

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,  
Brookwood, Surrey  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6502 PRIVATE**

**D. R. MARTIN MM.**

**9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**17TH DECEMBER, 1917 Age 22**

## Dan Robert MARTIN

Daniel Martin was born at Mareeba, Queensland on 17th August, 1896 to parents Samuel Robert & Ellen Martin (nee Miller). (Queensland Births, Deaths & Marriages website has mother's name as Ellin Millar).

Dan Robert Martin was aged 20 years & 10 months, single & a Labourer from Ingham, North Queensland when he enlisted at Cloncurry, Queensland on 24th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6502 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Condon, Ingham, North Queensland.

Private Dan Robert Martin was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 30th June, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 21st Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 12th July, 1916.

Private Dan Robert Martin embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Boonah* (A36) on 21st October, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th January, 1917.

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 Dan Robert Martin was sent sick to Bulford Hospital, Wiltshire on 8th February, 1917 from 3rd Training Battalion, No. 3 Camp, Durrington, Wiltshire with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). The Hospital Admissions form recorded he had been admitted with Gonorrhoea.

Private Dan Robert Martin was sent sick to Hospital on 26th March, 1917 (Statement of Service form recorded that date as 16th March, 1917. Cause – N.Y.D. (not yet determined) from 3rd Training Battalion, Durrington. He was marched in to Durrington on 14th May, 1917 from Park House.

Private Dan Robert Martin proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 16th July, 1917 from 3rd Training Battalion, Durrington. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 17th July, 1917 & marched out to his Battalion on 28th July, 1917. Private Martin joined 9th Battalion in France on 5th August, 1917 from Reinforcements.

According to the Hospital Admissions form – Private Dan Robert Martin was admitted to No. 13 Australian General Hospital on 10th August, 1916 with Influenza & discharged on 16th August, 1916. (Not reported on any other forms).

Private Daniel Robert Martin was recommended for the Military Medal "*At Hooge, France on 20th Sept., 1917 during the operations in Glencourse Wood, Pte Martin was noted for his conduct throughout. He carried important messages through heavy artillery fire with courageous energy. When water was short he volunteered to go back for it through a heavy barrage. This keenness and reliability set a fine example to his comrades.*"

Private Daniel Robert Martin was awarded the Military Medal on 31st October, 1917 (*London Gazette* – 17 December, 1917; *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 2 May, 1918)

Private Daniel Robert Martin was awarded the Military Medal at Belgium (no date – as per Casualty Form – Active Service).

### Military Medal

The Military Medal (MM) was a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other arms of the armed forces, and to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914, and was awarded to other ranks for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire". (*Wikipedia*)



Military Medal (MM)

Private Dan Robert Martin was wounded in action on Belgium on 3rd November, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Canadian Field Ambulance on 3rd November, 1917 then transferred to 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 4th November, 1917. Private Martin was transferred to Ambulance Train 12 on 5th November, 1917 & admitted the same day to 55th General Hospital, Boulogne, France with Shrapnel wounds to Face & Skull. He was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* on 16th November, 1917.

Private Dan Robert Martin was x-rayed on 6th November, 1917. His injuries were listed as "G.S.W. Skull & Brain" along with "F.B. & fracture of frontal bone (left). Hand – F.B. 4th digit & a few \_\_\_ones in 3rd."

### **9th Battalion**

The 9th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Queensland, and with the 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade....

In March 1916 the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley. The 9th Battalion attacked on the extreme right of the line and it was during this action that Private John Leak won, with the bayonet, the battalion's only Victoria Cross. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917 the battalion moved back to Belgium for the advance to the Hindenburg Line, and in March and April 1918 helped stop the German spring offensive. The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918 and fought near Amiens on 8 August. The advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".

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

### War Diary – 9th Battalion

#### *Broodeinde Ridge Line*

*3/11/1917 – Two Patrols in force moved out to 0.12.D.9 ½.2 and ASSYRIA (D.18.B.) respectively and gained touch with enemy. Our line moved forward at 1800 and now runs D.12.C.0.8. – D.12.C. 6 ½.00.- to D.18.A.9.5 – D.18.C.00.9 ½. This was completed without incident. At 0630 enemy heavily bombarded our position and attacked, dislodging a few of our Posts which were immediately replaced with the exception of one. An attack was organised on the Post occupied by the enemy and at 1400 a detachment of men moved forward under cover of Rifle Grenades. The attack was successful and the Post captured. 2 Officers and 9 Other ranks remaining in our hands as prisoners. Lieut.'s P. DEVINE and D. BAILEY killed, Lieut. C. W. BLUETT, M.C. Died of Wounds, 2/Lt. A. W. WHEATLY wounded.*

