

Harry Richard Jones

Service Number: 864



Figure 1 Portrait of Harry Richard Jones in his uniform.

Harry Richard Jones was born in Jamestown South Australia, on 12 April 1896, to loving parents Fred Bryan Jones and Martha Marie Jones (nee Wehrmann). He was the second of 7 children the couple had together. Harry's mother, Martha Marie Wehrmann, was born in Germany, whereas his father, Fred Bryan Jones, was born in Gumeracha, in South Australia's Adelaide Hills. His parents married at St. James Church, Jamestown, South Australia, on 17 February 1894, just 5 months before the birth of their first child, Roy Alfred.¹



Figure 2 Portrait of Harry Richard Jones c. just before embarkment from Australia.

Harry's older brother, Roy Alfred Jones, was two years older than him, and during his childhood, Harry had 5 more siblings; William George Jones, Alfred Elton Jones, Arthur Albert Jones, Ivan Rupert Vassil Jones, and his only sister, Leila Martha Frances Jones. When he was just 15 years old, Harry's brother Arthur Albert died aged just 4 years old. Leila Martha Frances was born just a few months before Harry enlisted, making him absent for most of her childhood.² Growing up, Harry would help on the farm at Bundaleer Springs, and this was his occupation before enlisting.³

On 31 August, 1914, at Keswick Barracks, Adelaide, Harry Richard Jones enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) to serve for his country⁴. There was

adrenaline and excitement as thousands of other men alongside Harry signed off on the biggest adventure of their lifetime. At the time of enlistment, Harry had written his father as next of kin, but was changed to his mother-in-law⁵, Mrs Frances Emily Hooker of Southampton, Hampshire later in the war⁶.

Harry was a part of the original 10th battalion, D Company, and on enlistment was given the rank of Private. From September to early

CAMP LIFE AT MORPHETTVILLE.

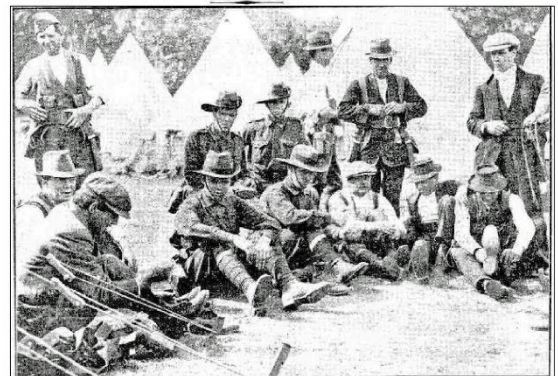


Figure 3 Members of the 10th Battalion at Morphetville Training Camp c. September 1914.

¹ Family Search, 2015, *FamilySearch.org*, Available at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/about/LR3P-9TQ> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

² Family Search, 2015, *FamilySearch.org*, Available at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/about/LR3P-9TQ> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

³ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1818725> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

⁴ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1818725> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

⁵ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at:

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⁶ Family Search, 2015, *FamilySearch.org*, Available at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/about/LR3P-9TQ> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

October, his battalion was subject to training at Morphettville, Adelaide⁷. On 20 October 1914, Harry's battalion embarked from Adelaide on the *HMAT Ascanius A11* at 4:30 pm⁸. Their ship arrived at port in Fremantle, WA, at 8:00am on 25 October 1914, and after a few days, embarked again. This would be the last time Harry was in Australian waters until his discharge.⁹ Harry's battalion got a quick disembarkation at Colombo, Sri Lanka, from the 15 to the 17 November to get coal and water and were back on the water that night.¹⁰



Figure 4 HMAS Ascanius, the ship the 10th Battalion embarked on.

