

# Durrington War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**6298 PRIVATE**

**W. MARTYN**

**2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**6TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 23**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. Martyn is located in Grave Plot # 148  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Walter Reginald MARTYN

Walter Reginald Martyn was born in 1891 to parents Arthur John & Rose Martyn (nee Molloy). His birth was registered in the district of Marrickville, Sydney, NSW.

Walter Reginald Martyn was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Artarmon, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6298 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. J. Martyn of “Roseleigh” Cleland Road, Artarmon, Sydney, NSW. Walter had previously been rejected from serving on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1915 on the grounds of “Rupture”.

Pte Walter Martyn embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 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.

Pte Walter Martyn was marched out to Dinton, Wiltshire on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1916 from No. 3 Command Depot.

Pte Walter Martyn was marched in from Perham Down to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Pte Walter Martyn was sent sick to Hospital for observation, on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 from 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion – No. 7 & 8 Camps, Durrington.

Pte Walter Martyn was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1917 with Pleurisy, seriously ill.

Private Walter Martyn died on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Walter Martyn, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Walter Martyn was buried on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 148 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte Walter Martyn was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte W. Martyn's father – Mr A. J. Martyn (sent July, 1921 & November, 1921)

Private W. R. Martyn is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 33.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

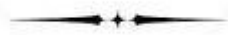


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Walter Martyn – service number 6298 as being 23 years old & served with 2nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son Arthur John and Rose Martyn. Born at Sydney.

(36 pages of Pte Walter Martyn'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 Reports**

### **LATEST CASUALTIES - 266<sup>th</sup> and 267<sup>th</sup> LISTS**

Died of Illness

W. Martyn, Artarmon

*(The Land, Sydney, NSW – Friday 26 January, 1917)*

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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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 21st July, 1921, to Mr A. J. Martyn advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte W. Martyn had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Pte W. Martyn does not have a personal inscription on his headstone. Nor was the information for the Roll of Honour completed by family members.

Photo of Pte W. Martyn's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)

Pte W. Martyn is also remembered on the Red Granite Obelisk Memorial to Men of 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion A.I.F. which is located in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo by Dave Healing 2013)



**Memorial to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion A.I.F. at Durrington Cemetery** (Photos by Ian King 2010)



**Memorial to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion A.I.F. at Durrington Cemetery**