

Lewis Henry Martinsen



Private (Pte) 2715 Lewis Henry Martinsen enlisted in the 29th Battalion in Geelong on 24 January 1916. He embarked overseas on 14 March and disembarked at Suez on 15 April.

He left Egypt on 21 June and disembarked in Marseilles on 29 June. He was hospitalised at the 24th General Hospital at Etaples with German measles between 4 – 12 August, after which he joined the 5th Division Base Details, also at Etaples.

Pte Martinsen was transferred and taken on strength of the 8th (Brigade) Machine Gun Company in the 5th Australian Division at Fleurbaix, on 22 August 1916. They operated around this area for the next two months then moved south to the Somme in late October.

The company entered the front line around Flers on 22 October, and it was near here that Pte Martinsen sustained a gunshot wound to his left knee on 24 October.

He was initially treated at the 38th Casualty Clearing Station from 24 October – 7 November, then transferred to England, where he was admitted to the Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital at Exeter between 16 November – 2 May 1917.

He then spent two months at the No. 2 Convalescent Depot at Weymouth and was also diagnosed with ankylosis, presumably in the left knee. As a result, he embarked for return to Australia on 21 July.

Private 2715 Lewis Henry Martinsen disembarked in Melbourne on 18 September, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 9 November 1917.

Name: Martinsen, Lewis Henry	
Service Number	2715
Date enlisted	24 January 1916
Place enlisted	Geelong, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	29 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	14 March 1916 HMAT A68 <i>Anchises</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	30 years 5 months
Place of birth	Port Melbourne, Victoria
Marital status	Married
Occupation	Fisherman
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Martinsen, Mrs Annie, wife, Fisher Street, Portarlington, Victoria
Permanent address	Portarlington, Victoria
Appearance	Dark complexion, dark brown hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 9 inches, weight – 10 stone, 4 lbs, chest measurement – 36 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	8 th Machine Gun Company
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and place wounded	24 October 1916 near Flers, France
Nature of wounds	Gunshot wound to left knee
Date and ship embarked for Australia	21 July 1917 HT <i>Euripides</i>
Date discharged	9 November 1917
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (wounds)
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Brother of Frederick Martinsen and half-brother of John Ralston. Died 15 April 1941. Remembered on the St Leonards Honor Roll, Portarlington Honor Roll and Portarlington War Memorial.