

BHS WW1 PROJECT

Private Herbert George Leslie Martin
'B' Coy. 1st/4th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment



Service number: 31086

Wounded 28th November 1917, Died 2nd December 2017

Buried at Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, grave location: C118

Born 27 10 1895, St James, Northampton

Only son of Mrs Annie Maria Martin & Mr George Martin of Dodsey Villa, Little Brington.

Fiancé of Miss Annie Spencer of Old Duston.

Mother Annie Maria died in 1932 aged 65 and was buried in St Mary's Churchyard Great Brington

Attended Brington School. 1911 census recorded as Office boy.

Prior to recruitment worked for Messers Padmore and Barnes .

Embarkation date probably 28 11 1916

The 1/4th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment was a territorial regiment which served with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) as a member of the 54th Division and within that as part of the 162nd East Midlands Brigade .

They took part in the first, second and third battle of Gaza. In the third battle of Gaza the regiment was part of XXI corps under General Balfin.

Following the 3rd battle of Gaza the EEF advanced towards Jerusalem. On the 27th November 1917 the Ottoman's 8th Army 16th Division launched a counter attack at Wihelma on the maritime plain (Wilhelma was a German colony within the Ottoman empire established by settlers in 1902). They advanced within 400 yards of the Infantry of 4th Battalion of the Northamptonshire regiment which was deployed around Wilhelma. It is possible that Private Martin sustained his wounds during this battle as he was reported wounded on 28 11 1917 The British army counter-attacked and by 29th November 3 officers and 147 troops with 4 machine guns surrendered to the 7th Light Horse Regiment

The EEF was made up of 200000 men including Arab workers, 46000 horses, 20000 camels, 15000 mules and donkeys and had a fighting strength of 100189men.

Kentara cemetery was begun in 1916 for burials from Kentara's hospitals. After the Armistice, Kentara cemetery more than doubled in size when graves from other cemeteries and battlefields, such as Rumani, Qatia El Arish & Rafia were transferred there.



Turkish Attack on 4th Northamptonshire Regiment at Wilhelma 27 November 1917