Jones, George Arthur

A West Australian railway employee
killed while on military service for their country



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland (D.Graham/panoramio)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Fireman

Rail employment notes: Born 19/3/1883. Joined WAGR 1/5/1901 aged 18 as Cleaner, Fremantle. ("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning locomotives and otherwise employed at a locomotive depot whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder.)

Transferred to Perth 22/3/1902, Kalgoorlie 25/1/1909 and Perth 7/2/1910. Promoted to Fireman, Perth 28/9/1910 and transferred to Northam 11/11/1913 and to York 20/5/1914.

Granted leave to join AIF 13/4/1916 (Service No.29604). Killed in action 22/9/1917.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force (AIF)
Military unit:	7th Australian Field Artillery Brigade
Service number:	29604
Date of death:	22 September 1917
Place of death:	Belgium
Age:	33
Rank:	Bombardier

Burial/memorialisation: The Huts Cemetery, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

George Jones enlisted on 27/3/1916.

On enlistment he declared that he had 3 years Militia service and made his wife Ruby Madeline Jones his Next of Kin. Initially someone had the idea of assigning him to 5th/51 Bn but that never went forward and he was given an Artillery number. He moved across to Victoria and departed Australia through the Port of Melbourne. He embarked with the 118th Howitzer Battery from Melbourne aboard HMAT *Aeneas* on 3/10/1916.and disembarked at Plymouth on 19 November 1916. He converted to 7 Field Artillery Battery and departed Southampton on 31 December 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force. On 26 April 1917 he was promoted to be an Acting Bombardier. He suffered a minor injury (Wounded in Action) on 5 June 1917 which kept him off duty until 10 June 1917 but was then hospitalised from 15 June to 21 June 1917 with influenza.

On 22 September 1917 at the height of the Third Battle of Ypres he was Killed in action. Bdr Jones was buried in the small cemetery of Vlamertinghe, 2.5 miles west of Ypres (now Ieper). Post War, the soldiers buried in that cemetery were exhumed and re-buried in The Huts Cemetery, Ypres (Ieper) 6 Km South West of Ypres.

Additional/personal information:

George Jones was born in London, England but the family emigrated to Australia when he was just 9 months old and the births of his siblings are registered in WA from 1891 onwards. He went to school in Claremont WA. He served 3 years in the (volunteer) WA Infantry Regiment.

He married Ruby Madeline Lloyd in 1908 and it appears they had two sons:

> JONES.-Killed in action, on September 22, 1917, Bombardier Geo. A. Jones (late of W.A.G.R.), dearly loved husband of Ruby Jones, 103 Zebina Street, ML Lawley, and eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A W. Jones, of Claremont, and loving father of Max and Ray. -Inserted by his sorrowing wife and children. *Sunday Times* 14/10/1917p1

Bombardier Jones headstone bears the inscription: "Taken from you for a short time in presence. Not in Heart." The rows around Bdr Jones, comprise mostly men from Artillery Regiments of various Commonwealth Countries who were engaged in furious artillery duels at that phase of the Third Battle of Ypres.

In his file Bdr Jones records that his Will is being held by his wife in Perth. For his service Bdr Jones was entitled to receive the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were issued to his widow. A military pension was paid to his widow at the rate of 40/- per fortnight, a son Arthur Maxwell 20/- per fortnight and Raymond Lloyd 15/- per fortnight all to commence with effect from 09 Dec 1917.

Families often committed totally to the war. George's father Arthur Ward Jones recorded after the war that George "was the eldest of four brothers who enlisted for the war, viz. Charlie, 27th Battalion, Alfred, Driver 12th Battery A.F.A., and Fred who enlisted in the Malayan contingent, Singapore, and transferred to the South Wales Borderers in England – he became Captain, 1st Battalion, and was killed at Mametz Wood, Somme 16th July 1916. Awarded the Military Cross."

Further information and/or photos may be added as available. Information may also be found on the Australian War Memorial website: *https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people*

Abbreviations: WAGR= Western Australian Government Railways (& Tramways at some periods); MRWA= Midland Railway of Western Australia; BDM=Western Australian Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages website; AWM=Australian War Memorial (Canberra and website); CWGC= Commonwealth War Graves Commission (including website). DVA=Department of Veterans' Affairs (including website)

Acknowledgements: Rail employment notes from WAGR Honour Roll and WAGR records held by State Records Office, Perth, transcribed by J.Austin 2019. Military information researched by Dr G.M.Galvin. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

----------Lest we forget----------