



MARTIN FAMILY



Family History

James Martin married a York girl, Lucy Elizabeth Screech/Screaigh, at York in 1886. They lived at Grigsons Well where James worked as a labourer. Their first child, George, arrived in 1887, followed later by another thirteen children.

Like many other non-farming Wheatbelt families, James eventually started working for the West Australian Government Railways (W.A.G.R.) on the 15th September 1890. He worked as a ganger and rented a railway cottage for his family at Burges Siding.

James worked for W.A.G.R. for many years. The family eventually moved into the York townsite in 1916, living in a railway cottage in Horley Street (now known as Wheeler street).

Once all of Lucy and James' children were grown, the family moved again, in 1925, when Lucy leased a farm in the Dangin/Balkuling area.

James farmed the land, while Lucy ran the household. After Lucy's death in 1933, James continued to reside on the farm.



MARTIN

Daniel

Service No: 5149

BASIC INFORMATION Name: Daniel
Martin

Service Number: 5149

Date of Enlistment: 11/1/1916

Age at Enlistment: 21 years and 3
months

Service Occupation: Private

Civil Occupation: Labourer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British
War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 4¾ inches (162.7 cm)

Weight: 127 pounds (57.6kg)

Chest Measurement: 34½ - 37 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: James Martin

Mother: Lucy Elizabeth Screech/Screaigh

Siblings: George, James Joseph, William, Amanda (Amy), Henry Joseph,
Maud (Maudie) Hannah (Annie), Lucy, Eva Mary, Helen (Nellie), Edward,
Albert, Clara(Clare), May



PTE. DANIEL MARTIN,
16th Bat.
(Missing since April 11.)

Photograph courtesy of:
<https://www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au>

Life Story

Daniel was the sixth child of James and Lucy Martin, born at Grigsons Well in 1894. As a small child, Daniel moved with his family to Burges siding to live in a railway cottage. The closest school was Tipperary School and most of the Martin children were educated there.

Daniel played with the school cricket team for a number of years with his brothers James, William and Henry. He was a bright child who received a prize for his schoolwork in 1905.



Tipperary School where the Martin children were educated
Courtesy York Residency Museum
P1998.149

Daniel enlisted on the 11th January 1916 and sailed on the *Shropshire* from Fremantle, heading to Alexandria on the 31st March 1916. He was in Alexandria until June, training with his battalion, before heading to the Western Front.

Daniel left Alexandria for Marseilles aboard the *Ionian*, the same boat as his elder brother William. The boat trip from Alexandria would have been the last opportunity the two brothers had to spend time with one another.

Daniel was reported Missing in Action on the 11th April 1917, while serving with the 16th Battalion in France.

After the initial report of Daniel being listed as M.I.A., family members wrote letters to both the Army Authorities and the Red Cross asking for information.

He was never found. On the 30th October, his Missing in Action status was changed to Killed in Action after a court inquiry held in the Field.

Even after the Court of Inquiry had confirmed Daniel's death, his mother wrote again to the Army, enclosing a letter from Robert Merry.

Robert, a friend of the family who served as a stretcher bearer, had written stating that he had bound Daniel's wounds before having to leave him near the Front line.

When he later returned to the scene, he could not find Daniel. In his letter to Daniel's mother, Robert stated that he could be a P.O.W. Although this raised his mother's hopes, it was not to be.

Daniel is commemorated on the Villers Bretonneux Memorial in France, and his name appears on the York Honour Roll at the York Town Hall.

Daniel's body was never recovered and there is no known grave.



Villers Bretonneux Memorial in France

Courtesy of:

<http://www.harrowercollection.com/cemeterys/villersbretonneux/memorial.jpg>



MARTIN

William

Service No: 5395

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: William Martin

Service Number: 5395

Date of Enlistment: 8/2/1916

Age at Enlistment: 25 years 7 months

Service Occupation: Private

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal,
Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 8 inches (172.7 cm)

Weight: 160 lbs (72.6 kg)

Chest Measurement: 39 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Light Grey

Hair Colour: Black

Father: James Martin

Mother: Lucy Elizabeth Screech/Screagh

Siblings: George, James Joseph, Amanda (Amy), Henry Joseph, Daniel,
Maud/Maudie, Hannah (Annie), Lucy, Eva Mary, Helen (Nellie), Edward,
Albert, Clara(Clare), May

Married: Elizabeth Frank

Children: Ronald Keith William (born 1921) and Joan (born 1923)



William Martin

Photograph courtesy of: M. Swan

Life Story

William, born in 1890 at York, was the third child of James and Lucy Martin. William attended school at Grigsons Well then at Tipperary.

After leaving school, William lived in the Doodenanning area. While there, he became heavily involved with the Sports Club. However, by 1916, William had returned to the York area and was farming at Mawson.

