

PRIVATE JOSEPH MARTIN

Discharged with *Silver War Badge* from Army Veterinary Corps

Died aged 28 on 12 January 1919

His death is not recorded by CWGC; he is possibly buried at Bredon Church

Commemorated in Tewkesbury on the Grammar School Memorial



Army Veterinary Corps



Silver War Badge

JOSEPH MARTIN was born in 1890 at the Hoo, Gloucester Road, near Deerhurst, the only child of Joseph Stephen B. Martin and Eliza Ada (formerly Crump). Joseph Stephen was born in Kemerton whilst Eliza came from Deerhurst. Joseph Stephen was a farmer who died in 1900 at the age of only 33. By 1901 Eliza had moved with son Joseph to a farm in Fiddington and, in 1903, she married Edward Perks who was also a farmer from Fiddington; they were both still living in the village in 1911. In the same year Joseph was boarding at 2 Gretner Villa, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham; his occupation on the Census return was 'Butcher'. Joseph had attended Tewkesbury Grammar School between 1900 and 1906; in the *Old Theocsbrian's Address Book*, he was recorded as a day pupil: '*J. Martin, Fiddington near Tewkesbury – 1900 to 1906*'. In the March quarter of 1915, just before he enlisted, Joseph married Rose E. Hollick in Cheltenham but they do not appear to have had any children.

Joseph enlisted in Worcester on 26 March 1915 as a volunteer in the Army Veterinary Corps, perhaps an understandable choice given his family's involvement in farming. He joined the South Midland Division, a Territorial Force unit, which was based in Leamington. His army service lasted just over 18 months until he was discharged on 15 October 1916 as '*No longer physically fit for War service*', apparently as a result of a pre-existing medical condition which was not picked up when he enlisted.

The medical report prepared at the time of his discharge diagnosed that he was suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and his condition was categorised as '*Total Incapacity*' and '*Total Disablement*'. The report referred to an attack of pleurisy in April 1915, soon after enlisting, which occurred while he was away from Leamington in a Mobile Section of the AVC; he was admitted to Tewkesbury Hospital for treatment. At Leamington, Joseph first complained of problems on 23 September 1916 and, on examination, evidence of Tuberculosis was identified.

The report concluded that his '*Disability was not caused by but may have been accelerated and aggravated by service. Climate may have affected course of malady. Permanent and probably will advance*'. The climate referred to was the British climate; Joseph only served at Home, he was never posted overseas. On discharge, Joseph was granted a small gratuity and he was awarded a *Silver War Badge*, evidence that he had undertaken military service and that he had been discharged because of wounds or illness.

Private Joseph Martin died at the age of just 28 on 12 January 1919, reported in the *Tewkesbury Register* on 18 January. His address was recorded as Malvern House, Bredon. He is commemorated in Tewkesbury on the *Grammar School Memorial*.

In the September quarter of 1919, Rose E. Martin re-married to William Ballinger in Cheltenham.