

**Willesden Jewish Cemetery,
Willesden, Brent, London
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



225 SERJEANT

B. JONAS

33RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH MAY, 1919 Age 46

Until We Meet Again

Rest In Peace

Benjamin JONAS

Benjamin Jonas was born at Yarrowee, Ballarat, Victoria on 4th September, 1870 to parents Isaac and Esther Jonas (nee Cortissos).

Benjamin Jonas attended Grenville College, Ballarat, Victoria.

Benjamin Jonas married Harriett "Hettie" Augusta Taylor on 19th April, 1897 at Menzies, Western Australia.

Isaac Jonas, father of Benjamin Jonas, died on 21st October, 1899 at Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Esther Jonas, mother of Benjamin Jonas, died in December, 1902 at 246 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria.

The 1903 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Perth, Western Australian listed Benjamin Jonas, Commercial Traveller & his wife, Hettie Augusta Jonas living at Wickham Place.

The 1910 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Swan, subdivision of Murray, Western Australian listed Benjamin Jonas, Railway Employee, & his wife, Hettie Augusta of Pinjarra.

Benjamin Jonas stated he was a 43 year old, married, Clerk from Ballarat Cottage, 82 Riley Street, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Rutherford, NSW on 25th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 225 & his religion was Jewish. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Hettie Augusta Jonas, of 82 Riley Street, Sydney, NSW. Benjamin Jonas stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served for 5 years with Field Artillery in Western Australia.

Benjamin Jonas was attached to "A" Company, 33rd Battalion on 27th April, 1916 from Pay Corps.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 4th May, 1916 with the 33rd Infantry Battalion "A" Company & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th July, 1916.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was promoted to E.D.P. (Extra Duty Pay) Sergeant on 14th July, 1916.

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.

E.D.P. (Extra Duty Pay) Sergeant Benjamin Jonas was marched in to 9th Training Battalion, Larkhill, Wiltshire from Australia on 21st July, 1916.

E.D.P. (Extra Duty Pay) Sergeant Benjamin Jonas was marched out to Nottingham on leave on 26th September, 1916.

E.D.P. (Extra Duty Pay) Sergeant Jonas reverted to rank of Corporal on 22nd October, 1916 while attached to 9th Training Battalion.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was admitted to Fovant Hospital, Wiltshire on 25th November, 1916 for observation. He was marched in to 9th Training Battalion from Hospital on 9th December, 1916 having recovered from Bronchitis.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was admitted to Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire on 22nd December, 1916 with Influenza. He was marched in to 9th Training Battalion from Hospital on 9th January, 1917.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 19th January, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Corporal Benjamin Jonas on 23rd April, 1917 at Command Depot, Weymouth regarding his disability – (Over age) Rheumatism. The rheumatism had originated prior to Enlistment in Australia.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was temporarily attached for duty to Admin. Headquarters from Weymouth (& 33rd Battalion) on 5th May, 1917.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was admitted to 1st Auxiliary Hospital on 13th July, 1917 with Septic right arm.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was detached from duty with Admin. Headquarters on 14th July, 1917 on evacuating sick to Hospital.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was discharged to Headquarters from Hospital on 27th July, 1917.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was marched in from Admin Headquarters to No. 2 Command Depot on 31st July, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Corporal Benjamin Jonas, aged 47 years, on 7th September, 1917 at No. 2 Australian Command Depot regarding his disability – Senility & Chronic Bronchitis. The Medical Board recommended that Cpl. Jonas was unfit for general service and fit for home service.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was transferred to No. 2 Command Depot from 33rd Battalion on 1st January, 1918. He was taken on strength of Permanent Cadre & promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 1st January, 1918.

Temporary Sergeant Benjamin Jonas was detached from attached duty with Permanent Cadres of No. 2 Command Depot on 24th May, 1918. He reverted to permanent grade of Corporal on 24th May, 1918.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was admitted to 1st A.D.H. (Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 28th May, 1918 with V.D. & discharged to Convalescent Training Depot on 30th May, 1918.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset from Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 30th July, 1918. He was medical Classified as C1 – permanently unfit for General Service, fit for Home Service.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was marched out to Australian Headquarters, London from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 10th August, 1918 for duty owing to his C1 classification.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was taken on strength of Administrative Headquarters, London from 33rd Battalion on 11th August, 1918.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas was promoted to Temporary Sergeant while posted in London on 23rd January, 1919.

Sergeant Benjamin Jonas died at 12.15 am on 12th May, 1919 at 41 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, England. An inquest was held on Tuesday 13th May, 1919 & the cause of death was from Cerebral Haemorrhage.

