

**Private David Rowland Jones©**  
**Regimental number: 3105369**  
**54th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force**

**born: 31 December 1880–died: 1 October 1918**

Private David Rowland Jones was dead when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 October 1918.<sup>1</sup> It is not known exactly when David was injured—his battalion had suffered many casualties over the preceding days in late September/early October.

David enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 15 October 1917 in Toronto and left Halifax on 3 February 1918, arriving in Liverpool 13 days later.<sup>2</sup> He went to the Canadian military camp in East Sandling, Kent. From there he transferred to the camp in Witley, Sussex, and finally went overseas to France with the 54th Battalion on 18 August 1918. His time on the Front was very short—he was fatally wounded just over six weeks later.

In late September 1918, the 54th Battalion was stationed in Neuville-Vitasse, southeast of Arras in northern France. On 25 September, the battalion moved to the staging area near Bullecourt, in preparation for an attack the following day. The troops arrived at 11:15 p.m. and the following day, after a wet and slippery march, they arrived at the assembly area. The battalion was spread out over the old battlefield and the troops sheltered in dugouts, funkholes<sup>3</sup> and trenches. The attack began the following day and the objective for the battalion was to take Bourlon Wood. It formed up at 5:30 a.m., under intense bombardment by the artillery, but by 10:58 a.m. it had achieved its objective.

On the 28th, the battalion was relieved and enjoyed a day's rest. The reprieve did not last long; on the 29th, the battalion received orders that the Canadian Division would continue the attack and it moved to the assembly area. However, it was not required to advance to the attack that night. The next day the battalion again took up position in the trenches and attacked many enemy positions on the Cambrai–Douai railway embankment. It suffered a lot of casualties—22 Other Ranks (non-officers) killed and 183 wounded—before settling on the railway cutting for the night.

On the morning of 1 October, David's battalion, with the 102nd Canadian Battalion, pushed forward to establish a line but had to withdraw. That was the day that David was admitted to No. 1 CCCS; he had died of gunshot wounds to his left buttock and back.

While taking part with his battalion in operations near Bourlon Wood, he was severely wounded in the left buttock by an enemy machine gun bullet. His wound was dressed and he was taken to the Field Ambulance and evacuated to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station where he died.<sup>4</sup>

A casualty clearing station was a military medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who did not die or could not be adequately treated in the CCS were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital.<sup>5</sup>

David was buried on 2 October in Duisans British Military Cemetery (Plot 8, Row A, Grave 40) with the Canadian chaplain A. D. Reid presiding. Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Étrun, near Arras, France. The first burials in the cemetery took place in March 1917.<sup>6</sup> No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September 1918 and was stationed near Duisans for two months.<sup>7</sup>

David was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).

David was born in England of Welsh heritage,<sup>8</sup> immigrated to the United States and then served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the Great War. About 40,000 Americans (the majority born in America) joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force before the United States joined the war on 6 April 1917.<sup>9</sup> Some of these soldiers were possibly motivated to join up in Canada because they believed in the justness of the fight, for the adventure of going to war, or in order to have regular paychecks.

What motivated David to sign up with the CEF? He enlisted in October 1917—six months after America joined the war effort. Did he enlist with the CEF because the pay was better for Canadian soldiers,<sup>10</sup> because of his ties to England, or for other reasons?

David was born in Liverpool, Lancashire, on 31 December 1880; when he enlisted he was a clerk, 5' 3½" tall and had a fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair.<sup>11</sup> He was the son of William and Ann (née Rowlands) Jones.<sup>12</sup> His parents had 13 children before 1911, only five of whom were still alive at that time:<sup>13</sup>

- William Henry (born in 1876)<sup>14</sup>
- John David (born in 1878)<sup>15</sup>
- David Rowland
- Mary Ann (born on 31 July 1886)<sup>16</sup>
- Alfred (born on 1 May 1891)<sup>17</sup>

It was not possible to identify with certainty the other eight children.

