

# Thomas Hill

Private 874799, 27th Battalion Canadian Infantry

Died March 29th 1917, aged 37

Memorial at Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-St Eloi, France

Thomas Hill was born in Trelights on October 9th 1879. He was still living with his parents in Trelights in 1901, where his occupation was shown as a house mason. Subsequently, he emigrated to Canada. He joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on March 13th 1916, where was living in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and gave his trade as a painter.

TRIPPLICATE  
ATTESTATION PAPER. No. 874799  
CANADIAN OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. Polin. COPY

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your surname? Hill
2. What are your Christian names? Thomas
3. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what County were you born? Cornwall, England.
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Miss. Misseth Hill, Trelights, Port Isaac, Cornwall, Eng.
5. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? Sister.
6. What is the date of your birth? October 9th. 1879.
7. What is your Trade or Calling? Painter.
8. Are you married? No.
9. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? Yes.
10. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No.
11. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No.
12. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes.
13. Are you willing to be attached (except in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force)? Yes.

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Thomas Hill, do solemnly declare that the above are true and correct, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any unit of the service during the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until I am discharged.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Thomas Hill, do make oath, that I will be faithful and true to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Right, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all His Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The above declaration was read to me and I do hereby certify that the above are true and correct, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any unit of the service during the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until I am discharged.

Description of Thomas Hill on Enlistment.

Approved Age: 37 years 10 months. Height: 5 ft 6 in. Weight: 145 lbs. Complexion: Fair. Eyes: Blue. Hair: Light. Religion: English. Occupation: Painter. Medical Examination: Satisfactory. Certificate of Medical Examination: I have examined the above-named recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Service. He is fit for the service and is recommended for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. Date: March 16th 1916. Place: Trelights, Cornwall, England. Signature: J. Wright, Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

I, J. Wright, Officer Commanding Unit, do hereby certify that the above-named recruit is a fit and healthy man, and is recommended for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. Date: April 19 1916. 1916. 1916th OVERSEAS BATTALION.

Thomas Hill's enlistment papers

He gave his youngest sister Elizabeth (born c1895), still living in Trelights, as his next of kin. He was placed in the 184th Battalion, which left Halifax on the SS Empress of Britain on October 31st 1916 to arrive in England the following week. On November 11th 1916 it was absorbed into the 11th Reserve Battalion stationed at the Canadian Training Depot, Tidworth Barracks, on Salisbury Plain. This battalion was to provide reinforcements in the field.

Thomas Hill was assigned to the 27th Battalion, which, in late March 1917, was holding the line two miles north of Arras at Neuville-Saint-Vaast. Thomas Hill was killed March 29th 1917. The war diary for that day shows one raiding party which returned with no casualties, but reports very heavy enemy artillery retaliation for the raid. Perhaps he was killed in this retaliatory bombardment. The war diary records a total of eight 'Other Ranks' killed in action during March.



Tidworth Barracks during the First World War

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY  
Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. This Page will be prepared in manuscript. (Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES NEUVILLE ST. VAAST.	1917 March 28th	08	support to 3rd Battalion.	APPENDIX #01
TRENCHES NEUVILLE ST. VAAST.	28th	08	Weather dull with considerable rain. Wind N.W. Organised Artillery shoot almost all day on enemy trenches, wire and works. Enemy artillery very active in retaliation.	APPENDIX #02
TRENCHES NEUVILLE ST. VAAST.	28th	08	Weather fine by day rain at night. Wind N.W. Artillery carried out shoot on enemy trenches and works almost all day. Enemy artillery again very active in retaliation. Operation Order No. 133 for minor operation on morning 28th at 8.30.	APPENDIX #03
TRENCHES NEUVILLE ST. VAAST.	28th	08	Weather dull with some rain. Wind West. At 3.30 a.m. Lieut. Blair and 25 O.R. attempted raid as per Operation Order. Party were late in getting formed up at jumping off point and the Artillery barrage came down before the party was ready. Raiding party therefore withdrew. Enemy retaliation for barrage was heavy. Order for raid on same plan at same point with same party to take place morning of 29th at 2.53 a.m. Order No. 134 for relief by 29th Battalion on night 28th.	APPENDIX #04
TRENCHES NEUVILLE ST. VAAST.	29th	08	Weather dull at night changing to rain. Wind West. At 2.53 a.m. the raiding party of 25 O.R. under Lieut. Blair entered enemy trenches as ordered one party proceeding down front line trench about 50 yards from another party left about 50 yards but no Germans could be found. The trench was badly damaged and very wet and full of mud. Apparently front line was held only by posts which had withdrawn. Our party returned without casualties to themselves. A small party of 5 or 6 Buzs were seen coming towards front line but seeing our men they withdrew again. Enemy artillery retaliated very heavily for our raid. During the day our artillery carried out organised bombardment of enemy defences. Enemy artillery again active. Relieved by 29th Battalion at night and took over their position in Support Trenches and dug-outs in NEUVILLE ST. VAAST.	APPENDIX #05
SUPPORT NEUVILLE ST. VAAST.	30th	08	Weather dull. Wind N.W. Battalion in Support in NEUVILLE ST. VAAST. Lieut. Col. F.J. Daly C.M.G., D.S.O. in command of the defences with the following troops attached for offensive purposes: 1 Company 2nd Cdn. Engineers, 1 Company 1st C.M.R. Battalion, 172nd 185th and 225th Tunnelling Companies. Large working parties were supplied to Tunnelling Companies and 5th Cdn. Field Engineers. The Battalion officers visited assembly position for the offensive. Battalion Headquarters WINCHESTER HOUSE.	

