

Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

Lieutenant
George Frederick
Johansen

8th Battalion



1440406J

8th Battn
A.I.F.

JOHANSEN
Lieut. G.F.

"Killed in Action 4.10.17."

In reference to your letter of the 18th 12.17. I am sorry that it was not possible to answer it before, but I have been away. I was surprised to hear that any doubt existed at home re my brother's death which I am extremely sorry to say is true and occurred on the date you mentioned. I cabled to Mrs. Johansen to say that self and Brother-in-Law were well but that was the day before I had the sad news of my brother.

Letter from:- E.F. Johansen Cpl.

3rd Div. Sig. France

26.12.17.

London.
7.1.18.

M

8th A.I.F.

Johansen Lt. G.F.

(K. Oct. 4th 1917.)

"Lt. Johansen was killed in an attack on Broedseinde Ridge by a bullet wound in the head, and was buried where he fell."

Eye witness: Co. Men who buried him told him.

Description: Sturdy, medium height, small moustache, fair.

Informant: Lt. W.B. Bennett 8th A.I.F.,
Co. 5 Border Gen: Hos: Wandsworth.

Home address:

M. Wilnot
Jan. 11.18.

FRANCE.

8th BATT. A.I.F.

JOHANSEN. Lt G.F.

K. Oct 4th. 1917. Det.

He was in C. Coy. I saw him lying in the open, killed I should say by shell fire. It was about 1500 yards ahead of Anzac Ridge and at one end of Romulus or Remus Wood. I am not quite certain which was Romulus and which was Remus Wood.

ESI

Ref ---Pte T.W. Belfield. 1117.
No 47 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. Jan 14th. 1918

Havze

22nd January 1918.

8th Australians.

Johansen Lieut. G.F.

K. 4th October 1917. Det D/B.

He was in D. Company, musketry, rather short, aged 30 - 35.

I saw him lying dead just before we reached our first objective at Passchendaele on the 4th October. He had been hit in the head, probably by a H. Gun. There were several wounds. I don't know if he was buried.

Inf:- L/Cpl R.H. King.
8th Battn D.Co. XVI Pltn.
Australian Camp.
Yonelles.

G.I.E.

M

8th A.I.F.

Lieut. G.F. Johansen,

K. Oct. 4/17.

"Lieut. Johansen died of wounds in C.C.S. Ouderdom?"

Eyewitness.

Description:

Informant,

Cpt. V. Stanley,

8th A.I.F.

3rd London General Hospital,
Wandsworth.

Charles W. Lowe,
24/1/18.

H. Q. [unclear]
[unclear]

TA
[unclear]

8th Battn.
A.I.F.

JOHANSEN
G.F. Lieut.

Killed 4.10.17.

I did not see the actual casualty, and I cannot refer to anyone for details but I saw him dead, and I buried him near the Zonneheke Gas Works, and marked his grave with a cross bearing his rank, name and unit:

Witness:- Edey Sgt. J.F. 1741
8th Battn. D. Coy . 14th Pln.
3 A.A.Hosp.
Dartford.

M.

W.Oman.
28.1.18.

A.I.F. 8th Btn D.Coy.

JOHANSEN
G.F. Lieut.

"Killed 4-10-17"

I saw him killed at Passchendaele - he was taking cover in a shellhole when a shell caught him and blew him to pieces. I knew him very well, he came from Melbourne. I was did not see his grave and I cannot refer to anyone for details but I heard his remains were collected and that they were buried at place of casualty.

Witness - Potton Pte S. 6625
8th Btn D.Coy, 12th Pltn.
3rd A.A.H.
Dartford
13-2-18.

M.

W.Oman
London
21-2-18

8th Battn.
A.I.F.

JOHANSEN,
G.F. Lieut.

"Killed 4.10.17."

I know that Lieut. Johansen was killed near Ypres, in action. I was not there at the time, but both Capt. J. Catron and Sgt. Thompson (both in same Battn) were with him at the time and could give full details. I knew both Capt. Catron and Sgt. Thompson ~~2211~~, both at home and in the Battn, and am sure they can give full information. As far as I know they are still in France. Capt. Catron is a great friend of mine and wrote and told me of Johansen being killed in October.

