

Donald Albert Hill-Eades (Labourer) 1909 - 1989

This case is from the Railway Work Life & Death Project database. <https://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/>
Donald grew up in an agricultural family and later sought a better, more regular income in Industry. He had been working on the railways for a short time when, In 1937, he was injured working at the Aston Fields Wagon Works. He recovered and quickly returned to life as a Market Gardener.

Donald Hill-Eades' Parents, Ephraim Hill & Gertrude Eades were married December 26th 1908 at Kings Norton Parish Church. Ephraim was from a family of agricultural labourers in Alvechurch, Worcestershire. Gertrude was from a family of Nailmakers in Catshill, Worcs.

The 1911 census finds the family at 19 Twynning Road, Stirchley Birmingham. Ephraim 26 Chocolate Worker, Gertrude 26 wife, Vera O age 1, Donald A age 1, Gertrude age 4months. Also at the address were 3 of Gertrude's siblings, Mary Eades 23 Chocolate Worker, Nellie Eades, 20 Chocolate Worker and Arthur Eades 16 Chocolate Worker.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15.7&lat=52.43057&lon=-1.92045&layers=10&b=1&marker=52.430242,-1.919057>

Unusually Donald also appears on a second 1911 census return from Worms Ash, Bromsgrove. Job Eades 54 Market Gardener. Elizabeth Eades 53 wife, Sarah Ann Eades 30 dressmaker, Arthur Eades 24 Market Gardener, Kate Eades 20 and Donald Hill age 1 visitor.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15.3&lat=52.35513&lon=-2.08438&layers=10&b=1&marker=52.354020,-2.082322>

1911 October 24th, Donald's mother, Gertrude Hill was buried at Kings Norton Parish church. It seems likely that with the illness and death of his mother, Donald had been adopted by Gertrude's uncle Job and continued to live at Worms Ash.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15.5&lat=52.40928&lon=-1.92856&layers=10&b=1&marker=52.409185,-1.929268>

1916 January 1st, Donald's Father Ephraim Hill, Chocolate Worker age 31 remarried to Rhoda Read, age 23 at the Parish Church in Belbroughton, Worcestershire. Ephraim went on to raise 3 more children with Rhoda.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15.3&lat=52.39210&lon=-2.12302&layers=10&b=1&marker=52.389417,-2.121165>

The 1921 Electoral Roll records Job, Elizabeth and Arthur Eades residing at Worms Ash.

1936 April 13th Donald Hill-Eades age 27 (Market Gardener) was married to Mary Wilkins age 25 of Donnington, at St Mary's Parish church, Donnington, Herefordshire.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14.5&lat=51.99629&lon=-2.42945&layers=10&b=1&marker=52.005694,-2.425987>

1937 April 15th Donald A Hill-Eades is injured while working at the LMS Wagon Works at Aston Fields, Worcestershire. He was trapped between two moving wagons suffering bruising and shock. The incident prompted a move back into agricultural work and later that year he is once again described as a Market gardener.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=16.3&lat=52.32089&lon=-2.04664&layers=10&b=1&marker=52.320383,-2.046400>

1937 November 6th, Job Eades passed away. He left the residue of his estate split between his son Arthur (Market Gardener) and nephew Donald Hill-Eades (Market Gardener).

The 1939 Register finds Donald (Market Gardener) and Mary living at Worms Ash. There is one other person at the address, (details redacted as under age 100 at the time of data release - Possibly Vera Hill, born Bromsgrove 1938 (Q3 6c 355))

The 1950 Electoral roll finds Donald and Mary at Brooms Green, Gloucestershire. Just a mile south of the church where they were married in 1936.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14.8&lat=51.99855&lon=-2.41881&layers=10&b=1&marker=51.994778,-2.418259>

1989 Donald passed away age 80 at Millom, Cumbria. (Q4 001, 609)





By St Mary, Donnington by Philip Pankhurst, CC BY-SA 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=119647622>

The Railway Inspectorate report on the 1937 accident records the following:

Location Bromsgrove Date of accident 1937 Apr 15

First name(s) / initial(s) Donald Albert surname Hill-Eades

Sex M age 28

County Worcestershire, country England

Grade - Labourer

Primary railway company responsible for location London, Midland and Scottish Railway

Time of accident - 11:40

Nature of casualty Injury: Contusion(s)

Precise details of injury - Thigh and back bruised and shock

Type of accident Shunting

Details of accident - Trapped between buffer of wagon on transverser and end pillar of next wagon

Other people mentioned - Cairns, tractor driver; Stokes, shunter

Responsibility/ cause - Misadventure but had not received copy of Company Rules

Recommendations made - Rules should be given to all staff using transverser

Booked hours 09:35 Time on duty 03:45

Inspector - Wm Worthy Cooke

Document title- Railway Accidents. Reports by the Inspecting Officers of Railways, Railway Employment Inspectors and Railway Employment Assistant Inspectors of Inquiries into accidents which occurred during the three months ending 30 June 1937

Document sub-title - Appendix C. Reports of the Sub-Inspecting Officers of Railways on Accidents to Railway Servants and other Persons employed on railway premises

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