

Harold John Johnson



Private (Pte) 932 Harold John Johnson enlisted in the 7th Infantry Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the 1st Australian Division at Echuca on 19 August 1914. He embarked overseas on 19 October and disembarked in Alexandria, Egypt on 6 December.

The men boarded troop trains to Cairo, and then travelled by electric tram to the AIF camp at Mena, beneath the pyramids, where they undertook all manner of physical fitness and military training for the new few months.

On 5 April 1915, the 7th Battalion embarked for the island of Lemnos, where they practiced disembarking from the ship and climbing the local hills each day. On the night of 24 April, the troopships departed Mudros Harbour and sailed for Gallipoli.

At 5 am on 25 April 1915 the battalion disembarked from their transports into smaller boats and were towed toward the beaches. The 7th Battalion landed as part of the second wave and found the beach crowded with troops and wounded men.

Between 25 – 29 April, the 7th Battalion alone lost 541 men, including 297 killed or missing. One of those wounded during this period was Pte Johnson, who sustained a gunshot wound to his head on the first day. Owing to the general confusion on the beaches, the initial treatment of the wounded was quite poor, but he was eventually evacuated to the 17th General Hospital at Alexandria on 2 May, where he died of his wounds later the same day.

Private 932 Harold John Johnson was buried at the Chatby War Memorial Cemetery in Alexandria, Egypt the next day.

Name: Johnson, Harold John	
Service Number	932
Date enlisted	19 August 1914
Place enlisted	Echuca, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	7 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	19 October 1914 HMAT A20 <i>Hororata</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	20 years
Place of birth	Maldon, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Ironmonger
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Johnson, Mr Amos, father, Chapel Street, Maldon, Victoria
Permanent address in Australia	Chapel Street, Maldon, Victoria
Appearance	Dark complexion, black hair, brown eyes, height – 5 feet 9 ½ inches, weight – 10 stone, 2 lbs, chest measurement – 30/34 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	7 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli
Fate	Died of wounds
Date and place wounded	25 April 1915 Gallipoli, Turkey
Nature of wounds	Gunshot wound to head
Date and place died	2 May 1915 17 th General Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt
Cemetery details	Chatby Military & War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt Row C, Grave 191
Honours/medals	1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also listed on Holy Trinity Anglican Church Roll of Honor and Maldon State School Roll of Honor