46: Harry Jones

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

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

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 2nd Bn. Cheshire Regiment

Service Number: 25872 Date of Death: 03 October 1915 Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Loos Memorial, Loos-en-Gohelle, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-

de-Calais, France

Additional information given by CWGC: None

Harry Jones was a son of butcher/farm labourer James and Alice Jones of Little Neston. In the 1881 census, before Harry was born, James, Alice and their first two children were living in Little Neston, not far from Glenton House (which is at the top of Bull Hill):

James Jones	Hear Ta	38	Butcher	Soping ton Shropshire
William Henry Jon	Wife In	20 80 -	Scholar	Little Newton Cheshere
George Jouls	Loro	3	50	Media Pholis

1881 census (extract) – Little Neston

James Jones	38	butcher	born Loppington, Shropshire
Alice	30		born Little Neston
William Henry	6		born little Neston
George	3		born Little Neston

Loppington is a village and parish in Shropshire situated a few miles west of Wem.

James Jones married Alice Roberts, a daughter of William and Mary Roberts, the proprietors of The Royal Oak public house in Little Neston, in late 1873 in Liverpool. Their first child, William Henry, was baptised at Neston on 7 June 1874 and George was baptised on 26 July 1878; James was recorded as being a butcher living in Little Neston on both occasions. By 1891 the family was still living at, or near, the top of Bull Hill:

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1891 census (extract) – Little Neston (near the Durham Ox Public House)

James Jones	48	farm labourer	born Little Neston
Alice	40		born Little Neston
George	13		born Little Neston
Herbert	9		born Little Neston
James	7		born Little Neston
Harry	6		born Little Neston
Sarah	1		born Little Neston

James, recorded previously as a butcher, was now a farm labourer.

At the baptisms of Herbert (baptised 19 August 1881), James (baptised 31 August 1883), Harry (baptised 20 January 1886 although his birth was registered in the 2nd quarter of 1885) and Sarah (baptised 11 October 1889) James was recorded as a labourer, presumably working on a farm. He was also a labourer when the couple's last child, Matthew was baptised on 8 December 1893.

William Henry Jones married Mary Ann Waring of Little Neston in Liverpool in July / September 1899 and, in the 1901 census, William (25) was recorded as a 'coal miner, under' living on Town Lane with Mary (19) and son James Henry, 4 months. Next door were Mary Ann's parents, builder's labourer James and Hannah/Annie Waring.

James Jones snr died and was buried at Neston on 24 February 1900, although his recorded age was 52. In the 1901 census Alice was living on Rodney Row alongside The Green in Little Neston:

of Illian lun Jarlet of	clesiastical Pariah Mary Holeu 6 7 6	ounty Berenghallenicipal Ward of Man	are situate within the boundari	trict	of	Division	Page 28
No. or NAME of HOUSE	Suttone of Remo and Su such Per	rame of to Head of Family 5 2 4 Birthday of Main Family	PROPESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	17 (1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
I las debu, dec /		de 19 18 18 16 16 14 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16	tarm sabard.	Motor Money		Settle Meson	(4) Imbecile, feoble- minded
Alice Jones	50	widow				born Litt	tle Neston
George	22	farm labo	urer			born Litt	le Neston
Herbert	18	farm labo	urer			born Litt	le Neston
James	17	farm labo	urer			born Litt	le Neston
Harry	16					born Litt	le Neston
Sarah	14					born Litt	tle Neston
Matthew	10					born Litt	le Neston

On 21 March 1904 George Jones (25) married Ada Martha Waring (19), a daughter of labourer James Waring of Little Neston (and sister to Mary Ann Waring who had married William Henry Jones), at Neston Parish Church. George was now a collier and both George and Ada gave their address as Oak Cottages, Little Neston. One of the witnesses was Mary Ann Jones, the wife of William Henry, George's brother.

