

Memorial: (WMR 88176) Halling, Kent

PRIVATE

ALFRED G HART

Service Number:	G/4984
Regiment & Unit/Ship	Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment 1 st Battalion
Date of Death	Died 18 April 1915 Age 45 years old
Buried or commemorated at	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Panel 45 and 47 Belgium
Additional Info	Husband of Edna of Friezeland Cottage, Upper Halling

Private Alfred George HART, G/4984, 1st Battalion, Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment, killed in action, Hill 60, Flanders, France, 18th April 1915, age 45.

Born Upper Halling, Rochester, Kent,

24th September 1905, Offham, Kent, married Edna Walker, of Freezeland Cottage, Upper Halling, Rochester, Kent.

Children - Dorothy Hart, born 24th October 1903, Upper Halling; Gladys Hart, born 8th April 1906, Snodland; Alfred Hart, born 5th March 1908, Snodland; James Hart, born 28th September 1911, Snodland; Henry Hart, born 1913, December quarter, Snodland.

1911 Census - Freezeland Cottage, Upper Halling, Rochester, Kent - Alfred George Hart, head, age 41, married, cement worker, cement works, born Upper Halling, Rochester, Kent; Edna Hart, wife, age 26, married 5 years, 5 children, 3 still alive, born Derby, Derbyshire; Dorothy Edna Walker Hart, daughter, age 7, at school, born Upper Halling, Rochester, Kent; Gladys Annie Hart, daughter, age 4, born Freezelands, Snodland, Kent; Alfred John Hart, son, age 2, born Freezelands, Snodland, Kent; Annie Hart, sister in law, age 47, widow, born Coombhill, Meopham, Kent; Eben Hart, nephew, age 16, single, employed on farm, born Upper Halling, Kent; Feodora Hart, niece, age 15, single, born Upper Halling, Kent; Mildred Hart, niece, age 13, school.

Previously served in Royal West Kent Regiment.

Enlisted 14th December 1914, Maidstone Kent, age 44, height 5ft 6 inches, 152lbs. Resided Upper Halling, Rochester, Kent. Formerly labourer.

14th December 1914, enlisted & posted Depot, Royal West Kent Regiment; 5th January 1915, posted 3rd Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment; 11th March 1915, posted BEF & 1st Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment.

1st November 1915, pension of 24/6 a week awarded to widow and five children.

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21st May 1920, Statement of Relatives - Widow, Edna Hart, Freezeland Cottage, Upper Halling; Children - Dorothy Edna Hart, born 1903, Freezeland Cottage, Upper Halling; Gladys Anne Hart, born 1906, Freezeland Cottage, Upper Halling; Alfred John Hart, born 1908, Freezeland Cottage, Upper Halling; James Hart, born 1911, Freezeland Cottage, Upper Halling; Henry Hart, born 1913, Freezeland Cottage, Upper Halling.

Commemorated Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panel 45 and 47, War Memorial, Snodland Cemetery and St. John the Baptist Church, Halling, Kent.

NOTE: see also Ebenezer Henry HART

The Battle of Hill 60 (17 April – 7 May 1915) took place near Hill 60 south of Ypres on the Western Front, during the First World War. Hill 60 had been captured by the German 30th Division on 11 November 1914, during the First Battle of Ypres (19 October – 22 November 1914). Initial French preparations to raid the hill were continued by the British 28th Division, which took over the line in February 1915 and then by the 5th Division. The plan was expanded into an ambitious attempt to capture the hill, despite advice that Hill 60 could not be held unless the nearby Caterpillar ridge was also occupied. It was found that Hill 60 was the only place in the area not waterlogged and a French 3 ft × 2 ft (0.91 m × 0.61 m) mine gallery was extended.

Experienced miners from Northumberland and Wales were recruited for the digging and the British attack began on 17 April 1915. The hill was captured quickly with only seven casualties but then it was found that the salient which had been created, made occupation of the hill very costly. Both sides mistakenly accused the other of using poison gas in the April fighting; German attacks on the hill in early May included the use of gas shells and the Germans recovered the ground at the second attempt on 5 May. It remained in German hands until the Battle of Messines in 1917, when two of the Mines in the Battle of Messines were detonated beneath Hill 60 and the Caterpillar.