



Lieutenant Colonel J.P.V. LARSEN VD

(1855 – 1944)



Colonel Larsen was elected to Life Membership - possibly after 1918 and before 1928.

As Captain Larsen he was a Foundation Member of the Club in 1892.

Jens Peter Vilhelm Larsen was born in 18 May 1855 in Aarhus, Denmark. He was invariably known as Vilhelm. His father was Lars Larsen, a merchant of Aarhus, and his mother was Dorthea.

He attended grammar school in Aarhus, and then the polytechnic academy and university in Copenhagen where he studied engineering. After graduation he worked in Denmark from 1879 to 1881. He then moved to Australia where he was surveying with a French company drilling for water near Winton from 1881 to 1883. He then joined the Queensland Government Railways Chief Engineer's Department – as a draughtsman, and then as Assistant Engineer & Chief Draughtsman, until he resigned in 1921. He then established his own private practice as a civil engineer with offices in Canberra Chambers, Queen Street.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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In 1890 Vilhelm married Pouline Dorthea Vilhelmine Maria (née Foss) [1855-1921]. She was born in Denmark and died in Brisbane. Vilhelm and Pouline had three children:

- Viola Agnes Foss [1891-1965] born and died in Brisbane. In 1924 in Brisbane she married John Hindley [1888-1956] a civil engineer.
- Dora Elle Foss [1893-1987] Born and died in Brisbane. In 1921 in Brisbane she married Albert ("Bert") Charles Cox [1893-1925]. Bert died in an accident, and they had a son who died as an infant in 1922; another son Ian [1923-2008] and a daughter Gwenda [1925-2015]. Remarried in Sydney in 1933 to Leonard James Rydon, an accountant of Yenda, NSW.
- Vilhelm Foss [1902-1979] Born in Brisbane and died in Dalby. In 1927 in Brisbane he married Cora (née Robins) [1903-1993]. They had one child.

The family lived at Rosalie, and later at Coorparoo.

He was Vice-Consul for Denmark in Brisbane from 1922 until his death. For his service, he was created a Knight of the Order of Dannebrog (Denmark) in 1928.

He was involved in numerous community activities. He was a Free Mason (installed as Secretary of Stanley Lodge No.689 in 1885) and was President of the Danish Association Heimdal in Brisbane.

While Larsen may have served in the Danish forces while at university, his recorded military service in Australia follows:

1883	Enlisted as Private in "B" Coy Brisbane Volunteer Rifles
1886-88	Corporal and Orderly Room Sergeant
1888	Commissioned as Provisional Lieutenant in Queensland Garrison Artillery
1889	Substantive Lieutenant, Unallotted List Attended artillery courses at Woolwich and Shoeburyness Artillery Barracks in the UK.
1891	Captain, Staff Corps
1897	Commanding Officer Queensland Garrison Artillery (Lytton Defences) as a Major
1903	Confirmed as Major in Australian Garrison Artillery, Commonwealth Military Forces, Queensland
1905	Course in submarine mining
1908-10	Staff Corps, AMF
1910	Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, to Retired List

In 1907 he was awarded the Volunteer Decoration and the Long Service Medal.

Captain Larsen joined the Club at its foundation in 1892. Although holding no office in the Club, he was an enthusiastic participant in club activities over his 52 years of membership.

At the 1942 50th anniversary celebrations of the Club's founding, the three surviving foundation members proposed a toast (Major General R.S. Browne, Lieutenant Colonel Larsen, and Major F.L. Jones).

Colonel Larsen died in Brisbane on 15 August 1944.



Vilhelm Larsen

President 1886-1887, 1890-1891, 1910-1912,
1917-1919, 1922-1923, 1926-1927, 1936-1939

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- Trove
- Who's Who in Australia
- The Danish Association Heimdal, Brisbane