On 21 November 1914, at 4:30 am, the ship carrying Harry's battalion, collided with the transport ship, *Shropshire*, causing a 7 metre hole on the portside bow.¹¹ The collision

alarm was sounded, and many on the ship believed there had been an enemy attack, gearing up for what they thought would be their first taste of fighting¹². With some disappointed with the false alarm and some relieved, the ship was still fit to reach the city of Aden in Yemen on 25 November.¹³ The ship embarked the following day, most likely after some repairs, and arrived at Alexandria, Egypt,



Figure 5 Training camp in Cairo, Egypt.

⁷ Andrew's Archives, 2014, *HMAT Ascanius*, Available at: <https://andrewsarchives.com/tag/hmat-ascanius/> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

⁸ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

⁹ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

¹⁰ Andrew's Archives, 2014, *HMAT Ascanius*, Available at: <https://andrewsarchives.com/tag/hmat-ascanius/> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

¹¹ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

Andrew's Archives, 2014, *HMAT Ascanius*, Available at: <https://andrewsarchives.com/tag/hmat-ascanius/> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

¹² Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

¹³ Andrew's Archives, 2014, *HMAT Ascanius*, Available at: <https://andrewsarchives.com/tag/hmat-ascanius/> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

on Sunday, 6 December 1914.¹⁴ It was exceptionally hot and humid during the travels, and some soldiers had caught fevers during the voyage.¹⁵ Nonetheless, the fit, young, eager soldiers then proceeded to Cairo for training.¹⁶

The 10th Battalion left Cairo and boarded the ship *Ionian* in high spirits on Monday, 1 March 1915, with the 9th Battalion at 8:00 am.¹⁷ They embarked early the next morning, on 2 March.¹⁸ The *Ionian* reached the island of Lemnos, Greece, on Thursday, 4 March 1915, where the battalions disembarked and stayed for over a month.¹⁹ Then, on Friday, 23 April 1915, the two battalions left for the Dardanelles²⁰, trained for one of the most traumatic days of their life, the infamous Gallipoli Landing at ANZAC Cove.

On 24 April 1915, in the dead of night, Harry's battalion was transferred to the warship *HMS Prince of Wales* for the Gallipoli landing.²¹ Tensions and nerves were skyrocketing²², anticipation for what would be one of the deadliest invasions in history. Dawn cracked, and Harry and his comrades landed at ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915, as the first of many Gallipoli



Figure 6 Landing at ANZAC Cove c. 25 April 1915

¹⁴ Andrew's Archives, 2014, *HMAT Ascanius*, Available at: <https://andrewsarchives.com/tag/hmat-ascanius/> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

¹⁵ Andrew's Archives, 2014, *HMAT Ascanius*, Available at: <https://andrewsarchives.com/tag/hmat-ascanius/> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

¹⁶ Andrew's Archives, 2014, *HMAT Ascanius*, Available at: <https://andrewsarchives.com/tag/hmat-ascanius/> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

¹⁷ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

¹⁸ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

¹⁹ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

²⁰ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

²¹ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

²² Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

landings²³. He ran straight into machine gun fire at precisely 4:15 am²⁴ not knowing that the Turks were waiting. The sea floor was stony and it hurt to move. Large, round stones would slow Harry down with every step.²⁵ At 8:30 am, Harry's battalion was a mile inland and holding position²⁶. A few days later, a bayonet charge was threatened by the enemy, but ANZAC machine gun and rifle fire discouraged them²⁷.

Harry then had a stroke of bad luck in the Dardanelles, with a number of hospital trips. He was wounded in action on 8 May 1915, and rejoined his unit on 8 July. After contracting tonsillitis and being admitted to the hospital on 3 August, he rejoined his unit again on 28 August. In September, Harry had an ingrown toenail, which was likely infected given the conditions he was living in and rejoined his unit on 6 November. His bad luck continued when he sustained a hernia and contracted bronchitis while in hospital. Once recovered, Harry rejoined his unit again on 11 December.²⁸