*(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Dan Robert Martin was admitted to Barnet War Hospital, High Barnet, England on 16th November, 1917 with G,S,W, with compound fracture Skull & Cerebral Hernia. The Medical Case Sheet reads:

*"16.11.17 – Gun show wound of Skull. Admitted with suppurating wound on left side of forehead, there was a hole in the bone leading through the dura mater & prior to admission, there has been a hernia cerebri at this side.*

*7.12.17 – Temp: rose to 101, accompanied by severe headache, and pain radiating down the spine. No vomiting.*

*15.12.17 – Calomel. gn.IV. Temp: (evening) 101° 6*

*16.12.17 – Patient has meningitis*

*17.12.17 – Icebag to head. Free purgation.*

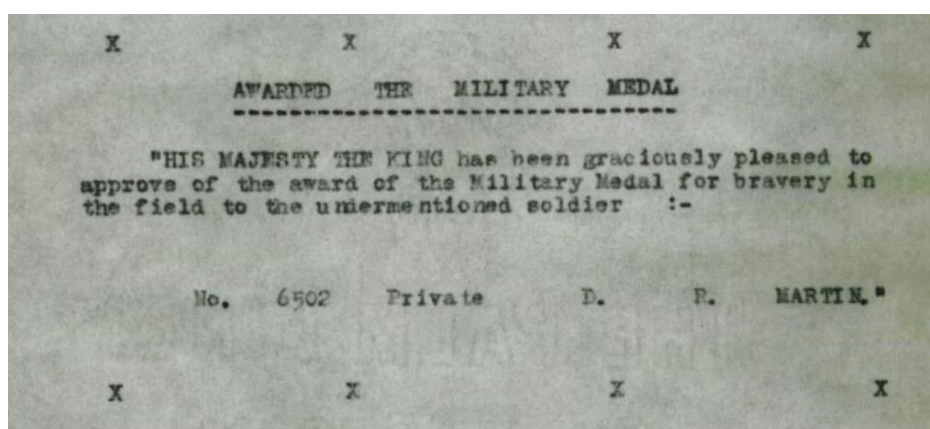
*17.12.17 – patient died."*

Private Dan Robert Martin died at 12.48 pm on 17th December, 1917 at Barnet War Hospital, High Barnet, Middlesex, England from wounds – G.S.W. (gunshot wound) of Skull.

A death for Dan R. Martin, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Barnet, Middlesex, England.

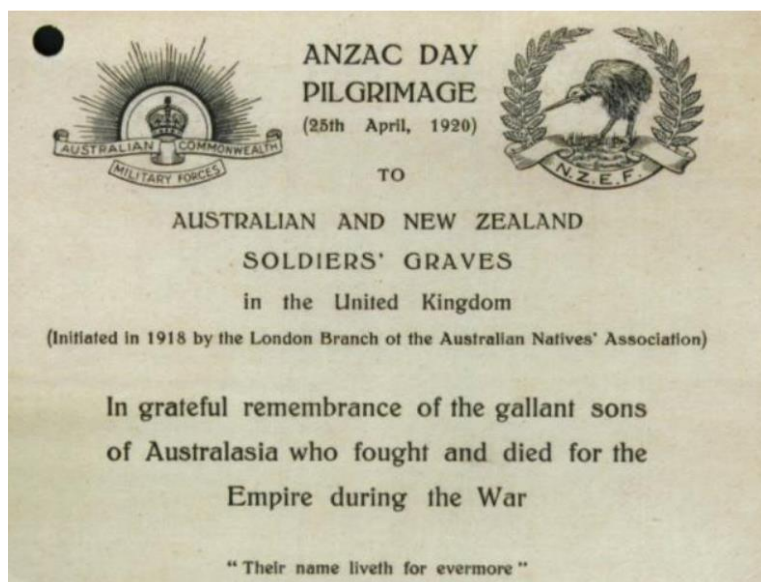
Private Dan Robert Martin was buried at 1.30 pm on 22nd December, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Grave number 180224 Australian Military Burial Ground. The CWGC now records his grave as Plot number XI.D.2. and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Dan Robert Martin - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by the Nursing Staff and patients of the Hospital. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers were supplied by the Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. 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 Mrs E. Condon, Ingham, North Queensland on 28th May, 1918: *"I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Third Supplement No. 30431 to the London Gazette, dated 14th December, 1917, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by your son, the late No. 6502 Private D. R. Martin, 9th Battalion."*



The following Card along with a letter were located in the Service Record file for Private Dan Robert Martin & was intended to be sent to his mother – Mrs E. Condon, Post Office, Cloncurry, Queensland in August, 1920 but was returned unclaimed.

