



# **Pte. Percival John Hill**



**Played with Adelaide University**



**Football Club: 1918 (B)**

**Student Teacher/Teachers' Training College**

**University Student: 1919**

**(1st Year Inorganic Chemistry & Biology)**

## **Background**

***Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.***

***On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.***

***The following documentation relates to the life of Percival John Hill. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.***

## The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=137698>



### Percival John HILL

Regimental number	62103
Place of birth	Mount Gambier South Australia
Religion	Baptist
Occupation	Teacher
Address	Kalangadoo, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	19
Next of kin	Father, J B Hill, Kalangadoo, South Australia
Enlistment date	24 May 1918
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	<a href="#">1-6 (SA) Reinforcements</a>
AWM Embarkation Roll number 23/111/4	
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board SS <i>Gaika</i> on 6 August 1918
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	43rd Battalion
Fate	Returned to Australia 21 March 1919

# Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3012439>

*To REPORT TO ENROLLING OFFICER, ADELAIDE, 30. 5. 18.*

**A120939**  
**74 AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.**

**Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**

No. 68103 Name {Surname HILL  
in full {Christian Name PERCIVAL JOHN  
Unit 4th Gen. Rfts S.U.K.  
Joined on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1918. H3 Bm

**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**  
You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the offence.

1. What is your Name?	1. <u>Percival John Hill</u>
2. In or near what Town were you born?	2. In or near the Town of <u>Mount Gambier</u> In the State or Country of <u>South Australia</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. <u>Natural born</u>
4. What is your Age? (Date of birth to be stated)	4. <u>19 1/2 years</u> <u>April 8<sup>th</sup> 1899</u>
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	5. <u>Student Teacher</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6. <u>no</u>
7. Are you married, single, or widower?	7. <u>Single</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a Will.	8. <u>(FATHER) HILL JAMES BENNETT 17<sup>th</sup></u> <u>KALANGADOO</u> <u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</u>
9. What is your permanent address in Australia?	9. <u>KALANGADOO</u> <u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</u>
10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	10. <u>3 1/2 years Senior Cadets</u> <u>1 year Cadet 7 years</u>
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	11. <u>yes</u>
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	12. <u>no</u>
13. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach ten shillings per day?	13. <u>no</u>
14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever?	14. <u>yes</u>

13a. (i) Consumption or Tubercular Disease, or Chronic Cough? no  
(ii) Fits of any kind? no  
(iii) Rheumatism or Asthma? no  
(iv) Mental or Nervous Disease? no  
(v) Has any member of your family suffered from any of the above diseases? If so, state particulars no

3. Percival John Hill do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

HRC And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife & 1 wife and children.


Date 24 5 18 P. J. Hill  
Signature of Person Enlisted.

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.  
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.


D.340/4.17.—C.2514.—20W.

## Published Biography

(Courtesy - Kalangadoo Remembers)



### Kalangadoo Remembers



### Private Percival John Hill

1-6 (SA) Reinforcements  
Australian Imperial Force World War I  
**ANZAC DAY 2017**

### KALANGADOO REMEMBERS

#### Private Percival John Hill

Service No: 62103

Date of Birth	8th April 1899
Place of Birth	Mount Gambier
Date of Enlistment	24th May 1918
Place of Enlistment	Mount Gambier
Age	19 1/2 years
Occupation	Student Teacher
Next of Kin	Bennett James (Father) Sarah Lydia (Mother)
Discharged	7th May 1919

Private Percival John Hill was born in Mount Gambier on the 8th April 1899. He was one of six children of Bennett James Hill and Sarah Lydia Hill. Percival Hill's parents lived in Mount Gambier where they operated "Hill Bros Tannery" and later the Mount Gambier Tannery. Percival's father was also a lay preacher for the Mount Gambier Baptist Church. The family moved to Kalangadoo approximately 1907 where Percival's father ran the Tannery and Boot shop which was located in the main street. The Kalangadoo Methodist Church had staunch supporters in the Hill family, all doing their best to further the interests of the Church. This was apparent throughout Percival's life. Percival attended the Kalangadoo Public School from 1908 until 1911.