On January 3rd 1916, William passed his medical examination in York and enlisted five days' later. He sailed for

Alexandria aboard the *Aeneas* and then boarded the *Ionian* with his

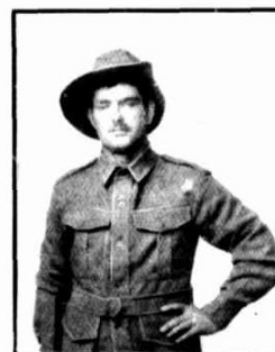
younger brother Daniel on route to France.

William served in France with the 16th Battalion but was captured at Reincourt on the 11th April 1917, the same day as his brother Daniel was Killed in Action.

William was initially a prisoner at Dulmen Camp in Germany before being transferred to Zerbst Camp. He wasn't repatriated to England until the 2nd of January 1919 and did not arrive back in Australia until June.



PTE. WILLIAM MARTIN,
16th Bat.
(Missing since April 11.)



PTE. DANIEL MARTIN,
16th Bat.
(Missing since April 11.)
TWO SONS OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES MARTIN, HORLEY-ST., YORK.

A photograph of William and Daniel that was published in a Perth newspaper. Both are noted as missing since the 11th of April

Courtesy
National Archives of Australia



A lithographic postcard of the hospital for Prisoners of War at Dulmen P.O.W. Camp, Germany. This is most likely a propaganda postcard produced as a series from this camp.

Courtesy Australian War Memorial

Once home, William followed in his father's footsteps and joined the West Australian Government Railways (W.A.G.R.), working first as a porter in Perth.

In 1920, he married Elizabeth Frank, the younger sister of his brother James's wife, Nellie.

William and Elizabeth, with their new baby Ronald, moved to Northam in 1922 after William received a promotion as the Head Shunter at Northam Railway Station.

While living in Northam, the couple had their second child, Joan, in 1923. However, William passed the Railway Guards' Examination on the 24th November 1924 and was appointed a Guard at Quairading on the 23rd December.

On the 19th May 1926, he was appointed a Guard at Collie and remained there until being appointed Head Shunter at Perth Goods Yard on the 5th March 1927. William continued to work for W.A.G.R. until his retirement in 1946.

William Martin died on the 24th April 1957 at East Victoria Park, and Elizabeth died on the 16th January 1996. Their ashes were scattered over the gardens at Karrakatta Cemetery.



MARTIN

Henry Joseph

Service No: 5395

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Henry Joseph Martin

Service Number: 5395

Age at Enlistment:

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 4 ¼ inches (162.6 cm)

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: James Martin

Mother: Lucy Elizabeth Screech/Screaigh

Siblings: George, James Joseph, William, Amanda (Amy), Daniel, Maud/Maudie, Hannah (Annie), Lucy,

Eva Mary, Helen (Nellie), Edward, Albert, Clara(Clare), May

Married: Agnes Ida Beasley



HENRY MARTIN,
With the Australian Navy.

A photograph of Henry Martin published in the Sunday times on the 25th of February 1917

Courtesy <https://trove.nla.gov.au>

Life Story

Henry Joseph Martin was born on the 9th April 1893 in York and educated at Tipperary School, where he was a keen cricket player. After school, Henry travelled to England and joined the Royal Navy.

On the 21st June 1913, Henry was appointed a Stoker on HMAS *Australia*, the newly launched flagship of the Royal Australian Navy. He sailed back to Australia on her, along with other ships of the newly-formed Royal Australian Navy. The fleet arrived in Sydney on the 4th October 1913.

However, on the 22nd December 1913, Henry deserted in Hobart, Tasmania. He subsequently surrendered to the authorities and was gaoled until September 1914.

After serving his sentence for desertion, Henry was posted on a number of Navy ships for the remainder of the war. They were:

Cerberus: from 12th September 1914 to the 18th November 1914,

Una: from the 19th November 1914 to the 7th February 1915,

Cerberus: from the 8th February 1915 to the 30th June 1915,

Psyche: from the 1st July 1915 to the 26th March 1918,

Cerberus: from the 27th March 1918 to the 19th May 1918 and

Cerberus (Coogee): from the 20th May 1918 to the 2nd August 1918.



HMAS *Una* c.1915, around the same time as when Henry served on her

Courtesy Australian War Memorial

After the end of the War, Henry left the Navy and settled in Queensland, where he met Agnes Ida Beasley.

The couple married in 1918. Ida had previously married Henry Holt in 1909, and it appears she was not divorced at the time of her marriage to Henry Martin.

Henry Holt and Ida eventually divorced in 1934.



Ida and Henry Circa 1950

Courtesy Maxine Swan

While Henry and Ida's marriage got off to a rocky start, they seemed very happy and stayed together for the rest of their lives. Henry worked as a carter until 1954, when he changed occupations and became a waterside worker.

He died in 1963 and Ida followed in 1971.

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