

PRIVATE GEORGE HENSON JONES

240107, 2nd/1st Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry Battalion

Died aged 22 on 22 August 1917

Remembered with honour at *Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium*; Panel 96-98

Commemorated in Tewkesbury at the Cross and in the Abbey
and on Gloucestershire County War Memorial



*Tyne Cot Memorial,
Belgium*



1914-15 Star Medal



*Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire
Light Infantry*

GEORGE HENSON JONES was born in Worcestershire in 1895, the son of Henry Jones and Grace (formerly Trimnell). In 1891 Henry was a professional soldier, being a drummer in the 3rd Battalion, the Worcestershire Regiment; he lived at 28 Bromhall, Barracks Cottages, Kempsey, with two other children who were born at Norton (presumably in the Regimental Barracks). By 1901 Henry was a postman living in Wealdstone, Middlesex; his son George appears to have been with his grandmother at Clifton, Worcestershire, at this time. In 1911 a 'Henson Jones' was a domestic gardener, boarding at 30 Gravel Walk with **William T. Hawker** [†], who joined the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1913 and was killed in action in August 1917.

In 1913 George enlisted at the age of 18 in his home town of Tewkesbury, joining the 1st/5th Gloucester Regiment, a first-line Territorial Force Battalion based in Gloucester at the outbreak of war in August 1914. The battalion embarked for France the following year, landing at Boulogne on 29 March 1915. They were originally part of the South Midland Brigade but on 15 May 1915 became part of the 145th Infantry Brigade, 48th (South Midland) Division.

George was posted to France on 25 May 1915 and, probably in the latter half of 1916, was transferred to the 2nd/1st Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Battalion, a second-line Territorial battalion in the 61st (2nd South Midland) Division. The battalion was formed at

Oxford in September 1914 as a second-line unit. In January 1915 it became part of the 184th Infantry Brigade in the 61st (2nd South Midland) Division and landed in France on 24 May 1916, almost exactly a year after George's arrival. This Division contained the second-line units of the battalions in the 48th Division and it is likely that the reason for George's transfer was that his experience was required in his new unit.

Private Jones's last battalion was transferred to Arras in the spring and reached Ypres in time for the *3rd Battle of Ypres* in July 1917. He was killed on 22 August, almost certainly in an action that followed the *Battle of Langemarck*. This battle lasted from 16 to 18 August 1917, but there was a subsequent attack which started on 22 August, although this was not substantial enough to be categorised as a battle.

Private George Henson Jones was not declared missing until 22 September 1917. His body was never recovered and his name is commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing at *Tyne Cot Cemetery* in Belgium. He was awarded the '1914-15 Star' medal.

By 1917 the family was living in Tewkesbury at Lincoln Cottage. At the time of his death, George was engaged to (or 'keeping company with' according to the *Record*) a Miss Spencer, mentioned in his pocket book which was retrieved at a 'walking wounded station'. He may have been killed in the subsequent chaos of war, perhaps by shellfire.