

**BHS WW1 PROJECT**

**Private Herbert George Leslie Martin**

**'B' Coy. 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment**



**Service number: 31086**

**Wounded 28<sup>th</sup> 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 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment was a territorial regiment which served with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) as a member of the 54<sup>th</sup> Division and within that as part of the 162<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Gaza the EEF advanced towards Jerusalem. On the 27<sup>th</sup> November 1917 the Ottoman's 8<sup>th</sup> Army 16<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> November 3 officers and 147 troops with 4 machine guns surrendered to the 7<sup>th</sup> 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.**

