

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4031 PRIVATE

G. E. JONES

51ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 29

*Greater Love Hath No Man
Than To Lay Down His Life
For His Friends*

Gilbert Edward JONES

Gilbert Edward Jones was born on 17th August, 1889 at East Guildford, Western Australia to parents Edward and Mary Jane Jones (nee Best).

Gilbert Edward Jones attended Guildford Grammar School, Western Australia.

Gilbert Edward Jones was temporarily employed by the Western Australian Railways from 22nd November, 1905 as a Junior Porter at Woodbridge. He was made a permanent member on 1st January, 1907 & worked as a Junior Porter at Kalgoorlie & Menzies. Gilbert Jones was promoted to Port while at Menzies on 18th August, 1910 then was transferred to Kalgoorlie. He was transferred as a Shunter at Kalgoorlie on 14th November, 1910 then worked at Coolgardie. Gilbert Jones was promoted as Head Shunter on 4th March, 1912 the promoted to the position of Guard on 5th August, 1912. He was last working at York as a Guard on 6th March, 1913 when he was suspended & dismissed for "Excess fare irregularities, for which he was convicted in York Police Court for Stealing." (see *Newspaper Reports section below*)

Gilbert Edward Jones married Unaitta Myrtle Williams on 17th April, 1911 at North Coolgardie, Western Australia.



Gilbert Edward Jones & Unaitta Myrtle Williams on their Wedding Day

Newspaper article – Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 20 April, 1911:

NOTES FROM MENZIES

Menzies, April 18.

There were no sports here on Easter Monday, but the monotony was relieved by the celebration of two weddings. One of the events was the marriage of Miss Juanita Myrtle Williams, of Menzies, to Mr Gilbert Edward Jones, of Coolgardie. The marriage was celebrated by the Rev. Alex. Hay, at the house of the parents of the bride. Mr H. Padley acted as best man, and Miss Selma Cohen was bridesmaid. The bride was given away by her father, Mr R. Williams. The dresses worn by the bride and bridesmaid were neat and charming. The Rev. Alex. Hay presided at the wedding breakfast and referred in eulogistic terms to the estimable qualities of the bride and bridegroom. He regretted the loss that Menzies would sustain by the departure of Mrs Jones, who was a gifted vocalist; but Coolgardie would be the gainer. The evening was afterwards devoted to music and singing. Mr and Mrs Jones left Menzies to-day for their new home in Coolgardie.

A birth was registered in 1912 in the district of Coolgardie, Western Australia for Richard Edward Jones.

A daughter – Unaitta Llewella Jones was born on 7th March, 1916 at Subiaco, Western Australia.

Gilbert Edward Jones was a 28 year old, married, Railway Employee from Claremont, Western Australia when he enlisted at Perth, Western Australia on 28th May, 1917 with the 51st Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4031 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs U. M. Jones – care of R. Williams, corner Goldsmith Road & Stone Street, Claremont, Western Australia.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones was posted with 21st Reinforcements of 28th Battalion for recruit training on 25th May, 1917. He was transferred to 22nd Depot on 1st July, 1917 then transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 51st Infantry Battalion on 19th September, 1917.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 30th October, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th December, 1917.

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 Gilbert Edward Jones was marched in from Australia to 13th Training Battalion, Codford, Wiltshire, England on 27th December, 1917.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones was sent sick to Group Hospital at Codford on 1st January, 1918 with Mumps. He was discharged on 15th January, 1918.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones proceeded overseas to France from 13th Training Battalion, Codford on 1st April, 1918 from Dover.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones was marched in the Base Details (4 M.B.B.D.) at Calais, France from England on 1st April, 1918. Pte Jones proceeded to join his Unit from Calais on 4th April, 1918 & was taken on strength of 51st Battalion in France from 11th Reinforcements on 6th April, 1918.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones was wounded in action in France on 4th August, 1918. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 4th August, 1918 then transferred to 47th Casualty Clearing Station with bullet wounds to left shoulder. Pte Jones was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 6th August, 1918. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle* with Gunshot wounds to back on 7th August, 1918.

