

MILITARY-HISTORICAL DOSSIER

Katzenstein, Isidor

Musketeer (Musketier) · 11th Company · Reserve Infantry Regiment No. 71

22nd Reserve Division · 43rd Reserve Infantry Brigade

b. December 3, 1899, Wehrda

wounded October 18, 1918 · d. French field hospital Cugny (Aisne), October 21/24, 1918

Final resting place: German Military Cemetery Saint-Quentin · Block 7 · Grave 91

Rue de la Chaussee-Romaine 114, 02100 Saint-Quentin, France · UNESCO World Heritage Site 2023

Prepared by: Stefan Schweitzer / Claude (Anthropic) · June 2026

1. Established Personal Data

Name	Katzenstein, Isidor
Date of birth	December 3, 1899
Place of birth	Wehrda, Hunfeld District, Province of Hesse-Nassau
Religion	Jewish
Rank	Musketeer (Musketier; equivalent to Private)
Unit	11th Company, Reserve Infantry Regiment No. 71
Formation	43rd Reserve Infantry Brigade / 22nd Reserve Division
Father	Jakob Katzenstein, Wehrda
Mother	Bettel Katzenstein, nee Wallach (reading uncertain; Walloch also possible)
Family home	Wehrda (House No. 54 per family tradition)
Brother	Julius Katzenstein (b. Nov 5, 1895), war veteran, survived
Wounded	October 18, 1918
Place of death	French field hospital Cugny (Aisne)
Date of death	October 21, 1918 (death certificate) / October 24, 1918 (RjF memorial book, Volksbund)
Circumstances of death	In captivity, from the wound sustained on October 18, 1918
Age at death	18 years 10 months
Casualty report	Prussian Casualty List No. 1323 of Dec 21, 1918 (RjF book: 1320); listed there as "Katzenschein," status missing
ICRC card	No record (direct search, June 2026)
Resting place	German Military Cemetery Saint-Quentin, Block 7 Grave 91

Sources: Death certificate, Wehrda Civil Registry No. 9/1931 (Hesse State Archive Marburg, Best. 907 No. 7007); RjF memorial book 1932, p. 356; Volksbund online grave search (PDF, June 12, 2026); witness account Maul 2007.

2. The Death Certificate — Central Primary Source

Wehrda Civil Registry Office, secondary death register 1931, entry No. 9, recorded June 6, 1931 (delayed registration, fee 20 Reichsmark). Archive reference: Hesse State Archive Marburg, Best. 907 No. 7007, p. 10.

2.1 Verbatim finding (Kurrent script)

The certificate names: the Musketeer Isidor Katzenstein of the 11th Company of Reserve Infantry Regiment 71, 18 years 10 months old, residing in Wehrda, born in Wehrda, of single status, son of Jakob Katzenstein and Bettel nee Wallach (reading uncertain). Died in the field hospital at Cugny (Aisne) on the twenty-first of October of the year nineteen hundred and eighteen, as a result of the wound sustained on October 18, 1918.

2.2 What the certificate establishes for the first time

11th Company	Precise company assignment — previously only the regiment was known
Mother Bettel nee Wallach	Mother's maiden name (reading uncertain, also Walloch) — previously unknown
Field hospital Cugny (Aisne)	Official confirmation of place of death
Wound of Oct 18, 1918	Officially recorded cause of death and date of wounding
18 years 10 months	Confirms date of birth December 3, 1899

2.3 Conflicting dates — October 21 vs. October 24, 1918

The death certificate gives the date of death, written out, as the twenty-first of October 1918. The RjF memorial book (p. 356) and the Volksbund grave search, by contrast, give October 24, 1918. A genuine source conflict exists between the civil-registry certificate (Oct 21) and the two military registers (Oct 24).

Assessment: The death certificate was drawn up belatedly in 1931, presumably on the basis of a notification from the Central Registration Office for War Casualties and War Graves (named in the certificate heading). Both datings fall within a few days of each other; the conflict cannot be resolved without consulting the underlying hospital or casualty report. The dossier therefore carries both dates.

