

**St. James' Churchyard,  
Rudry, Wales  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6651 PRIVATE**

**D. J. JONES**

**5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**21ST SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 34**

*A Bitter Grief  
A Shock Severe  
To Part With One  
We Loved So Dear*

## David John JONES

David John Jones was born at Rudry, Glamorgan, Wales in early 1884 to parents Ephraim and Elizabeth Jones.

The 1891 Wales Census recorded David J. Jones as a 7 year old Scholar, living with his family at Rudry Common, a three roomed dwelling at Rudry, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales. His parents were listed as Ephraim Jones (Sawyer & General Labourer, aged 32, born Rudry, Glamorgan) & Elizabeth Jones (aged 34, born Troedyrhyw, Glamorgan). David was one of three children listed on this Census (all born at Rudry) – Maria Jones (Scholar, aged 10) & James M. Jones (aged 12).

David John Jones was a 32 year old, single, Labourer from East Trentham, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne on 8th March, 1916 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6651 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr E. Jones, of 8 Brymgelli, Abertridwr, South Wales. David Jones stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to boils.

Private David John Jones was posted to "A" Company, 88th Battalion on 8th March, 1916. He was transferred to Langwarrin on 16th May, 1916. Pte Jones was transferred to Broadmeadows on 8th June, 1916 with 19th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion. He was transferred to 20th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 28th June, 1916. Pte Jones was transferred to Langwarrin on 18th July, 1916. He was posted with 21st Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 21st September, 1916.

Private David John Jones embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 2nd October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th November, 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.

Private David John Jones was marched out to Fovant, Wiltshire on 21st November, 1916 from No. 3 Command Depot.

Private David John Jones was marched in from Australia to 2nd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 12th December, 1916.

Private David John Jones proceeded overseas to France from 2nd Training Battalion via Folkestone on 2nd February, 1917 on SS *Victoria*.

Private David John Jones was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. at Etaples, France from England on 4th February, 1917.

Private David John Jones was admitted to Seg. Camp at Etaples on 6th February, 1917 & was discharged on 3rd March, 1917.

Private David John Jones was taken on strength with 5th Battalion in France on 12th March, 1917.

Private David John Jones was wounded in action on 4th October, 1917. He was taken to 64th Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to hand, left leg & face then transferred to 41st Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Jones was admitted to 4th General Hospital at St. Omer, France on 6th October, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to fingers. He was transferred on 9th October, 1917 & admitted to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Trouville. Pte Jones was transferred from Convalescent Depot to Base Details on 2nd November, 1917.

### War Diary – 5th Battalion – 4th October, 1917, France:

*The 6th, 7th & 8th BNS A.I.F. moved to position of Assembly which was just in rear of our line. Zero hour was 06.00. At 05.30 the enemy put down a barrage on our lines with the object, as was afterwards learnt from captured documents, of making an attack. At 06.00 our troops in spite of the hostile barrage moved forward in good formation. The 8th BN captured the first objective and the 6th & 7th BNS the second on time. Our casualties were 6 Officers wounded (Captains G. McElillie D.S.O., A. J. Phillips, Lieuts. F. Corlett, E. L. Wilcock, H. Sinclair, C. C. Hanson) & 50 Other ranks.*  
*(Information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private David John Jones was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 3rd November, 1917. He rejoined his Unit on 9th November, 1917.

Private David John Jones was on furlough to UK from 27th January, 1918 & returned from furlough on 12th February, 1918.

Private David John Jones was sent to Intelligence School on 19th June, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 26th June, 1918.

Private David John Jones was wounded in action (2nd occasion) in France on 9th August, 1918. He was taken to 8th Australian Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to shoulder. He was transferred to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 9th August, 1918. Pte Jones was admitted to 54th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 15th August, 1918 with gunshot wounds to shoulder & Spine. Pte Jones embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* on 15th August, 1918.