51st Battalion

The 51st Battalion assisted in the repulse of a large German attack on 5 April, launching a critical counter-attack late in the day. The German threat remained until late April, and in the early hours of ANZAC Day 1918 the 51st participated in the now legendary attack to dislodge the enemy from Villers-Bretonneux.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Gilbert Edward Jones was admitted to Cheltenham V.A. Hospital, Bristol, England (affiliated to 2nd Southern General Hospital) on 8th August, 1918 with gunshot wounds to left shoulder – slight. Pte Jones was discharged to furlo on 26th September, 1918 to 10th October, 1918 and was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from furlo on 10th October, 1918.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones was sent sick to No. 2 Group Hospital at Hurdcott on 12th October, 1918 with Bronchitis. He was transferred & admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 17th October, 1918 seriously ill with Broncho pneumonia.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones died at 00.40 hrs on 4th November, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Broncho-pneumonia.

A death for Gilbert Jones, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones was buried at 3 pm on 8th November, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England, – Plot number I. H. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Jones - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honours. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from No. 4 Australian Command Depot, Hurdcott. Six of deceased's late comrades supported the Pall. One Officer and about 70 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late company attended as mourners. Wreaths from Sisters, Wife and Mother and Officers and Men of No. 4 Command Depot were placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.* Names of relatives present at the Funeral – Sister – Mrs Jack Gay, 34 New Road, Spalding, Lincs.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Gilbert Edward Jones contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible into the wounds, death and burial of Pte Jones. A reply was received from O.C., Military Hospital, Fovant area, Wilts which reads: "*Re 4031 Pte G. E. Jones, 51st Battn. A.I.F. The above-named soldier was admitted from No. 4 Command Depot on the 17th October, 1918 suffering from Broncho-pneumonia, from which he died on the 4th November, 1918. A Military funeral was carried out from this Hospital, on the 8th November, 1918 and the interment took place at St. George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wilts.*"

Private Gilbert Edward Jones requested in his Will, dated 5th October, 1917, that his wife be appointed Executor of his Will and the whole of his real and personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Unaitta Myrtle Jones.

Private Gilbert Edward Jones was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Jones' widow - Mrs U. M. Jones, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Gilbert Edward Jones – service number 4031, aged 29, of 51st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward and Mary Jane Jones; husband of Unaitta M. Jones, of 25 Smyth Rd., Subiaco, Western Australia.

Private G. E. 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 153.

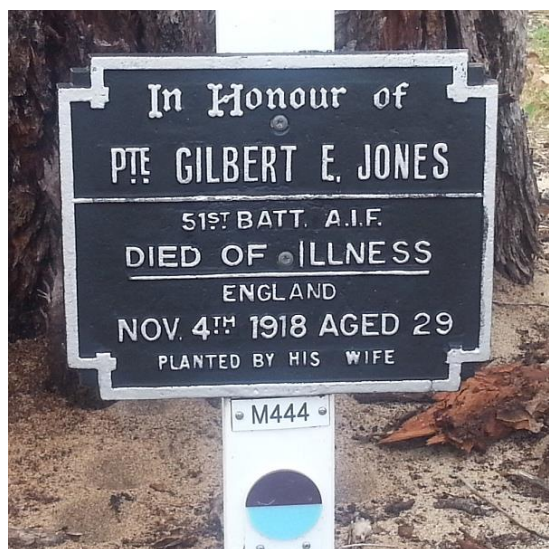


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private G. E. Jones is remembered with a Memorial Plaque (M444) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.