Sources: Death certificate, Hesse State Archive Marburg Best. 907 No. 7007; RjF memorial book 1932 p. 356; Volksbund grave search (PDF).

3. The RjF Memorial Book of 1932

The Jewish Fallen of the German Army, Navy, and Colonial Forces 1914-1918. Published by the Reich Federation of Jewish Front Soldiers (Reichsbund judischer Frontsoldaten), Berlin 1932. Entry on p. 356 under the locality Wehrda.

3.1 Wording of the entry

Name	Katzenstein, Isidor
Date / place of birth	Dec 3, 1899, Wehrda
Date of death	Oct 24, 1918, in captivity (i. Gfgsch.)
Unit / rank	11/R.I.R. 71
Casualty report	1320

The second Wehrda casualty on the same page: Plaut, David, b. May 15, 1896, Wehrda, killed July 23, 1917, 11/R.I.R. 57, casualty report 933. Both Jewish casualties from Wehrda thus each served in the 11th Company of their respective regiment — Katzenstein in RIR 71, Plaut in RIR 57.

Source: RjF memorial book 1932, p. 356 (facsimile on hand).

4. The German Casualty List of December 21, 1918

German Casualty Lists, Prussian List No. 1323, issued December 21, 1918, page 28390. The figure 1320 cited in the RjF memorial book denotes the number of this casualty list (a minor discrepancy of three numbers, presumably a transcription error in the memorial book), not a position within the list.

4.1 The entry

Under Reserve Infantry Regiment No. 71, 11th Company, the entry reads:

"Katzenschein, Isidor — Dec 3, 1899, Wehrda, Hunfeld — missing."

4.2 Two key findings

Misspelling of the name: The soldier is recorded as "Katzenschein" instead of "Katzenstein" — a typesetting or transcription error ("-stein" read as "-schein"). Date of birth (Dec 3, 1899), place of birth (Wehrda), and district (Hunfeld) match the death certificate and the RjF memorial book exactly; there is no doubt as to identity. The misspelling explains why a name search for "Katzenstein" in this list fails.

Status "missing": The list records Katzenstein not as killed but as missing. This matches the reconstructed sequence precisely: wounded on October 18, 1918, and taken into French captivity, he was initially considered missing by the German side. The list of December 21, 1918, did not yet know of his death in the Cugny hospital (October 21/24) — the report from French captivity had not yet reached the German authorities. This likewise explains the absence of an ICRC record and the civil registration carried out belatedly only in 1931.

4.3 Confirmation of company assignment

The casualty list confirms the assignment to the 11th Company of RIR 71 once more. Methodological note: the RjF memorial book of 1932 itself drew its data from the official casualty lists and civil registers; the RjF entry and the casualty list are therefore not fully independent of one another. The strongest confirmation of the company assignment comes from the two source-critically independent documents: the civil-registry death certificate (civil record) and the casualty list (military record).

Source: German Casualty Lists, Prussian List No. 1323 of Dec 21, 1918, p. 28390 (facsimile on hand).

5. Military Unit: RIR 71 / 22nd Reserve Division

5.1 Formation and mobilization

Regiment	Reserve Infantry Regiment No. 71 (RIR 71)
Company	11th Company (III Battalion)
Brigade	43rd Reserve Infantry Brigade
Division	22nd Reserve Division
Corps	IV Reserve Corps (at mobilization 1914, Gen. von Gronau)
Sister regiments	RIR 82, RIR 94 (same division)
Mobilization stations 1914	I/RIR 71 Meiningen, II/RIR 71 Muhlhausen (Thur.), III/RIR 71 Hersfeld
Regimental history	Liesz, H.: The RIR 71 in the World War 1914-1918. Stalling, 1925

Per the organizational scheme of German infantry regiments, the 11th Company belonged to the III Battalion (9th-12th Companies). The III Battalion of RIR 71 was raised in Hersfeld in 1914 (regimental history, table of contents). No inference about Katzenstein's origin can be drawn from this, however: as a member of the 1899 cohort he was not conscripted until 1917/18; the 1914 mobilization garrison says nothing about the regional origin of a replacement soldier sent forward four years later. The assignment to the 11th Company is secured by three documents (death certificate, casualty list, RjF memorial book); the path that led him there is not.

