

## Sapper George Thomas HILL + NX22696 - 2/6 Field Company

### Biography

Note: The information in this profile is not totally confirmed as being the same George Thomas Hill that is the HILL, G on our WW2 Honour Plaque, but no other George Hill fitted appropriately with any WW2 records. Records for this George Hill are also scarce and some assumptions have been made of the personal records in this biography.

George Hill was born in Liverpool, Lancashire, England on 19 May 1909, a son of Ernest and Rachel Hill. Ernest's occupation was a miller when George was born (*Liverpool Church of England Baptisms in the Parish Church of St Peter. His mother's name has also been stated as Mary in one of his war records*).

In the 1911 England Census for Lancashire, West Derby, Ernest Hill aged 24 years, is listed as a flour mill labourer and living with another family, with his son George Thomas Hill, aged 2 years. I have assumed that Ernest's wife may have died as she was not included with this census.

A George Thomas Hill, aged 17 years, was one of 50 youths from Dr Barnardo Homes, who left London on 25 Nov 1926 on the SS *Ballarat* and arrived in Sydney on 20 Jan 1927.

A George Thomas Hill is listed in the Australia Electoral Rolls (AER) 1930 for Macquarie as working as a labourer in Bathurst. From 1931 - 1937, in the AER for Calare/Cumnock, George Thomas Hill is listed as living at "Castle Hill," Baldry, and working as a farm hand.

Local newspaper articles report a G Hill participating in many sporting events, including cricket, at Baldry, from 1932 -1938. *The Molong Express & Western District Advertiser* - 22 Oct 1938, P3, reported.

*"Mr George Hill, an employee of Mr W Hughes, of Baldry, had a narrow escape from serious injury when he was proceeding to Peak Hill sports on Monday last with Mr Hughes' horses, Long Shot and Suzie. On the deviation on the Baldry road the dust was rising and Hill, who was riding in the float with the two horses, lifted his head above the flat as the lorry passed under a tree. He received a nasty blow which inflicted an incision necessitating stitches."*

George Thomas Hill enlisted in the Australian Army in Sydney on the 27 May 1940. He gave his birth details as 19 May 1909 at Liverpool, England. He was aged 31 years, single, occupation was a painter, and he was of the Church of England religious denomination. His next of kin was a friend, Miss Muriel Robertson of Fairfield, Sydney.

He was assigned to the Specialist Group 111, Concreter, of 2/6th Field Company, Inglewood. Spr Hill was charged with the offence of being Absent Without Leave from 2200 hrs on 8 Jun 1940 to 0715 hrs 9 Jun 1940 and was confined to barracks for two days.

On 19 Oct 1940, Spr Hill embarked at Sydney on 19 Oct 1940 with the 2/6 field Coy and disembarked in the Middle East on 25 Nov 1940. The Field Company duties included construction work on roads, stables, buildings and airfields and setting out or clearing of minefields. Cricket, football and sport matches were popular recreation activities.

Spr Hill was hospitalised with diarrhoea at the 4 Australian General Hospital, Tobruk, Libya, from 26 Mar - 7 Apr 1941.

*"The 2/6 Field regiment was moved to Palestine in preparation for its involvement in the Syria-Lebanon campaign in May 1941. During the fighting against the Vichy French forces, the 2/6th Field Regiment was assigned to support the 25th Infantry Brigade, which advanced along the central route. In mid-June, the regiment supported efforts to capture Merdjayoun, with the 11th and 12th Batteries supporting actions around Khirbe and Khiam, and then supporting the attack on Jezzine. In response to a Vichy French counter-attack, the regiment returned to support further fighting around Merdjayoun, and then supported the 25th Infantry Brigade's continued advance towards Badarane and Rharife as part of the drive towards Beirut. The campaign ended with an armistice that was signed in mid-July.*  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2/6th\\_Field\\_Regiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2/6th_Field_Regiment))

Spr Hill was charged with "disobeying a general order" on 11 Sep 1941 and fined £1.



