

D.J. Jones, Australian IF – 21st September 1918 (Age 34).

6651 – Private David John Jones – 5th Battalion Australian Imperial Force

David's is the second of the two Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorials in St James' churchyard.

He was born in Rudry in early 1884 to Ephraim Moses Jones (a circular sawyer and general labourer born 09/07/1858 in Rudry) and Elizabeth Jones, née Davies (born 1857) from Troedyrhiw. He had an older sister Maria (born 1881) and an older brother James Moses (b. 22/05/1878). At the time they lived in a 'cottage near the Maenllwydd' in Rudry. By 1911 the family has moved to 76 High Street, Abertridwr and James was a winding engineman.



David, who at the time was a commercial traveller, emigrated from Liverpool to Australia on board the Everton Grange in April 1912. At the age of 32 and working then as a farm labourer in East Trentham (40 miles NW of Melbourne), he enlisted on the 8th March 1916 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force.

He listed his next of kin as Mr Ephraim Jones of 8, Bryngelli Terrace, Abertridwr and was noted by the Australian Department of Defence as 'an all-round athlete'.

After completing basic training, he embarked with the 5th Battalion on HMAT Nestor on 2nd October 1916 arriving at Plymouth on 16th November 1916. Further training was undertaken and he left Folkestone for France on 2nd February 1917 on board SS Victoria.

David was wounded in action on 4th October 1917 with shrapnel wounds to his hand, left leg and face. After recovery he re-joined his unit on 9th November 1917. He returned home on leave between 27th January and 12 February 1918.

After being sent to Intelligence School on 19th June, he re-joined the 5th Battalion on 26th June and was wounded for the second time on 9th August 1918 in an attack near Bayonvillers. Of the 27 officers and 593 other ranks of the 5th Battalion in the attack, 2 officers and 9 other ranks were killed and 6 officers and 62 other ranks (including David) were wounded.

David was evacuated with gunshot wounds to the shoulder, spine and chest on Hospital Ship St Denis on 15th August 1918. He was taken to The King Hospital in London but died from his wounds at 2.30am on 21st September 1918. His body was sent to his Father's home in Abertridwr and buried in St James' Churchyard, Rudry on 25th September. He was laid to rest in a polished Elm coffin and was attended by his Father, Mother and other members of his family.

He is commemorated on the St James' memorial and also on the base of a brass missal by the altar, as well as being listed on the Abertridwr remembrance roll in the Nazareth Chapel – now moved to the community centre.

He is also commemorated on panel 44 at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and his name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory on 15/12/2021 at 3.01am and on 04/03/2022 at 1.54am.

David's Mother Elizabeth died on 18th November 1925, aged 69 years. She was buried with David.

In 1939, David's Father, along with James (now retired) and his wife Tegwen Elizabeth, née Thomas (b.23/02/1879) were living at 8 Bryngelli Terrace, Abertridwr. James died in 1941 (aged 63), Ephraim in 1943 (aged 85) and Tegwen in 1958 (aged 79).

