

## Amy Hill

**Born:** 1898. 35 Sunnyside. Hambrook. (Died in Australia 1984)

**Lived:** 25 North Street, Downend. Gloucestershire

**School:** Whiteshill School Hambrook

**Parents:** Albert Hill (Teacher of Music)  
Caroline Hill

**Brothers:** Arthur. C. 1889 -1916

Herbert. (Bert) S. 1892 -1923

Frederick. W. 1896 - 1980

Harold. R. 1897 -1916

**Sister:** Winifred M. 1891 - 1945

**Occupation 1914-1919:** VAD Nurse

**Place of work:** Cleve Hill Hospital. Frenchay 1915-1918

She kept an autograph book in which she asked the patients to write something for her. Many signed their names and wrote poems some even drew sketches and cartoons to pass the time.

**Here is Amy as a child with her family, she is the one in the pinafore**

Circa 1902 at 6 Clarence Road, Downend.



**Amy** is holding her doll standing by her mother, **Caroline Hill**.

**Bert** is standing between his mother and **Fredrick**.

**Winnie** is sitting with the cat on her lap and **Harold** is sitting with his arms folded.

**Arthur** is already out at work at 13 years old.

Here is **Amy** maybe ten years later, about the time she was a VAD nurse at the Cleve Hill Hospital. **Amy** is on the right in the darker dress; **Winifred** is on the left and their mother **Caroline Hill** is in the front. One of her brothers' stands behind, possibly **Arthur**.



**Amy** lost two of her four brothers in 'The Great War' within weeks of each other, her eldest brother **Arthur** and her nearest brother **Harold**. She named her first son **Harold**. **Bert** emigrated to Canada in 1912, where he had a family. **Fredrick** was **Amy's** only brother left at home after The Great War. **Fred** emigrated to Canada after the war, probably with to be with **Bert**. He later had a family and settled there.

**Amy** lived in Australia for most of her life after the war with her husband and children.

The **Hill** family kept in touch by writing letters and sending photographs.

**Bert** died in 1923 in Canada.

In 1978 **Amy** went to Canada see her brother Fred, she was 80 years old and Fred was 82, seen here.

**Amy** always kept a very large oval framed photo of "Mother in England".





**Amy** outside 25 North Street Downend in 1919 Just before her marriage to Jock Cummings who wrote in her autograph book when he was a patient at the Cleve Hill Hospital.

Here they must have fallen in love.

Amy married Albert John Cummings, known as Jock, in 1919 at Christ Church,

Downend when her family was living at 25 North Street, Downend.

Jock was demobbed in Australia but came back for Amy. She would only marry him if he stayed in England. But work was hard to come by for Jock so he returned to Australia whilst Amy stayed behind to have their second child Constance, with her mother at 25 North Street. Amy left for Australia with their two small children, Harold and Constance in 1924

Jock was in the Australian Imperial Forces 25th Battalion which was raised in Enoggera (Brisbane, Queensland). It was composed mainly of men from Queensland and a small contingent from the Northern Territory and they left in early July enroute for Egypt where they trained before going to the trenches of Gallipoli in September 1915. Gallipoli by this time had quietened down as the last major Allied offensive had taken place the month before they arrived. The 25th Battalion left the peninsular on the 18th Dec. 1915 and after further training in Egypt they proceeded to France. They were the first AIF Battalion to land in France and became part of the 2nd Division. The 25th's battle honours include, Pozieres, Somme, Ypres, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Amiens, Bullencourt and others. Its last battle was on 3rd October 1918 when they made a successful breakthrough of the German lines around Beurevoir. The Battalion was disbanded 9 days later and the official end to WW1 happened about 4 weeks later.



Amy Hill of Downend, and Jock Cummings of Australia; married in Christchurch, Downend, 31<sup>st</sup> December 1919.

## Links

<http://www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk/>

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/tourism-and-travel/museums-and-galleries/ww1-museums-and-galleries/>

[http://www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk/arch\\_parish\\_mags.htm](http://www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk/arch_parish_mags.htm)

Street view

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/War%20memorial%20sites.pdf>