

[The AIF Project](#)[Home](#) | [Search](#) | [About](#) | [Disclaimer](#)**Samuel Sydney MARTIN**

Regimental number	2687
Place of birth	Northam, Western Australia
School	Northam State School, Western Australia
Religion	Roman Catholic
Occupation	Farm hand
Address	Meenaar Siding via Northam, Western Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	22
Next of kin	Father, Samuel Martin, Meenaar Siding via Northam, Western Australia
Enlistment date	26 April 1916
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	51st Battalion, 6th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/68/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia, on board HMAT A23 <i>Suffolk</i> on 10 October 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	51st Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 11 April 1917

Place of death or wounding	Noreuil, France
Age at death	22.10
Age at death from cemetery records	22
Commemoration details	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.

The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.

After the war an appeal in Australia raised 22,700 Pounds, of which 12,500 Pounds came from Victorian school children, with the request that the majority of the funds be used to build a new school in Villers-Bretonneux. The boys' school opened in May 1927, and contains an inscription stating that the school was the gift of Victorian schoolchildren, twelve hundred of whose fathers are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery, with the names of many more recorded on the Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is now twinned with Robinvale, Victoria, which has in its main square a memorial to the links between the two towns.

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	153
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Parents: Samuel and Ellen MARTIN, Meenaar, Western Australia. Native of Northam, Western Australia
Family/military connections	Cousin: [358] Lt Basil James MINCHIN MC & Bar, DSO, 16th Bn, returned to Australia, 28 March 1919; three cousins killed.

Other details

War service: Western Front

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

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