Sources: regimental history / war diary RIR 71 (Liesz 1925, facsimile on hand), table of contents p. 12 and combat chronology; German Wikipedia, 22nd Reserve Division (Ruhmeshalle / Reichsarchiv).

5.2 Combat chronology, 22nd Reserve Division / RIR 71, autumn 1918

From the war diary of RIR 71 (combat chronology and chapter XXXII):

Aug 23 - Sep 3, 1918	Defensive battle between the Somme and the Oise
Aug 26 - Sep 4, 1918	Battle in the wooded hills east of Noyon; capture of the greater part of II/RIR 71 on Sep 4, 1918
Sep 4 - 18, 1918	Fighting before the Siegfried front (Ham-Ailette position, Crozat Canal)
Sep 19 - Oct 9, 1918	Defensive battle between Cambrai and St. Quentin
Oct 10 - Nov 4, 1918	Fighting before and in the Hermann Position (Hermannstellung)
Nov 5 - 11, 1918	Withdrawal fighting before the Antwerp-Meuse position

Source: war diary RIR 71 (Liesz 1925), combat chronology p. 10 and chapter XXXII, p. 230 ff. (facsimile on hand).

6. Conscription, Training, Replacement Battalion (inferred)

This section is identified as inference. Katzenstein's exact date of conscription and enlistment is not documented by any of the available sources; the following bracketing rests on the documented conscription practice for the 1899 cohort and on the replacement unit attested in the war diary.

6.1 The 1899 cohort

Katzenstein, born December 3, 1899, belonged to the 1899 cohort, which was called up early during the war. This cohort was examined for fitness in spring/summer 1917; conscription of those fit for service was staggered from about mid-1917, in larger numbers in autumn/winter 1917 and spring 1918. A man of the 1899 cohort typically reached the troops at around 17 1/2 to 18 years of age, after several months of recruit training in the replacement battalion. For Katzenstein this yields the probable sequence: examination 1917, conscription late 1917 or early 1918, training in the replacement battalion, transfer to the field unit (11/RIR 71) in spring or summer 1918, front-line service until his wounding on October 18, 1918.

6.2 The replacement battalion of RIR 71 at Coburg

The war diary of RIR 71 (p. 237) directly attests: upon disbandment of the regiment, the orderly rooms, field kitchens, and the remnants of the remaining men of the 1896-1899 cohorts were transported to Coburg, the station of the replacement battalion. Two facts are thus established: the replacement battalion of RIR 71 was at Coburg at the end of the war, and the text expressly names the 1899 cohort — Katzenstein's cohort.

The replacement battalion was the personnel-administering home formation: it examined and trained the recruits, maintained the war service roll (Kriegsstammrolle) of each man, and forwarded death and missing reports to families and registry offices. The field battalion lost sight of Katzenstein at his capture on October 18 (hence "missing" in the casualty list); the determination of death could not be made at the front but only administratively, from the home and later the central registration office. This fits without contradiction into the chain capture – missing – administrative clarification – belated registration in 1931.

6.3 The war service roll — research status and loss

The single source that would simultaneously document the exact date of conscription, the training stations, and the transfer to the 11th Company is the war service roll of the replacement battalion of RIR 71. Its whereabouts were investigated; two lines of inquiry yielded negative results:

Ancestry search

No entry for Katzenstein. The Prussian war service rolls are largely not digitized there; moreover he would have to be searched under the casualty-list spelling "Katzenschein."

War Archive Munich (BayHStA IV)	No records of the replacement RIR 71. The Coburg-Bavaria hypothesis (Coburg's accession to Bavaria in 1920) is thereby disproved: the files followed Prussian unit affiliation, not the station.
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After both alternative avenues are ruled out, the most probable explanation remains that the service roll shared the fate of the Prussian army records and was destroyed in 1945 at the Army Archive in Potsdam. The date of conscription is therefore no longer ascertainable by available means and remains inferred.

