

## **Ernest George MARTIN**

Born Dawlish March 1897      died 25 September 1915, Flanders, aged 18  
Private    10394                      Devonshire Regiment, 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion

**Ernest George Martin** was the oldest of six children born to George Martin and Ellen Sophia Pike . They married in Q3,1895 in Newton Abbot District, which includes Dawlish.

George Martin (b. Cockwood 1869-1945) was the son of George Martin (1831- 1900), born in Moretonhampstead, and Matilda Pike (1838-) born in Kenton. The older George was an agricultural labourer and they had married in 1862.

By 1871 they were living in Lower Rocombe, Stokeinteignhead but moved to Brook Street, Dawlish by 1881.

Ellen Sophia Pike (b.Dawlish 1870 - 1927 )was the oldest child of Richard Pike (1842-), an agricultural labourer born in Kenn, and Sarah Pike (1835-), born in Trusham.

In 1881 Richard and Sarah Pike lived at Stockton Road, Dawlish and by 1891 they had moved to Gatehouse Cottages.

George the younger was also an agricultural labourer and with Ellen Sophia they had four surviving children by the 1911 census.

George is shown as a 'Cowman on Farm' in 1911 when they also lived at Gatehouse Cottages. Their children were **Ernest George**, a paper boy, William (b Dawlish 1899), Charles (b Dawlish 1900) and Elsie (b Dawlish 1908).

**E.G.Martin** is shown on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

**Ernest George Martin** enlisted in Exeter and joined the Devonshire Regiment. The 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion was part of Kitchener's New Army of volunteers. He was killed in action at the Battle of Loos. He was one of eight Dawlish soldiers from the 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment to die on the first day of the Battle of Loos, on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915. The news was slow to trickle back to Dawlish, as can be seen in the following news reports:

*The Western Times, Friday 29 October 1915*

"Mr and Mrs Martin, Old Town-street, Dawlish were officially informed on Friday that their son, **Pte. E. Martin** of the 8<sup>th</sup> Devons, had been killed in action. Deceased, previous to the war, was in the employment of Mrs Townley Parker, Bridge House, Dawlish."

*The Dawlish Gazette, Saturday, October, 23rd, 1915*

" We deeply regret to hear that official notice has been received of the deaths of two more of the gallant Dawlish contingent of the 8th Devons, viz, Pte. John Anning, only son of Mr and Mrs Anning, of Beechcroft, Marine Parade, and Pte. Ernest Martin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Martin, of Helena Place. The keen sympathies of all go out to the parents and other near relatives....."

Mr E Martin received the following letter:— "With reference to your inquiry I very much regret to have to inform you that he was killed in the recent advance. He died whilst charging a German trench on 25/9/15. Please accept my greatest sympathy in your bereavement. — C. D. Roberts, Capt."

### THE HONOURED DEAD

“Mrs Martin, of Helena Place, has received the following consolatory letter within the past few days with regard to her son, whose death has previously been announced :—

“Dear Mrs Martin,—I am extremely sorry to have to tell you that your son was killed in action on Sept. 25th, whilst taking part in a successful but unfortunately expensive attack. He was one of the best boys in the platoon, and I can sympathise with you in the loss of such a good son. His body was buried on the battlefield and his grave marked with a cross. Hoping that the fact that he died for his country will comfort you, I remain, Yours Sincerely, H. D. Drew, No. 3 Platoon Commander, 8th Devons.”

He was awarded the Victory Medal, British Medal and 15 Star. His Gratuity was paid to his mother Ellen.

Commonwealth War Graves entry:

Martin, Ernest George, Private, 10394, 25/9/1915, aged 18, Devonshire Regiment, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Loos Memorial panels 35 to 37.

Son of George and Ellen Sophia Martin, 5 Helena Place, Dawlish

He is recorded on the Devon Roll of Honour and on the Dawlish Boys' School Roll of Honour.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: MARTIN E.G. PTE. DEVON REGT.

Devon Heritage site info:

10394 Private Ernest George Martin of the 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment. Son of George and Ellen Martin. Born in Dawlish in 1897. Died 25 September 1915 aged 18.

Next of kin: Father – George Martin

References:

Free Birth Marriage Death records

Extracts from Dawlish Gazette collection in care of Dawlish Museum

Refs via subscription sites:

Census data

Army Medal Rolls

Army Register of Soldiers' Effects

HUGHES family tree (Ancestry.co.uk)