The letter accompanying the Card was sent from Immigration Department, Victoria House, Melbourne Place, Strand, London on 17th May, 1920 & reads: *"You will be pleased to know that on Anzac Day, 1920, the graves of the 352 Australian and 145 New Zealand soldiers buried at Brookwood Cemetery were specially visited, and that on each was placed a floral tribute, to which was attached a copy of the enclosed Memorial Card....."*





Communications between Base Records, Melbourne, Victoria & The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (Queensland Branch) occurred between May, 1933 & September, 1933. The Townsville sub branch of The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (Queensland Branch) had originally written to Base Records in May, 1933 stating that they held Badge No. 137936 issued to "Women of Australia" & were enquiring as to the name of the owner. Base Records had replied the Nearest Female Relative Badge had been issued to Mrs Ellen Condon, c/o Mrs B. Louis, Grace St, Innisfail in respect of the service of ex No. 6502 Private D. R. Martin, 9th Battalion. Base Records stated if they were unable to locate the owner - to return the badge to Base Records for safe-keeping. Communications between Base Records, Melbourne, Victoria & Deputy Commissioner, Repatriation Commission, Brisbane, Queensland in June, 1933 where Base Records were enquiring into the present address of the mother of the late Nos. 6502 Private D. R. Martin & 691 Private J. Martin, 11th Light Trench Mortar Battery – Mrs E. Condon. A reply was received from Deputy Commissioner stating that "*the mother of these deceased soldiers is residing in Townsville, North Queensland. Her name is Ellen MARTIN and a perusal of the records at this Branch reveals that for some years she was known as Ellen CONDON.*"

Base Records notified Townsville Branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia in June, 1933 that "it has been ascertained that this person (Mrs Ellen Condon) is now residing at Townsville (NQ) and that she should be properly addressed as Mrs Ellen Martin. In the event of your Branch being successful in tracing her whereabouts, I should be glad of advice accordingly, as it is desired to communicate with her further regarding the disposal of other war mementoes." As of 3rd August, 1933 the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia had been unable to locate Mrs Martin & "*within the next week or so I will forward the badge to you.*"

Private Dan Robert Martin was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Martin's mother as the closest next-of-kin. (Plaque marked "Pending").

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private D. R. Martin – service number 6502, aged 22, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed. Awarded Military Medal.

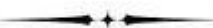
Private D. R. Martin is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 56.



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

(54 pages of Private Dan Robert 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*



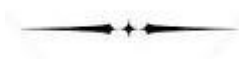


LATE PTE. D. R. MARTIN, M.  
(Innisfail)

(*Cairns Post*, Queensland – 27 February, 1918)



(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 30 September, 1916)



## Newspaper Notices

### Infantry Reinforcements



(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 30 September, 1916)

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### 371-372nd LISTS

WOUNDED

Dan. Robert Martin, Ingham

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 December, 1917)

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### CASUALTIES

#### 378TH AND 379TH LISTS

DIED

D. R. Martin, Ingham, 17/12/17, cause not stated (prev. rep. wounded)

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 12 January, 1918)

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## Roll of Honour

### Two Casualty Lists

Casualty lists 378 and 379 released last evening...

DIED

Dan Robert Martin, Ingham, 17/12/17, cause not stated. p.r.w.

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 12 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)*

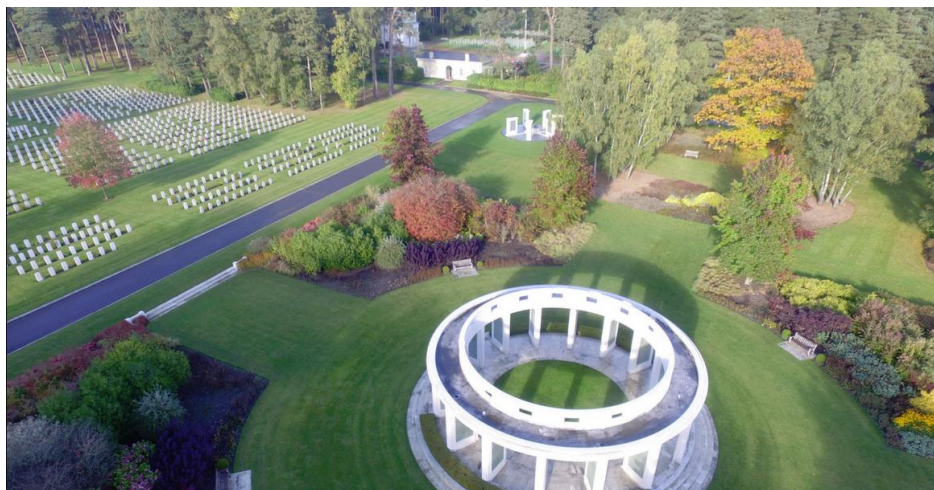
Private D. R. Martin does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **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.



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





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** (Photos by Magicfingers)





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







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



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



*(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright - 2020)*





Earlier headstone without "MM."

