



Lieutenant Junior Grade Graham Edward Martin Neighborhood Park

Indy Parks and Recreation City of Indianapolis



Graham Edward Martin was born in Tobacco Port, Tennessee on January 18, 1917 to Charlie Martin, a tobacco farmer, and his wife Carrie. He was the youngest of four children. He moved to Indianapolis with his mother at the age of eight after his father's death.

Graham graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in 1936. During his high school tenure he was the president of the boxing club, student council, French club, and his graduating class.

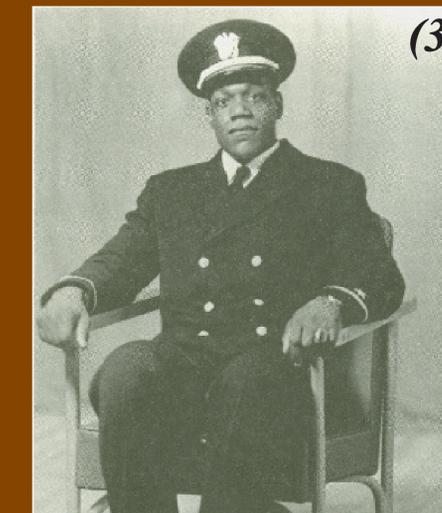
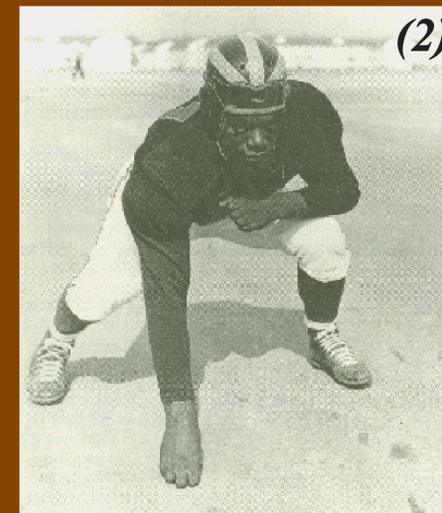
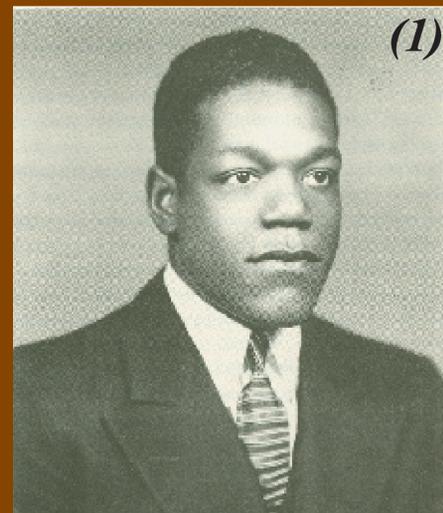
He attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana on an academic scholarship, worked as a redcap carrying passengers' bags at the Greyhound Station, and played football for coach Bo McMillin. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in June of 1941 and married Alma Patterson that summer before going off to Howard University in Washington D.C. for his Masters degree, which he completed in 1942 before joining the Navy in July.

In the Navy, Graham was trained at the Great Lakes recruit station in Illinois and stayed on as company sub-commander to train other new recruits until 1943. During this stay, he played football on the squad coached by Tony Hinkle of Butler fame. The team went 10-2 that year beating Notre Dame 19 to 14. In 1944, he began officer training with 16 other men of color under Robert Smalls, all 16 finished the training which was unheard of at the time. Only 13 were commissioned as officers in March of 1944. Mr. Martin served on bases in Illinois, San Francisco, Hawaii, Eniwetok in Marshall Islands, and Washington D.C. until 1946.

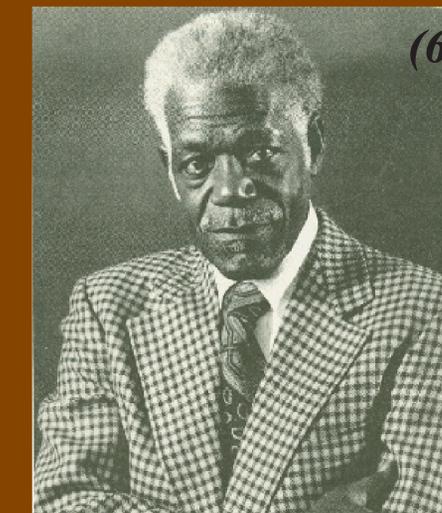
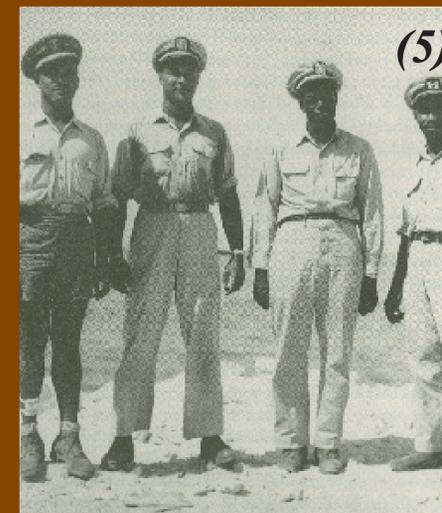
Martin taught at a school in West Virginia in 1946 before returning to Indianapolis in 1947, where he taught and coached football at Crispus Attucks High School through 1971. He then continued to teach and counsel students until his retirement in 1982. Graham Martin was known as a person of quiet dignity and pride throughout his life. He looked for the opportunity to excel but not in a flashy manner.

"In all my teaching and coaching, I tried always to stimulate positively. On one of the buildings down at Indiana University there is a quote something like: A teacher is supposed to inspire, as well as instruct. That just struck me and stuck with me."

Source: *"The Golden Thirteen: Recollections of the 1st Black Naval Officers"* by Paul Stillwell



(1)-Graham E. Martin as a young man (2)-In 1943, Graham E. Martin was a tackle on the Great Lakes Naval Training Station squad. (3)-1944, Graham E. Martin as a newly commissioned Ensign in the United States Navy.



(4)-This photograph of The Golden Thirteen appeared in the April 24, 1944 issue of "Life" magazine. Mr. Martin is in the middle row on the left. (5)-Dennis Nelson, Frank Sublett, Graha m Martin, and Sidney Smith, one of the earliest black warrent officers at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands. (6)-Graham Edward Martin