6.4 Remaining lines of inquiry not yet exhausted

Three sources have not yet been consulted and could clarify partial questions — though not necessarily the date of conscription:

Wartime death notification	Coburg or Wehrda civil-registry supplementary files. Could clarify which office initiated the 1918/19 registration (civil record, not affected by the Potsdam loss).
Home locality card index (HOK)	Federal Archive, personal-information inquiries. Contains basic data for many casualties even without a surviving service roll.
French hospital / death records	Service historique de la Defense, Vincennes; registers of the Cugny field ambulances. Could refine the date of death and resolve the Oct 21/24 conflict.

Sources: war diary RIR 71 (Liesz 1925), p. 237; research findings Ancestry and BayHStA IV War Archive Munich (by Stefan Schweitzer, June 2026); general conscription practice of the 1899 cohort.

7. October 18, 1918 — Day of the Fatal Wounding

The death certificate names October 18, 1918, as the day of the wounding from whose effects Katzenstein died in the French field hospital at Cugny. The war diary of RIR 71 documents this very day as the heaviest day of fighting of the Hermann Position phase.

7.1 Course of fighting per the RIR 71 war diary (chapter: Hermann Position at Bernoville-Aisonville-Petit Thiolet)

Since October 10, 1918, RIR 71 had held the position at Bernoville and Aisonville, which existed in name only and had to be dug in hastily. On October 12, after three hours of artillery fire, an infantry attack followed; in the regimental sector the III Battalion held the main line of resistance despite heavy losses. On October 13 the enemy partly broke in; a counterthrust by IR 442 partially restored the former line. The weather was autumnally cold, the men's health suffered, influenza was rife.

On October 17, 1918, the advance reached west of Tupigny. On October 18, 1918, the enemy attacked at 7 a.m. and threw the outposts back beyond Verly. Around 10 a.m. a fresh attack with 5 tanks followed; 2 tanks were knocked out by machine-gun, mortar, and artillery fire, the remaining 3 turned back. At 3 p.m. the divisions withdrew behind the Oise-Sambre Canal.

7.2 Corroborating finding, RIR 94 war diary (same division, October 18, 1918)

The sister regiment RIR 94 documents for October 18, 1918, a French major attack at Petit Thiolet (IR 411, 123rd Division, light tank company). The French report on the capture of Petit Thiolet — later used as a tactical exercise for the French military academy — names numerous German prisoners. This independently confirms October 18 as a day of massive German losses and captures in the division's sector.

7.3 Conclusion

Katzenstein was wounded on October 18, 1918, in the Hermann Position in the area of Bernoville-Aisonville-Tupigny-Petit Thiolet and taken into French captivity. The war diaries of RIR 71 and RIR 94 independently confirm that this day was the heaviest day of combat and casualties for the division in this phase. The death certificate expressly names October 18 as the date of wounding; the casualty list of December 21, 1918, accordingly records him as missing, since his death in captivity was not yet known to the German side. The wounding of this individual soldier is thus seamlessly embedded in the documented course of fighting of his regiment and the subsequent reporting situation.

Sources: death certificate Hesse State Archive Marburg Best. 907 No. 7007; war diary RIR 71 (Liesz 1925); war diary RIR 94 (Richter 1934), chapter Hermann Position and French report Petit Thiolet (facsimiles on hand).

8. Field Hospital Cugny (Aisne)

8.1 The French medical formations at Cugny

Cugny (Aisne) lies about 30 km southwest of Saint-Quentin. From March 1917 the village was the station of the French Autochir No. 7 (Ambulance chirurgicale automobile 7), a rail-transportable field hospital for 80 to 250 wounded under chief surgeon Dr. Georges Lardennois. The facility lay behind the Ferme Pomera on the rail line to Flavy-le-Martel.

The directory of French military hospitals records for Cugny in October 1918 several active field ambulances, including — within the presumed period of Katzenstein's death — amb. 1/9 (from Oct 9, 1918), amb. 15/16 (from Oct 17, 1918), and amb. 14/3 (from Oct 20, 1918). The death certificate's designation "field hospital at Cugny" corresponds to one of these French medical units.

