

146: Joseph Jones

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Joseph Jones

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 8th Battalion Cheshire Regiment

Service Number: 24264 Date of Death: 5 April 1916 Age at Death: 18

Buried / Commemorated at: Basra Memorial, Al Basrah, Basra, Iraq

Additional information given by CWGC: Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, of Clatterbridge, Birkenhead.

It has proved impossible to identify this individual with any certainty although *Soldiers died in the Great War 1914-1919* states that he was born in Neston and enlisted in Birkenhead.

Three births of a Joseph Jones occurred in Wirral in 1897-99 although no suitable baptism is recorded at Neston Parish Church or at St Winefride's RC church:

3 rd quarter of 1899	Joseph Jones
3 rd quarter of 1897	Joseph Henry Jones (the only one attributed to Neston)
4 th quarter of 1897	Joseph William Jones

[Note: Twelve children with the name Joseph Jones were registered in the Birkenhead district during this period].

In the 1901 census the only Joseph Jones meeting the meagre description is a Joseph Jones, aged 3, recorded as a scholar in the Wirral Union Workhouse, Clatterbridge. His birthplace, however, is recorded as Spital.

No appropriate record of Joseph Jones has been found in the 1911 census and no record of an appropriate Elizabeth Jones has been found in either the 1901 or 1911 census returns.

The 8th (Service) Battalion, Cheshire Regiment was raised in Chester on 12 August 1914 as part of Kitchener's First New Army and joined the 40th Brigade, 13th (Western) Division which assembled on Salisbury Plain. The 40th Brigade moved to Chiseldon, near Swindon, and Cirencester in September 1914. Near the end of February 1915 the Division concentrated at Blackdown in Hampshire and moved to the Mediterranean from 13 June 1915 landing at Alexandria in Egypt then moving to Mudros, by 4 July to prepare for a landing at Gallipoli. The infantry landed on Cape Helles between 6 -16 July to relieve the 29th Division. They returned to Mudros at the end of the month, and the entire Division landed at ANZAC Cove between 3 -5 August. They were in action in The Battle of Sari Bair, The Battle of Russell's Top and The Battle of Hill 60, at ANZAC. Soon afterwards they transferred from ANZAC to Suvla Bay. They were evacuated from Suvla on 19 - 20 December 1915, and after one week of rest they moved to the Helles bridgehead. They were in action during the Turkish attacks at Helles on 7 January 1916 and were evacuated from Helles on the 8th and 9th. The Division concentrated at Port Said, holding forward posts in the Suez Canal defences.

On 12 February 1916 they moved to Mesopotamia, to join the force being assembled near Sheikh Sa'ad for the relief of the besieged garrison at Kut al Amara. They joined the Tigris Corps on 27 March and were in action in the unsuccessful attempts to relieve Kut. They were in action in The Battle of Kut al Amara, the capture of the Hai Salient, the capture of Dahra Bend and the passage of the Diyala, in the pursuit of the enemy towards Baghdad. Units of the Division were the first troops to enter Baghdad, when it fell on 11 March 1917. The Division then joined "Marshall's Column" and pushed north across Iraq.

[Adapted from: <http://www.wartimemoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/cheshirergt8>]

The actions of the 8th Battalion in Mesopotamia (this area formed part of modern-day Iraq) leading up to and including The Action at Fallahiya when Joseph Jones was killed on 5 April 1916 were described by Arthur Crookenden, Colonel of the Regiment:

Attempts to relieve Kut, 4th January to 24th April, 1916.

Map p. 219

The 8th Battalion, under Captain F. H. C. Wilcox, reached Mesopotamia with the 13th Division on the 28th of February, 1916. They had taken part in the evacuations at Suvla and Helles as already recorded. Men who had landed at Suvla were veterans by now and few of them were left in the ranks. The Battalion had been filled up with drafts, many of whom were now seasoned and bronzed, but they had had very little training and there was a pronounced shortage of young officers and of experienced non-commissioned officers. Of the officers who had been with the Battalion in August only three arrived in Basra, besides the Quarter-master, J. Murphy, who worthily filled this key post throughout the war. It is fitting here to pay tribute to that body of regular soldiers who, not only in our Regiment, but throughout the infantry, kept the flag of *esprit de corps* flying no matter how the personnel of a battalion changed. At the very end of the war, regular battalions could always be distinguished as such, and there can be no doubt that this preservation of their character was due to the man who was "always there," the Quarter-master. New Army Battalions, such as the 8th, were lucky to get an old Regular Sergeant-major as their Quarter-master, and to imbibe from him the steadiness and cheerfulness of the regular.

