

East Knoyle Roll of Honour
THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

		<p>WALTER GEOFFREY HILL of East Knoyle, Wiltshire</p>
<p>Walter G Hill</p>	<p>Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France</p>	

Date/place of birth	23 November 1895 East Knoyle (School Admissions Register)	
Birth registered	March Q 1896 Mere Reg District 5a 179	5
Baptised	12 January 1896 St Mary the Virgin East Knoyle	1
Father	John Henry Hill of Portsmouth. Married Dec Q 1893 Mere Reg District 5a 429	5
Mother	Elizabeth Ann (nee Bryant) of Bristol.	5
Siblings	Percival Henry, Edith, Ernest, Pamela and William	2
1901 Census	1 Rose Villas, Fair View Terrace, Milford Without, Salisbury. Age 5. Father's occupation domestic gardener	2
1911 Census	Pains Hill, Donhead St Andrew. Age 15, occupation under gardener (domestic)	2

Rank	Private	3
Regiment	3 rd Battalion Coldstream Guards	3
Enlisted	Salisbury	6
Service Number	10920	3
Medals	14-15 Star / British War / Victory	4
Date of Death/Age	15 September 1916 age 20	3
Cause of Death	Killed in action	3
Burial/Memorial	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7D and 8D	3

<p><i>£12 War Gratuity paid to John H Hill (father)</i></p> <p>Donhead St Andrew</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Company</th> <th>Rank</th> <th>Regt. No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HILL W.G. 20/10</td> <td>B. Gdo.</td> <td>Plt</td> <td>10920</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Medal</th> <th>Roll</th> <th>Page</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>VICTORY</td> <td>C9/10/25</td> <td>255</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BRITISH</td> <td>26</td> <td>26</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 STAR</td> <td>B. Gdo.</td> <td>74</td> <td>K. in A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In August 1914 the three Coldstream Battalions were deployed to France.</p> <p>The 3rd Battalion were in action at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette 15-22 September 1916, notable for the introduction of tanks.</p> <p>On 11 September 49 tanks began to move slowly into position in the line. As a measure of their fundamental unreliability, 17 tanks were unable to make it as far as the front line. Of the 22 that did, a further 7 failed to work at zero hour. Thus 15 of the 49 tanks rolled slowly into No Man's Land with the start of the attack on 15 September. Despite this, the launch of the tanks produced devastating effects on German morale. Led by the tanks, the villages of Martinpuich, Flers and Courcelette fell to the Allies, as did the much sought-after High Wood. A combination of poor weather and extensive German reinforcements halted the British and Canadian advance on 17 September; the Allies had again suffered heavy casualties. The attack was called off on 22 September. Walter Hill died on the first day of the Battle.</p> <p>Brother Percival Henry Hill, East Yorkshire Regiment, killed in action 31 March 1916, age 21.</p> <p>20 April 1903 Walter Geoffrey admitted to Donhead St Andrew School (previous school St Marks Salisbury); next to his name in the register is written "killed in France Sept 1916."</p> <p>Commemorated: Donhead St Andrew War Memorial</p>	Name	Company	Rank	Regt. No.	HILL W.G. 20/10	B. Gdo.	Plt	10920	Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks	VICTORY	C9/10/25	255		BRITISH	26	26		15 STAR	B. Gdo.	74	K. in A	
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1 = Parish Registers
4 = Medal Index Card

2 = GRO Register
5 = 1891/1901/1911 Census

3 = Commonwealth War Graves Commission
6 = UK Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1918