NOTE Capt. J.E.T. Catron, 8th Battn was in England 22.12.17 resigned from A.I.F. in England having been appointed a Commission in the Indian Army H.Q. 21.2.18.

Eye-witness: No.

Description:-

Informant:- Pte. W.E. Robinson, 254,
8th Battn, D. Coy,

Mill Road Infirmary Hospital.

Home address:
Maude Street,
Gerlong, Victoria.

Ward D. III

J. Crosthwaite.

Searcher's opinion of Informant's accuracy:

22.2.18.

"Intelligent and certain of information
being correct."

London.

28.2.18.

Note Written Sgt. Thompson 26.2.18.

M.

8th Battn.
A.I.F.

~~JOHANSEN~~ Johansen
Lt. G.F.

"Killed 4-10-17"

Lt. Johansen was my Pltn. Commander and was with us up to time when our barrage opened. I never saw him again, but my mates who saw his body told me that from his wounds he must have been killed instantly. This was in the hopover for Passchendaele and near Retaliation Farm. I can't say anything about his burial.

Informant. O'Hare C.E. 6812
8th Battn. D. Coy.
WESTHAM.

W.A. Rand
London
2-3-18

M.

8th Btn.

JOHANSEN, G. F.
Lieut.

Kld. in action 4/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5 ft. 8 ins. well built, dark complexion, about 25 years of age, known as "George". He was an original man and he embarked on the troopship "Benalla". Casualty was advancing at St. Martin's Wood. I was in the same advance. I did not see Casualty killed but I saw his body 10 hours later and he was most severely wounded in the chest. He was buried at St. Martin's Wood and I saw his grave."

Informant:- Pte. A. Senten,
No. 452, 8th Btn.

Private address:-
Murray Street,
Colac.

T.C.F.
10/1/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

8th Btn.

JOHANSEN, G. F.
Lieut.

Killed in action 4/10/17.

"His batman, Sanderson, who was his great chum and was engaged to a sister of Captain Johansen's fiancée wrote and told her all about his death."

Informant:- M.A. Clissold
No. 7213, 8th Btn.

W.F.J.
4/2/19.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE

A.I.F. 8th Battn

JOHANSEN
Lieut G.F.

Wounded - Aug-Sept.

Taken on strength 16-9-16
Cert. by A.I.F. headquarters 1-11-16

London
1-11-16

H.

C

L. G. F. JOHANSEN / 8 BT
K. A. 4-10-17 M. 3.

Grace
26/12/17

Dear Madam

8th Dec 17

In reference to your letter of 18/12/17 I am sorry that it was not possible to answer it before but I have been away. I was surprised to hear that any doubt existed as to how my brother's death which I am extremely sorry to say is true and occurred on the date you mentioned. I cabled to Mrs Johansen to say that self and Brother-in-law were well but that was the day before I had the sad news of my brother.

Thanking you for your interest

I am yours faithfully
L. G. F. Johansen (L. G. F.)
3. D. W. S. S. S.

December 18th. 1917.

10632,
Pfc. Johansen,
3 Div. Sig. Coy.
A.I.F.

Dear Sir,

We have had an enquiry from our Melbourne Office about the death of Lieut. George Fred Johansen, 8th. Batta, who is officially reported to have been killed in action 4.10.17 but whom you are stated to have said is still alive. Can you tell us on what evidence you said this, as we are anxious to answer our Melbourne Office, and to clear up the uncertainty of this case and end his people's suspense.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

L/B.

File under Take

JOHANSEN

8 Battalion

Ct. G. F.
Griffiths

Killed 4-10-17

Any report of Burial?

R.F.R. HQ 21-2-18

Report Dept:
03.16-1-18

Take

CATRON

G.C.

8 Battalion

Captain J.E.T.

Joseph Edward Thomas

Accidentally killed. October 1917
in England. 22-12-17. Resigned fr. A.I.F.
in England, having been appointed a Commission
in the Indian Army. HQ 21-2-18.

File under

Re to Johansen
8 Battalion

Reports Dept
03.16-2-18

Boyce
Albert John

1664
89th St
lat 57 1/2 N

J.K. Fisher
A. Johansen
Fisher St
East Malvern
Vic.

M.L. Mc
GS

3009
59th St