After being transferred to the 50th Battalion and serving there for a few weeks, Harry was transferred to the 51st Battalion on 10 March 1916²⁹. Formed partly from other battalions³⁰, half of the recruits were Gallipoli veterans, like Harry³¹. The 51st Battalion participated in platoon training in Egypt from 1 March 1916, as the other half of soldiers in the battalion had just enlisted.³² While in Egypt, Harry left without leave from 10:30 pm on 12 March to 13 March at 9 pm. His punishment was surrendering 2 days' pay, it is

²³ Australian War Memorial, 2016 *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

²⁴ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

²⁵ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

²⁶ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

²⁷ Australian War Memorial, 2016, *The Australian War Memorial, AWM4 Subclass 23/27 – 10th Infantry Battalion, Canberra*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339170> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

²⁸ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1818725> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

²⁹ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1818725> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

³⁰ Australian War Memorial, 2025, *AWM4 Subclass 23/68 - 51st Infantry Battalion*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339114> [Accessed 6 Aug. 2025].

³¹ Australian War Memorial, 2025, *The Australian War Memorial, 51st Australian Infantry Battalion* Awm.gov.au, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51491> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

³² Australian War Memorial, 2025, *AWM4 Subclass 23/68 - 51st Infantry Battalion*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1339114> [Accessed 6 Aug. 2025].

unclear what he was doing between these hours, but it was the only time Harry snuck away without permission.³³



Figure 7 Aftermath of the Battle of Mouquet Farm.

The 51st Battalion disembarked at Marseilles, France, on 12 June 1916³⁴. Harry and his battalion moved to the Western Front in a fortnight, which was quite fast.



Figure 8 Officers of the 51st Battalion, Harry is not pictured in this photo.

The first real piece of action they found on the Western Front was the battle of Mouquet Farm from 14 August 1916 to 3 September, where they won³⁵.

They also attacked at German-occupied Noreuil on 2 April 1917, and discovered an unoccupied trench behind the town. Noreuil was an important point for the German defence near the Hindenburg Line, as defending it allowed time for the Germans to prepare defences and fully man them. While the 51st Battalion was able to secure their position from the north, the 50th was not able to do the same from the south and the town was not secured by the Allies until 3 April, when the Germans withdrew their forces.³⁶

To finish his time on the Western Front, Harry suffered from yet another hernia and was admitted to a military hospital on 6 August 1917. He then embarked on a ship to England for hospital on 11 August 1917³⁷. While in England, Harry married Edith Frances Hooker, in Weymouth, Dorset, England, United Kingdom, on 3 October 1917³⁸. He was likely sick during his wedding, as he was then discharged due to anaemia (a blood

³³ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1818725> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

³⁴ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1818725> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

³⁵ Australian War Memorial, 2025, *Attack on Noreuil*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E84290> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

³⁶ Australian War Memorial, 2025, *Attack on Noreuil*, Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E84290> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

³⁷ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1818725> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

³⁸ Family Search, 2015, *FamilySearch.org*, Available at: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/about/LR3P-9TQ> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

condition) and debility on 1 November 1917, finishing his war service³⁹. The anaemia was likely caused due to a lack of nutrients on the front line, blood loss, or infection⁴⁰.

Harry embarked for home on 1 November 1917⁴¹ and disembarked on 30 December 1917, finally on home soil again⁴². While serving, he received the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal.⁴³ He had three children with his wife, Edith Frances Jones, with one of them not being his biological son. Harry Richard Jones (junior) was born in early 1918, and Edith was likely pregnant with him at their wedding. It is likely that Harry 'adopted' his first son and raised him as his own, even naming him after himself. He went on to have two more sons, Herbert Stanley Jones in 1920, and Frederick Colin Jones in 1922⁴⁴.

Two of Harry's sons enlisted in WWII, Frederick Colin and Herbert Stanley, taking after their dad⁴⁵. Frederick was sadly killed in action on 1 October 1943, serving in New Guinea, while Herbert survived⁴⁶. Harry's mother died on 28 January 1939, and his father died on 26 April 1947, both being buried in Jamestown. Harry Richard Jones died in Daw Park, SA, aged 70 and was buried in Centennial Park Cemetery, Pasadena, SA⁴⁷.

