

In Memory of
Gunner 1113495 CYRIL EDWARD HILL
74 Field Regt. Royal Artillery
who died, age 32, on 10 May 1942
Son of William Thomas Hill and Ellen Hill; husband of
Olive Dora Hill of 'The Limes' Bromsgrove, Faringdon,
Berkshire
Remembered with honour
Faringdon and Cirencester War Memorials and
ALAMEIN MEMORIAL



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Land Forces panels commemorate more than 8,500 soldiers of the Commonwealth who died in the campaigns in Egypt and Libya, and in the operations of the Eighth Army in Tunisia up to 19 February 1943, who have no known grave. The memorial was unveiled on 24 October 1954, by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

The 74th Field Regiment was the permanent Royal Artillery battery for the 6th, 8th and 9th, Battalions of the Durham Light Infantry, the 151st Infantry Brigade, who served in the Western Desert in North Africa from January 1942 to July 1943.

Cyril's father, William Thomas Hill was born on 18 September 1871 in North Cerney, the second of five children of William Hill, a farm labourer, and Ann Mary Hill, all of whom were living in North Cerney in 1881. In the 1891 census William was recorded as being: 19, a porter, lodging at 17 Gloucester Street, Cirencester, the house of Thomas and Rosetta Edwards.

On 23 August 1898 William, 26, *bachelor and grocer's porter*, married Ellen Simmons, *spinster living at home*, at St Mary's church in Cowley, Gloucestershire (near Birdlip); they were both 26.

In the 1901 census, William (grocer's porter) and Ellen, was living at 188 Gloucester Street, Cirencester with a son Percival, 6, (born in Cowley, so Ellen's son), and daughters Rosa, 1, and Lucy, under one month.

In the 1911 census, William and Ellen were living at 187 Gloucester Street with six children all of whom were born in Cirencester: Rosa, 11; 'Lucy' had been baptised Lilian, 10; and the new additions: William, 8; Margaret, 5; George, 3; and Cyril, born 1910, just 11 months old; but there is no mention of Percival.

In 1939, William, 71, was still working as a grocer's warehouseman, and he and Ellen, 72, were back at 17 Gloucester Street, Cirencester.

In April 1941 Cyril married Dora Hicks, the widow of Raymond Hicks (see previous pages), in Clitheroe, Lancashire, just prior to the regiment's deployment on 21 April to Cyprus, Iraq and Syria. It's likely that he never saw his son, Geoffrey, born at the end of the year.

In January 1942, Cyril's regiment moved to Egypt to reinforce the Allied effort against the German and Italian Axis forces contesting North Africa, and they entered Libya in February. On 10 May Cyril was killed in action at Tobruk, the Allied base and supply port in Libya captured from the Italians in 1941, but subject to constant German and Italian counterattacks. Rommel's major offensive in late May 1942 culminated in the capture of Tobruk in June 1942 at which 30,000 Allied soldiers were taken prisoner. Tobruk was recaptured in November 1942 after Montgomery's victory at the Second Battle of Alamein, which began the retreat of the Axis Powers in North Africa and their ultimate capitulation in May 1943.

Cyril's death notice, below, states that he lived in Worcester Park, Surrey: the 1945 electoral roll shows that Dora had moved back to Faringdon and was living with the Hill family at 'The Limes' in Bromsgrove. Whether the Faringdon Hill family were related to the Cirencester Hills has not been established, but there is evidence of a Thomas Joseph Hill, born to Robert and Emma Hill in Thrupp, also in 1871, living with his aunt, Elizabeth Greenaway (Emma's sister) and her husband George in Kempsford in 1871. Emma's absence from the 1871 census in Thrupp suggests that she may have died in childbirth.

In 1947 Dora married Samuel L Proffitt, an American stationed at the Military College at Shrivenham, and with Judith and Geoffrey moved to Oregon.

REGIMENTAL - 10 (MORTUARY) FORM NO. 1

NAME OF CORP TO WHICH THE BARRON BELONGS AT TIME OF DEATH: *R. H. (2nd Lt.)*

Part I	Army No.	Rank	Name in full (Surname first)	Age	Country of birth	Date of birth	Place of birth	Cause of death
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	<i>112495</i>	<i>CORP</i>	<i>HILL, Cyril</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>ENGLAND</i>	<i>10/2/18</i>	<i>TORK</i>	<i>in action</i>

Part II

1. GRAVE - WITH ONE IN EACH SPACE

2. PAYMENT (CASH) (1) at time of death: *R.H.* *3000*

 (2) on 1 Sep 1939:

3. BARRON held at time of death: *R.H.* *52*

4. PLACE OF BIRTH: *Worcester Park, Surrey* *350*

5. PLACE OF DEATH: *Tobruk, Libya* *090*

6. DATE OF DEATH (in figures, e.g. 11/12/44) Enter in boxes: *10 2 18* *18 2 18*

7. DEATH BY CRIMINAL MURDER, SELF-MURDER, OR OTHER CAUSE: *R.H.* *30*

General Office Form 10 - FOR INFORMATION FOR COMPLETION OF RECORD OF REGIMENT AND FOR THE RECORDS OF THE ARMY, 1945