



Cyril Penn Hamilton, Royal Artillery, 3 caps, cap number 184

Cyril Penn Hamilton was born on 12th August 1909 in Adelaide, Australia to James Edwin O'Hara Hamilton, a regular Army Officer, and his wife Virginia (nee Boucaut). In the 1911 Census Cyril is living in Antrim Road, Belfast with his mother and older sister Phyllis.

Cyril went to Wellington School from 1922 to 1927 where he played racquets and was in the 1st XI for cricket. After school he went to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich graduating in 1929 and joining the Royal Artillery.

Cyril was an all round sportsman, good enough at cricket to play first class matches in England and to represent Egypt in international matches, at squash racquets to represent England v USA in December 1935, and of course to play hockey for Scotland. He is mentioned as a potential hockey cap as early as February 1934 (Sunday Mirror 4 Feb 1934). In February 1935 he represented the Anglo Scots in the final trial against the Home Scots. He scored the winner in a 2-1 victory for the Anglos, but didn't do enough to get his cap.

Cyril was again in the final trial of 1936 a game played on a poor pitch at Prestonfield. There was some surprise in the London press that Cyril was again overlooked, with H Watson of Steps retaining the right wing spot. However Cyril would get his chance in the final international of the season against Ireland at Peebles. Sadly Scotland lost 2-1 and the play of both wingers was described as "ineffective".

In 1937 Cyril again represented the Anglos in the final trial and was picked for the first game against England at St Andrews on 6th March. Although beaten by England, the selectors kept faith and named the same team for the game against Ireland in Belfast on 20th March. Cyril was also selected for the game against Wales but had to withdraw.

By 1938 Cyril had been deployed to Egypt with 3rd Regiment RA and didn't win any more hockey caps. He did however manage to play cricket for Egypt four times in 1938-1939.

During the Second World War, Cyril was promoted to Major and given command of 25th Regiment RA, which became part of the 4th Indian Division in Egypt in September 1940. The Division deployed to Eritrea in February 1941. Cyril Hamilton was killed during the Battle of Keren on 10th February 1941. He is buried in Keren War Cemetery.

Cyril had married Angela Garnier in Norfolk in July 1938. They had one daughter Anne born in May 1939.

Sources:

British Newspaper Archive

Ancestry

Scottish Hockey Records

Commonwealth War Graves Commission