

Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey
War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3523 PRIVATE

R. S. JONES

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 22

In Loving Memory Of
Our Dear One

Rolf Stanley JONES

Rolf Stanley Jones was born at Raglan Street, Preston, Victoria, Australia on 17th November, 1892 to parents Walter Edgar and Catherine Jones (nee Gaskell). His birth was registered in 1893.

Rolf Stanley Jones attended Mitcham State School & Hawthorn Technical College, Victoria.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Mitcham, Victoria listed Rolf Stanley Jones, Florist, of Mt. Pleasant Rd, Tunstall.

Rolf Stanley Jones was a 22 year old, single, Florist from Mount Pleasant Road, Tunstall, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 15th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3523 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. E. Jones, Mount Pleasant Road, Tunstall, Victoria.

Private Rolf Stanley Jones was posted to “C” Company, 8th Depot Battalion from 29th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 16th September, 1915.

Private Rolf Stanley Jones embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11th October, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Rolf Stanley Jones joined 7th Battalion at Tel el Kebir on 20th January, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private Rolf Stanley Jones was transferred to 59th Battalion on 24th February, 1916 from 7th Battalion at Serapeum. He was taken on strength of 59th Battalion at Tel el Kebir on 24th February, 1916.

Private Rolf Stanley Jones was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance on 27th February, 1916 with Parotitis. He was discharged to duty on 4th March, 1916. (Statement of Service form recorded he was admitted on 29th February, 1916 with Gastric Influenza).

Private Rolf Stanley Jones embarked from Alexandria on 18th June, 1916 on *Kinfauns Castle* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private Rolf Stanley Jones was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 19th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) to Face then transferred on 20th July, 1916 to No. 1 Ambulance Train. Private Jones was admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux, France on 20th July, 1916 with “G.S.W. nose blown away.” He embarked on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* from Boulogne on 21st July, 1916.

59th Battalion

The 59th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 21 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits came from the veteran 7th Battalion, and the other half were fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 7th, the 59th was predominantly composed of men from rural Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

On 19 July 1916, the 59th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, less than a month after it arrived in France. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the 59th. Attacking in the first wave, the 59th suffered heavy casualties at the hands of German machine-gunners, and its advance faltered far short of its objective. Despite grievous losses, the units of the 5th Division manned the front line around Fromelles for a further two months.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 59th Battalion

18th July, 1916

4 pm – 59th Battn relieves 57th Battn in firing line, Front line from PINNEY's AVENUE to V.C. AVENUS. Front bombarded during afternoon and our artillery gave retaliation.

19th July, 1916

12 noon – Heavy bombardment of enemy lines. 60th Battn relieved half our front from PINNEY AVENUE inclusive.

7 pm – 59th Battn attacked enemy position in four waves. First wave going over parapet at 6.45 pm other three waves following at five minute intervals. Attack did not penetrate enemy trenches being held up by intense rifle and machine gun fire approximately 100 yards from enemy front line.

Casualties sustained in action of 19th/20th July 1916

	Officers	Other Ranks
<i>Killed</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Wounded</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>381</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>269</i>
<i>Died of Wounds</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>674</i>

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Rolf Stanley Jones was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, England on 22nd July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to face. He was discharged from 2nd Western General Hospital on 17th October, 1916 to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot with shrapnel wounds to nose – slight.

Mr W. E. Jones, Mount Pleasant Road, Tunstall, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 2nd August, 1916 “*regret reported son Private Rolf S. Jones admitted Second Australian General Hospital Wimmereux, France 21st July Gunshot wound nose blown away severe. Will promptly advise if anything further received.*”

Private Rolf Stanley Jones was admitted to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, England on 18th October, 1916 (as per Hospital Admissions form) with Acute Otitis Media & Acute Mastoiditis. From the Hospital Admissions form: “*Mastoid antrum & cells opened & drained Dec 20th, 1916. Necrosis of the inner wall of the mastoid antrum leading to (7 weeks after above operation) purulent meningitis of the cerebrum and cerebellum.....*” (The Statement of Service form recorded he was admitted to Cambridge Military Hospital on 7th October, 1916 & War Gratuity Schedule recorded incorrectly that he was admitted on 9th February, 1917 – Mastoid).

Mr W. E. Jones, Mount Pleasant Road, Tunstall, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 17th February, 1917 that Private R. S. Jones had been admitted to Cambridge Hospital on 9th February, 1917 suffering from mastoids severe.

Private Rolf Stanley Jones died at 7.20 am on 15th February, 1917 at Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, England from Meningitis.

