Jones, Samuel James

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:	Stores
Designation:	Tallyman

Rail employment notes: Tallyman, No.2 Railway Mill, Dwellingup*. Enlisted in 16th Battalion AIF 24/6/1915. Died of wounds 27/8/1916.

* WAGR records of individual employees, available from the SRO, do not generally include those who worked at the Railway Sawmills. Names and designations have been listed from local Honour Boards, the Railway Institute Magazine, and/or AWM records.

Military service information:

Conflict:	The Great War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	16th Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2723
Date of death:	27 August 1916
Place of death:	France
Age:	26
Rank:	Private
Burial/memorialisation:	Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Dernancourt, Picardie, France

Samuel James Jones enlisted in the AIF on 24 June 1915 and stated that he had 2 years and 77 days experience in the British Territorial Army before migrating to Australia at the age of 21. His parents still resided in Mortlake, Surrey. He nominated his father as his Next of kin and also the sole beneficiary in his will. He was assigned to 8th Reinforcements to 16th Battalion with the regimental number 2723 and sailed for Egypt aboard A68 HMAT *Anchises* on 02 Sep 1915 from Fremantle. He disembarked at Alexandria and then crossed to Mudros where he was taken on strength of 16th Battalion on 23 October 1915. The Battalion was enjoying a rest period on Lemnos Island at that time. His records are then silent until 30 December 1915 when he returned to Alexandria. The Battalion boarded HMT *Canada* on 1 June 1916 and disembarked at Marseilles to join the British Expeditionary Force on 9 June 1916. In August 1916 the Battalion was in the region of Albert (north east of Amiens) prior to moving to the front at Pozieres when he was wounded in the back and abdomen on 6 August 1916 but the details are not known. Private Jones entered the medical evacuation chain which was under severe stress with casualties from Pozieres. He is recorded as passing through 4 Field Ambulance, 13 Fd Amb, 21 CCS, 44 CCS until he was finally admitted to 13 General Hospital at Boulogne on 19 August 1916 where he Died of wounds on 27 August 1916. He was buried in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery that same day.

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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*

Additional/personal information:

Samuel Jones was born in Mortlake, Surrey England and was schooled there before coming to WA at the age of 21.

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His parents had his headstone inscribed with: "None knew him but to love him none spoke his name but to praise him".

An image of private Jones may be seen at *https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/206924*

His brother Sydney Arthur Jones enlisted at the same time (regimental number 2670) and travelled to Egypt on the same ship. Sydney survived the War and was decorated with the Belgian Croix-de-Guerre, but returned to England after the war.

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).

Acknowledgements: Rail employment notes from WAGR Roll of Honour in WAGR annual report 1919 and WAGR records held by State Records Office, Perth, transcribed by J.Austin 2019. Military information researched by Dr G.M.Galvin. Family information added by G.Higham.

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

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