

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3138 PRIVATE**

**C. R. MARTIN**

**3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**30TH NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 21**

*In Loving Memory Of  
Our Dearly Loved  
Son And Brother*

## Charles Reginald MARTIN

Charles Reginald Martin was born at Quirindi, New South Wales on 9th February, 1896 to parents Walter Hetherington Martin & Beatrice Martin (nee Green).

Charles Reginald Martin was a 21 year old, single, Boundary Rider from Dimbroy, Curlewis, NSW when he enlisted on 15th September, 1915 at Holsworthy (recorded as Holdsworth on Attestation Papers), Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs B. Martin, of Dimbroy, Curlewis, NSW.

Private Charles Reginald Martin was posted to 7th Reinforcements of 18th Battalion on 14th October, 1915.

Private Charles Reginald Martin, Service number 3138, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 20th December, 1915 with the 18th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

### 18th Battalion

The 18th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 22 August landed at ANZAC Cove...

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Charles Reginald Martin was taken on strength of 3rd Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 14th February, 1916 from 18th Battalion.

Private Charles Reginald Martin embarked from Alexandria for Overseas on 22nd March, 1916 on HMTS *Grampian*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private Charles Reginald Martin was attached for duty with 1st Infantry Brigade Headquarters for Intelligence duties from 2nd August, 1916.

Private Charles Reginald Martin was on Leave to UK from 30th July, 1917 to 12th August, 1917.

Private Charles Reginald Martin reported sick on 15th August, 1917 while on detachment. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 15th August, 1917 then transferred to D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) the same day with V.D.G (venereal disease). Private Martin was transferred to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 15th August, 1917. He ceased to be attached to 1st Infantry Brigade Headquarters on being evacuated sick on 15th August, 1917. Private Martin was transferred & admitted to 39th General Hospital at Havre, France on 19th August, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (Not yet determined). He was discharged from 39th General Hospital at Havre on 6th October, 1917 with V.D.G. & was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on the same day. Private Martin rejoined 3rd Battalion in the Field on 18th October, 1917.

Private Charles Reginald Martin was wounded in action in Belgium on 28th October, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 28th October, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 17th Casualty Clearing Station in Belgium on the same day. Private Martin was transferred to 29th Ambulance Train on 29th October, 1917 & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux, France on 29th October, 1917. He was reported to be dangerously ill with shrapnel wound/s to Spine. Private Martin was transferred to England on 22nd November, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Dennis* with G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) to Spine & Fractured Spine.

(Note: According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Mrs Martin recorded that her son Private Charles Reginald Martin had been wounded at Ypres, Belgium on 3rd October, 1917.)

### 3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.

The battalion participated in a short period of mobile operations following the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line in early 1917, but spent much of that year fighting in increasingly difficult conditions around Ypres. 3rd Battalion returned briefly to the Somme (Amiens) in April 1918, but returned north to Strazeele which was also under threat of being captured by the Germans. The 3rd Bn remained in this sector and took part in several operations in the area during June and July 1918. The battalion was then sent back to the Somme on 6 August and two days later took part in the Battle of Amiens, which German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".....

#### War Diary – 3rd Battalion

*Near Ypres – 27th October, 1917:*

*Day dull & wet. Work continues with Canadian Railway troops. 1 O.R. Killed whilst returning from work....*

*Strength 25 Officers and 556 OR.*

*Canal Area near Ypres – 28th October, 1917:*

*Day fine. Usual working parties carried on with Railway Construction work. No casualties.*

*Strength 25 Officers and 549 OR.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Reginald Martin was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Steet, London, England on 22nd November, 1917. His condition was listed as dangerous. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "*GSW Back Fracture & lesion Spinal Cord. Shell wound of back causing fracture of laminal spine of 2 – 3 – 4 L-V. Paraplegia. ....Developed much vomiting. Pulse became \_\_\_ & thready. Gradually became weaker. Died.*"

Base Records contacted Mrs B. Martin, Dimberoy, Curlewis, NSW, mother of Private Charles Reginald Martin, on 24th November, 1917 to advise that Private Charles Martin had been dangerously wounded. A further report on the same day advised that Private Charles Martin had been admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital, Wimmereux, France on 3rd October with gunshot wound to Spine – dangerous.

Private Charles Reginald Martin died at 7.30 pm on 30th November, 1917 at The King George Hospital, Stamford Steet, London, England from wounds received in action - G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) to Spine.

A death for Charles R. Martin, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, London, England.

Private Charles Reginald Martin was buried at 1.30 pm on 4th December, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 180115.