On 26 September 1909 labourer James Jones (24) married Margaret Booth (20) of Little Neston at Neston Parish Church. Margaret's father was labourer John Booth and one of the witnesses was James' sister, Sarah Jones. In the 1911 census, now a garden labourer at Burton Manor, James was living with Margaret and son John (1, born Little

Neston) on Badger Butt (now Badger Bait) in Little Neston. It is believed that James and Margaret had at least five further children: Alice May (born mid-1913), James (born mid-1916), Harry (born early 1920), Evelyn Mary (born 18th September 1922 at Badger Butt; she married a Frederick Bourn and died in 1987) and Vera (born mid-1925). In 1911 Harry Jones had assumed the position as head of the household when he was recorded with his widowed mother and two unmarried brothers living at Smith(s) Cottage, Little Neston - one of a short row of several cottages with this name in New Street. These were Colliery houses and Harry was now working underground at the mine as a labourer:

Alice Jones and her three unmarried sons were living next door to her eldest son, collier William Henry Jones and his family – and they lived next door-but-one to second-son George, also a collier:

1 Harry Jones head ; 2 dice Jones motive ; 3 Herbert Jones motive homes home	24 Single :0 54 widow 34 5 89 Lingle 0	Jarma abours 140 worker Little farm Labourses 1 worker Little	te heston
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1911 census (condensed	d) – Smith(s) Co 24	ottages, Little Neston labourer below ground, Wirral Colliery Co.	born Little Neston
Alice	59	widow	born Little Neston
Herbert	29	farm labourer	born Little Neston
Matthew	18	farm labourer	born Little Neston
Alice had been n	narried for 37 y	ears and all seven children had survived.	

1911 census (extracts) – Smith's Cottages, Little Neston

4041 "

At the time of the 1911 census, therefore, Alice Jones had three sons working at the Wirral Colliery Company in Neston, two sons who were farm labourers and one son working as a

Milliam Serry Jones James Henry Jones William Jones	head 36 wife son 10	29	married settly	777	0	School 10	miner (Hewr)	
Alorence yours	daughter 3 daughter 4 daughter 4 mois	4	schools				77 1136	•
George Jones Adu marka Jones Hannah Jones George Henry Jones	head 3 4 wife Daughter & You 4	24	married 7	5 3	9	boal m	iner (Deser):

gardener at Burton Manor. Sarah Jones, Alice's only daughter, has not been located in the 1911 census.



Smith's Cottages, New Street, off Marshlands Road, Little Neston

In the newspaper account of his death, Harry is recorded as being married with two children. Harry's marriage has not been located although it is known that his wife was named Helena Margaret and that she remarried after his death. It is also known that at least one of the children was female.

It is believed that Harry enlisted in Birkenhead, probably in April 1915. Interestingly, Harry was in the same battalion as William Healey and was killed on the same day, in the same action [See 38: William Healey].

The 2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment came under the orders of the 84th Brigade, 28th Division, at Winchester and the main force landed at Le Havre 17 January 1915 although, at this date, Harry had not yet enlisted. The battalion was engaged in The Second Battle of Ypres (22 April - 25 May 1915) for control of the strategic Flemish town of Ypres in western Belgium, and then at The Battle of Loos from 25 September - 18 October. This attack, involving six Divisions, was a major offensive which became known as 'The Big Push' although the British (with insufficient stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery) were ill-prepared for such a significant action. Poison gas was used by the British Army for the first time and, despite heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day in pushing deep into the enemy positions near Loos and Hulluch. However, the reserve forces had been held too far from the battle front to be able to exploit these early successes and the succeeding days bogged down into attritional warfare for very small gain. The 28th Division, including the 2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment, were not involved in the first two days of this conflict as they were moving south from Ypres, and didn't enter the battle zone until 27 September.

