

Lance Corporal Martin Felix Murray®
Regimental number: 13286
9th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

born: 1896 – died: 26 February 1916

Private Martin Felix (known as Felix) Murray was born in 1896 in Hunslet, Yorkshire West Riding,¹ the son of Francis and Sarah Murray.² Francis was born in about 1848 in Ireland and Felix's mother was born Sarah Winnifred Holmes in about 1855 in Egton, Yorkshire.³ Francis and Sarah married in Whitby, Yorkshire North Riding, in 1873⁴ and had fifteen children: Alice Editha (born in 1874)⁵ Francis William Edward (born in 1875),⁶ Frances Mary Winnifred (born in 1877),⁷ Sarah Veronica (born in 1879),⁸ Anastasia (born in 1881),⁹ Leo (born in 1882),¹⁰ Thomas (born in 1884),¹¹ John (born in 1885, but died in 1889),¹² Margaret Isabella (born in 1887),¹³ Francis Eugene (born in 1889, but died a year later),¹⁴ Gerald (born in 1890),¹⁵ Ignatius Eugene (born in 1893, but died within a few months),¹⁶ Mary Geraldine (born in 1894),¹⁷ Felix and Terence Patrick (born in 1898, but died the same year).¹⁸

In 1891, Francis and Sarah were living at 3 Carr End, Glaisdale, near Whitby, where Francis was an iron worker and beer house keeper. In 1900, when Felix was just 4 years old, his father died.¹⁹ In 1901, Sarah, a widow, was living at 24 Anchor Street in Hunslet with nine of her children and working as a shirt maker.²⁰ By 1911 there were only four children still at home. The family was at 19 Warwickshire Street in Hunslet. Felix was at school and an office boy at the railway.²¹

Felix enlisted as a private in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in Leeds, Yorkshire. He joined the Western Front in France on 11 September 1915. He did not survive long on the Front, but he was there long enough to be promoted to Lance Corporal,

At the end of February 1916, the 9th Battalion was in the trenches near Armentières in northern France. On 27 February, there was heavy artillery fire and shelling of the British trenches. But an accident also occurred: "A Mills grenade [probably a British grenade]²² exploded in one of our bombers' dug-outs, without any reason, wounding four men."²³

Felix may have been one of these soldiers. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station and died of wounds on 27 February.²⁴ Felix was 19 when he died and was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave Reference: Plot II, Row C, Grave 178).²⁵ Bailleul is in France, but near the Belgian border, about 15 kilometres southwest of Ypres.²⁶ It was occupied in October 1914 and became an important hospital centre not just for No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station but also for No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations.

The monies owing to him from the army upon his death were sent to his mother.

Felix was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).²⁷

© 2017 BIFHSGO

¹ "GRO online index-birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Martin Felix, Registration district: Hunslet, Volume: 09B, Page: 289

-
- ² "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 April 2017), entry for Sarah W Murray, Registration district: Whitby, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 10, Piece: 3993, Folio: 117, Page: 13;
- "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April 2017), entry for Felix Murray, Registration district: Hunslet, Sub-registration district: Hunslet, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 10, Piece: 4193, Folio: 158, Page: 21, Household schedule number: 135
- ³ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 April 2017), entry for Sarah W Murray
- ⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 April 2017), entry for Frank Murray, Registration district: Whitby, Inferred county: Yorkshire North Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 679
- ⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Alice Editha, Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 448
- ⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Francis William Edward, Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 442
- ⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Frances Mary Winefried [sic], Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 457
- ⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Sarah Veronica, Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 465
- ⁹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Anastasia, Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 453
- ¹⁰ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Leo, Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 481
- ¹¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Thomas, Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 468
- ¹² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, John, Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 462; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April January 2017), entry for John Murray, Registration district: Whitby, Inferred county: Yorkshire North Riding, Volume: 2d, Page: 462
- ¹³ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Margaret Isabella, Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 457
- ¹⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Francis Eugene, Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 477; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April January 2017), entry for Francis Murray, Registration district: Whitby, Inferred county: Yorkshire North Riding, Volume: 2d, Page: 305
- ¹⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Jerald [sic], Registration district: Whitby, Volume: 09D, Page: 445
- ¹⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Ignatius Eugene, Registration district: Hunslet, Volume: 09B, Page: 286; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April January 2017), entry for Ignatius Eugene Murray, Registration district: Hunslet, Inferred county: Yorkshire North Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 175
- ¹⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Mary Geraldine, Registration district: Hunslet, Volume: 09B, Page: 273
- ¹⁸ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 5 April 2017) entry for Murray, Terence Patrick, Registration district: Hunslet, Volume: 09B, Page: 280; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April January 2017), entry for Terence Patrick Murray, Registration district: Hunslet, Inferred county: Yorkshire North Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 199

-
- ¹⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April January 2017), entry for Francis Murray, Registration district: Hunslet, Inferred county: Yorkshire North Riding, Volume: 9b, Page: 237
- ²⁰ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April 2017), entry for Felix Murray, Registration district: Hunslet, Sub-registration district: Hunslet, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 37, Piece: 4193, Folio: 158, Page: 21, Household schedule number: 135
- ²¹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 April 2017), entry for Felise [sic] Murray, Registration district: Hunslet, Registration district number: 501, Sub-registration district: Hunslet, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 27125
- ²² "Mills bomb," Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mills_bomb: accessed 5 April 2017)
- ²³ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April 2017), Regiment or unit: King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, Sub-unit: 9th Battalion, Division: 21st Division, Diary entry start date: 1915, Diary dates: 1915 Sep–1919 Mar, Piece description: Piece 2162/1: 9th? Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (1915 Sep–1919 Mar), Piece number: 2162
- ²⁴ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 1 February 2017), entry for Murray, F.
- ²⁵ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 1 February 2017), entry for Murray, Felix, Service No: 13286
- ²⁶ "Bailleul Community Cemetery, Nord," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 January 2017)
- ²⁷ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 April 2017), entry for Felix Murray