

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**5403 PRIVATE**

**T. JONES**

**7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**2ND NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 32**

## Thomas JONES

Thomas Christopher Jones was born in 1885 at Bendigo, Victoria to parents Thomas & Flora Jones (nee McDonald).

The 1912, 1913, 1914 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Balaclava, subdivision of St. Kilda East, listed Thomas Jones, Labourer of 23 Octavia St., St. Kilda, Victoria. Also listed at that address was Sarah Ann Jones, Charwoman.

Thomas Jones was a 30 year old, single, Miner from 8 Octavia Street, St. Kilda, Victoria when he enlisted on 3rd January, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5403 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs D. F. Jones, of 8 Octavia Street, St. Kilda, Victoria (previously 23 Octavia St., St. Kilda).

Private Thomas Jones was posted to "D" Company, 24th Battalion at Royal Park for recruit training on 20th January, 1916. He was transferred to "A" Company, 23rd Battalion at Royal Park on 11th March, 1916. Pte Jones was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 7th Infantry Battalion on 31st March, 1916.

Private Thomas Jones embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 4th April, 1916 & disembarked at Suez on 12th May, 1916.

Private Thomas Jones embarked from Alexandria on *Tunisian* on 28th May, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th June, 1916. Pte Jones was marched in to 1st Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 7th June, 1916.

Private Thomas Jones was taken on strength of Battalion in France from Reinforcements on 30th July, 1916.

Private Thomas Jones was complimented by Divisional Commander for participation in a successful raid on 30th September, 1916. He was mentioned in Despatches for participation in a very successful raid on the enemy trenches on 30th September, 1916.

### War Diary – 7th Battalion

*Dominion Camp, Div. Reserve – 30th September, 1916:*

.....

*22.00 – A combined raiding party from 7th & 8th BNS under Lieut. Col. Bennett C.M.G. carried out an enterprise to-night at 2200 on enemy's trenches, in front of Sectors 31 and 32. (See narrative attd)*

*STRENGTH (39) Off. (861) O.Rs. (35) O.Rs from Hospital (139) O.Rs from Reinforcements (1) Off. transferred from 8th Bn 2/Lieut F. H. Hooker.*

*Appendix No. W6*

*NAMES OF OFFICERS AND MEN WHO TOOK PART IN SILENT RAIG 30/9/16*

*..... 5403 Pte Jones, T.....*

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Jones was sent to Hospital sick on 22nd October, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to 1st New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Camiers on 23rd October, 1916 with abrasions to his face. Pte Jones was discharged to duty on 1st November, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion in the field from Hospital on 8th November, 1916.

Private Thomas Jones was admitted sick to Hospital on 20th December, 1916. He was admitted to 38th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 22nd December, 1916 with Trench Feet. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle* on 24th December, 1916 from Havre with Trench Feet.

Private Thomas Jones was admitted to Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, England on 24th December, 1916 – cause - N.Y.D. (Not yet determined). He was discharged to furlo from 29th March, 1917 to 13th April, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

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 Thomas Jones was marched in from furlo to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 14th April, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A.

Private Thomas Jones was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 3rd May, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 to 3 weeks). He was classified as B1 A3 on 8th June, 1917.

Private Thomas Jones was medically classified as A3 (fit for overseas training camp, to which transferred for hardening, prior to rejoining the Unit overseas) on 17th June, 1917 & 18th June, 1917 & A4 on 20th June, 1917.

Private Thomas Jones was medically classified as B1 A4 fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit).

while at Hurdcott on 27th July, 1917 (Private Thomas Jones was medically reclassified as A3 (fit for overseas training camp, to which transferred for hardening, prior to rejoining the Unit overseas) on 23rd August, 1917 & B1 A4 fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit) on 24th August, 1917. He was reclassified as A3 (fit for overseas training camp, to which transferred for hardening, prior to rejoining the Unit overseas) on 28th August, 1917.

Private Thomas Jones was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade from Hurdcott on 31st August, 1917.

The next-of-kin of Private Thomas Jones was altered on 8th September, 1917 from Mrs F. Jones (Mother) to Mrs F. Davidson (Mother) of 40 High Street, St. Kilda, Victoria. (The 1919 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Balaclava, subdivision of St. Kilda East, listed Flora Davidson, Home Duties, living at 40 High Street along with Jeremiah Davidson, Labourer.

Private Thomas Jones proceeded overseas to France from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill via Southampton on 12th December, 1917. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 13th December, 1917. Pte Jones proceeded to join his Unit on 16th December, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 19th December, 1917.

Private Thomas Jones was wounded in action in France (gassed) on 29th December, 1917 (Note – Gas poisoning was classed as Wounded). He was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance then transferred the same day to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Jones was transferred by Ambulance Train 17 on 30th December, 1917. Pte Jones was admitted to 55th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 30th December, 1917. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. David* on 7th January, 1918.