Between 1 - 3 October 1915, in the final stages of The Battle of Loos, there was intense close fighting in the area known as the Hohenzollern Redoubt, a formidable defensive emplacement located on a slight slope that afforded excellent observation and fields of fire for the Germans. The position took the form of a salient, or panhandle of land, that protruded into "No Man's Land" and the Redoubt was linked to the German front line by two trenches known as "Big Willie" and "Little Willie". Both of these trenches were deep, well-fortified positions that contained several machine-gun positions. The "Big Willie" trench was partially occupied by the British, a trench block being the only barrier between the two sides. Two communication trenches, the North Face and South Face, led back to "Fosse" and "Dump" trenches, which were built in the shadow of a large waste tip known as the "Dump".

At the base of the waste tip was a mine, "Fosse 8". The engine house of "Fosse 8", as well as the ruined miners' houses, were key German defensive strong points and the area of "No-Man's Land" was very exposed to machine gun and rifle fire from the Redoubt and the ruins. The position had been captured by the 9th (Scottish) Division on the first day of the battle, but had been recaptured shortly afterwards. An attempt by the 28th Division to recapture it had failed, and it is likely that it was during this action that Harry Jones was killed on 2 October 1915.

The 84th Brigade, which included the 2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment, had moved into the front line on the night of 30 September / 1 October to relieve the 83rd Brigade, the 2nd Battalion being with the Northumberland Fusiliers in the southern sector of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and adjoining trenches and with the 2nd Battalion occupying the west face. No opportunity had arisen for the officers to reconnoitre the trenches or even the approach to them and the troops found the communication trenches to be very narrow and complex in their arrangement. Arthur Crookenden recorded that:

When the 84th Brigade was trying to move in, three disorganized brigades were using all available means of leaving the front line, and Central Alley, which had been allotted to the Fusiliers and ourselves, was a funnel into which poured to the rear scores of wounded and leader-less men from many units.

The loss of the Brigadier and Brigade Major of the 85th Brigade at the outset of a difficult and confusing situation handicapped the troops very seriously. Throughout the operation, the great difficulty was the movement of troops along the trenches. Parties arriving at the wrong places, and having to retrace their footsteps, found the places allotted to them occupied by other troops. This hampered and delayed all preparations for offensive movements. To keep the troops supplied with water, bombs and food, required the ceaseless employment of large fatigue parties. These parties took many hours to come and go and so the troops in reserve got little rest.

On this day, the 2nd Battalion had received its first issue of Lewis guns, in the use of which Lieut. Cole and four men had had some elementary instruction. The guns were taken into the line. Trenches, so full of dead, and so knocked about that they averaged only 18 inches in depth, were taken over from the Royal Fusiliers. Part of this line was a piece of the German second line, about 300 yards long and terminated at each end by a barricade, on the other side of which were Germans. The trenches were taken over under a fairly stiff barrage of shelling from guns, minen werfer and hand grenades. Many men had been lost through machine gun fire on the way up.

In these circumstances, it is not surprising to learn that the Battalion had hardly finished taking over, about 9-30 a.m. on the 1st, when it was found that the Germans were occupying a portion of the line allotted to

the Northumberland Fusiliers on our right, near the point of junction of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and Big Willie. When this report reached Divisional H.Q., howitzers were turned on to the point and on all communication trenches leading to it from the German side. The Northumberland Fusiliers attacked, but in spite of every effort, did not succeed in turning the Germans out. Bombing continued all day, and towards

evening our men began to establish some superiority.

On the night of the 1st, an attack was ordered, on the "Chord" by us, and on Little Willie, on our left, by the Welch. At first, it was thought that we had captured the Chord, but daylight showed that we had not. The fact is that the Chord was unrecognizable even by day and still more so by night among the maze of trenches and ditches with which this area was covered. Although Major Roddy had reported the state of affairs and advised making no further attacks, there is no doubt that Brigade and superior head-quarters entirely failed to realize the conditions in and around the Redoubt, and ordered attack after attack in a way that can only be described as ruthless and senseless. The troops were bombed all day, and although there were officers and men in this maze of trenches, they were completely disorganized, and mixed, mainly owing to the heavy loss in officers and senior non-commissioned officers. beyond the power of human endeavour to collect and sort them out for an organized attack. However, all through the 2nd, in the most gallant way, our men, Northumberland Fusiliers and Welch delivered individual bayonet and bomb attacks in their efforts to dislodge the Germans and to comply with orders.