The 8th Battalion arrived in Mesopotamia, or Mespot as they called it, at a moment when hope of relieving the garrison besieged in Kut was almost gone. The great attack on the Dujaila (or Es Sinn) position had failed through too rigid adherence to the plan of attack, itself open to criticism on the ground of rigidity and over-caution on an occasion when it would have been justifiable to take a risk. This failure was one of a series of reverses, the like of which the British Army had never before experienced.

But as long as any smallest chance of relieving Kut remained, it had to be tried. The 8th Battalion spent a month training under Colonel W. W. B. Gover, a regular officer of The Regiment.

Action of Fallahiya.

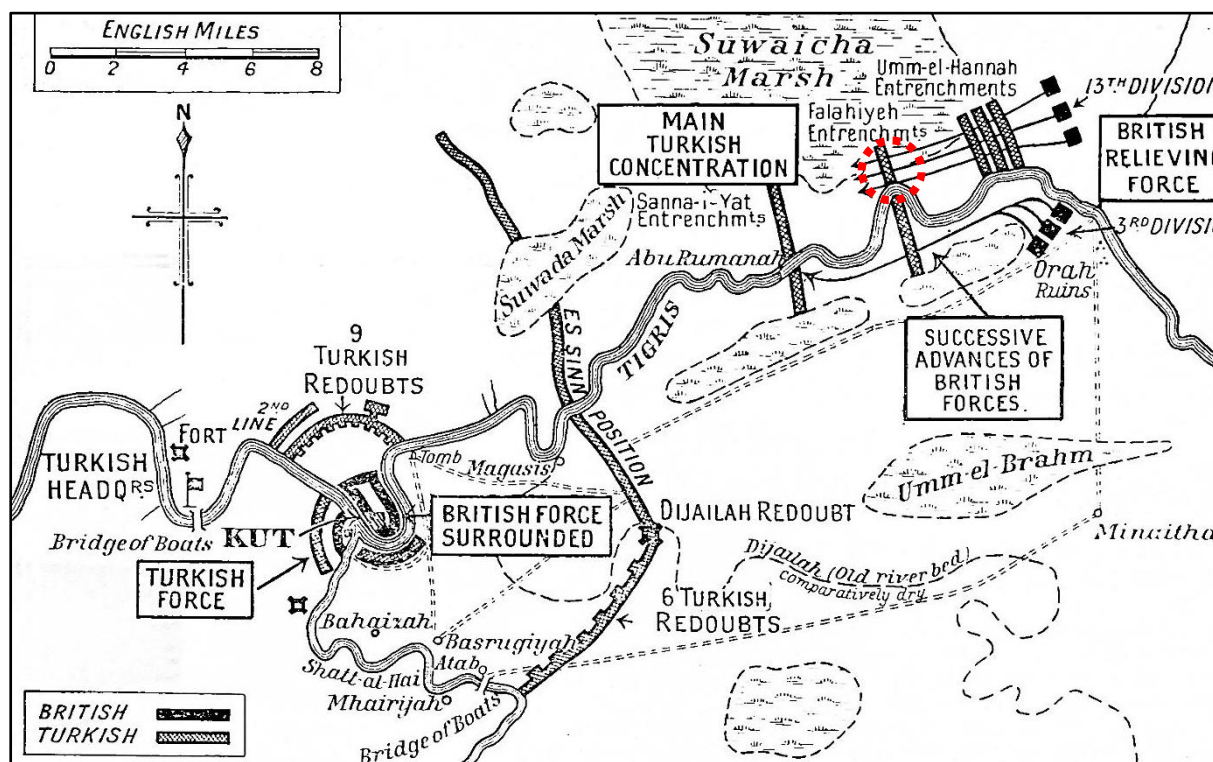
It was decided to make the next effort on the northern, or left bank of the Tigris. A river's banks are called right or left as they appear to one facing down stream. The first Turkish position, and apparently the only one on this side, was that at El Hanna.

