

Private William Thomas Jones[©]
Regimental number: 39031
1st/5th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment

born: about 1886 - died: 10 May 1918

REST IN PEACE
NEVER FORGOTTEN BY
HIS LOVING WIFE
AND HIS CHILDREN¹

Private William Thomas Jones' wife had this tribute placed on his gravestone. William died on 10 May 1918 and was buried in Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row B, Grave 30). the following day.²

William had enlisted in the South Lancashire Regiment in about January 1917.³ In May 1918, his battalion was in the field, near Béthune, in northern France. On 8 May, the battalion was warned of a possible enemy attack on the night of 9/10 May.⁴ The battalion's war diary does not record whether the attack occurred, but William was probably injured on 9 May and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station that day with gunshot wounds to his head.

William was one of 331 soldiers admitted to No. 1 CCCS on 9 May. In the month of May, a total of nearly 4,000 soldiers were admitted and 115 died.⁵

The Canadian chaplain, J. K. Tibbits, arrived at No. 1 CCCS the same day as William was admitted.⁶ He entered William's name in the journal of deaths at No. 1 CCCS but did not know who his next of kin was, so he wrote to the adjutant of the 5th Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment to notify them of William's death.⁷ At the time, his wife, Emily Jones, was living at Lea Green Cottages, Lea Green in St. Helens, Lancashire.⁸ She received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.⁹

William, originally from Ruabon, Denbighshire, in Wales, was born in about 1886.¹⁰ Nothing is known about his birth family, but he probably married Emily Hughes (born on 21 August 1885)¹¹ in 1911.¹² It was not possible identify all their children, but one of the youngest was probably Henry H., born on 28 February 1917.¹³

William was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁴ He is remembered on the St. Helen's (Lancashire) Rolls of Honour.¹⁵

His wife received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death. In 1939, she and her son Henry were living at File Walkers Lane, in St. Helens.¹⁶

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¹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2018), entry for Jones, William Thomas, Service No: 39031

² "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 1 February 2018), entry for Jones, W.

³ Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 February 2018), entry for William Thomas Jones

⁴ “UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 February 2018), Regiment or unit: Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment, Sub-unit: 1/5th Battalion, Division: 55th Division, Diary dates: 1916 Jan–1919 Jul, Piece description: Piece 2929/2: 1/5 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment (1916 Jan–1919 Jul), Piece number: 2929

⁵ “War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31,” *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 1 February 2018), entry for Jones, W.

⁸ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2018), entry for Jones, William Thomas

⁹ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 February 2018), entry for William Thomas Jones

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2018), entry for Emily Jones, Ref: RG101/4607J/021/1, Letter code: NONN

¹² “England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 23 March 2018), entry for William T. Jones, District: Wrexham, County: Denbighshire, Volume: 11B, Page: 472

¹³ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 February 2018), entry for Emily Jones

¹⁴ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 1 February 2018), entry for William T. Jones

¹⁵ *St Helens Rolls of Honour* (<http://sthelensrollsofhonour.co.uk/>: accessed 5 April 2018), entry for William Thomas Jones. This memorial site suggests that William was the son of Thomas and Martha Jones and that the family lived in Rhosllannerchrugog, Wales, in 1891, 1901 and 1911. However, there are some inconsistencies, which cast doubt on this theory.

¹⁶ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 1 February 2018), entry for Emily Jones