

Private Charles Henry Hill

Regimental number: 2410333

Company G, 309th Infantry Regiment, United States Army

born: 11 December 1892 - died: 24 July 1918

Private Charles Henry Hill was the son of Jacob and Emma Hill of Lopatcong, Warren County, New Jersey in the United States.¹ He was born in 1892 in Blairstown, New Jersey.² His father, Jacob M. Hill, born in New Jersey in 1834/35,³ was a Union soldier in the Civil War.⁴ He first married Martha Hanna, with whom he had at least eight children.⁵ Martha died in 1887 and Jacob married Emma Rasley in about 1888. Emma was born in about 1852/3 in Pennsylvania.⁶ Jacob probably had four children with Emma – two daughters, Jessie Catherine (born in 1889) and Emily Cora (born in 1894)^{7 8} and two sons, Isaac (born in about 1891) and Charles.⁹

Jacob was a farmer. In 1910, the family was living on River Road in Lopatcong Township and both Charles and his brother, Isaac, were working as labourers – Charles as a drill worker and Isaac as a water worker. His sister, Jessie, was married to William Repsher and had one child,¹⁰ Earl Jacob, born in 1909.¹¹ She was probably just visiting with the family because she is also registered in the 1910 census at the home of her husband, William. There were two grandchildren also living with the Hills – Jeannie Weaver (born about 1903) and Emma Weaver (born about 1904). Jacob died in 1917 and is buried in Pequest Union Cemetery in Great Meadows in Warren County.¹²

Charles enlisted in the American army the same year.¹³ When he enlisted on 5 June 1917, he was a shell inspector for Ingersoll Rand Company, an industrial manufacturing company, and was living at 104 Rose Street, Philipsburg, New Jersey. He was of medium height and build and had blue eyes and light brown hair. He had lost half the third finger of his right hand. He served in Company G of the 309th Infantry Regiment.¹⁴ The 309th Regiment was part of the 78th Infantry Division of the United States Army, activated in August 1917 at Camp Dix, New Jersey, with the first draftees arriving in September.¹⁵ It was fully active in early 1918 and transported to France in May and June 1918.

Charles did not serve long on the Front. Just a few months after arriving in France, he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with a gunshot wound to his abdomen.¹⁶ He was admitted on 24 July 1918 and died the same day – he had probably already died before he arrived.¹⁷ He was buried the following day in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Grave 25, Plot 5, Row F) with the chaplain Andrew D. Reid presiding.

Charles was married, but no record of his marriage has been found.¹⁸ His wife, who was living at 69 North Main Street, Lambertville in New Jersey, was notified of his death.¹⁹

Most of the over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery died at one of the nearby clearing stations.²⁰ This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance. However, Charles' body was later returned to the United States and he is buried in Belvidere Cemetery in Belvidere, New Jersey.²¹ In June 1938, Carl E. Gardner of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey applied for a headstone for Charles' unmarked grave in the Belvidere Cemetery in Belvidere, New Jersey.

An article that appeared in the *Trenton Evening Times* in Trenton, New Jersey on Friday 16 August 1918 reported:

Soldier Dies of Wounds - Charles H Hill - dies of wounds – Official Report of Death of Phillipsburg Soldier Received.

Lambertville - Aug. 16 - The war in reality has been brought home to the Lambertville people through word received yesterday that Private Charles H Hill, of Company G 309th Infantry, died July 25 from wounds received in a French battle the day before. Although Mr. Hill was one of the men sent from Phillipsburg, his wife now resides here, and a sister, Mrs. William Moore, lives on Bridge Street.²²



Grave of Private Charles Henry Hill in Belvidere Cemetery, New Jersey from *Find a Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com>; accessed 23 May 2015)

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¹ “1910 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 May 2015), entry for Charles H. Hill

² “U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 May 2015), entry for Charles H. Hill

³ “1910 United States Federal Census,” entry for Charles H. Hill; “U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 June 2015), entry for Jacob M Hill

⁴ “U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 June 2015), entry for Jacob M. Hill

⁵ “1870 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 June 2015), entry for Jacob M. Hill; “1880 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 June 2015), entry for Jacob M. Hill

⁶ “1900 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 May 2015), entry for Charles H. Hill; “1910 United States Federal Census,” entry for Charles H. Hill

⁷ Emily Cora was identified as Emily C. in the 1900 census and as Cora E. in the 1910 census.

⁸ “U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 May 2015), entry for Pvt Charles Henry Hill. This record shows the date of Charles’ death as 1915, with a note indicating that one record suggests he died in 1918. Given the, given the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station record, the 1918 date is certainly correct. This record also identifies some siblings from each of his father’s marriages.

⁹ “1900 United States Federal Census,” entry for Charles H. Hill; “1910 United States Federal Census,” entry for Charles H. Hill; “1910 United States Federal Census,” entry for Charles H. Hill

¹⁰ “1910 United States Federal Census,” entry for Charles H. Hill; “1910 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 June 2015), entry for William Repsher.

¹¹ Family source

¹² “U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current,” entry for Jacob M. Hill

¹³ “U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, entry for Charles H Hill. A later enlistment date (18 February 1918) is given on an application for a headstone. “U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 23 May 2015), entry for Charles Henry Hill

¹⁴ The 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station record suggests that he served in the 109th Infantry Battalion. However, this is not consistent with his US Army records.

¹⁵ “78th Infantry Division (United States),” *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/78th_Infantry_Division_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/78th_Infantry_Division_(United_States)); accessed 7 June 2015)

¹⁶ “Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS,” *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 631

¹⁷ War diaries for the 1st CCCS indicate no admissions for the 27 July 1918, which suggests that Charles was already dead when he arrived. ("War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G))

¹⁸ "Pvt Charles Henry Hill." Unsourced information on a public family tree on *Ancestry* suggests that he married Eva L. Lommason on 28 December 1917 and that they had two children – Charles William (born in 1917) and Dorothy May (born in 1918). ("Eichman, Trinkley," Public Family tree, *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/46663466/person/6923647850?ssrc=>; accessed 7 June 2015) entry for Charles Henry Hill)

¹⁹ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 631

²⁰ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>; accessed 13 January 2015)

²¹ "U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963," entry for Charles Henry Hill

²² "Pvt Charles Henry Hill"