A death for Benjamin Jonas, aged 46, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of St. George Hanover Square, London, England.

Sergeant Benjamin Jonas was buried on 14th May, 1919 in Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Willesden, Brent, London, England – Plot number 4. T. K. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sgt. B. Jonas - *Coffin was good Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by beautiful wreaths sent from Comrades of the A.I.F. Headquarters, London. The "Last Post" was sounded, and the burial service conducted by the Chap. J. Danglow, A.I.F. Jewish Chaplain. The grave will be turfed and "The Sign of David" erected by the A.I.F. London.*

Names of relatives & friends present at the funeral – Lt. H. Boas (Jewish Rep. Aust. Y.M.C.A.), Sgts L. D. Isaccs, L. Feinberg, S/Sgts S. Rosenthal and Judell, Cpl. Salome and J. Walters, Pte Cooper and about 20 members of the A.I.F.

Corporal Benjamin Jonas requested in his Will dated 12th August, 1917 that all moneys coming to him from the Government of Australia on account of his Service in the Expeditionary Force be bequeathed to his "*wife whose name appears on Page 16*" & if anything should happen to her it is to be left to his dear sister Mrs H. Harris, 60 McKean Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria. A previous Will, dated 11th May 1916 named Sergeant Jonas' wife as Hettie Augustus Jonas of Ballarat Cottage, Riley Street, Sydney.

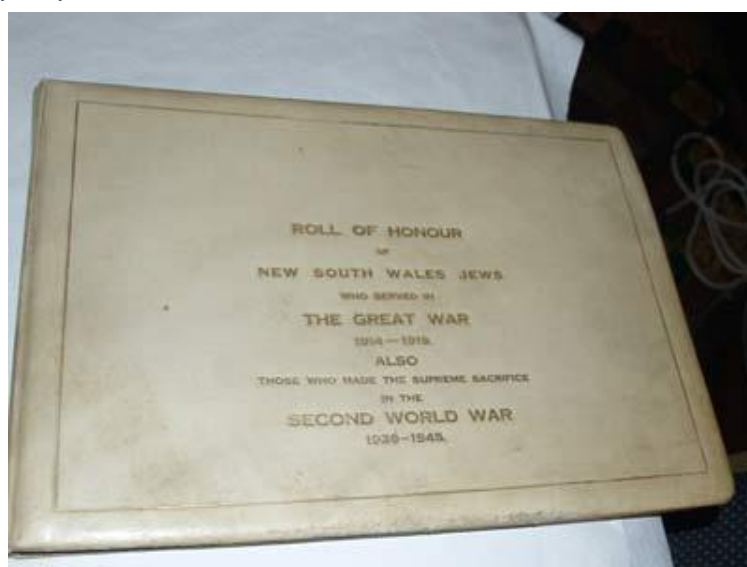
A package containing the personal effects of the late Sergeant Benjamin Jonas was signed for by his widow – Mrs H. A. Jonas on 10th December, 1919.

Sergeant Benjamin Jonas was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Sergt. Jonas' next-of-kin – his widow, however some items were sent but returned unclaimed. (Scroll sent March, 1922 but returned). A Statutory Declaration was signed by Mrs Jane Harris on 15th December, 1922, sister of the late Sergeant Benjamin Jonas, of 106 Tennyson Street, St. Kilda, Victoria. She declared that she would “*preserve with due care any war medals or other items given into my custody on account of the service rendered by the late No. 225 Sergeant B. JONAS, Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force, and will produce them to the Department of Defence at any time upon receipt of its demand in writing, should they be required for the purpose of being handed to someone having prior claims.*” Mrs Jane Harris, sister of the late Sergeant Benjamin Jonas signed for the Memorial Plaque on 5th February, 1923; the British War Medal on 19th March, 1923 & the Memorial Scroll on 12th April, 1923.

(Note: Hetty Jonas, widow of the late Sergeant Benjamin Jonas died on 12th October, 1921. She was interred on 14th October, 1921 at Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Benjamin Jonas – service number 225, aged 46, of H.Q. Australian Imperial Force, formerly 33rd Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. He was the son of Isaac and Esther Jonas; husband of Hettie A. Jonas, of Ballarat Cottage, 82 Riley St., East Sydney, New South Wales. Native of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

B. Jonas is remembered in the Great Synagogue Roll of Honour Books, located at The Great Synagogue, Sydney, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW.