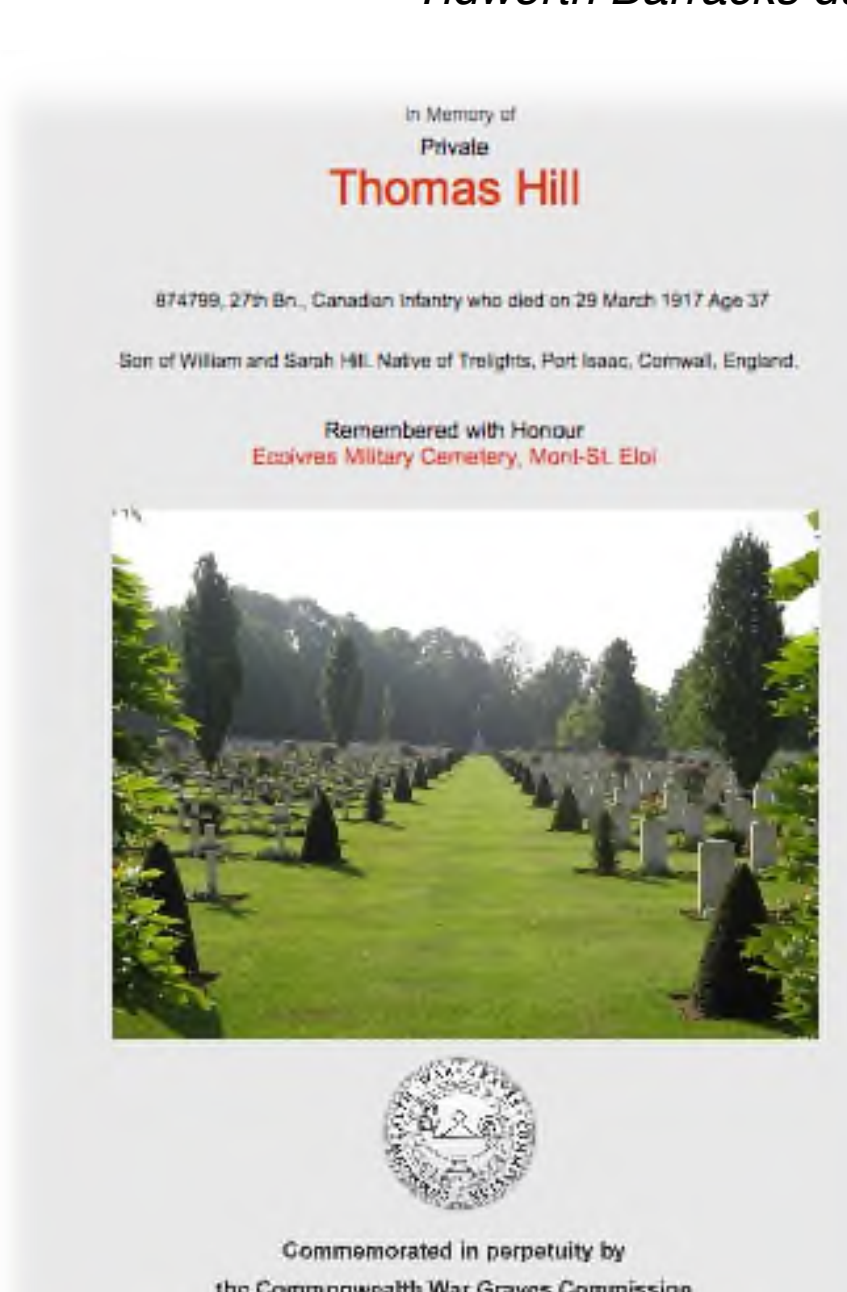
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SUPPORT NEUVILLE ST. VAAST.	1917 March 30th	08	Weather dull. Wind Light West. Battalion in Support NEUVILLE ST. VAAST. Enemy shelled village in the morning with heavy shells. No damage. Large working parties again supplied to Engineers and Tunnelling Companies. Part A and B Companies bathed in the village. Our artillery shelled the enemy heavily all day and intermittently at night.	
Total Casualties for Month of March 1917.				
Killed in Action.		Wounded.		
Officers	O.R.	Officers	O.R.	
-	8.	2.	34.	

249 Wk. Wk1917/190 225000 1/16 J.R.C. & A. Form C.2118/12.



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The memorial to Thomas Hill in St Endellion Churchyard

Private Thomas Hill is buried in Ecoivres Military Cemetery, about two miles west from where he fell.

Sources  
Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian\\_Overseas\\_Expeditionary\\_Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Overseas_Expeditionary_Force)  
27th Battalion War Diaries: via [http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html)