

**Rutherglen Cemetery,  
Rutherglen, Scotland  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**608 LANCE CPL.**

**J. MARTIN**

**42ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**16TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 58**

## John MARTIN

John Martin was born at Duntocher, near Hardgate, Scotland on 5th December, 1859 to parents Thomas and Margaret Martin (nee Reaside).

The 1861 Scotland Census recorded John Martin as a 1 year old living with his parents as Main Rd, Smith's Land, Old Kilpatrick, Dumbartonshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Thomas Martin (Cotton Spinner, aged 32, born Elderslie, Renfrew) & Margaret Martin (aged 31, born Old Kilpatrick, Dumbartonshire). John was the youngest of four children listed on this Census (all born Old Kilpatrick, Dumbartonshire) – Elizabeth Martin (Scholar, aged 8), Margaret Martin (Scholar, aged 6), Archibald Martin (aged 3) then John.

John Martin attended Hozier Street School at Glasgow, Scotland.

The 1881 Scotland Census recorded John Martin as a 21 year old Grocer's Assistant living with his family at 36 Scott St, Bridgeton, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Thomas Martin (Cotton Spinner, aged 52) & Margaret Martin (aged 52). John was one of four children listed on this Census – Elizabeth Martin (Dressmaker, aged 29), Archibald Martin (Tin Plate Worker, aged 23) then John & Robert Martin (Cash Boy, aged 16).

[The 1891 Scotland Census listed Thomas (aged 63) & Margaret Martin (aged 63) living at 36 Scott Street, Bridgeton. Also living with his parents was Robert Martin (Draper's Assistant, aged 26).]

According to information provided by Elizabeth Mackay, sister of John Martin, he came to Australia when he was 32. She stated "nothing known of Australian life."

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Wide Bay, subdivision of Bundaberg, Queensland recorded John Martin, Labourer of Bundaberg.

John Martin stated he was aged 43, Single and an Engine Driver when he enlisted in Brisbane on 13th December, 1915 with the 42nd Infantry Battalion "C" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 608 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Elizabeth Mackay of 5 Clyde View Terrace, Glasgow, Scotland.

Private John Martin was posted to "B" Company, 10th Depot Battalion on 13th December, 1915. He was transferred to 34th Battalion on 16th January, 1916. Private John Martin was transferred to "C" Company of 42nd Battalion on 26th February, 1916.

Private John Martin embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 5th June, 1916 & disembarked at Southampton, England on 23rd July, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private John Martin was written up for a Crime while at Larkhill, Wiltshire – Absent without leave from midnight 20th October, 1916 to 6 am on 23rd October, 1916. He was awarded 6 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 9 days' pay.

Private John Martin proceeded overseas to France from Southampton on 25th November, 1916.

Private John Martin was sent sick to Hospital on 17th January, 1917. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance with Contusion of back then transferred to 11th Australian Field Ambulance (DRS) on 20th January, 1917. Pte Martin was discharged to duty rejoined his Unit on 27th January, 1917.

Private John Martin was written up for a Crime – Drunkenness while on Active Service on 15th May, 1917. He was awarded 4 days Field Punishment No. 2

Private John Martin was on furlough to England from 12th January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 29th January, 1918.

Private John Martin was promoted to Lance Corporal on 3rd February, 1918.

Lance Corporal John Martin was wounded in action in France on 26th May, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance suffering the effects of Mustard Gas then transferred to 7th Casualty Clearing Station. Lance Cpl. Martin was transferred to 41st Stationary Hospital then transferred to 2nd Stationary Hospital at Abbeville, France on 24th June, 1918. Lance Cpl. Martin was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 28th June, 1918.

## **42nd Battalion**

The 42nd Battalion was raised at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane, in December 1915 and became part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. Due to sharing its numeric title with the famous Scottish regiment the Black Watch, the battalion became known as the "Australian Black Watch". This association was recognised with a bagpipe band.

After training in Australia and Britain, the 42nd deployed to France on 26 November 1916 and entered the frontline for the first time on 23 December. The winter of 1916-17 was horrendous, and the 42nd spent much of it in the front line, the remainder being spent alternating between training and labouring in the rear areas.

In 1917, the operations of the 3rd Division were focussed on the Ypres sector of Belgium. The 42nd participated in major battles at Messines on 7 June, Warneton on 31 July, Broodseinde on 4 October, and Passchendaele on 12 October. Even though the battalion was in a reserve role, the battle of Passchendaele proved particularly costly. It lost over a third of its strength, principally from German gas attacks, and trench foot caused by the sodden condition of the battlefield.

