

## JONES Joseph

Private Joseph (Henry?) Jones – 24264- 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment

Joseph was killed in action on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1916 when he was 18. He is remembered on the Basra Memorial. The Battalion diary for the day that Joseph was killed records:

“At 4.55 a.m. the 13<sup>th</sup> Div. assaulted the Hannah position and captured it. The Battalion was allotted the duty of taking part in the assault on the Turkish 3<sup>rd</sup> Line. The Turks vacated and retired by covered way without apparent damage to a position about four miles West named FALAHYEH: On passing through the HANNAH Position the Battalion was in advance of the whole Division and about 9.30 a.m. received orders to act as advanced guard covering a front of about 2,000 yards. Advance begun and after about fifteen minutes the forward groups began to come under rifle fire from their left flank, but nothing could be seen. After a short time the firing became much heavier and Col. Gover changed direction with the whole Battalion, the movement was carried out as if on parade and a systematic and well conducted advance was commenced in the direction (West) of the rifle fire. At no time could the position of the Turks be distinguished: After advancing about 600 yards the last 300 yards of which was by short Section rushes the fire became so hot that it was necessary to halt the line which was not supported, as it was impossible to retire. The men made the best cover possible with their entrenching tools and remained until 7 pm when we retired under cover of darkness. The Battalion received special praise and mention for its Excellent Work on this day:

Casualties:

Officers 4 Killed, 7 wounded

Other Ranks 28 killed, 170 wounded, 7 missing.”

Joseph was the son of Mrs Elizabeth Jones of Clatterbridge.



The records consulted were written in the heat of battle 100 years ago. Consequently, since the name of “Jones” is fairly common, it has not been easy to state with certainty which Jones is which. In addition to the three Jones on the Memorial, a further seven Jones, at least, went to fight from Willaston. War grave registration forms compiled in 1920 have, on occasions, some uncertainty as to rank or initial. This is hardly surprising given the enormity of the task and the lack of recording technology at that time. The information on the Jones soldiers in this book is accurate to the best of the authors’ knowledge.