(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)

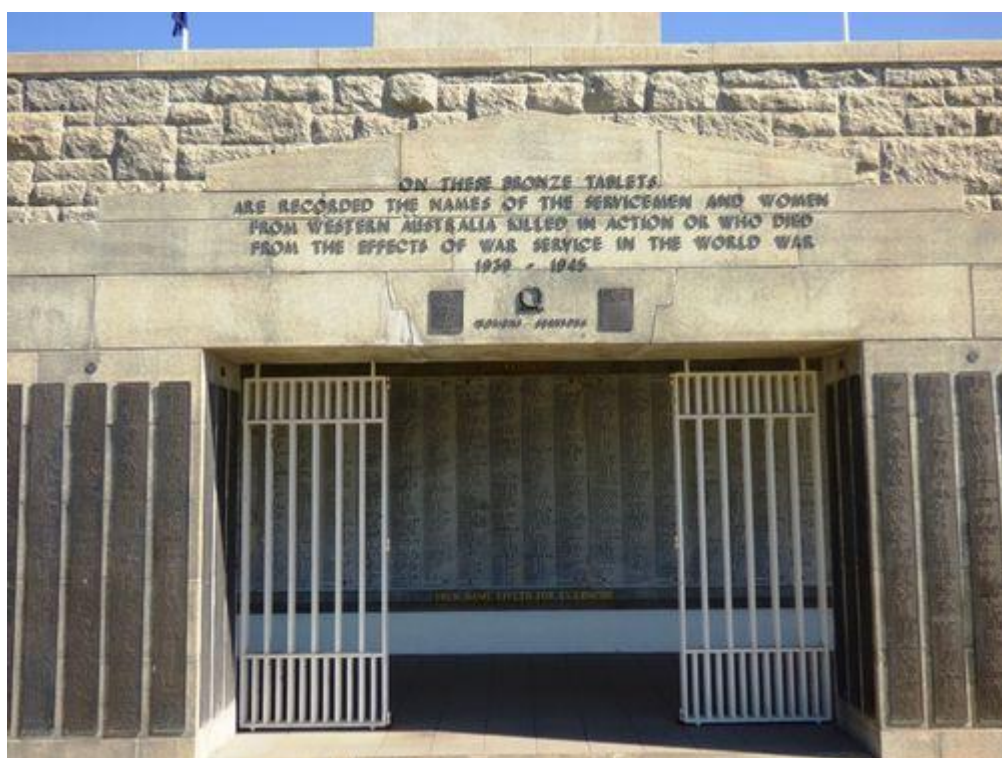
G. E. Jones is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



(56 pages of Pte Gilbert Edward 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



Gilbert Jones with Unaitta Myrtle (wife) & their children - Richard Edward & Unaitta Llewella (baby)



Pte Gilbert Edward Jones



Newspaper Notices

A RAILWAY GUARD IN TROUBLE

PLEADS GUILTY TO THREE CHARGES OF THEFT

At the Court on Wednesday, before the R.M., a railway guard named Gilbert Edward Jones, 24 years of age, was charged on remand with stealing, as a servant, from the Commissioner of Railways, three sums of money aggregating £2 187, between the months of April and July, 1913.

Mr. Barrymore prosecuted on behalf of the Crown, while Mr. Neville defended.

The accused pleaded guilty, and elected to be dealt with summarily. Traffic Inspector Angel briefly explained the system adopted by accused in connection with the defalcations.

In outlining the case, Mr. Barrymore said that the Crown had only prosecuted on three charges, but the total defalcations amounted to £11 16/3. The accused was in receipt of £3 per week as regular wages, but there was overtime in addition, totalling his salary at the very least at £7 10/- per fortnight. The Crown were willing that the accused should be dealt with summarily.

Mr. Neville, for accused, said the charges the Bench had to consider were those set out on the warrant. No one would attempt to overlook the gravity of the offence committed, but he would like to impress upon the R.M. the fact that there were no previous convictions. Jones, who was 24 years of age, was a married man with one child, and he was also called upon to support his wife's father and mother. Together with these expenses he had experienced illness, and the salary he was in receipt of was not sufficient to meet the demands upon his purse. He had yielded to a temptation with the intention of placing the money back into the funds of the Railway Department. The accused was prepared to make restitution, and in mitigation of the offence counsel quoted section 634 of the Criminal Code, which provided that regard might be paid to the antecedents and youth of the person accused of such a crime. Accused had been in the employment of the Department for something like seven years, and nothing against him had been shown previously. It was most unfortunate that Jones should have committed himself, and no matter what happened his future career must be affected. He asked the Bench to show every possible leniency.

