

## **Gunner Archibald Mariner Jones<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 112148**

**"V" 32nd Trench Mortar Battery, Royal Field Artillery**

**born: 1884 – died: 17 August 1917**

Gunner Archibald Mariner Jones was born in 1884 near Abergavenny in Monmouthshire, Wales.<sup>1</sup> He was the son of William and Sarah Ann Jones.<sup>2</sup> Both his parents were born in Monmouthshire—his father William in about 1829 in Cwmyoy and his mother Sarah Ann (née Watkins) in about 1845 in Michaelchurch. William and Sarah married in 1869 near Abergavenny.<sup>3</sup>

Sarah had been married previously. She married James Watkins in Abergavenny in 1863 and they had three children: James (born in about 1858), Mary Ann (born in about 1865) and Eliza (born in about 1867). Sadly, her husband died in 1868 in Pontypridd at the age of 24.<sup>4</sup>

Sarah Ann remarried the following year and she and her second husband, William, had seven children:<sup>5</sup> Margaret (born in about 1870), Rosanna (born in about 1872), Thomas C. (born in about 1874), William (born in about 1875), Alice E (born in about 1882), Archibald and Edith Gertrude (born in about 1889).<sup>6</sup> One of the seven died before 1911.<sup>7</sup>

In 1891, William and Sarah were living at Crofty Cottage in Fwythog, near Abergavenny, where William was an agricultural labourer. Sarah was once again widowed when William died in 1889.<sup>8</sup> William was considerably older than his wife and he died at the age of 60.

In 1901, she was living at Cwm Cottage in Fwthog with three of their children. She was farming and Archibald may have been working on the farm.<sup>9</sup> Ten years later, Archibald (then called Mariner) was living with his mother at 14 North Street, Abergavenny. He was working in a colliery as a haulier. His sister Edith, now married to Clifford Scott, was also living there, with her husband and their infant son, Frederick.<sup>10</sup>

Archibald enlisted in Abertillery, Monmouthshire, as a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery. He served with the "V" 32nd Trench Mortar Battery. Trench mortar batteries did not exist at the beginning of the Great War; it was not until mid-1915 that there was significant production of trench mortars.<sup>11</sup> They were used in both offensive and defensive roles. The "V" 32nd Battery was formed in June 1916.<sup>12</sup>

On 14 August 1917, Archibald was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gas poisoning.<sup>13</sup> He died at 6:50 p.m. on 17 August<sup>14</sup> and was buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: C. 29).<sup>15</sup> Adinkerke Military Cemetery is 20 kilometres east of Dunkirk, in the community of De Panne, just across the border into Belgium. There are 168 Commonwealth soldiers from the Great War buried in the cemetery.<sup>16</sup>

His sister, Edith, who was then living at 17 Frogmore Street in Abergavenny, was notified of his death<sup>17</sup> and she received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>18</sup>

Archibald was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>19</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2016), entry for Archibald Mariner Jones, Registration district: Abergavenny, Inferred County: Monmouthshire, Volume:11, Page: 51
- <sup>2</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2016), entry for Archable Jones, Registration district: Abergavenny, ED, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 4346, Folio:61, Page Number: 3
- <sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2016), entry for Sarah Ann Watkins, Registration district: Abergavenny, Inferred County: Monmouthshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 71
- <sup>4</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 May 2016), entry for James Watkins, Registration district: Pontypridd, Inferred County: Glamorganshire, Volume: 11a, Page: 196
- <sup>5</sup> "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2016), entry for Mariner Jones, Registration district: Abergavenny, Registration District Number: 584, Sub-registration district: Abergavenny, ED, institution, or vessel: 5, Household schedule number: 22, Piece: 5308, Folio: 51, Page Number: 5
- <sup>6</sup> "1871 Wales Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2016), entry for William Jones, Registration district: Abergavenny, Sub-registration district: Llanvihangel, ED, institution, or vessel: 2, Household schedule number: 139, Piece: 614, Folio: 35, Page Number: 25; "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2016), entry for Archable Jones; "1911 Wales Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2016), entry for Mariner Jones, Registration district: Abergavenny, Registration District Number: 584, Sub-registration district: Abergavenny, ED, institution, or vessel: 5, Household schedule number: 22, Piece: 5308, Folio: 51, Page Number: 5
- <sup>7</sup> "1911 Wales Census," entry for Mariner Jones
- <sup>8</sup> "England, Select Deaths and Burials, 1538–1991," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 5 January 2016), entry for William Jones, FHL Film Number: 321132, Reference ID: 163
- <sup>9</sup> "1901 Wales Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 12 May 2016), entry for Archible Marmer [sic] Jones, Registration district: Abergavenny, Sub-registration district: Llanvihangel, ED, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 4928, Folio: 63, Page Number: 3
- <sup>10</sup> "1911 Wales Census," entry for Mariner Jones
- <sup>11</sup> "The Trench Mortar Batteries," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/32div.htm>; accessed 11 May 2016)
- <sup>12</sup> "The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division in 1914–1918," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/32div.htm>; accessed 11 May 2016)
- <sup>13</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 336
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>15</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 10 May 2016), entry for Jones, A.M., Service No: 112148
- <sup>16</sup> "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/>; accessed 30 April 2016)
- <sup>17</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 336
- <sup>18</sup> "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 10 May 2016), entry for Archibald Mariner Jones
- <sup>19</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 10 May 2016), entry for Archibald M Jones