A death for Ralph Jones, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Farnham, Surrey, England.

Private Rolf Stanley Jones was buried on 19th February, 1917 in Military Cemetery, Aldershot, England – Grave No. A2.

Base Records wrote to Mr W. E. Jones, "Nestella", New Grove Road, Healesville, Victoria on 19th April, 1920 to advise: *"With reference to my communications of the 13th August, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your son the late No. 3523 Private R. S. Jones, 59th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which show that his remains have been exhumed from grave No. A2, Aldershot Cemetery, and re-interred in grave No. 315, Australian Section F, Brookwood Cemetery, Brookwood, England. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Base Records wrote to Mr W. E. Jones, Donaldson Rd. Kangaroo Ground, Victoria on 5th April, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row D Grave 1.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. D. 1. Private Rolf Stanley Jones has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Catherine Jones, Mt Pleasant Rd, Tunstall, mother of the late Private Rolf Stanley Jones, applied for a War Pension but this was rejected *"not dependent."*

Base Records noted on the records for the late Private Rolf Stanley Jones on 30th October, 1918, that the new address for his parents would be "Nestalla", New Grove, Healesville, Victoria (previously Mount Pleasant Rd, Tunstall, Victoria).

Base Records noted on the records for the late Private Rolf Stanley Jones on 15th July, 1920, that the new address for his parents Mr & Mrs W. E Jones would be Donaldson Road, Kangaroo Ground, Victoria (previously Healesville, late Tunstall).

Private Rolf Stanley Jones was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Jones' father –Mr W. E. Jones, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Rolf Stanley Jones – service number 3523, aged 22, of 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Walter Edgar and Catherine Jones, of Nestalla, New Grove Rd., Healesville, Victoria, Australia.

Private R. S. Jones is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 168.



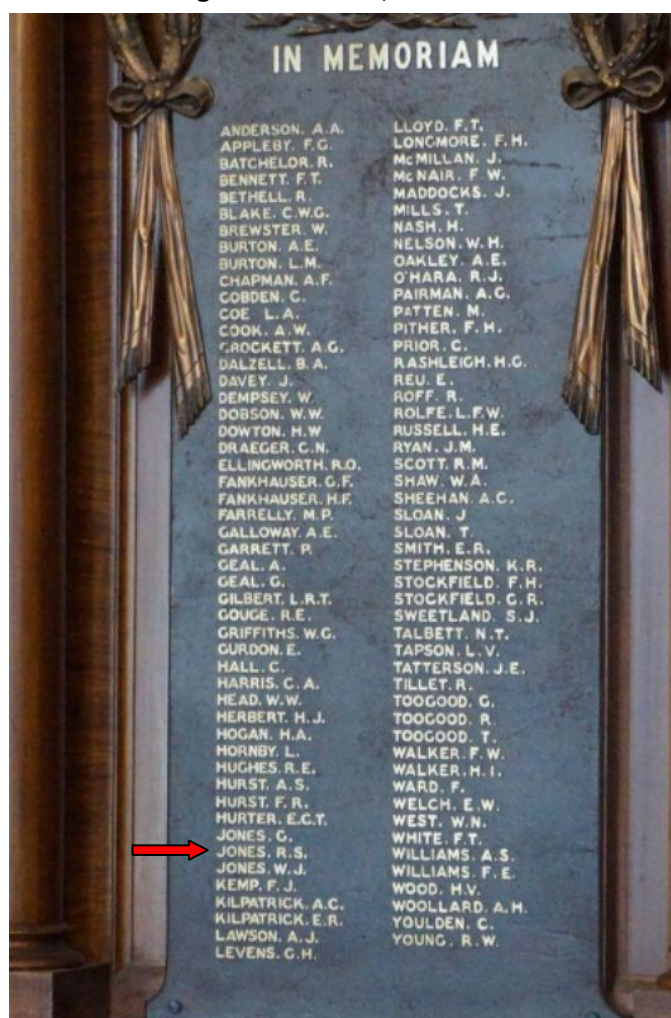
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. S. Jones & his brother G. Jones are remembered on the Shire of Nunawading Honour Roll, located in Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, Victoria.

Between 1886 & 1945 Tunstall was the name of the present-day township of Nunawading, 18 km east of central Melbourne.



Shire of Nunawading Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



S. R. Jones & his brother G. Jones are remembered on the Box Hill War Memorial, located in Box Hill Gardens, Nelson Road, Box Hill, Victoria.