Sources: L'Autochir No. 7 at Cugny (Reseau des petites communes); medfilm.unistra.fr; hopitauxmilitairesguerre1418.overblog.com (Letter C).

8.2 Treatment as a wounded prisoner of war

Katzenstein was wounded on October 18 and taken into French captivity. Treatment in a French field ambulance was consistent with the Hague Convention on Land Warfare of 1907, which required medical care of wounded prisoners without distinction of nationality. The statements "in captivity" (RjF memorial book) and "field hospital Cugny" (death certificate) are therefore free of contradiction.

9. Burial Path and Present Resting Place

Phase 1: Wounding	Oct 18, 1918, Hermann Position Bernoville-Aisonville-Tupigny-Petit Thiolet. Source: death certificate + war diaries RIR 71/94.
Phase 2: Captivity / transport	Taken into French hands, transferred to the field hospital Cugny. Reported missing on the German side (casualty list Dec 21, 1918).
Phase 3: Death	Oct 21, 1918 (death certificate) or Oct 24, 1918 (RjF / Volksbund), field hospital Cugny.
Phase 4: Initial burial	One of two provisional cemeteries at Cugny (per local-history accounts, ACA 7 had to lay out two cemeteries for its dead — given there as about 350).
Phase 5: Reinterment	After the war, by the French military authorities, into the German collective cemetery at Saint-Quentin (catchment radius up to 35 km; Cugny about 30 km).
Phase 6: Final grave	German Military Cemetery Saint-Quentin, Block 7 Grave 91. Source: Volksbund grave search.

Reinterment evidence: Autochir documentation Cugny (bodies of those who died at Cugny largely transferred to St. Quentin); Saint-Quentin tourist office (98 localities, 35 km radius).

10. German Military Cemetery Saint-Quentin

Address	Rue de la Chaussee-Romaine 114, 02100 Saint-Quentin, France
Establishment	Autumn 1914 by the German military administration; monument by Prof. Wilhelm Wandschneider, dedicated Oct 18, 1915
Expansion	After 1918: reinterments from 98 localities within a 35 km radius
Total interred	8,229 German war dead
Individual graves	6,294 (of which 6 unknown)
Communal graves	2 holding 1,935 dead (1,501 unknown)
Jewish graves	22 to 25 natural-stone stelae in place of a cross — Katzenstein is among them
Custodian	German War Graves Commission (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgraberfursorge)
UNESCO	World Heritage Site since September 2023
Final grave Katzenstein	Block 7, Grave 91

Note on the count of Jewish graves: the Volksbund gives 25, the French heritage sources (French Wikipedia, museedupatrimoine.fr) give 22 stelae. The discrepancy is unresolved; both figures are recorded.

11. Historical Context

11.1 Jewish casualties from Wehrda and the Hunfeld District

The RjF memorial book records two Jewish casualties for Wehrda: Isidor Katzenstein (11/RIR 71, 1918) and David Plaut (11/RIR 57, 1917). Both fell as members of the 11th Company of their respective regiment. The memorial book appeared in 1932 as a rebuttal to the antisemitic claim that German Jews had evaded military service — it records some 12,000 Jewish dead of the German army.

11.2 Erasure and family fate

From October 24, 1935, a decree of the Reich War Ministry forbade the naming of Jews on war memorials. Isidor Katzenstein, who died of his wound at 18 years and 10 months of age, was thereby erased from official remembrance. The long path of his official registration reflects the collapse of the reporting chains at the war's end: wounded and captured on October 18, 1918, he appeared in the casualty list of December 21, 1918, first as missing; the civil registration of his death followed only in 1931, thirteen years later, presumably in the course of the records compiled by the Central Registration Office for War Casualties and War Graves. His brother Julius emigrated to America with his family in 1937 and escaped the Shoah.

Sources: RjF memorial book 1932 p. 356; death certificate 1931; Sternberg-Siebert / Maul 2007.

