

# *Edmond Charles Wellington Woodward Johnson*

## **Early life**

Edmond Johnson (better known as Ted) was born in Hobart Tasmania on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1896. Ted was the son of Frederick and Emma Johnson. Ted was educated at the Zeehan State School and undertook Boy Scout and Army Cadet training throughout his early days.

In July 1911 Edmond (Ted) Johnson then aged 15, arrived in Darwin by boat, along with his parents, his brother Len and sisters Eileen and Bessie. Soon after landing in Darwin the family travelled by boat to the Daly River to take up a farming property and lived there until 1916, when they relocated to Darwin. Frederick Johnson along with his son Ted sought employment with the North Australian Railway. Ted enlisted in the Australian Infantry Forces 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion and sailed from Darwin on the SS Taiyuan on the 12 March 1916.

## **War life**

He enlisted in Darwin on the 11 March 1916 at age 19  
Service No. 2189  
Unit 47<sup>th</sup> battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement

He served as a machine gunner in France and was commended for his conduct in the battle at Passchendaele Ridge on 12 October 1917.

He was later killed in action at Dernancourt in the Somme Valley during the last big German Offensive push on 28 March 1918 and lies in an unmarked grave next to the railway line in Dernacourt France. Ted died at the age of 22 on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1918

Having no Known Grave he is commemorated at the Australian War Memorial, at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

## **After war recognition and personal stories**

Edmonds name appears on the Darwin cenotaph and after years of his name being spelt wrong and other soldiers names not appearing on the cenotaph some good men fought for this to be corrected and in 2015 his name and many others were correctly placed upon our cenotaph.

Another way the city of Darwin has recognised his sacrifice for us is there is a park called Johnson park in his honour

Edmond Johnson was my grandfather Bob Shewrings great uncle and he shared some stories from what his grandmother Bessie (Edmonds sister) shared about what happened when a latter came and told her and her family that he was killed from Corporal A. M. Anderson "Ted was a machine gunner in the company, and in every action he had displayed unusual qualities of cheerfulness under hardship and coolness in the extremity. In his last fight that was against tremendous odds he was in command of the team and the confidence he inspired in his men, went far to hold the enemy in his sector in the line".



In Memory of

Private

# Edmond Johnson

2189, 47th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 28 March 1918 Age 22

Son of Frederick and Emma Johnson. Born at Hobart, Tasmania.

Remembered with Honour

Villers-Bretonneux Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Contributed by Luke Secrett as part of the 2018 Northern Territory Chief Minister's Anzac Spirit Study Tour