

Lance Corporal William Edward Bayford Jones[©]

Regimental number: 94270

129th Field Company, Royal Engineers

born: 1888 - died: 30 April 1916

Lance Corporal William Edward Bayford Jones was born in 1888 in Wandsworth, London.¹ He was the eldest child of Edward and Elizabeth Jane Jones.² Edward was born in about 1863, in Headington, Oxford³ and Elizabeth Jane sometime between 1866 and 1873 probably in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.⁴ Edward and Elizabeth Jane (formerly Bayford) were married in Wandsworth in 1888. They had eight children, seven of whom were still living in 1911. William was the eldest child and his siblings were Florence Ellen (born in 1890),⁵ Lilian [*sic*] May (born in 1892 but probably died a few months later),⁶ Alice Maud (born in 1894),⁷ Alfred Charles (born in 1896),⁸ Dorothy (also known as Dolly) (born in 1899),⁹ Rosie Jane (born in 1902)¹⁰ and Walter (born in about 1905).¹¹

The family lived initially at 14 Broxholme Road, Fulham, with Elizabeth Jane's parents – William and Elizabeth Bayford – and their other children. William and Jane had one room and the Bayfords occupied the remaining four rooms. William and Jane had moved the family to the Islington area by the late 1890s. In 1901, they were living at 23 Alsen Road. In 1911, they were living at 9 Victor Road, Finsbury Park, Holloway North, where both Edward and his son, William, were labourers with the Islington Borough Council in the electricity department.¹² Later the same year, William married Alice Jessie Twinn in the registration district of Edmonton.¹³ Alice Jessie was born in about 1889 in Hornsey,¹⁴ the daughter of James E. (a carman) and Helena Twinn, both of London.¹⁵ They do not appear to have had any children.

William enlisted as in the Royal Engineers in Holloway, Middlesex¹⁶ and joined the British Expeditionary Force in France on 1 September 1915.¹⁷ He died in France just eight months later. In the days before he died, the 129th Field Company was stationed in Romarin, Belgium.¹⁸ The company had not had recent major engagements with the enemy but a few soldiers had been injured, including one on 28 April 1916 by an anti-aircraft shell that fell into the camp.

William died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 30 April 1916 of wounds, which may have involved being gassed,¹⁹ which was stationed near Bailleul, France.²⁰ A total of 45 patients died at No. 1 CCCS in April 1916.

His parents were notified of William's death. A member of the Church of England, William was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II. Row D, Grave 135).²¹ Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including No. 1 Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.²²

William was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).²³ His wife received the monies owing to him from the army upon this death.²⁴

His wife, Alice Jessie, remarried in 1918, marrying Charles W. Humphreys in the summer of that year.²⁵

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¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 August 2015), entry for William Edward B. Jones, Registration district: Wandsworth, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 709

² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 January 2015), entry for Edward Jones, Registration district: Islington, Registration District Number: 10, Sub-registration district: Tollington, ED, institution, or vessel: 17, Piece: 837

³ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 August 2015), entry for Edward Jones, Registration district: Islington, Sub-registration district: Upper Holloway, ED, institution, or vessel: 54, Piece: 167, Folio: 78, Page Number: 43, Household schedule number: 267

⁴ Different dates and locations are shown for Elizabeth Jane's birth, ranging from 1866 in Stafford in the 1901 census to 1873 in Bishop's Stortford in a birth index. "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2015), entry for Jane Bayford, Registration district: Bishop's Stortford, Inferred County: Hertfordshire, Volume: 3a, Page: 266; 1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 August 2015), entry for Edward Jones

⁵ "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 November 2016) entry for Jones, Florence Ellen, Volume 01A, Page 272

⁶ "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 November 2016) entry for Jones, Lilian [sic] May, Volume 01A, Page 262; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 12 November 2016), entry for Lilian [sic] May Jones, Registration district: Fulham, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 196

⁷ "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 November 2016) entry for Jones, Alice Maud, Volume 01A, Page 311

⁸ "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 November 2016) entry for Jones, Alfred Charles, Volume 01B, Page 290

⁹ "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 November 2016) entry for Jones, Dorothy, Volume 01B, Page 204

¹⁰ "GRO online index," General Register Office (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>; accessed 10 November 2016) entry for Jones, Rosie Jane, Volume 01B, Page 218

¹¹ "1911 England Census," entry for Edward Jones

¹² Ibid.

¹³ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 26 November 2015), entry for William E B Jones, Registration district: Edmonton, Inferred County: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 820

¹⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 August 2015), entry for Alice Jessie Twinn, Registration district: Edmonton, Inferred County: Middlesex, Volume: 3a, Page: 272

¹⁵ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 August 2015), entry for Alice J Twinn, Registration district: Edmonton, Sub-registration district: Hornsey, ED, institution, or vessel: 44, Piece: 1244, Folio: 44, Page Number: 18, Household schedule number: 92

¹⁶ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 August 2015), entry for William Edward Bayford Jones

¹⁷ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 14 August 2015), entry for W. H. B. Jones

¹⁸ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 15 August 2015), Regiment or unit: Royal Engineers, Sub unit: 103 Field Company, 104 Field Company, 129 Field Company, Division: 24th Division, Diary entry start date: Diary dates: 1915 Aug - 1919

Jun, 1915 Aug - 1919 May, 1915 Aug - 1919 Jun, Diary entry location: War Diary. May 1917 129th Field Co. RE, Piece description: Piece 2199: Divisional Troops (1915 - 1919), Piece number: 2199

¹⁹ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 and 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 65

²⁰ "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/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G; accessed 17 June 2015)

²¹ "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," entry for Jones, W. E. B., Service No: 94270

²² "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery.%20Nord>; accessed 5 August 2015)

²³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 14 August 2015), entry for W. H. B. Jones

²⁴ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 14 August 2015), entry for William Edward Bayford Jones

²⁵ "England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 15 August 2015), entry for Alice J. Jones, Registration district: Pancras, Inferred County: Middlesex, Volume Number: 1b, Page Number: 77