

Private Robert Edward Jones[©]

Regimental number: 72593

1/6th West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

born: 1895 - died: 30 September 1918

Private Robert Edward Jones was born in 1895 in Minera, Wrexham, Denbighshire, Wales, the son of Robert and Elizabeth Jones.¹ Robert's father, Robert, was born in 1866 in Minera and his mother, in 1865 in Llanarmon, Denbighshire. Robert and Elizabeth had nine children, six of who survived to 1911.² Seven of the nine children have been identified:³ Sarah E. (born in about 1888), Hannah (born in about 1889), Mary (born in about 1894), Robert, Peter (born in about 1898), Thomas (born in about 1900)⁴ and Arthur (born in about 1904).⁵

In 1891 and 1901, the family was living at New Brighton, Minera, where Robert's father was a lead miner.⁶ His father probably died in 1908. In 1911, his mother was a widow and living with four of her children at Top-yr-ochor in New Brighton.⁷ By then, Robert, like his father, was working in the lead mines. He was a lead washer.

Robert enlisted in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (Regimental number: 15065) in Ahereynon, Wales.⁸ At some point he transferred to the Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment.⁹ He joined the Front in France on 21 September 1915.¹⁰ Just short of three years later, Robert was fatally wounded.¹¹ He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 15 September 1918 with shrapnel wounds that penetrated his back. He survived for two weeks, only succumbing to his wounds on 30 September. He was buried the same day in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 96, Plot 7, Row A) with the Canadian chaplain, W. Fisher, presiding.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.¹² The No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹³ A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September 1918.

His mother, who was living at 234 Abercynon Road, Abercynon, Glamorgan, South Wales, was notified of his death.¹⁴ She also received the monies owing to him from the army after his death.¹⁵

Robert was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).¹⁶

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¹ "1901 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 April 2016), entry for Robert E. Jones, Registration district: Wrexham, Sub-registration district: Wrexham, ED, institution, or vessel: 27, Household schedule number: 166, Piece: 5223, Folio: 33, Page Number: 25

² "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 April 2016), entry for Robert E. Jones, Registration district: Wrexham, ED, institution, or vessel: 621, Sub-registration district: Wrexham, ED, institution, or vessel: 27, Household schedule number: 81, Piece: 34054

³ "1901 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 April 2016), entry for Robert E. Jones, Registration district: Wrexham, Sub-registration district: Wrexham, ED, institution, or vessel: 27, Household schedule number: 166, Piece: 5223, Folio: 30, Page Number: 25

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 April 2016), entry for Robert E. Jones

⁶ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 April 2016), entry for Robert Jones, Registration district: Wrexham, ED, institution, or vessel: , Sub-registration district: Wrexham, ED, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 4616, Folio: 70, Page Number: 5; "1901 Wales Census," entry for Robert E. Jones

⁷ "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 April 2016), entry for Robert E. Jones

⁸ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 April 2016), entry for Robert Jones

⁹ The record of his death in the chaplains' journal of the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station shows the he was serving in the 5th Battalion. All other military records record him as being with the 6th Battalion.

¹⁰ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 6 April 2016), entry for Robert Jones

¹¹ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 695

¹² "Duisans British Cemetery, Etun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)

¹³ "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=FINN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)

¹⁴ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 695

¹⁵ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 6 April 2016), entry for Robert Edward Jones

¹⁶ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," entry for Robert Jones