Belgium remained the scene of the 42nd Battalion's activities for the next five months as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in blunting the drive towards the vital railway junction of Amiens.

*(Information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 42nd Battalion – 26th May, 1918 – Chateau Bois L'Abbe

*At 3 am gas bombardment of area recommenced and continued until six am. Up till this time men had not been able to take any sleep having been in gas masks for a period of eight hours. Only seven casualties were reported up till 8 am., however when the men got into their shelters and went to sleep the sun began to take effect and bring the gas like likewise the wind being choppy clouds of gas were continually driven out of the wood over the men who awoke to find their eyes affected the irritation increasing later. By the end of the day both A & B Companies who were \_\_\_\_\_ in a valley were evacuated. Officers and men with the exception of O.C. "A" Company.*

*(Information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Lance Corporal John Martin was admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford on 28th June, 1918 with effects of gas – slight.

Lance Corporal John Martin was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 9th July, 1918. He was discharged to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 15th July, 1918.

Lance Corporal John Martin was admitted to 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland on 15th August, 1918 with a fractured skull.

Lance Corporal John Martin died at 9.20 am on 16th August, 1918 from injuries accidentally received (Fracture of Skull) at 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland.

Lance Corporal John Martin was buried at 2 pm on 20th August, 1918 in Rutherglen Cemetery, Rutherglen, Scotland – Plot number G. 470 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal John Martin - *Coffin was white Pine panelled. The deceased soldier was buried privately by his Sister, Mrs E. Mackay, 67 Stonelaw Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow, Scotland. The Title to the grave is held by Mrs Mackay. Relatives do not intend erecting a permanent memorial at the present moment, but a temporary oak cross has been erected by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Relatives present at the funeral – (Brother-in-law) Mr H. Mackay 67 Stonelaw Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow and (Cousin) Mr J. Brown, Bridgetown Station, Bridgetown, Glasgow.*

Lance Corporal John Martin requested in his Will dated 25th July, 1917 that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to the Bundaberg Hospital, Bundaberg, Queensland.

The personal effects of Lance Corporal John Martin were posted to the Bundaberg Hospital, Bundaberg, Queensland as legatee. The Hospital found that the articles were of no intrinsic value to them & suggested that they be returned to his sister. Base Records notified the Bundaberg Hospital in May, 1919 to advise that the Minister of Defence had approved that the effects of the late Lance Corporal John Martin would be handed over to his next-of-kin "*who will no doubt prize them for their sentimental value.*" Personal effects of Lance Corporal John Martin:- 1 Watch & chain, 2 Discs, 1 Money Belt, 1 YMCA Wallet (containing letters) 1 Engineering Certificate, 1 Pr Eye-glasses, Badges, Titles, 1 Pouch, 2 Pocket Knives, 1 Pipe. The following were located in his Kit Bag – 1 Electric Torch, 2 Pipes.

Lance Corporal John Martin was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Martin's sister - Mrs E. Mackay (in England), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both sent November, 1922).

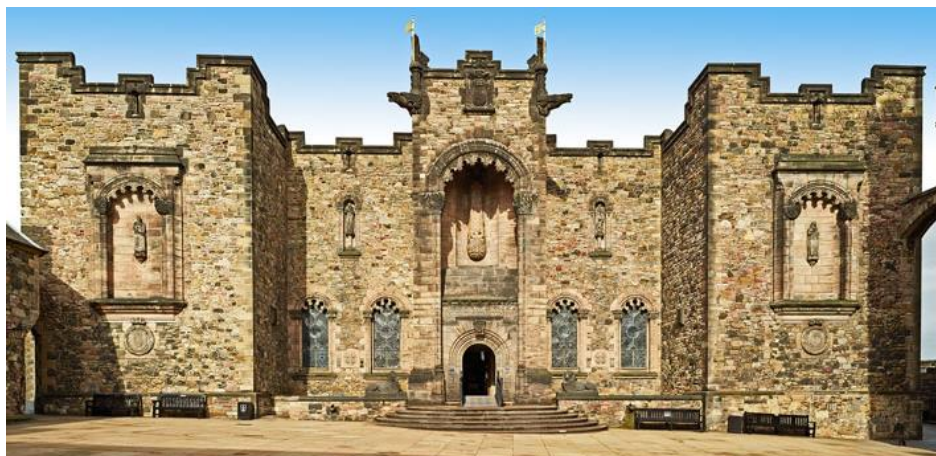
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal John Martin – service number 608, aged 58, of 42nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Margaret Martin. Born at Hardgate, Scotland.