Saps had been dug to within fifty yards of the enemy's wire, ample artillery was available, and we were able to bring fire to bear on the Turks from both flanks. The 13th Division had rehearsed the attack, during its month's training, over full scale dummy trenches. Every battalion, every company, knew its task thoroughly.

On the 5th April, the 8th Battalion passed through the leading Brigade to the attack of the 3rd Turkish line. But the Turks had gone and the Battalion found itself advanced guard to the Division moving into the "blue." Nothing could be seen of the enemy but gradually fire was felt on the left flank, and Colonel Gover changed direction in this direction, the Battalion covering a front of some 2,000 yards. After moving forward some 300 yards, the enemy fire became heavier, and after advancing a further 300 yards by short rushes, the Battalion halted and dug in. They were quite unsupported. Here they remained till dark, when they were relieved by the 38th and 39th Brigades. Our losses were Captain H. Delves Broughton, Captain C. W. Boote killed, seven officers wounded ; 28 men killed, 170 wounded and seven missing.

After a bombardment, the 38th and 39th Brigades made a night attack, which was successful. The Turks were driven back to a position at Sannaayat with one flank in the river and one on the Suwaiqiya marsh as before. So we were no nearer Kut. An attack made in daylight on this position by the 7th Division was defeated with terrible loss.

[The History of the Cheshire Regiment in the Great War, 1914-1918 Vol 1. Colonel A. Crookenden WH Evans, Sons & Co. Ltd. 1938]



The movement of British forces north of the River Tigris, April 1916. The area of Fallahiya, under attack by the 8th Battalion Cheshire Regiment (part of the 13th Division), is encircled in red. It was here that Joseph Jones was killed. [https://norfolkinworldwar1.org/2016/04/29/the-2nd-battalion-of-the-norfolk-regiment-in-mesopotamia-april-1916/]

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
JONES	8/ Ches R.	Pte	242644
<i>Joseph</i>			
Metal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks
VICTORY	J/2/101 B/10	2911.	K-A 5.4.16
BRITISH	J/2/3B'	1008	
15 STAR			
Theatre of War first served in	21 Ballhaus		
Date of entry therein	4. 11. 15		

Joseph Jones was reported as killed in the *Daily Casualty Lists* of 12 May 1916.

The Basra Memorial commemorates more than 40,500 members of the Commonwealth forces who died in the operations in Mesopotamia from the Autumn of 1914 to the end of August 1921 and whose graves are not known. The memorial was

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

designed by Edward Warren and unveiled by Sir Gilbert Clayton on 27 March 1929. [CWGC]

302609	8/196846	Jones Joseph	8 1/2 Btm	5-4-16	Shrewsbury	8 = 9	3 7 2	Shrewsbury	14.8.16	R.P. to recharge	3	7	2
			Chester	Mesopotamia	6/16.		14 . 3	14/16	29-9-16	no 2 Sole legatee Elizabeth	4	=	3
			Regt. In				- 13	14	26/8/19	R.P. to recharge Elizabeth	13	4	-
			Pte	Active					26/8/19	no 50th Reg: Elizabeth	5	-	-
			24264										

WAR GRATUITY.
1910-11-7-19.
Transfer 30781.
Regd. Paper 2/1000 R.
Serial No. 4705.

R & W 50% sent
18 JUN 1919

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. In June 1919 Joseph’s mother Elizabeth, as sole legatee, received a payment of outstanding wages of £4 0s 3d from the army and two other payments totaling £4 0s 6d was made to ‘R.P. to recharge’. This, most probably, was a repayment to the Regimental Paymaster for earlier overpayments of wages. A War Gratuity of £5 was made to Elizabeth in August. The total amount paid to Elizabeth, therefore, appears to have been £9 0s 3d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £1400 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.