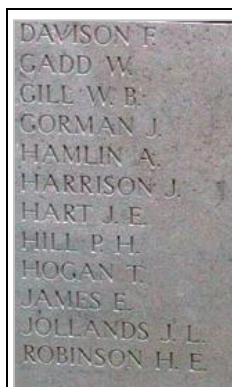


East Knoyle Roll of Honour  
THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918



Percival Henry Hill



Ypres Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium

**PERCIVAL HENRY HILL**

of East Knoyle, Wiltshire

Date/place of birth	27 August 1894 East Knoyle (School Admissions Register)	
Birth registered	December Q 1894 Mere Reg District 5a 187	2
Baptised	7 October 1894 St Mary the Virgin East Knoyle	1
Father	John Henry Hill of Portsmouth. Married Dec Q. 1893 Mere Reg District 5a 429	2
Mother	Elizabeth Ann (nee Bryant) of Bristol	2
Siblings	Walter Geoffrey, Edith Ethel, Ernest Hedley, Pamela Gertrude and William Ralph	5
1901 Census	1 Rose Villas, Fair View Terrace, Milford Without, Salisbury. Age 6. Father's occupation domestic gardener	5
1911 Census	Cheddington Court, Misterton, Somerset. (Household of Sir Henry Peto). Age 17, occupation footman	5

Rank	Corporal	3
Regiment	8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, 8 <sup>th</sup> Brigade, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Division	3
Enlisted	Oakham	6
Service Number	16355	3
Medals	14-15 Star / British War / Victory	4
Date of Death/Age	31 March 1916 age 21	3
Cause of Death	Killed in action	6
Burial/Memorial	Ypres Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium. Panels 21 and 31	3



Percy's brother  
Geoffrey Walter,  
Coldstream Guards,  
killed in action  
15 September 1916  
age 20



Donhead St Andrew

Campaign :-		1914-15	(A) Where decoration was earned.
			(B) Present situation.
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.
A) HILL	8th Bn. East Yorks	Cpl	16355
B) Percival Hill			

Cpl Percy Hill was killed in action during the battle to capture St. Eloi Craters, 27 March -16 April 1916.



By late 1915, armies on both sides were using extensive mining as a part of trench warfare. Sappers dug tunnels across the battlefield to plant explosives under enemy positions and would then retreat and blow them up.

The fields near the Belgian village of St. Eloi, 5kms south of Ypres were pockmarked with craters from repeated under-ground explosions. In the spring of 1916, the Canadians were rushed to the battlefield, leaving no time to prepare for the attack. The plan was for the seasoned British troops to strike and then for the Canadians to take over and hold the line.

The fighting started at 4.15am on 27 March with heavy gun fire. Six British mines were set off one after the other, shaking the earth "like the sudden outburst of a volcano" and filling the sky with yellow smoke and debris; the explosion was heard in England. German trenches collapsed. The mines created huge craters in no man's land. The British soldiers rose from their positions in the cold mud and attacked, quickly capturing three craters and the third German line. For several days, British soldiers fought hand-to-hand with Germans, advancing until 3 April.

HILL, Cpl. Percival Henry, 16355. 8th Bn. East Yorkshire Regt. 31st March, 1916. Age 21. Son of John Henry and Elizabeth Ann Hill, of 78, Parkstone Avenue, Parkstone, Dorset.

5 Oct 1897 Admitted to East Knoyle School. Living in Milton, father's occupation gardener. 20 April 1903 Admitted to Donhead St Andrew School (from previous school St Marks Salisbury). Beside Percy's name in the register is written "killed in France April 1916"



Commemorated: War Memorial Donhead St Andrew, Memorial Plaque St Peter's Krossington

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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