

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7077 PRIVATE

M. JOHANSEN

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 25

Martin JOHANSEN

Martin Johansen was born at Larvik, in Tjolling County, Norway in 1896.

Martin Johansen was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 8th June, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7077 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Anna Martinsen, Larvik, Norway.

Private Martin Johansen was posted to 21st Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 11th June, 1917 for recruit training.

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Martin Johansen embarked from Albany, Western Australia on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 24th July, 1917 with the 28th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 16th September, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Martin Johansen was marched in to 7th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 17th September, 1917 from Australia.

Private Martin Johansen proceeded overseas to France, via Southampton on 23rd January, 1918 from 6th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire to reinforce 16th Battalion.

Private Martin Johansen was marched in to 4th A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 24th January, 1918. He proceeded to join his Unit from 4th A.I.B.D. on 29th January, 1918 & was taken on strength of 16th Battalion from Reinforcements in the Field on the same day.

Private Martin Johansen was wounded in action in France on 8th August, 1918. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 9th August, 1918 with bullet wound to back then transferred & admitted to Casualty Clearing Station. Private Johansen was transferred & admitted to 32nd Stationary Hospital on 10th August, 1918 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St Denis* on 11th August, 1918.

16th Battalion

The 16th Battalion AIF was raised from 16 September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia, and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.....

In March and April 1918, the battalion helped to stop the German Spring offensive. At Hamel in June, Lance Corporal Tom Axford was awarded the battalion's second Victoria Cross. The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as '...the black day of the German Army in this war'.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 16th Battalion

Thursday 8th August, 1918:

Reference Map Sheet 62B. S.E. 1/20,000 attached as Appendix 2.a.

This morning the Battalion actively participated in the SOMME OFFENSIVE, extending over a frontage of approximately 20 miles, and carried out by AUSTRALIAN, CANADIAN, and BRITISH TROOPS, operating on separate and defined sectors, but in conjunction.

This operation will always stand out among the British battles fought in FRANCE for two distinct reasons: firstly, because while the attack was made with the customary assistance of artillery, aeroplanes and tanks, it introduced an entirely new method of warfare--the transportation of Infantry machine-gun crews in tanks, thus assuring the arrival of a strong preliminary attacking force at points deemed most likely to seriously trouble the advancing infantry; secondly, because of the success which attended the whole of the operations--a result due to the wonderful stamina and aggressive spirit displayed by the troops, and the fact that through magnificent and thorough organisation the attack came as a complete surprise to the enemy. But Australians, and particularly the fighting men of Australia, will remember the battle for a grander reason. It was the first time that the whole of the AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALIONS advanced together over the same battlefield, shoulder to shoulder as it were, to win through or die for the honor of "Australia, the Empire and our Cause"

When zero hour arrived the country over which the advance had to be made was sheathed in a thick mist, and all movement beyond a 20 yards radius was obscured. While this was of material advantage to the infantry, to some extent it made co-operation between air and land forces more difficult.

Before the Battalion moved off German prisoners began to filter through the mist that stretched ahead. Later on large batches of prisoners appeared, marching towards the prisoners of war compounds established at CORBIE and DAOURS, and from their demeanor, which was one of intense delight at having been captured, it was evident that the Battalions ahead were not meeting with stubborn resistance.

The role of the Battalion during the first two phases of the ~~Battle~~ battle was that of "Reserve Battalion" to the Brigade. Not until the advance had been carried beyond MORGAN WOOD

Good/...

D. D. & L. London, E.C.
(A406) Wt W177/M231 750,000 5/4 Sch. 50 Form/C116/14

and the third stage of the attack had developed was the Battalion as a whole called into aggressive action. During the second stage of the attack, however, "B." Coy. closed up a breach that was found to exist between the 13th and 48th AUSTRALIAN BATTALIONS.

The Battalion advanced steadily during the early stages of the battle in lines of platoons in fours, passing to the left of the village of HAMEL, through RECORD WOOD and adjacent to the swamps in the low-lying country running down to the banks of the SOMME RIVER, and on to FORBES WOOD, passing immediately to the left of KATE WOOD. While in the gully approaching FORBES WOOD, and to the left of the village of CERISY, portion of the Battalion came under heavy machine-gun fire from the direction of CERISY. Casualties as a result of this fire were light.

