

Arthur Lionel Hill



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Arthur, born on 4th June 1891 in the Romford area, was the youngest of 12 children of Daniel Hill (1845-1916) and Julia Hodgson (1849 -1933), who married in 1872 in Romford. Arthur was a chartered accountant, born in Islington and Julia was born there too. The family lived in different parts of England, from Islington to Northumberland and Surrey to Romford, before settling in the expensive and extensive Beverley, 55, The Avenue, St Margaret's on Thames, by 1901. See right for a 2018 photo of the house. This was the home on Arthur Lionel's service records. Transatlantic

travelling must have been encouraged from an early age, as several of Arthur's siblings became Canadian citizens, and others visited there too. Arthur had five brothers and six sisters; family life may have been hectic, but eased somewhat by the live-in servants that the family employed.



was killed in action at the Battle of Loos 25 Sept. following. Lieut.-Col. F. Rowley wrote: "He was killed whilst leading his platoon in the most gallant manner, in an attack on the German trenches. His death was instantaneous, and he couldn't have suffered pain. I have had the pleasure of knowing your son for some time, and had formed a high opinion of him and his many

Arthur's brothers were: Daniel (born 1876), Cyril William in 1878, Leonard in 1879, Walter

Bolton in 1883 and Hubert Roland in 1884. His sisters were:-Winifred Julia in 1874, Alice Maud in 1875, Letitia Gertrude in 1880, Ethel Constance in 1882, Eda Florence in 1886 and Gladys Beverley in 1889.

excellent qualities. He was always bright and cheery, and ready to do anything that came to hand. He was a most excellent and hard worker, and was deservedly very popular with officers and men," and his Major: "Who could so inspire, there is no other word for it, that when he and his N.C.O.'s were gone, the platoon followed him until not a man was left who was capable of going on. To me it seems the most glorious success man ever had as a leader of men. . . . You should all be very proud of him. It's worth dying for your country, isn't it, to die so splendidly?" The Chaplain also wrote: "He was a splendid type of a true Christian English gentleman." While at Radley he won the Victor Ludorum Cup for athletics, and also won numerous prizes on the river and field, and at cricket and hockey. He played hockey for Middlesex; *urnm*.

Arthur was attending Sunnydown private school in Compton in 1901, and from his Du Ruvigny's record, it seems that he then progressed to Gorse Cliff, Boscombe and afterwards to Radley College, Abingdon, where he received the Victor Ludorum Cup for athletics, and also won many prizes on the river and the field, at cricket and at hockey. He also played hockey for Middlesex. He joined the Artists' Rifles (London Regiment 28th Battalion) in September 1914, after the

outbreak of war and then received a commission in the Middlesex regiment in April 1915, as 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Battalion, the Duke of Cambridge's Own. He went to France in December 1914, and died in the Battle of Loos on September 25th 1915. Lieutenant Colonel F Rowley wrote about his last moments of life, see record on the left from *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour*, "leading his platoon in a most gallant manner in an attack on the German trenches". His Chaplain also reported that he was "a splendid type of a true Christian English gentleman." He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, and also at All Souls Church in St Margarets. He received the 15 Star, the Victory and British War medals, and Probate was granted to Daniel Hill, Chartered Accountant in November 1915, who administered his effects of £629 3s 7d.

His mother continued to live at Beverley, and then 13 St Peter's Road, a stone's throw away. Several of his siblings married and settled locally; others moved to Sussex. Leonard, Ethel Constance and Walter made new lives in Canada. Letitia Gertrude, with her daughter, Patricia, travelled to Canada to see her relatives in 1929. Her husband, Geoffrey Wilkins, the brother of Eda Florence's partner, died on 4th October 1915, a few weeks after Arthur, and is also commemorated on the memorial in All Souls Church.