#### War Diary – 7th Battalion

Front Line:

*26 Dec 1917 – Nearly all men in Coy suffering from the effects of gas. Coy. relief, C. Coy. in front line. Casualties 2 O/Ranks killed in ROSE WOOD, Weather fine. Everything frozen.*

*27 Dec 1917 – No activity. Still a lot of gas about in DENYS WOOD. Work still being carried out in front line. Weather fine. Snow on ground. Very cold.*

*Casualties, 9 O/Ranks gassed. 1 O/Rank acc. wounded.*

*28 Dec 1917 – Very quiet on front. Work being carried out on S.P. in front, support, and reserve lines. Weather fine but cold. Observation good. Casualties, 1 Officer – Lieut. E. W. HILL, gassed.*

*29 Dec 1917 – No activity on sector. Weather cold, snow thawing. Lieut. M. V. Crowe joined Battalion from 25th Reinforcements. Casualties, 1 O/Rank wounded on patrol died at A.D.A. 1 O/Rank killed in RAVINE by enemy shelling. Inter-Coy. relief, A. Coy. in front line. 28/29 quiet.*

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Jones was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital at Thorpe, Norwich, England on 7th January, 1918 with gas poisoning. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 30th January, 1918. Pte Jones was discharged to Command Depot at Hurdcott on 8th February, 1918.

Private Thomas Jones was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 8th February, 1918 from 3rd Auxiliary Hospital.

Private Thomas Jones was sent sick to Brigade Hospital on 23rd February, 1918 with jaundice. He was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 1st March, 1918 from Hospital.

Private Thomas Jones was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth from Hurdcott on 10th April, 1918.

Private Thomas Jones was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott from Weymouth on 3rd June, 1918.

Private Thomas Jones was admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 31st October, 1918 seriously ill with Broncho Pneumonia.

Private Thomas Jones died at 8.10 am on 2nd November, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Jones, aged 32, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Thomas Jones was buried on 7th November, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England, – Plot number I. H. 3. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte T. 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 Command Depot A.I.F. Hurdcott. Six of deceased's late comrades acted as Pall bearers. 3 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Wreaths from Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of No. 4 Command Depot and His Comrades were placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

## **7th Battalion**

The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley where it fought between 23-27 July and 15-21 August. After Pozieres the battalion manned trenches in the Ypres salient in Belgium, before returning to the Somme valley. It saw out the horrendous winter of 1916-1917 rotating between training, working parties and duty in the trenches.

In early 1917, the Germans withdrew to the Hindenburg Line and the 7th Battalion participated in the brief advance that followed and then came to a grinding halt before Bullecourt. The battalion was withdrawn from the front line for training on 9 May 1917 and did not return to action until the Ypres offensive of September and October. It fought major battles at Menin Road on 20 September and Broodseinde on 4 October, and then spent much of ensuing winter in the Ypres mud.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Thomas Jones requested in his Will, dated 10th July, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs F. Jones of 8 Octavia St, St. Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria.

The personal effects of the late Private Thomas Jones were received & signed for by his mother – Flora Jones on 11th August, 1919.

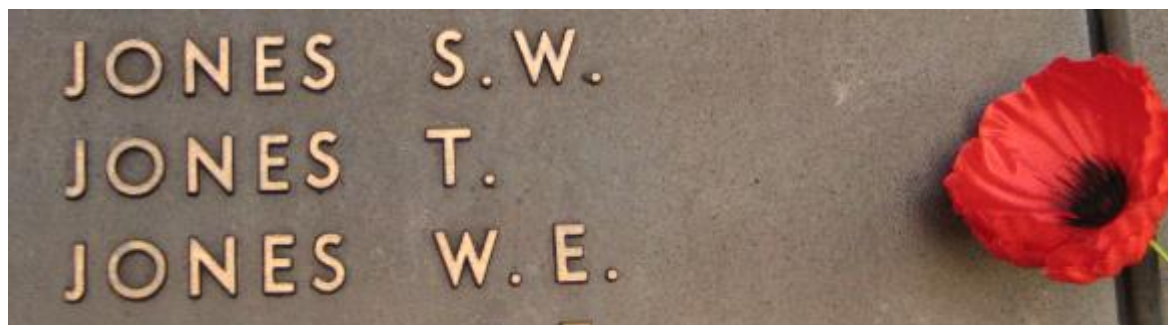
Enquiries were made by Base Records to locate the address of the next-of-kin of the late Private Thomas Jones as previous correspondence had been returned. Notices were placed in the Press in 1922. Base Records were advised in 1924 by the Repatriation Commission that a War Pension was being paid to Flora Davidson, mother of the

deceased, of 112 Dover Street, Richmond. Base Records wrote to Mrs Davidson in October, 1924 to confirm her address at Dover Street, Richmond. Mrs Davidson replied her new address was now 27 Kelso Street, Richmond, Victoria.

Private Thomas Jones was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Jones' mother – Mrs F. Davidson, of 27 Kelso Street, Richmond, Victoria, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1922 but unclaimed & redirected October, 1924 & Plaque sent October, 1924).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Jones – service number 5403, aged 32, of 7th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private T. 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 50.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(60 pages of Pte Thomas 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) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **LIST No. 380**

Victoria

#### **WOUNDED**

Thomas Jones, St. Kilda (gas)

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 January, 1918)*

---

### **The 448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS**

#### **VICTORIAN NAMES**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Private T. Jones, St. Kilda

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 4 December, 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)*

Private T. Jones does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## 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 & rear** (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)





Photo of Private T. Jones's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)