

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



LIEUTENANT

ROBERT BRINTON HILL

ROYAL AIR FORCE

29TH APRIL, 1918 AGE 25

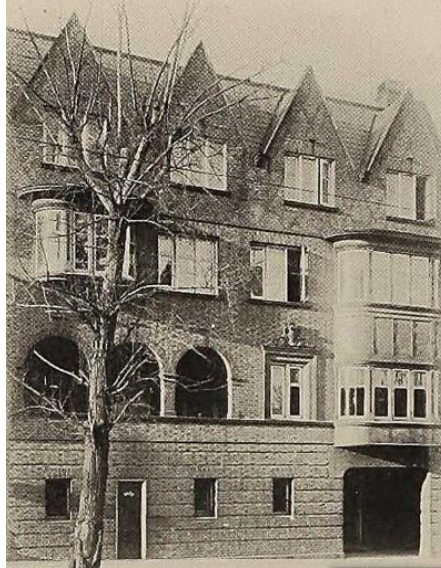
Dying And Behold We Live



Robert Brinton HILL

Robert Brinton Hill was born on 26th August, 1892 at Newport, Rhode Island, U.S.A. to parents G. Everett and Martha Barrett Hill.

Robert Brinton Hill is listed in the U.S. Schoolbook for University of Pennsylvania – Nineteen-Twelve Class. He was attached to the Delta Phi Fraternity – Eta Chapter at 3453 Woodland Ave.



Delta Phi Fraternity

The United States World War 1 Draft Registration Card for Robert Brinton Hill states he was aged 24 & lived in Chicago, Illinois. His present occupation was listed as Efficiency and Welfare & he was employed by the Portland Cement Association at Chicago. He stated he had no military service but was an applicant for service in the Aviation Branch. His description was noted as medium height, medium build with grey eyes and light hair (slightly balding).

The U.S.A. was slower at entering the War so some men travelled to Canada to enlist. When World War 1 began, Canada did not have its own air force and, until the RFC established training camps in Canada in January 1917, the only way for a Canadian to become a war pilot was to enlist in the regular forces and try to transfer to the air service, or to travel at his own expense to England and attempt to enlist directly. It is impossible to determine the exact number of Canadians who joined the RFC, but it is estimated that over 20,000 Canadians had joined the British flying services by the end of World War 1.

Robert Brinton Hill attested as a Cadet with Royal Flying Corps at Toronto, Ontario on 23rd August, 1917.

The Officer's Service Records for Robert Brinton Hill show that he was appointed Temporary 2nd Lieutenant on 24th December, 1917. He was serving in Canada in January, 1918 then transferred to 104 Squadron on 16th January, 1918.

Robert Brinton Hill was appointed Lieutenant on 1st April, 1918. He was attached to No. 1 (Observers) School of Aerial Gunnery).

Lieutenant Robert Brinton Hill, Pilot, aged 25 years, was killed on 29th April, 1918 in an Aero accident at Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. 2nd Lieutenant A. G. Boardman was also killed.

A Court of Enquiry was held No. 23673/1918 Lieut. R. B. Hill & 2/Lieut. A. G. Boardman. "I concur with the Finding of the Court in determining that the Pilot dived the machine at too great a speed: but do not consider the evidence obtainable sufficient to determine whether the extensions broke due to upward or downward load."

A death for Robert B. Hill, aged 25, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Lieutenant Robert Brinton Hill was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in Grave / Plot Number 279 on 4th May, 1918. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone.

The CWGC lists Lieutenant Robert Brinton Hill, aged 25, as the son of G. Everett Hill and Martha Hill, of 15 Bell St., Orange, New Jersey, U.S.A.



Robert Brinton Hill (*Flickr Commons project, 2011*)



Newspaper Reports

Hill – Robert Brinton Hill, Lieutenant British Royal Air Service, son of G. Everett and Martha Barrett Hill, killed in service, somewhere in Europe, April 29, 1918.

(*The New York Times*—May 5, 1918)

CHICAGO FLYER KILLED

CHICAGO, May- 10.—News of the death of Second Lieutenant Robert Brinton Hill of the Royal Flying corps "in service at the front" was received today by his Chicago friends. Details are not given. Hill was a graduate of Towne Scientific school, University of Pennsylvania and a member of the football teams in 1911 and 1912 and 1913.

(*Twin Falls Times* – Friday May 10, 1918)

LIEUT. R. B. HILL

Lieut. Robert Brinton Hill, of Chicago, a member of the British air forces, has been killed in service at the front. He was a graduate of the Towne Scientific School, University of Pennsylvania, and volunteered in the American Aviation Corps last year, but shortly after joined the Canadian fliers at Toronto.

(The Evening Post, New York – Monday May 13, 1918)

Lieutenant Robert Brinton Hill was listed as one of the World War 1 Casualties of American Army Overseas . This report was published May 10, 1918:

Naval Casualties

Word has been received by friends in Chicago of the death of Lieut. Robert Brinton Hill of the British Royal flying corps. He was formerly manager of the accident prevention bureau of the Portland Cement association, 111 West Washington street.