12. Source-Status Overview

Information	Source / Finding	Status
Date / place of birth	Death certificate + RjF memorial book	✓
Rank Musketeer	Death certificate + RjF + Volksbund	✓
11th Company RIR 71	Death certificate + RjF memorial book	✓
Mother nee Wallach/Walloch	Death certificate (Kurrent reading uncertain)	⚠
Wound of Oct 18, 1918	Death certificate (facsimile on hand)	✓
Place of death field hospital Cugny	Death certificate + Volksbund	✓
Date of death Oct 21, 1918	Death certificate	⚠
Date of death Oct 24, 1918	RjF memorial book + Volksbund	⚠
Death in captivity	RjF memorial book + death certificate	✓
Casualty report Pr. List 1323	German casualty list Dec 21, 1918 (facsimile)	✓
Status "missing" Dec 1918	Casualty list (death not yet reported)	✓
Name form "Katzenschein"	Casualty list (typo, identity secured)	✓
Oct 18 = combat day RIR 71	War diary RIR 71 (facsimile)	✓
Petit Thiolet captures Oct 18	War diary RIR 94 (facsimile)	✓
Cugny field ambulances Oct 1918	hopitauxmilitairesguerre1418	✓
Reinterment Cugny -> St. Quentin	Autochir doc. + Volksbund	✓
Final grave Block 7 Grave 91	Volksbund grave search	✓
Specific ambulance number	War diary (JMO) not consulted	⚠
Replacement battalion RIR 71 at Coburg	War diary RIR 71 p. 237 (facsimile)	✓
Date of conscription	Not documented; inferred from 1899-cohort practice	⚠
War service roll	Ancestry and BayHStA negative; presumed Potsdam loss 1945	⚠

✓ = directly supported by a source on hand ⚠ = source conflict, inference, or open point of detail

13. List of Sources

Primary sources (facsimile / original on hand)

- Death certificate, Wehrda Civil Registry, secondary death register 1931, No. 9, recorded June 6, 1931. Hesse State Archive Marburg, Best. 907 No. 7007, p. 10.
- RjF memorial book: The Jewish Fallen of the German Army ... 1914-1918. Berlin 1932, p. 356 (Wehrda).
- German Casualty Lists, Prussian List No. 1323 of Dec 21, 1918, p. 28390 (entry "Katzenschein, Isidor," RIR 71, 11th Co., missing).
- War diary / regimental history RIR 71: Liesz, H.: The Reserve Infantry Regiment No. 71 in the World War 1914-1918. Stalling, Oldenburg/Berlin 1925 (incl. p. 237: replacement battalion Coburg, cohorts 1896-1899).
- War diary / regimental history RIR 94: Richter, J.: The Reserve Infantry Regiment 94 in the World War 1914/18. Neuenhahn, Jena 1934.
- War diary extract RIR 82 (Federal Archive, PH 10-II; Invenio).
- Volksbund online grave search: Isidor Katzenstein, Block 7 Grave 91, Saint-Quentin (PDF printout June 12, 2026).

Secondary and online sources

- L'Autochir No. 7 at Cugny: A field hospital in the Great War. Reseau des petites communes, Cugny.
- Medfilm, University of Strasbourg: Ambulance chirurgicale de Cugny (1917).
- hopitauxmilitairesguerre1418.overblog.com: Ambulances 1914-1918, Letter C (Cugny).
- German Wikipedia: 22nd Reserve Division (German Empire); German Military Cemetery Saint-Quentin.
- Volksbund: kriegsgraeberstaetten.volksbund.de/friedhof/st-quentin.
- Saint-Quentin tourist office: destination-saintquentin.fr.
- Sternberg-Siebert, E.: juedspurenhuenfelderland.de; witness account K. Maul 2007.
- ICRC Historical Archives: grandeguerre.icrc.org (negative finding, June 2026).
- Research findings on conscription / service roll (by Stefan Schweitzer, June 2026): Ancestry — no entry for Katzenstein; Bavarian Main State Archive, Dept. IV War Archive Munich — no records of replacement RIR 71 (both negative).