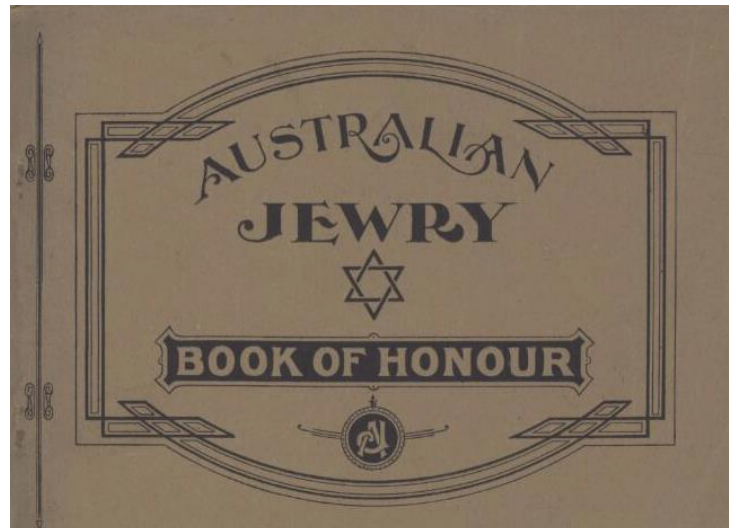


Great Synagogue Roll of Honour Books (Photos by Peter Levarre-Waters)



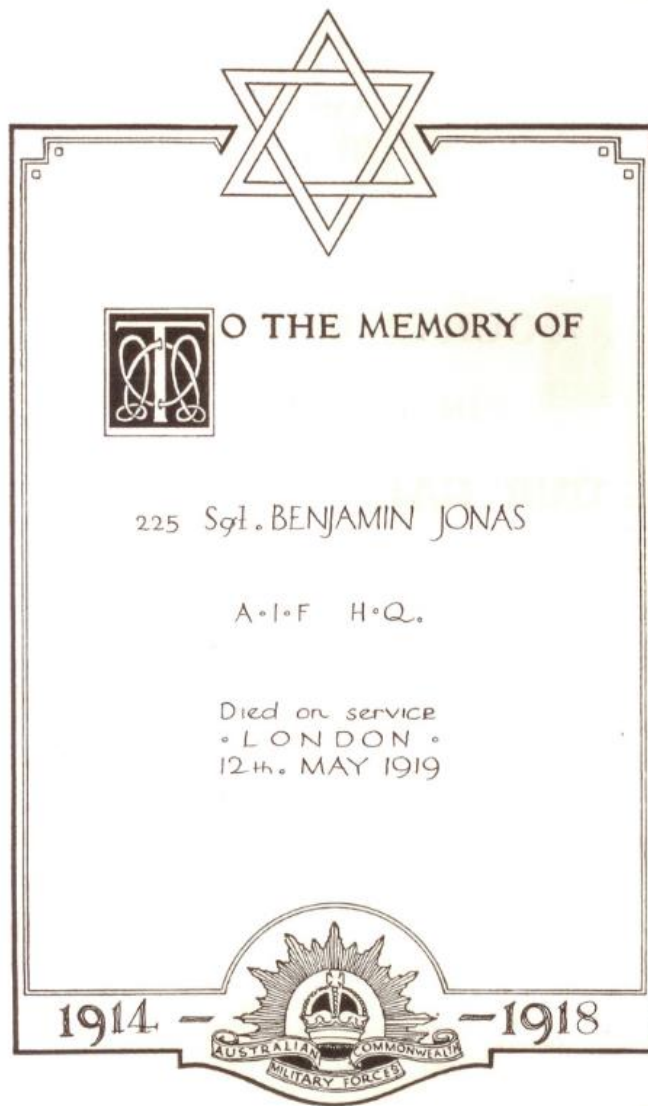
JACOBSON, I. J.	C ^{pl}	1060	A.F.A.	
JACQUES, H.	P ^{vt}	4747	A.A.S.C.	
JOACHIN, L. M.				
JOEL, D.	S ^{gt}	1850	4 th B ⁿ	M.M.
JOEL, J.	S ^{gt}	275	13 th B ⁿ	
B. JONAS, B.	D ^{pt}	60466	4 th Div TRAIN	
JONES, H. E.	B ^{vt}	46	A.M.C.	
JONES, A. S. C.	L. C ^{pl}	14262	A.G.A.	
JONES, B. G.	C ^{pl}	8731	AUS. GEN. SAGE SERV. M.M.	
JONSEN, O. C.	P ^{vt}	8730	7 th FIELD AMB.	
JONSEN, W. S.	D ^{pt}	10629	25 th A.S.C.	
JOSEPH, E. F.	D ^{pt}	1220	A.S.C.	
JOSEPH, F. R.	P ^{vt}	6399	50 th B ⁿ	
JOSEPH, F. R.	P ^{vt}		A. D. CORPS.	
JOSEPH, H.	P ^{vt}	3332	3 rd B ⁿ	
JOSEPH, H. L.	P ^{vt}	1761	53 rd B ⁿ	
JOSEPH, J.	C ^{pl}	973	2 nd A.F.A.	
JOSEPH, L. T.	P ^{vt}	6643	17 th B ⁿ	
JOSEPH, M.	P ^{vt}	7079	A.S.C.	
JOSEPHS, J.	P ^{vt}	6750	1 st B ⁿ	
JOSEPHSON, J.	P ^{vt}	1783	LIGHT T.M. B ⁿ	
KALIK, L.	P ^{vt}	46	13 th B ⁿ	
KATZ, S.	P ^{vt}			