Mr. Barrymore said that he was instructed to oppose the application made by Mr. Neville under the Criminal Code, pointing out that as the maximum penalty was seven years' imprisonment the Bench would be debarred from acceding to the request made by accused's counsel.

The R. M.: The First Offenders Act only can be applied when the maximum penalty does not exceed three years.

Mr. Barrymore: This is not a trivial matter. The frauds have been committed systematically. The accused had deliberately planned to rob his employer, and the charges contained in the warrant were done on three separate occasions, extending over the months of April and July. He pointed out that such employees were entrusted with big responsibilities, and the Department relied upon their honesty.

After further argument, the R.M. addressing the accused, said that he was placed in a position of great trust, and his honesty and integrity were relied upon by the Department. Accused had broken that trust and had committed three acts of larceny. This was the first occasion upon which accused had been charged, but other deficiencies had been discovered. The maximum penalty was 6 months' imprisonment or a fine of £50. The accused was young and had a wife and family, and it was hard upon the Court to see so young a man charged with such an offence. There was no doubt that the accused had systematically defrauded the Department, and it was not a case of yielding to a sudden temptation which proved irresistible. He had tampered with the passes by altering the distances. Even if he had the power he would not feel disposed to treat the case under the First Offender's Act, but he would defer passing sentence until two o'clock in order to give the matter further consideration.

Shortly after 2 o'clock the R.M. delivered judgment. In addressing the accused, Mr. Cowan said that after considering the case he had decided to impose a fine of £10, and ordered the restitution of £2 18/7, and payment of £1 1/- costs, in default of distress two months' imprisonment. The accused was given one week to find the amount, and before he left the dock the R.M. expressed the hope that it would be a warning to him in the future.

(Eastern Districts Chronicle, York, Western Australia – 12 September, 1913)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

The 426th list of casualties among West Australian member of the A.I.F. is as under, men whose rank is not mentioned being private soldiers:-

WOUNDED

Gilbert Edward Jones, Claremont

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 31 August, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

JONES – On November 4, 1918, at Fovant Military Hospital, from pneumonia, after wounds received August 8, Private Gilbert Edward Jones, 51st Battalion, dearly loved husband of Myrtle, and fond daddy of Dick and little Neta, aged 29 years and 3 months. He died for King and country.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 22 November, 1918)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Died of Other Causes

G. E. Jones (West Subiaco)

(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 1 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

JONES - In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Private Gilbert Edward (Gil), 51st Battalion, wounded Villers Bretonneaux, August 8, 1918; died from broncho pneumonia on November 4, 1918, at Fovant Military Hospital.

Fond memory clings.

Inserted by his wife and children, Dick and little Neta, West Subiaco.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 4 November, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

JONES - In loving memory of our dear husband and daddy, Private Gilbert Edward (Gil), 51st Battalion, died November 4, 1918, at Fovant Military Hospital.

Fond memories cling.

Inserted by his loving wife and children, West Subiaco.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 4 November, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

JONES - In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Private Gilbert Edward, died at Fovant Military Hospital on November 4, 1918.

He giveth His beloved sleep.

Inserted by his loving wife and children, West Subiaco.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 4 November, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

JONES - In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Pte Gilbert Edward (Gil) 51st Battalion, died at Fovant Military Hospital, November 4, 1918.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by his loving wife and children Dick and little Neta, West Subiaco.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 4 November, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

JONES - In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Gilbert Edward, who died at the Fovant Military Hospital on November 4, 1918. Ever remembered.

Inserted by his loving wife and children, West Subiaco.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 5 November, 1923)

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)

Private G. E. Jones does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Greater Love Hath No Man Than To Lay Down His Life For His Friends

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00 299

(Photo c 1919)



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)



Photo of Private G. E. Jones' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at rear (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)