During his time serving, Harry Richard Jones showed the ANZAC qualities of courage and perseverance. Courage was shown by running into machine gun fire at Gallipoli, even though it meant risking his life, to serve his country. Another quality, perseverance, was shown as he kept getting sick, but kept fighting nonetheless. He never gave in, even though the conditions he fought in were horrible and likely caused all of these sicknesses. Harry was an admirable soldier and should be remembered as both courageous and resilient in times of hardship.

Word Count: 1487

³⁹ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at:

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⁴⁰ World Health Organization, 2024, *Anaemia*, www.who.int, Available at: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/anaemia> [Accessed 6 Aug. 2025]

⁴¹ Terrace, V, 2025, *View digital copy*, Naa.gov.au, Available at:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1818725>

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⁴² AIF Project, 2025, *Details*, Available at: <https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=157512> [Accessed 6 Aug. 2025].

⁴³ AIF Project, 2025, *Details*, Available at: <https://aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=157512> [Accessed 6 Aug. 2025].

⁴⁴ Family Search, 2015, *FamilySearch.org*, Available at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/about/LR3P-9TQ> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

⁴⁵ Virtual War Memorial Australia, 2025, *Harry Richard JONES*, Available at:

<https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/79111> [Accessed 6 Aug. 2025]

⁴⁶ Australian War Memorial, 2025, *Attack on Noreuil*, Available at:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E84290> [Accessed 6 Aug. 25]

⁴⁷ Family Search, 2015, *FamilySearch.org*, Available at:

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Part B

Throughout this assignment, I used a variety of primary sources, including archives, unit diaries, and enlistment papers. The place I sourced most of my information was Harry's WWI archives, found on the National Archives of Australia, and the Unit Diaries found on the Australian War Memorial. Archives were key to finding dates of enlistment, transfers, sicknesses, and other information, like family and vague ideas as to where Harry's battalion was. These archives were challenging to read, and sometimes I would sit there for a couple of minutes, deciphering one key word to work out the rest of the sentence. After I had exhausted the archives of every piece of information available, I went on to reading the Unit Diaries.

Although hard to read, the Unit Diaries gave a real insight into Harry's time at war. I was determined to get as much information out of them as possible, and some nights I would just sit on the couch, deciphering words for hours. At times when there was a key piece of information, like the Gallipoli landing, for example, I would then go onto Google and search what I had just read. When it would come back exactly like the Unit Diaries, I would be ecstatic and eagerly write this new piece of information down on my research sheet. Fact-checking was a key factor in my research; I would usually read the diaries and then check out key events on the Australian War Memorial to make sure I was reading them properly. If not for the unit diaries, I feel my whole story would just be Harry's injuries and no battles or action.

There were a few other websites I used for smaller fact checks in my research, like the AIF Project, Virtual War Memorial, Family Search, and the World Health Organisation. I would use these websites mainly to double-check enlistment dates, discharge dates, and embarkment dates. The World Health Organisation was instrumental in my understanding of the injuries Harry sustained and the condition that forced him to be discharged, anaemia. Family Search was also instrumental in finding Harry's siblings, parents, and children. After finding Harry's children, I actually checked if they had any war service, and two of the three had served in WWII. This was interesting for me, and had me wanting to do two whole other biographies, as I had just learnt so much about their father. I did have a quick look at their archives, and found one of them died in action, which really made me sad, thinking how Harry had come back from war alive, but one of his sons didn't.

The most interesting part of my research was, without a doubt, reading the unit diaries, as it was so surreal reading about war events written as they were actually happening. This research made me grateful for my life and also made me truly realise how much these soldiers sacrificed.

Word count: 486