Edgar and James (known as Lloyd), Percival's brothers paid for him to go to Naracoorte High School. Upon completion of high school he won a bursary scholarship of sixty pounds which enabled him to move to Adelaide to pursue his teaching qualifications. He was a keen rower and was part of the Adelaide High School Rowing Club. Percival also had a love for music which was a big part of his life. Percival returned to Naracoorte as a Junior Teacher in 1914 prior to joining the Adelaide Teachers Unit in 1918. On the 24th May 1918 Percival John Hill enlisted in Mount Gambier as a Private with the 4th General Reinforcements. The unit embarked from Adelaide aboard the SS Gaika on the 6th August 1918. Entries in Private Hill's diaries stated that he lost his kit bag for the first week. They had cold showers every morning which were refreshing with the fresh water cut off at 10am. The cook house was the 'unhealthiest place', where they had six meals a day, three down and three up. The unit held church services every day. Private Hill commented on the spirit of comradeship whilst on the ship. It worried him that it only had twelve life boats to cater for its passengers if anything happened. He frequently commented about his concerns for the others on board, and formed Bible circles. His diaries also mentioned that the battalion had lectures every day as the boat got closer to England. One lecture explaining submarine warfare, and how a lighted match can be seen three miles away, a cigarette one mile away, whilst a porthole light could be seen at eight miles. Private Hill disembarked in London on the 13th October 1918 and transferred to the 43rd Battalion. They marched from Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol and billeted to Fovant under the 9th Training Battalion.

Whilst waiting to go to France the unit continued their training, doing a lot of marching and fixing up huts for the soldiers coming back from France. Much to Private Hill's disappointment (going by his diary entries) Percival did not go on to fight in France due to the cessation of hostilities. He returned to Australia per the Kildonan Castle on the 21st March 1919, disembarking at Adelaide on the 4th May 1919 and being discharged on the 7th May 1919. His total service was 363 days with 275 days served abroad. Private Hill was awarded the following war medal

The British War Medal

Percival Hill returned to university after the war, where he became involved with the group Cooni-ites. He left University to serve as a Missionary in India for approximately forty seven years. Percival returned to Adelaide in 1976 after becoming ill. Percival John Hill died on the 29th March 1977 and is interred at the Enfield Cemetery.

### A Brave Soldier at Rest Lest We Forget



## Additional Biography

### Early Life

Percival John Hill was born on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1899. He was the son of James Bennett Hill and Sarah Lydia Underwood (SA Birth Registration - Grey 638/460). His father was the owner of a boot shop business and a well-known local preacher.



## Schooling

Percy's early education was completed in Kalangadoo (31 kms north of Mt Gambier in the South East of South Australia). In 1911 he was awarded an exhibition (scholarship). In 1913, Percy was attending the Naracoorte District High School where he passed his Junior Public Exams. In 1914 Percy was admitted to Adelaide High School as a Junior Teacher (appointed to Naracoorte) and in December he passed his Senior Public Examinations.

In December 1915 Percival passed two subjects (Algebra and Trigonometry & Geometry and Trigonometry) in the Higher Public Examinations. In 1916 Percy passed School of Arts' exams and his Higher Public Examinations (Applied Mathematics and Physics). He was a Senior Cadet and served for a year in the Citizen's Forces. Percival was an Oarsman and was Bow for the AHS in the Public Schools Fours at the December 1915 Summer Regatta. It is likely that he also rowed for the AHS in 1916 but the team members were not named in newspaper articles.

He played 1<sup>st</sup> Football in 1915 and 1916.

