

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6751 PRIVATE

T. A. JONES

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 18

I Mourn My Loss

Your Action Tom

Is Sweet Thought

To My Heart

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte T. A. Jones is located in Grave Plot #211
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Thomas Arthur JONES

Thomas Arthur Jones was born at Beaconsfield, Tasmania around 1897 to parents William & Sarah Susan Jones. He was an 18 year old Driver from Queenstown, Tasmania when he enlisted on 16th August, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6751 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William Jones of Alfred Street, Queenstown, Tasmania. As Thomas was under 21 years of age both parents signed giving consent for their son to enlist in the A.I.F. and for active service abroad.

Pte Thomas Arthur Jones embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Palermo (A56)* on 30th September, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 21st 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 Thomas Arthur Jones was marched in from Australia on 22nd November, 1916 to No. 3 Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Arthur Jones was sent to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 20th December, 1916 for Observation. Pte Jones was discharged to duty on 3rd January, 1917 having suffered from Bronchitis.

Private Thomas Arthur Jones was readmitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 11th February, 1917, with Periphial Neuritis. His condition had been wrongly reported & on 13th February, 1917, Pte Jones was reported to be suffering from Neuritis. He was reported as seriously ill on 14th February, 1917.

Private Thomas Arthur Jones died on 24th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Polyneuritis Acute. (Pte A. E. Wolstenhome, 6644, 6th Battalion also died but from Pneumonia).

A death for Thomas A. Jones, aged 18, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Arthur Jones was buried on 28th February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 211 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private T. A. Jones is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 66.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Thomas Arthur Jones was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Jones's father – Mr W. Jones (sent August, 1921 & February, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Arthur Jones – service number 6751 as being 18 years old & served with 12th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mr W. C. and Mrs S. S. Jones of Alfred Street, Queenstown, Tasmania.

A War Pension was granted to Sarah Susan Jones, mother of the late Pte Thomas Arthur Jones, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 29th April, 1917.

(36 pages of Pte Thomas Arthur 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

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Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR – CASUALTY LIST No. 277

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

HOSPITAL CASES

Pte T. A. Jones, Queenstown, seriously ill

(Examiner, Tasmania – Friday 9 March, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR – 279TH LIST

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte T. A. Jones, Queenstown, 24/2/17

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – Friday 16 March, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

JONES - In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Thomas Arthur Jones, who departed this life in hospital, England, on February 24, 1917.

He gave his life for his country's sake,

By suffering day by day;

We miss him more for he did his share,

To win these laurels, rich and rare –

A hero in a deadly strife.

But he is in our memory still –

He's not dead to us, we loved him dear;

Not lost, but gone before.

He lives with us in memory still –

And will for evermore.

-Inserted by his loving mother and father, sisters and brothers, Mr W. and Mrs S. Jones, Queenstown.

(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania – Monday 25 February, 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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 16th July, 1921, to Mr W. Jones advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte T. A. Jones had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Pte T. A. Jones does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

I Mourn My Loss Your Action Tom Is Sweet Thought To My Heart

Photo of Pte T. A. Jones's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)