The third and final stage of the battle on the left of the AUSTRALIAN front was allotted to the 16th Battalion, and consisted of swinging round to the left from an imaginary line stretching from the South bank of the Somme River at Q.17.a.7.3. to the South side of MORGAN WOOD at Q.23.d.8.8., and advancing approximately 2500 yards on a front varying from 1600 yards at the jumping-off point to 2500 yards at the objective. The movement was to be practically in conformity with the course of the Somme River, which at this point formed a letter U. It was up the right-hand side of this letter U. that the Battalion had to advance, and clear away the enemy from the outskirts of MERICOURT, finally digging in on a line from Q.11.b.4.9 to R.7.a.6.0., thus linking up with the old AMIENS DEFENCE LINE, along which the Battalion frontage extended from R.7.a.6.0. to R.13.c.6.7.

Narratives of events, maps, orders, etc., in connection with the advance are attached. See Appendix No. 2.

Casualties: K.I.A. 3.0/R. Gassed 2.0/R. Died of W. 1/ O/R. Wounded 7 Offrs. 92. O/R.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Martin Johansen was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London on 11th August, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to back – dangerously ill.

Private Martin Johansen died at 3.30 pm on 18th August, 1918 at The King George's Hospital, London, England from wounds received in action - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to back & Paraplegia. The Hospital Admissions form reported "Wounded 8/8/18 of machine gun bullet in Right chest; came out at back to left of mid line of spine, Became gradually more delirious. Paraplegic. Slowly became worse ..."

A death for Martin Johansen, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private Martin Johansen was buried at 1.30 pm on 22nd August, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Plot number 181, 414 Australian Military Burial Ground.

From the burial report of Private Martin Johansen - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Band and Pallbearers were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by a beautiful wreath sent by Patients in The King George Hospital, London. Chaplain the Rev. Vine, A.I.F. London, conducted the burial service and the "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by 2 Buglers of the South African Regiment. The grave will be turfed shortly and an oak cross will be erected. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, were represented at the funeral.*

A piece of paper in Private Martin Johansen's Service Record file has the following details: "*Buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery Plot 4, Row D, Grave 14.*" From other Service Record files of Soldiers buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery – Base Records wrote to the next of kin around April, 1923 stating that the site of the soldier's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot _ Row _ Grave _ "*While the actual place of burial remains unchanged the previous registration allotted thereto has been altered to conform with the uniform layout of this Cemetery.*"

Private Martin Johansen's Grave details are now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. D. 4. Private Martin Johansen has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Martin Johansen requested in his Will, dated 5th July, 1917, that his mother Anna Martinsen of Larirk, Norway be appointed Executor of his Will. He also bequeathed the whole of his real and personal estate to his mother.

Private Martin Johansen was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Johansen's mother – Mrs A. Martinsen, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Martin Johansen – service number 7077, aged 25, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Anna Martinsen, of Larvik, Norway.

Private M. Johansen is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 80.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

M. Johansen is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

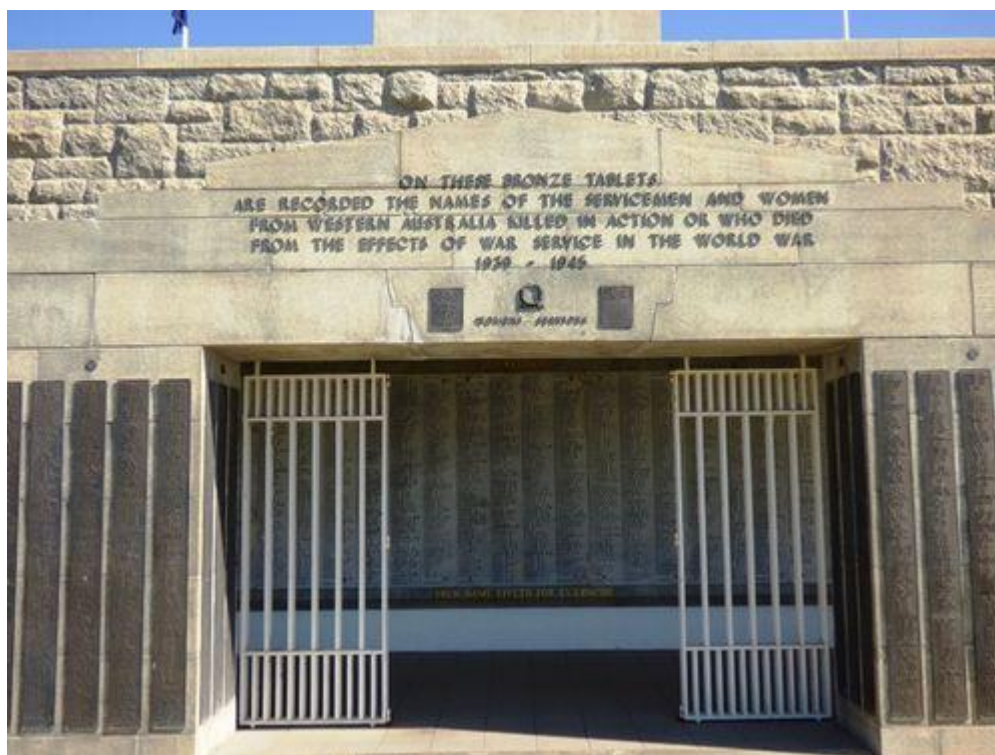
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)

& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

The 428th list of casualties amongst West Australian members of the A.I.F. is as under.....

WEST AUSTRALIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

Martin Johansen, Norway

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 10 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

JOHANSEN – A tribute to the memory of Martin Johansen (Joe), who died of wounds August 21, 1918. He lies in a soldier's grave.

Inserted by his pal, O. Klemm (returned)

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 21 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

JOHANSEN – A tribute to the memory of Martin Johansen, died of wounds August 18, 1918.

Inserted by O. Klemm.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 18 August, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

JOHANSEN – A tribute to the memory of Martin Johansen (Joe), died of wounds August 18, 1918. A true pal.

Inserted by O. Klemm, Victoria Park.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 18 August, 1922)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

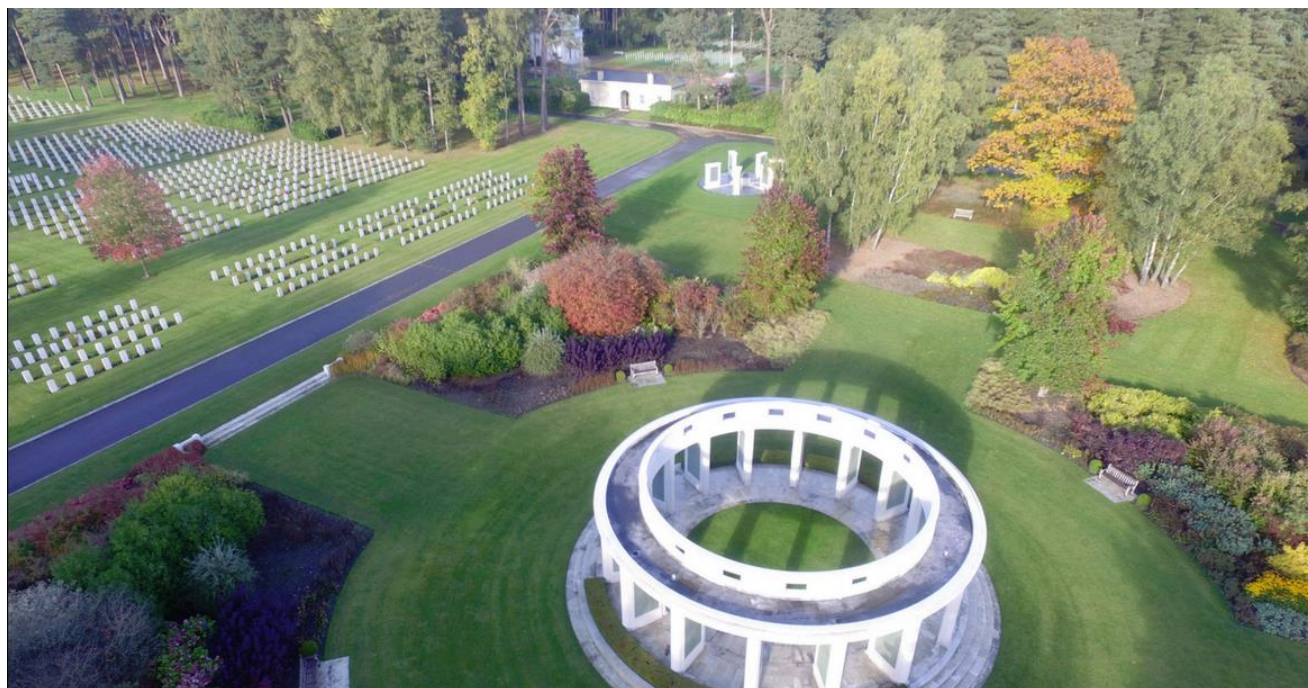
Private Martin Johansen does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



Brookwood Military Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.

Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





Photo of Private M. Johansen's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo by Neil Bright - 2020)



Australian War Graves (Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)