In 1881, David (just 3 months old) and his family were living at 42 Monk Street in Liverpool, where his father was a plasterer. Ten years later, the Jones family was living at 1 Hyde Street in Liverpool. Emily Winsor (born in about 1876 in Liverpool) was a dressmaker living in, and working out of, their home.<sup>18</sup>

David left England in the spring of 1905, at the age of 25, and arrived in New York on 3 April.<sup>19</sup> Nine years later, on 3 October 1914, he became a naturalized American citizen.<sup>20</sup> In 1915, he was a retail salesman, working in a store and lodging in the home of Annie and Warren Barnes at 35 Park Place in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.<sup>21</sup> He was at the same address when he enlisted three years later. Annie Barnes was obviously a significant part of David's life, because she received portions of his pay, was named as the beneficiary in his will and received his posthumous medals.<sup>22</sup>

Annie's husband Warren was born in Rhode Island in about 1858.<sup>23</sup> Annie (nee Barrow), who was considerably younger, was born in about 1870 in England.<sup>24</sup> Annie immigrated to the United States with her family in 1873. She was just 3 years old when they arrived in New York on 1 September 1873. They were going to join a cousin—probably Annie Miller,<sup>25</sup> with whom they were boarding in the spring of 1900.<sup>26</sup>

Annie and Warren married in 1907 in Rhode Island.<sup>27</sup> In 1910, they were living at 35 Park Place with over 25 lodgers, but David was not with them. However, in 1915, he was one of some 15 other people living in the house. He and another person were boarders—that is, they received a room and meals—the remaining were simply roomers.

In spite of the close relationship with Annie Barnes, David's sister Mary Ann was identified as his next of kin in his military records. She had married Charles Flewitt in 1911<sup>28</sup> and they were living at 1 Plan Street in Liverpool during the war.<sup>29</sup> They remained there until just before the Second World War<sup>30</sup> but, by 1939, she was a widow living at 57 Erskine Street in Liverpool, with her son William and her brother Alfred.<sup>31</sup> Mary Ann probably died in 1940.<sup>32</sup> Her son David Charles and his wife Christine had also been living with her in 1938/39.<sup>33</sup> David died just over two years later, in December 1942, when he was serving as an assistant steward on the SS *Ceramic*, part of the merchant navy.<sup>34</sup>

David's parents remained in Liverpool when he left for Canada. In 1911, they and two of their children, John and Mary Ann, were living at 17 Plan Street, just down the road from the home that their daughter Mary Ann would move into during the war.<sup>35</sup>

David's eldest brother William Henry married Emily Winsor, who has been living with the family. They married on 3 August 1902 at St Jude's Church in Liverpool.<sup>36</sup> In 1911, William, a plumber, and Emily were living at 31 Millvale Street in Fairfield with their daughter Emily Louise.<sup>37</sup>

Little is known about the rest of David's family. Perhaps his relationship with his birth family was not close—hence, he left his possessions to Annie Barnes. Annie and Warren were still maintaining a boarding house at 35 Park Place until at least 1925,<sup>38</sup> when Warren died. Warren Barnes and Annie's father William Barrow are remembered on the same gravestone in Moshassuck Cemetery in Central Falls, Rhode Island.<sup>39</sup> Annie died on 20 February 1943 and was buried in Pawtucket.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 31 December 2019), entry for Jones, D.

<sup>2</sup> "Personnel Records of the First World War," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>: accessed 18 February 2020), entry for Jones, David, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 4928-30, Item number: 338776, Digitized service file - PDF format: B4928-S030. Unless otherwise specified all information about David's military service comes from this source.

