home.  
In a soldier's grave he is sleeping.  
One of the bravest and best;  
In our hearts he will live for ever,  
For we know he is only at rest.  
In life missed, in memory ever present.

Ever remembered by his loving parents, brother and sister, Gordon and Ruby; also his comrade, Sig. W. F. Holloway.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1920)*

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### **On Active Service**

HILL – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Signaller Hector Ernest Hill, who died in England, October 29, 1918.

We think of a lonely graveyard  
Far across the ocean blue;  
We are thinking of the past, dear one,  
Thinking all the time of you.  
In a soldier's grave he is sleeping,  
One of the bravest and best;  
In our hearts he will live for ever,  
For we know he is only at rest.

Ever remembered by his loving parents, sisters and brothers, of Dulwich Hill.

HILL – In loving memory of our dear brother, Hector, 60th Battalion, who died in England, October 29, 1918.

Nothing but memories as we journey on

Inserted by his loving sisters, Em and Rose.

HILL – In proud and honoured memory of Private H. E. Hill, who died in England, October 29, 1918.

He did not shun his country's call,  
He gave his life, his all;  
He went the helpless to defend,  
An Australian soldier's noble end.

Never forgotten by his old comrade and friends, Mr and Mrs Holloway and family.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1921)*

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

HILL – In sad and loving memory of Hector Ernest Hill (No. 2004), 60th Battalion, who died in England, October 29, 1918.

Only a memory as we journey on,  
Longing for a smile from a face that has gone.  
Throughout our life, in pain or pleasure,  
Forget you, dear Hector, we shall never.

Ever remembered by his loving parents, sisters and brothers (Dulwich Hill)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 October, 1922)*

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### **On Active Service**

HILL – In sad and loving memory of Hector Ernest Hill, No. 2004, 60th Battalion, who died in England, October 29, 1918. Ever remembered.

Time may heal the broken heart,  
Time may make the wound less sore;  
But time will never heal the longing  
For our loved one gone before.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers (Dulwich Hill), also his comrade, W. F. Holloway.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1923)*

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### **On Active Service**

HILL – In sad but loving memory of Hector Ernest Hill, No. 2004, 60th Battalion, who died in England, October 29, 1918. Ever remembered.

Time may heal the broken heart,  
Time may make the wound less sore;  
But time will never heal the longing  
For our loved one gone before.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers (Dulwich Hill), also his comrade, W. F. Holloway.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 October, 1924)*

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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. 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, dated 15th July, 1921, to Mr Hill, father of the late Private Hector Ernest Hill, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Private H. E. Hill, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private H. E. Hill does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Death Takes The Loved Ones From Our Homes But Never From Our Hearts*

### **St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England**

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

*(Information from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

*(Photo c 1919)*



**St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front** *(Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*

Photo of Private H. E. Hill's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England. He also has a private headstone in front of CWGC Headstone.





*(Photo courtesy of Richard Avery 2022)*





*In*  
*Memory of*  
**HECTOR ERNEST**  
*HILL*

.....  
*Sadly Missed*



**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



**St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front & rear** (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)