*From the burial report of Private Charles Reginald Martin - Coffin was good polished Elm. Brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were supplied by the City of London Regiment stationed at Deep Cut. A beautiful wreath was place on the coffin from the Nursing Staff of the Hospital. The grave will be turfed immediately, and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Base Records wrote to Mr W. H. Martin, "Dimberoy", Curlewis, NSW on 4th April, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave, the late No. 3138 Private C. R. Martin, 3rd Battalion, in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row F Grave1.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. F. 1. Private C. R. Martin now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Charles Reginald Martin contains a letter from The Matron, King George Hospital, Stamford St, London, England which reads: *"I beg to say this patient was admitted on November 23rd suffering from severe gunshot wound of back and lower part of his body was completely paralysed; he died a week later on November 30th. The other patients and the nursing Staff of the ward subscribed for a very nice wreath, which was placed on his coffin, and he was buried at Brookwood. The Sister wrote three times to Pte Martin's mother during the week he was in Hospital, and again after his death thus keeping her fully informed of all that was happening to her son."*

Mr W. H. Martin, Curlewis, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 29th January, 1918, with the following: *"In reference to the death of my son No. 3138 Private Charles Reginald Martin 3rd Battn. Would you kindly supply me with two copies of Military Certificates of Death, one I require for the Life insurance Socy. & the other to obtain letters of administration."*

Base Records replied to Mr W. H. Martin on 25th February, 1918 enclosing certificate in duplicate of report of death of his son, the late No. 3138 Private C. R. Martin, 3rd Battalion.

The Public Trust Office, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records in September, 1918 requesting a certificate in duplicate relating to the death of No. 3138, Private C. R. Martin, 3rd Battalion, A.I.F.

Base Records replied to The Public Trustee, Sydney, NSW, on 6th September, 1918 enclosing a Certificate in duplicate of report of death of the late No. 3138, Private C. R. Martin, 3rd Battalion.

Private Charles Reginald Martin was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Martin's father – Mr W. H. Martin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Reginald Martin – service number 3138, aged 23, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Walter Hetherington Martin & Beatrice Martin, of "Dimberoy", Curlewis, New South Wales.

Private C. R. 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 37.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. Martin is remembered on the Curlewis & District Roll of Honour, located in Curlewis Hall, Goran & Pike Streets, Curlewis, NSW.



Curlewis & District Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Cate Clark)

R. Martin is remembered on the Curlewis War Memorial Gates, located in Hamilton Park, Goran & Pike Streets, Curlewis, NSW.





**Curlewis War Memorial Gates** (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)

C. R. Martin is remembered on the Gunnedah Memorial Clock Tower Roll of Honour, located in Town Hall arch entry, of Gunnedah Town Hall, 152 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah, NSW.



**Gunnedah Memorial Clock Tower**



Gunnedah Memorial Clock Tower Roll of Honour (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



C. A. Martin is remembered on the Gunnedah Cenotaph, located at Conadilly & Elgin Streets, Gunnedah, NSW.



**Gunnedah Cenotaph** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



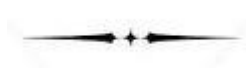
(53 pages of Private Charles Reginald Martin's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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





**Private Charles Reginald Martin** (*Photo from Gunnedah Historical Society*)



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **Gunnedah and Surrounding District**

The following are the names, so far as is known, of those who have enlisted....

... Charles Reginald Martin.....

(*The Tamworth Daily Observer*, NSW – 25 August, 1915)

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

MARTIN – Died of wounds in France, 30/11/17, Private C. R. (Reg), beloved son of Mr and Mrs W. H. Martin, of Dimboroy, Curlewis, and grandson of Me Jas, Martin, of Glen Innes and Randwick; aged 21.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 15 December, 1917)

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## **DOUBLE CASUALTY LIST**

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **WOUNDED**

Pte CHAS REGINALD MARTIN, Curlewis (dang.)

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 18 December, 1917)

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## **Australian Casualties**

### **Lists Nos. 375 and 376**

New South Wales

Died of Wounds

Pte C. R. MATIN (Curlewis, 30/11/17)

(*Australian Town and Country Journal*, Sydney, NSW – 2 January, 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*)

Private C. R. Martin does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory Of Our Dearly Loved Son And Brother*

## Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

*A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)*

*Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.*

*Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.*



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photo from CWGC)



**Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)



**Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery** (Photos by Magicfingers)





*(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)*



**Australian War Graves** *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private C. R. Martin's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)*



Private C. R. Martin's Headstone (red arrow) (Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)