Sergeant Benjamin Jonas is remembered in the Australian Jewry Book of Honour – The Great War, 1914-1918 compiled by Harold Boas.



Australian Jewry Book of Honour – The Great War, 1914-1918





Private B. Jonas is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 2.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(54 pages of Sergeant Benjamin Jonas' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

JONAS – May 12, Sergt. B. Jonas, A.I.F., Headquarters Administration, London, beloved husband of H. A. Jonas, and brother of Elias and Mrs Harris. At rest.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 May, 1919)

466th CASUALTY LIST

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

T-sgt. BENJAMIN JONAS, Sydney, 12/5/19, C.N.S.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 June, 1919)

467th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED

T-sgt. BENJAMIN JONAS, Sydney

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 2 July, 1919)

OBITUARY

Private Durlacher and Sergeant Jonas

For the third time within three months it has been the painful duty of the Australian Jewish Chaplain, the Rev. J. Danglow, to officiate at the burial, in England, of a member of the A.I.F. On the 21st February, Private L. Durlacher, of the 4th Machine Gun Company, was buried with full military honours at the Willesden Jewish Cemetery; on the 24th April, Private J. Breitman, of the 3rd Battalion, was similarly buried; and on 14th May, No. 225, Sergt. B. Jonas, attached to Australian Headquarters, but originally attached to the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., was similarly buried.

Sergt. Jonas died suddenly on the evening of the 11th May, having been quite well within a few hours of his death; he died in his sleep from hemorrhage of the brain. His comrades say it was brought on by his anxiety and worry in connection with his responsible work in his department. He was forty-six years of age, and came from Sydney where his wife resides.

The body was conveyed to the cemetery on a gun carriage, conducted by British troops, and covered with the Union Jack, with a handsome floral tribute from his comrades of his department, - amongst whom he was most popular. The firing party and guard of honour were under the direction of Warrant Officer Sedgeley, of the Chaplaincy Department, and the funeral arrangements were under the direction of Sergt. Laurie Isaacs, in charge of Jewish records, who also acted as pall-bearer with Sergt. L. M. Fienberg, of Sydney; Sergt. C. Judell (Adelaide), Corpl. B. Salem (Adelaide), Corpl. K. W. Saber (Sydney), and Private H. Cooper. (Sydney). Staff-Sergt. S. Rosenthal (Adelaide), in charge of

Graves Registration Department, A.I.F., was also present. Corpl, J. Walter acted as bugler and sounded the "Last Post." The service was conducted by the Rev. J. Danglow, assisted by Lieut. Harold Boas. Chaplain Danglow thanked the guard of honour and firing party, on behalf of the wife and relatives of the deceased, for their voluntary decision to attend and officiate at the funeral.

(Jewish Herald, Victoria – 11 July, 1919)

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)

Serjeant B. Jonas does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Until We Meet Again

Rest In Peace

Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Willesden, Brent, London, England

Willesden Jewish Cemetery contains burials of both wars. Of the 33 First World War graves, six form a small plot by the assembly hall and 22 of the 78 Second World War burials form a separate plot. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. In place of the more usual Cross of Sacrifice, a specially designed memorial to men and women of the Jewish faith who lost their lives in both wars stands opposite the Second World War plot. The memorial is in the form of an obelisk and was the first Jewish national war memorial to be erected in the United Kingdom. *(Information from CWGC)*



Willesden Jewish Cemetery *(Photo by julia&keld)*

Photo of Serjeant B. Jonas' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Willesden Jewish Cemetery, Willesden, Brent, London, England



(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)



Willesden Jewish Cemetery with 3 Australian Headstones from left *(Photo by julia&keld)*