One of the many plucky deeds performed during this fighting was the way Lieut. Cole, Sergeant Rimington and his section served their Lewis gun. During an enemy attack, the gun, fouled with mud, jammed, and the section were all killed, Lieut. Cole persisted in his efforts to clear

the gun, but was himself, too, finally killed.

After nightfall, the Suffolk Regiment made an attack on Little Willie, but was heavily repulsed. The only thanks they received was a demand to rally and attack again. This was beyond human endurance and was not done.

On 3rd October, the Germans attacked all along the line of the 84th Brigade, but were repulsed except on the left where they gained a footing. Our men put up a wonderful resistance. All our bombers were killed. A bayonet counter-attack, led by Major Roddy, was met with a hail of bombs and driven back to the British front line. Brigade H.Q. ordered fresh attacks but this was quite out of the question, having in view the exhaustion of the individuals and the congestion in the trenches. It was quite clear to anyone who visited the front line that further attacks were not feasible, even by fresh troops, until the congestion of wounded and dead had been overcome. Nevertheless, another attack was ordered, and gallantly carried out by the East Yorkshire Regiment and one company of the K.O.Y.L.I. early on the 4th. This attack, too, failed, at great loss of life, and confirmed the judgment of Major Roddy which he had given in a report to Brigade H.Q. on the evening of the 1st.

Later in the morning, the Germans swung in a surprise attack on the left of the 84th Brigade, drove through the Welch, and swept down on our men in their trenches. Our war diary says "The enemy broke through "part of the trench occupied by the Welch on our left flank and advanced "with great rapidity, throwing hundreds of bombs, their bombers being "supported by machine guns and rifle men. The attack came as a "complete surprise."

Our line was driven back till the Germans were held up by "C" Company of the Northumberland Fusiliers at their block at the end of

Big Willie.

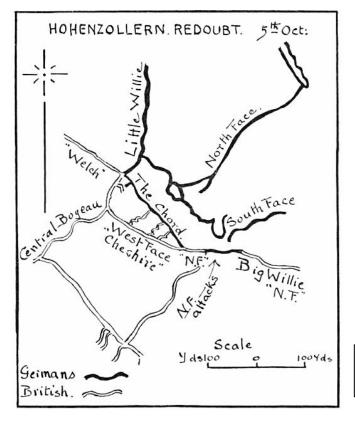
On the night of the 5th/6th October, the Brigade was relieved by the 2nd (Guards) Brigade. The relief took 13 hours of daylight, although ample time was given for reconnaissance by officers, the trenches cleared of all obstacles to movement, and all arrangements most carefully organized. This shows, in some measure, the impossibility of the demands made on men of the 28th Division during the previous five days.

Our casualties were very heavy. Six officers, the Adjutant Major A. Rowland Hill, Captain F. L. Lloyd, Lieuts. S. Cole, D. C. B. Brien, W. E. Hartley and M. McGregor, and 43 men were killed; 7 officers and 153 men wounded, and two officers and 166 men missing, of whom none were ever recovered.

The survivors had all but reached the limit of human endurance. This phrase is often used, but it is, unfortunately, justified. The unpreparedness of England in 1914 threw on a handful of her willing servants a burden which demanded the most extreme exertions of which the human frame is capable. Their bodies were sustained by their spirit which rose superior to all trials and dangers.