Lance Corporal J. Martin is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 135.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

John Martin is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



**The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.**

*(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)*



(56 pages of Lance Corporal John Martin's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



## Newspaper Notices

### ROLL OF HONOUR

#### Casualty List No. 427

#### DIED OTHER CAUSES

John Martin, Scotland, 16/8/18, inj. (p.r.w.)

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 5 September, 1918)*

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### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

*(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Lance Corporal J. Martin does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Rutherglen Cemetery, Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, Scotland**

Rutherglen Cemetery, Rutherglen contains 87 Commonwealth War Graves – 49 relate to World War 1 & 38 are from World War 2.



**Rutherglen Cemetery** *(Photo by Leslie Barrie)*



**Cross of Sacrifice, Rutherglen Cemetery** (Photos by Leslie Barrie)

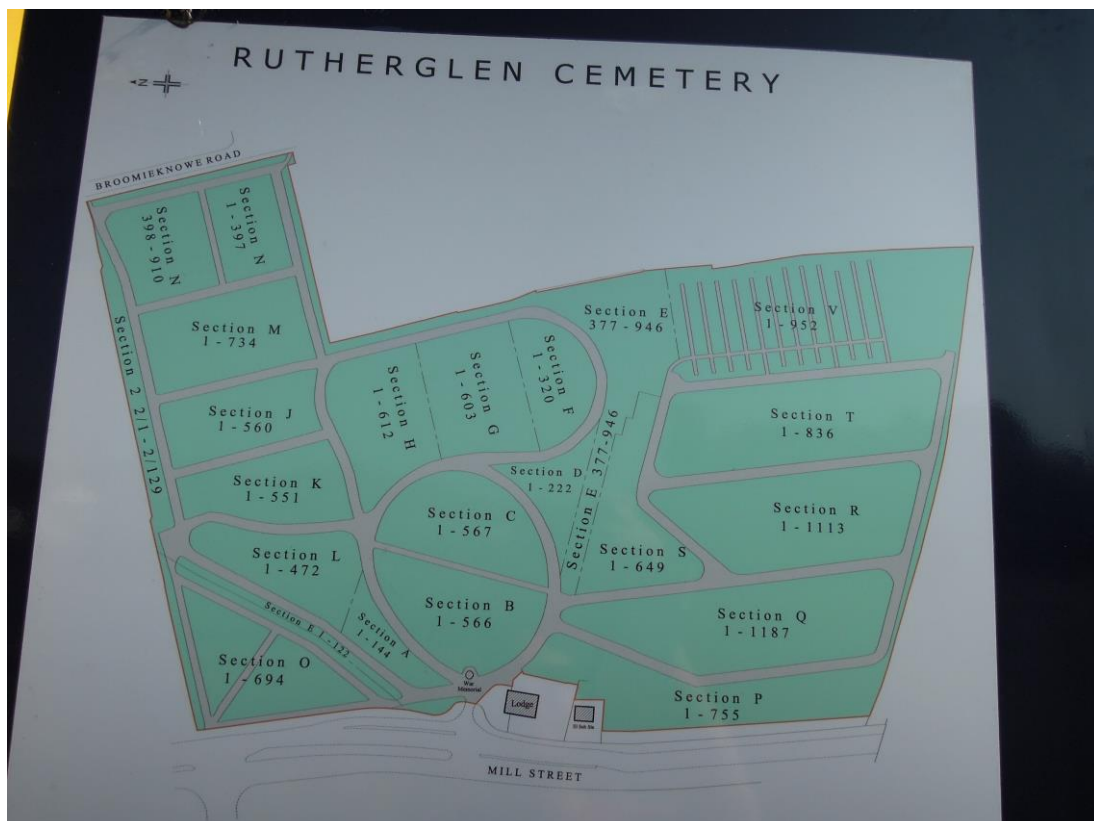


Photo of Lance Corporal J. Martin's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Rutherglen Cemetery, Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, Scotland.



*(Photo courtesy of Adam Brown – Scottish War Graves Project)*