### Adelaide High School – First Football Team 1915



*Percival John Hill – Standing – third from left*



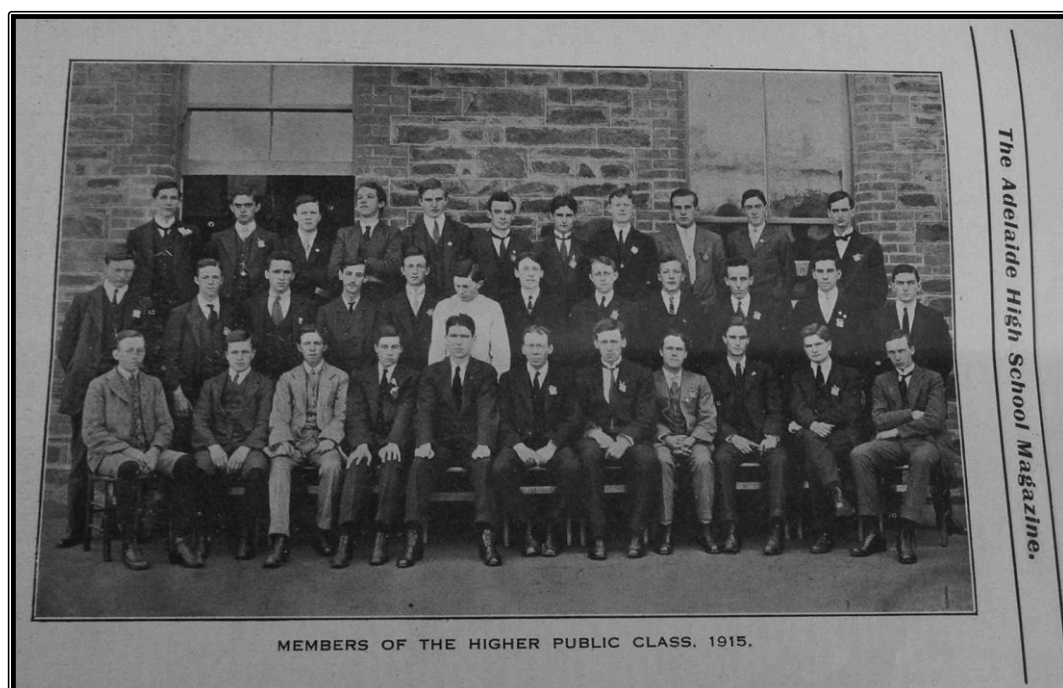
## Adelaide High School – First Football Team 1916



*Percival John Hill – Back Row – Far Right*



## Adelaide High School – Higher Public Class 1915



*The photo is unnamed – however Percival John Hill was in this class and appears to be fourth from the right in the middle row.*

## Teaching Career

In 1917 Percival was teaching at Naracoorte School and the local paper reported the “Mr. P. J. Hill and Misses M. M. Hunt and M. C. Jackson have been working earnestly amongst us as junior teachers. They enter the Training College to complete their course next year.”

## University Sport

While at Training College, Percy played Football for the Adelaide University Football Club in the B Grade in 1918. His last game was played three days before embarking for WWI.

## World War I

Percy enlisted in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1918, aged 19 years 1 month and embarked on the 6th August 1918 from Adelaide, South Australia, on board SS *Gaika*. At enlistment he was described as 5’9”, 149 lbs., with a fair complexion, grey eyes and fair hair.

Percy arrived in London on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1919 and was still in training when hostilities ceased. Percy returned to Australia via the Kildonian Castle on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1919.



## Post World War I

On returning to Adelaide Percy resumed his studies and passed Adelaide University Exams in November 1919. He was appointed an acting assistant at the Observation School, Currie Street, Adelaide in June 1919. We have not found any evidence that Percy continued as a teacher after 1919.

Percy arrived in India in 1926 to be a missionary with the church with no name. Percy was in Calcutta, India in 1932 and was unable to attend his parent’s Golden Wedding anniversary. Percy was also unable to attend his parent’s Diamond Wedding anniversary, ten years later in January 1942, as he was a missionary in Calcutta, India. When his father died later in 1942, Percy was still living in Calcutta, India, and he was described as “Rev. Percy J. Hill.”

Percy arrived in Fremantle on 15 August 1947, aboard the ss Manoora. He had embarked in Bombay and was disembarking in Adelaide. His address at his destination was 3 Gawler Terrace, Walkerville SA.



When his Mother died in 1949 Percy was living in Bombay, India. He took on the oversight for the church in the north of India, in the 1950's. Percy left India for the last time in 1974

## **Death**

Percy died on 29 March 1977, aged 77 years, and is buried at Enfield Memorial Park, SA. He had been living at Lockleys.

**Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer &**

## **Sources and Acknowledgements:**

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>

The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>

RSL Virtual Memorial <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/>

The National Library of Australia <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – Percival John Hill)

[https://www.tellingthetruth.info/history\\_pioneering/india.php](https://www.tellingthetruth.info/history_pioneering/india.php)

<http://www.aca.sa.gov.au/Records>

Adelaide High School Magazines Volume 2 (1915-1920)

WWI Photographs and Memorial Leaflet- thanks to Kalangadoo Remembers and the Hill family

Michelle Foster AUFC/AUCC WW1 Researcher