<sup>3</sup> Funk holes were "small areas scraped out of the side of a trench. When it was raining, soldiers would drape a waterproof sheet over the opening and would try to get some sleep. Some officers considered funk holes too dangerous and banned men from sleeping in them." Spartacus Educational (<https://spartacus-educational.com/FWWfunk.htm>: accessed 31 May 2020)

<sup>4</sup> "Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1948," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 May 2020), entry for David Jones

<sup>5</sup> "Casualty Clearing Station," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty\\_Clearing\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station): accessed 2 May 2020)

<sup>6</sup> "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 7 October 2015)

<sup>7</sup> "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/>; accessed 17 June 2015)

<sup>8</sup> "Rhode Island, State Censuses, 1865-1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 May 2020), entry for David R. Jones, Enumeration year: 1915, Township: Pawtucket Ward 4, County: Providence, Enumeration district or census tract: 193, Line number: 16, Household number: 117, Volume number: 1

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- <sup>10</sup> “The forgotten history of the thousands of Americans who came north to fight in the Great War,” Monika Warzecha, April 5, 2017, *National Post* (<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/the-forgotten-history-of-the-thousands-of-americans-who-came-north-to-fight-in-the-great-war>: accessed 22 May 2020)
- <sup>11</sup> “Personnel Records of the First World War,” *Library and Archives Canada*, entry for Jones, David
- <sup>12</sup> “1881 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 25 May 2020), entry for David R. Jones, Registration district: West Derby, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 89, Piece: 3672, Folio: 6, Page: 5
- <sup>13</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 25 May 2020), entry for William Jones, Registration district: West Derby, Registration district number: 455, Sub-registration district: West Derby Western, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 23, Piece: 22575
- <sup>14</sup> “GRO online index (birth),” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 26 May 2020), entry for Jones, William Henry, Registration district: West Derby and Toxteth Park, Volume 08B, Page 396
- <sup>15</sup> “GRO online index (birth),” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 26 May 2020), entry for Jones, John David, Registration district: West Derby and Toxteth Park, Volume 08B, Page 323
- <sup>16</sup> “1939 England and Wales Register,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 14 June 2020), entry for Mary Flewitt, Schedule number: 65, Sub-schedule Number: 2, Enumeration district: NHRC, Registration district: 453-5
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup> “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 May 2020), entry for David R. Jones, Registration district: West Derby, Sub-registration district: West Derby, Western, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 40, Piece: 3492, Folio: 103, Page: 14
- <sup>19</sup> “Rhode Island, Indexes to Naturalization Records, 1890–1992,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 May 2020), entry for David Rowland Jones
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> “Rhode Island, State Censuses, 1865–1935,” *Ancestry*, entry for David R. Jones, Enumeration Year: 1915
- <sup>22</sup> “Personnel Records of the First World War,” *Library and Archives Canada*, entry for Jones, David
- <sup>23</sup> “Rhode Island, State Censuses, 1865–1935,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2020), entry for Warren M. Barnes, Enumeration year: 1875, Township: North Providence, County: Providence, Enumeration district or census tract: 2, Line number: 4, Household number: 36, Volume number: 20, Page: 6
- <sup>24</sup> “New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 May 2020), entry for Anne Barrow
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>26</sup> “1900 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2020), entry for Annie Barrow
- <sup>27</sup> “Rhode Island, Marriage Index, 1851–1920,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 22 May 2020), entry for Annie M. Barrow
- <sup>28</sup> “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 November 2020), entry for Mary A. Jones, Registration district: West Derby, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8b, Page: 800
- <sup>29</sup> “Personnel Records of the First World War,” *Library and Archives Canada*, entry for Jones, David
- <sup>30</sup> “Liverpool, England, Electoral Registers, 1832–1970,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 May 2020), entry for Mary Ann J. Flewitt, Residence Year: 1939–1940
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- <sup>37</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 25 May 2020), entry for William Jones, Registration district: West Derby, Registration district number: 455, Sub-registration district: West Derby Western, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 05, Piece: 22615
- <sup>38</sup> "Rhode Island, State Censuses, 1865–1935," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2020), entry for Annie M Barnas [*sic*], Enumeration Year: 1925, Township: Pawtucket Ward 4, County: Providence, Enumeration district or census tract: 159, Line number: 1, Household number: 264, Volume number: 3, Page number 32
- <sup>39</sup> "Web: Rhode Island, Historical Cemetery Commission Index, 1647–2008," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2020), entry for Warren M. Barnes
- <sup>40</sup> "U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 19 May 2020), entry for Anna [*sic*] Barnes