

## Case study for Henry Arthur Jones

<b>Date &amp; place of birth</b>	29 March 1891 Monmouth
<b>Address</b>	18 Drybridge Street Monmouth
<b>Pre-war occupation</b>	Signalman on the railways
<b>Regiment</b>	Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (RMRE)
<b>Service no</b>	7572
<b>Date of enlistment</b>	26 April 1915
<b>Date of death</b>	N/a
<b>Buried at</b>	N/a
<b>Commemorated</b>	N/a

### Summary

Sapper Henry Arthur Jones served in the 2/Mon RTF, before enlisting in the RMRE. He saw overseas service before being honourably discharged due to tubercle of lungs (TB). His original certificate of honourable discharge from the RMRE is held in the Monmouth Museum.

### Pre-war history

Henry was born in Monmouth and baptised on the 22 April 1891 at St Thomas's Church, Overmonnow. He was baptised by Rev P Potter Vicar. He was the son of Thomas Henry Jones, a brakeman and Mary, who were living temporarily at 32 Drybridge Street Monmouth. Their usual address was 76 Coburn Street, Cathays, Cardiff. In 1901 the family were living at Drope St Georges with his two siblings Richard Edward born Monmouth and William born Rhoose. Father was now a railway signalman. By 1911 Henry a single gardener was living with his widowed mother Mary who was a charwoman, brother Richard also a gardener and William who was at school at 13 The Parade Monmouth. Prior to enlisting in 1915 Henry had served for 4 years in No 2 Monmouth Regiment.

### War activities

He received notice to join up and attested on the 26 April 1915 for the duration of the war, with the RMRE No 1 Coy. His occupation was given variously as signalman, porter or platelayer. He did not appear to join one of the railway companies? His address was given as 18 Drybridge Street Monmouth and his mother is given as next of kin – Mrs Philpotts of the Parade Monmouth. At enlistment he was aged 24, height 5 ft 7 inches, weight 135 lbs, fresh complexion, brown eyes and hair. He was based at home in the UK from 26 April to 20 October 15. On the 4 June 1915 he married Blanche Brooks of 6 Russell Place, Monnow Street, Monmouth in St Mary's Parish Church, Monmouth. 20 October he embarked to France to join No 1 Coy who were already in France, as part of a reinforcing draft. Records appear to show that on the 18 January 1917 he took unauthorised leave between 0615 hours to 1530 hours and was deprived one day's pay. He served in France until 2 June 1918 when he was sent back to

England on health grounds. On the 12 June he was sent to Essex County Hospital Colchester with tubercle of lungs (TB). On the 14 September 1918 he was honourably discharged from the army as no longer physically fit for War Service Para 392, Kings Regulations.

### **Legacy**

He was awarded the 1915 Star, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In 1939 on the National Identity Register he is recorded as living at 8 Brook Estate, Watery Lane Monmouth with his wife Blanche Jones a housewife. His occupation is given as a railway porter who trained as a signaller. He was a member of the National Union of Railwaymen which he joined on the 13 April 1913 as a porter. The Union paid a superannuation of £30 on the 6 April 1956 and £5 on his death on the 16 August 1968. His original certificate of honourable discharge from the REME is held in the Monmouth Museum.

### **Issues**