[The History of the Cheshire Regiment in the Great War Arthur Crookenden (Colonel of the Regiment)

W.H. Evans, Sons & Co. Ltd. 1938]

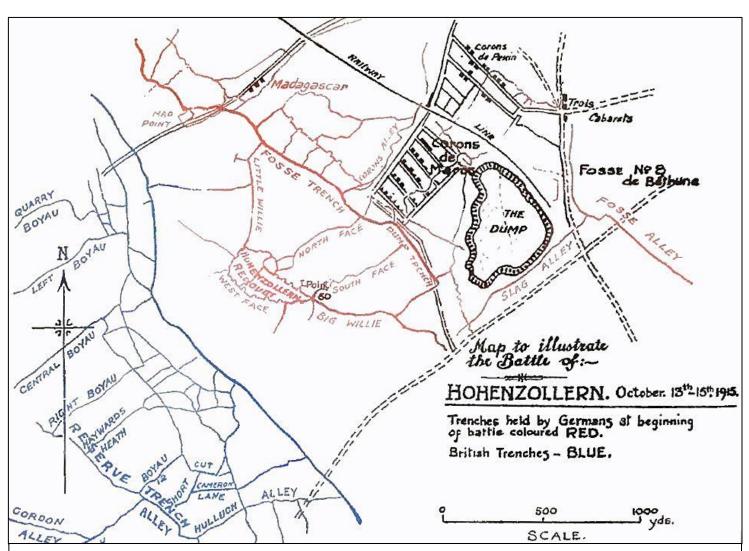




Aerial photograph of the Hohenzollern Redoubt, 1915 [Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/

The War Diary extracts for 2 - 4 October give some further detail and record that *The enemy delivered an unexpected attack on our left...* and that the Battalion lost 48 men, with a further 160 wounded and 168 missing between 30 September and 3 October 1915:

WAR DIARY Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. (Erase heading not required.) Remark Hour, Date, Place. Summary of Events and Information. bombarded the two companies holding the 5 am 2nd October WEST FACE of the HOHEN HOLLERN REDOUBT with Bombs French mortars and aerial Torpedos. Bombar duent was rontinued throughout the day. Nº 1 bompany supported the Suffork Regiment in an attack on the NORTH WEST FACE of the REDOUBT. Attack 12 midnight Captain Ogden (Durham L.), and of hieut RALKES 2nd Lient Col E rejoined Battalion on having completed a coupe in the use of the LEWIS Qun. Two LEW's Gans were brought with him into the REDOUBT. Eveny continued bombardwent throughout 7.30 am 3rd October. Captain Freem an was sent to command a party the Northumberland Fusiliers on the SouTH REDOUBT, the two officers of this par Eveny bombing incessantly 7.45 an eveny delivered an unexpected Bombs and Machine Gus ed it. The Batta Jought our left with ally trioned it. were down back. Enemy occupied Gulab Singh & Sons, Calcutta-No. 22 Army C .- 5-8-14-1.07,000 WEST FACE the HOHEN hOLLERN REDOUBT. Major Hill + Captain Lloyd were killed, 2/ hieuts: Paton wounded , y hier's Cove and Brien Casualties from 30 th September to 3rd October dates inclusive 1-Total 14 166 362 Battahon was withdrawn to VERMELLES and Slept the night in LANCASTER Dugouts 11 AM 4th October Battalion moved forward and occupied Reserve War Diary entry for 2nd & 3rd October 1915, Cheshire Regiment, 28th Division