Box Hill War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)



R. S. Jones & his brother G. E. Jones are remembered on the Mitcham War Memorial, located at Halliday Park, Mitcham Road, Mitcham, Victoria.



Mitcham War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)



Rolf Stanley Jones & his brother Geoffrey Ernest Jones are both remembered on a Stained Glass Window in Mitcham Christ Church Anglican Church, Maroondah Highway and Edward Street, Mitcham, Victoria.



(Photo courtesy of Revd Penny Charters, All Saints Church, Mitcham)

From Victorian Heritage Database:

Inscription:

To the Glory of God, in loving memory of our dear sons

Rolf Stanley and Geoffrey Ernest Jones

Who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918.

Description & History

In March 1918, Walter and Catherine Jones donated £50 for the purchase of a window in memory of their two sons, Rolf and Geoffrey Jones, and it was duly installed in the original church in 1923. The window is attributed to Brooks, Robinson & Co. although no details of the commission has been found to date.

Younger son, Geoffrey Ernest Jones, was a 20 year-old engineer when he enlisted on 17 August 1914, initially in 8 Battalion. Shortly after the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, he received a wound to his scalp and was evacuated to No. 2 General Hospital Cairo but rejoined his unit within a few weeks. His two years' experience with 48 Battalion

Infantry at Surrey Hills saw him promoted to Corporal and then temporary Sergeant. He transferred to 60 Battalion on 24 February 1916 and sailed from Alexandria for France in June, disembarking at Marseilles on 29 June 1916. He was reported missing on 19 July in the Fromelles battle, but this was amended later to 'killed in action'. He is remembered at VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles, France.

Rolf Stanley Jones originally joined 7 Battalion after enlisting as a 22 year-old on 15 July 1915. He was taken on strength of 59 Battalion on 24 February 1916, sailing with his brother on the same ship to Marseilles. He was wounded in action in France on the same day that his brother was reported missing in action. Evacuated to England two days later he spent months in hospital before he died of meningitis at Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot on 15 February 1917. Buried initially at Aldershot he was reburied later at Brookwood Military Cemetery.

References & Acknowledgements

AWM Roll of Honour; NAA: B2455, Jones RS; NAA:B2455, Jones GE; unpublished research by Ted Arrowsmith, Christ Church Mitcham Achives Committee.

(44 pages of Private Rolf Stanley Jones' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Connected to Private Rolf Stanley Jones:

Younger brother – George Ernest Jones (b. 14 August, 1894) – Enlisted 19th August, 1914 as a 20 year old Engineer. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on 19th October, 1914 as Lance Corporal Service No. 798. Promoted to Sergeant. Killed in action 19th July, 1916. VC Corner Australian Cemetery & Memorial, Fromelles, France.



Sergeant George Ernest Jones.

VC Corner Australian Cemetery & Memorial, Fromelles, France (Photo by soilsister – Find a Grave)





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H06651

Private Rolf Stanley Jones



Newspaper Notices

NUNAWADING SOLDIERS

The following names are those to hand of the soldiers who have enlisted for active service from the Shire of Nunawading:-

.....

GEOFFREY JONES

ROLF STANLEY JONES

.....

(*The Reporter*, Box Hill, Victoria – 7 January, 1916)

756 CASUALTIES

IN 192ND LIST

WOUNDED

Pte R. S. Jones, Tunstall

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 14 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 276

DIED OF ILLNESS

Victoria

JONES, R. S., Tunstall

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 3 March, 1917)

DEATH

JONES – On 15th February, at Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, England, from wounds received in France, Rolf Stanley, dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs W. E. Jones, of Tunstall, and brother of the late Sergeant G. E. Jones, who fell in the Somme battle on 19th July, 1916.

(*The Reporter*, Box Hill, Victoria – 9 March, 1917) & (*Camberwell and Hawthorn Advertiser*, Victoria 10 March, 1917)

DEATHS

On Active Service

JONES – On the 15th February, at Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, England, from result of wounds received in France, Rolf Stanley, dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs W. E. Jones, of Tunstall, and brother of the late Sergeant G. E. Jones, who fell in the same battle, 19th July.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 March, 1917)

BEREAVEMENT CARDS

MR and Mrs W. E. JONES, of Tunstall, tender sincere THANKS to their many friends for loving sympathy in their great bereavement.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 March, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(*Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921*)

Private R. S. Jones does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Loving Memory Of Our Dear One

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. (*Information from CWGC*)

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (*Photo from CWGC*)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.

Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery *(Photos by Magicfingers)*





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private R. S. Jones' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