War Diary – 5th Battalion – 9th August, 1917, Harbonniers, France:

*The Battalion moved by march route to BAYONVILLERS and at 2 pm moved forward in Support of the 7th A.I. Battalion to attack and capture the RED line. A line running from approx. X10 Central to Railway at F.5.C.33. 8th A.I. Battalion were on the right of the 7th Battalion and the 6th A.I. Battalion were in support to the 8th Battalion. Tanks assisted in the attack but lost direction, and at 4.45 pm were knocked out by fore of enemy artillery. 7th and 8th Battalions captured the RED LINE but heavy casualties were caused by the M.G. fire. On the left of the 7th Battalion the 2nd A.I. Division failed to get forward and "D" Company 5th Battalion (Capt. H. Burke MC) moved forward and established a position to protect the left flank of the 2nd A.I. brigade.*

*Strength of Battalion on going into the attack – 27 Officers 593 O.R.*

*Casualties were:- Lieut. J. W. Mainsell, 2/Lt. J. Colvin MM and 9 O.R. Killed in Action. Lieuts. H. F. Morrison MC, N. S. Maddox MC & bar, C. C. Hanson MC, H. H. Barber MC, H. L. Simpson, F. W. Corlett and 62 O.R. wounded.*

*Fighting strength of Bn on this date 30 Officers 696 O.R.*

*(Information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### **5th Infantry Battalion**

The 5th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade

In 1917, the battalion participated in the operations that followed-up the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, and then returned to Belgium to join the great offensive launched to the east of Ypres. In March and April 1918, the battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive. It subsequently participated in the great Allied offensive launched near Amiens on 8 August 1918. The 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".

*(Information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private David John Jones was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London on 15th August, 1918 suffering from gunshot wounds to spine & chest & paraplegia – dangerously ill.

Private David John Jones died at 2.30 am on 21st September, 1918 at The King George Hospital, London from gunshot wounds to spine & chest & paraplegia.

A death for David J. Jones, aged 34, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, London/Surrey, England.

The body of Private David John Jones was sent to his father's home for burial – Bryngelli Terrace, Abertridwr, near Cardiff, South Wales.

Private David John Jones was buried on 25th September, 1918 in St. James' Churchyard, Rudry, Wales and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte D. J. Jones – *Coffin was polished Elm. The deceased soldier was interred privately by relatives residing in Wales. His Father, Mother, Brother, Sister and son-in-law, Nephews, Aunts and Uncles were present at the funeral.*

Pte David John Jones was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Jones' father - Mr E. Jones, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private David John Jones – service number 6651, aged 34, of 5th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Ephraim and Elizabeth Jones, of 8 Brymgelli Terrace, Abertridwr, Cardiff. Born at Rudry.

Private D. J. Jones is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 44.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

D. J. Jones is remembered on the Rudry Parish Memorial located outside on the north side of St. James' Church, Rudry, Glamorgan, Wales.



Rudry World War 1 Memorial

D. J. Jones is remembered on the Rudry Parish Memorial located inside on the north wall of St. James' Church, Rudry, Glamorgan, Wales.



**Rudry Memorial** (Photo from Ray Westlake's *Remembering the Great War – Rudry*)

Private David Jones' name is inscribed on the base of a brass missal which is kept close to the altar in St. James' Church, Rudry, Glamorgan, Wales.



**Brass Missal dedicated to Pte David Jones** (Photo from Ray Westlake's *Remembering the Great War – Rudry*)

Private D. J. Jones is remembered on the Abertridwr World War 1 Honour and Remembrance Roll located in Nazareth Chapel now the Abertridwr Community Centre.



**Abertridwr World War 1 Honour and Remembrance Roll** (Photo from Aber Valley Heritage Group)

(36 pages of Pte David John Jones' 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **VICTORIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **List No. 429**

#### **WOUNDED**

D. J. Jones, England (2nd occ.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 September, 1918)

### 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)*

Pte D. J. Jones does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*A Bitter Grief A Shock Severe  
To Part With One We Loved So Dear*

### **St. James' Churchyard, Rudry, Glamorganshire, Wales**

St. James' Churchyard, Rudry contains just 2 Commonwealth War Graves, both from World War 1.



**St. James Church Rudry** *(Photo by Sally Burge)*

Photo of Pte D. J. Jones' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. James' Churchyard, Rudry, Wales.



*(Photo courtesy of Sally Burge)*



Pte David John Jones' mother – Elizabeth Jones was buried with her son in 1925.



*(Photo courtesy of Sally Burge)*

*Also In Loving Memory Of*

***ELIZABETH***, *Beloved wife of EPHRAIM JONES*

*And Mother Of The Said DAVID JOHN JONES, Of This Parish*

*Who Died Nov. 18<sup>TH</sup> 1925, Aged 69 Years.*

*"He Giveth His Beloved Sleep."*



*(Photo courtesy of Sally Burge)*



St James' Churchyard, Rudry, Wales has now been approved to have signage advising that the Churchyard contains Commonwealth War Graves (*Photo courtesy of Sally Burge – 2017*)