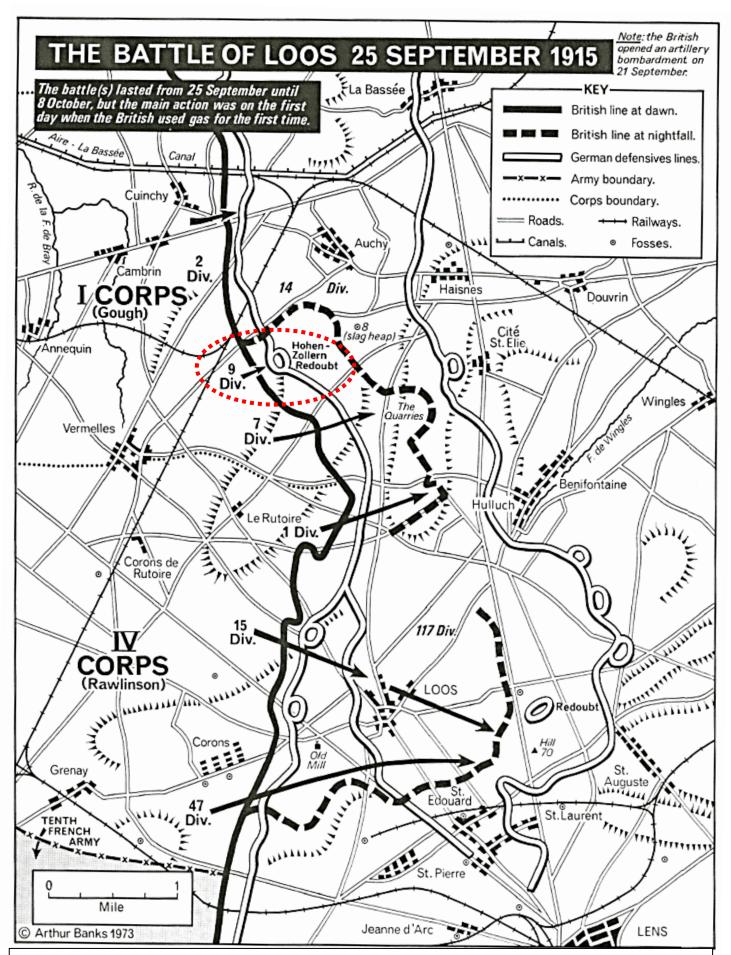
Although this map illustrates the situation around the Hohenzollern Redoubt around ten days after William Healey was presumed to have died it gives a clearer depiction of the layout and arrangement of the trenches than Arthur Crookenden's sketch map.

Hohenzollern Redoubt was situated at the apex of a triangle formed by two major trenches, Big Willie and Little Willie, whilst Fosse Trench and Dump Trench formed the base of the triangle in front of the village and colliery. [Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohenzollern_Redoubt]

" MISSING " CHESHIRE.

Mrs. Healey, of Mill-street, Neston, has received an intimation that her husband, Private William Healey, of the 2nd Cheshires, who are now in France, has been missing since the 3rd of last month. Private Healey, who is well liked among a wide circle of friends, joined the Cheshires since the outbreak of war, and went to France in June last. He apparently took part in the same engagement as Private Harry Jones, of Little Neston, of the same battalion, who is also missing.

Birkenhead Advertiser – Wednesday 24 November 1915



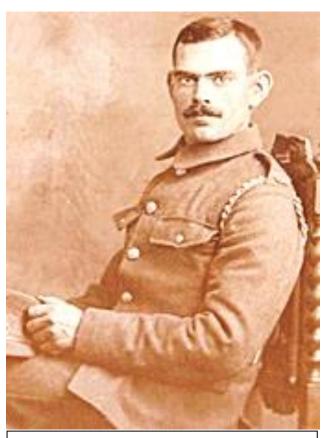
The position of the Hohenzollern Redoubt, and the 9th Division, has been encircled in red [Source: *A Military Atlas of the First World War* Arthur Banks Leo Cooper (an imprint of Pen & Sword Books) 2001

Much regret is felt in Little Neston, where he is both well-known and well-liked, at the news that Private Harry Jones, of the 2nd Cheshires, has been missing since the 3rd of October. Private Jones, who joined the forces at the beginning of April, was drafted to France in the middle of June, and nothing has been heard from him by his relatives for over six weeks. He is married and has two children.