Robert Brinton Hill & his brother Maurice McKnight Hill (killed in an air crash at Orly - August, 1918) are remembered at the Kent School, New York.

Robert Brinton Hill is remembered as a brother of Delta Phi who served in the armed forces.

In Memorial

*Dedicated to all of the Brothers of Delta Phi
who served in armed forces of our nation
and who fought and died to defend our freedom.*

All gave some...some gave all.

World War 1

Maurice McKnight Hill, H 1913

Robert Brinton Hill, H 1911

The General Alumni Catalogue of The University of Pennsylvania 1922 lists "Robert Brinton Hill, 2d Lieut., U.S.A. killed by an accident, France, April 29, 1918; mem. British Royal Flying Corps, enlisting in Canada, August. 1917."

Lieutenant Robert Brinton Hill is recorded in the Canadian Great War Project.

Lieutenant Robert Brinton Hill is remembered on page 588 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance, Canadian Virtual War Memorial.

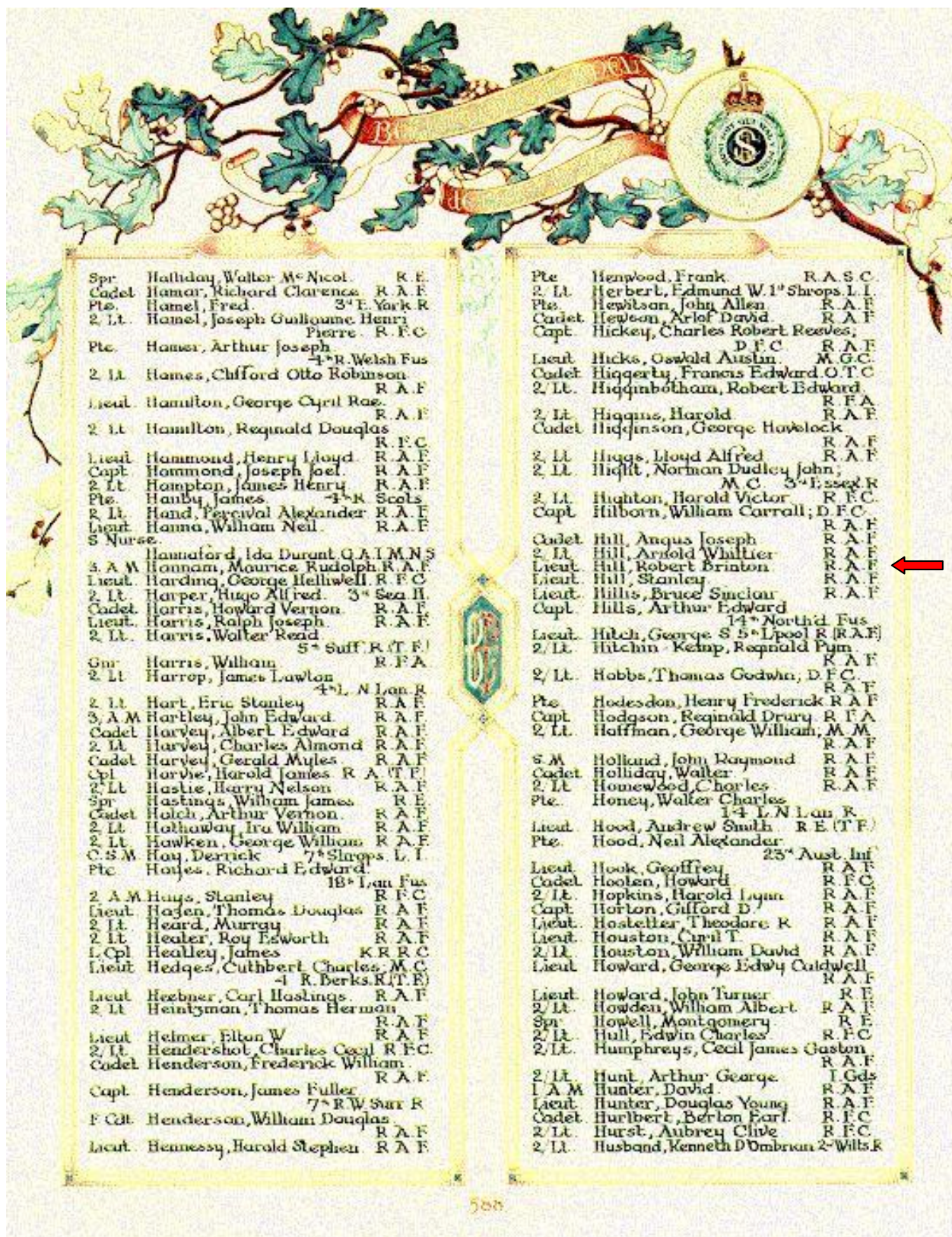


Photo of Lieutenant Robert Brinton Hill's headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo by Ian King- 2010)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*