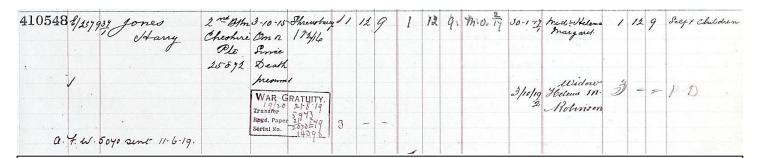
Birkenhead Advertiser – Saturday 13 November 1915

Name.	Corp		Rank.	Regtl. No.
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JONES			— -	- 1- =
Harry				
Laie Meine M	Roll. Page	8.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	12/10/13/03/	62 Ku	A 3.10	.15
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ate of entry therein	17.6.15			K 1380

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920



Harry Jones (Courtesy of grandson, Dave Sherlock) [Source: www.ww1cemeteries. com/loos-memorial-roh-j-l.html



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.

Harry Jones had accrued a credit of £1 12s 9d and this was received by his widow Helena Margaret, for 'self & children'. Helena - recorded as Helena M Robinson - received also the £3 War Gratuity.

The total payment, £4 12s 9d, is approximately equivalent to a *labour value* (ie wages) of about £700 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.

Following Harry's death, his widow, Helena Margaret, married James Arthur Robinson at Neston Parish Church in early 1918.

Alice Jones, Harry's mother, died in early 1924 aged 72.

Matthew Jones (born 5 November 1893 - shown incorrectly as 1894 in the 1939 Register), Harry's youngest brother, married Helen Craig at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in July / September 1916. No record of any children has been found. In the 1939 Register Matthew and Helen (born 4 July 1893) are recorded as living at 32 Cottage Close, off Burton Road, Neston and Matthew was listed as a general labourer. Mathew died in mid-1968 aged 75.

In the 1939 register William Henry Jones, an older brother of Harry Jones, was living at the home of his married daughter, Florence, 'Hill Dene', Bendee Avenue, Little Neston. The full Register entry, with added comment, for this address is:

Joseph A. Foulkes born 12 August 1902 petroleum refinery operator,

Lobicos oil fields

Florence Foulkes born 25 August 1904

[Florence Jones, the eldest daughter of William Henry and Mary Ann Jones, married Joseph in Liverpool in late 1926. They seem to have had only the two daughters, Louisveen and Hazel.]

Louisveen H Foulkes born 25 June 1927 Hazel Foulkes born 20 October 1938

William H. Jones born 17 May 1874 general labourer [died late 1948]

Mary A. Jones born 28 July 1881

William Jones born 25 June 1902 single, general labourer

Rhoda Jones born 10 July 1918 single

[Rhoda married George Leslie Cawley at Boughton Methodist Church in mid-1946]

In the 1939 Register George Jones (born 28 June 1877), another of Harry Jones's older brothers, was living at 6 Victoria Road in Little Neston with his wife Ada (born 25 January 1887) and unmarried daughter Ada (born 31 January 1917, a general domestic servant). George had worked previously as a collier at Neston Colliery but, this closed in 1927 and George was recorded now as a shepherd. Daughter Ada may have married (Morris) in early 1949 although no record of this has been found.

James Jones (born 27 July 1883), who was a year older than Harry, was living at 16 Rocklee Gardens, off Lees Lane, Little Neston with wife Margaret (born 6 April 1879) and several of the unmarried children. James, recorded in 1911 as a garden labourer at Burton Manor, was now a park keeper. The unmarried children were:

James born 1 September 1916 paper worker, feeding machine

Harry born 7 January 1920 bricklayer's apprentice

Evelyn born 18 September 1922 general domestic servant seeking employment [Evelyn Mary Jones married Frederick Charles Bourn at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in July /

September 1943]

Vera born 26 February 1925 domestic servant, housemaid

[Vera married John Wilfred Mason at a Civil Marriage on Wirral on 17 October 1945]

It is probable that James died on Wirral in early 1966 aged 82. It is not certain when Margaret died.