



FARNDON DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Remembering the Men of Farndon

Sergeant Joseph J JONES

19469 16th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Died of Wounds 14 July 1916

Aged 23

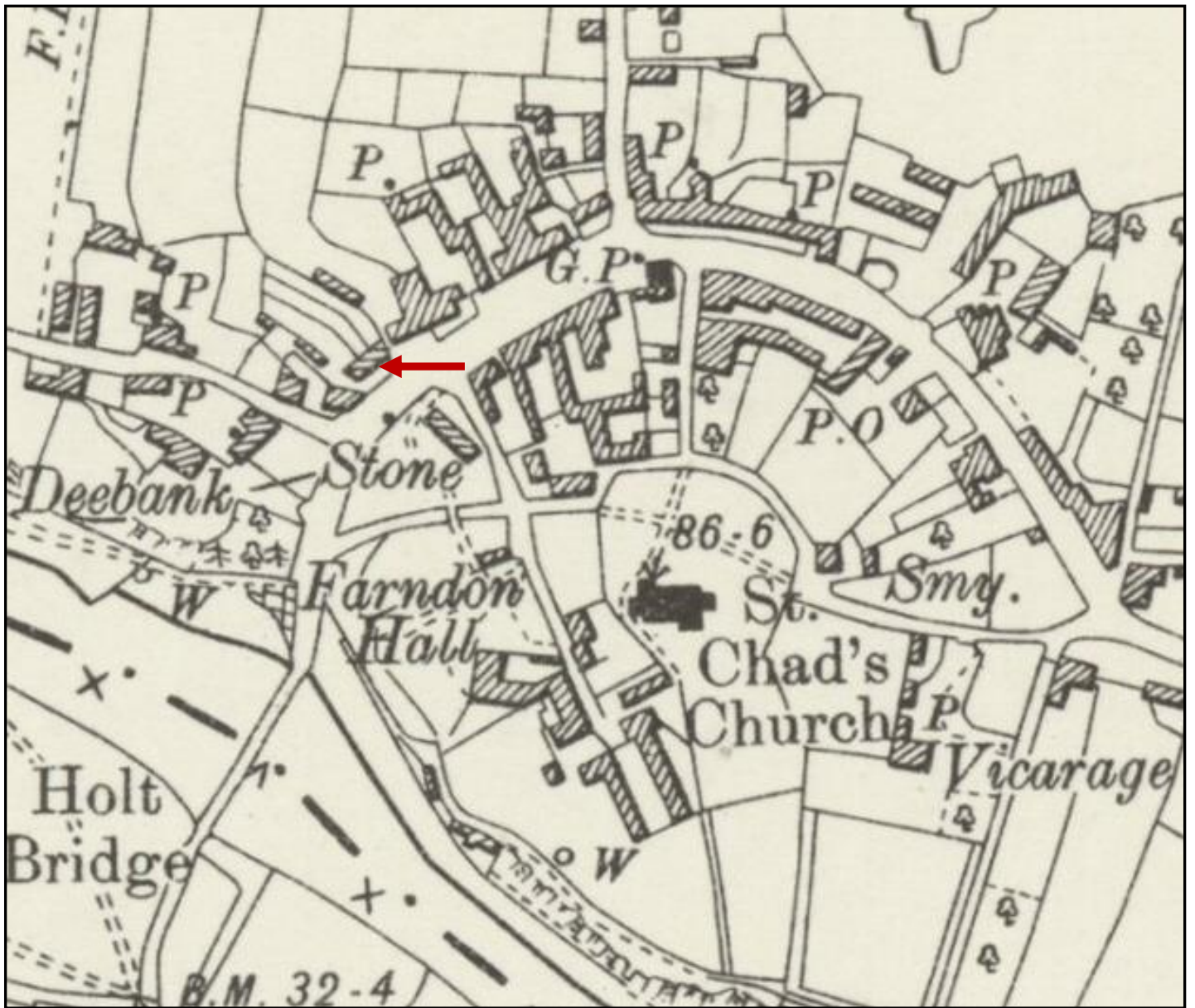
Joseph Jones was the third son of Thomas and Margaret Jones of Deva Terrace, Farndon. Thomas was born in Holt on the Welsh side of the Dee bridge and named after his father Thomas, a plumber and painter. Thomas senior, Joseph's grandfather, led quite an itinerant life, leaving the village of his birth to find work in Liverpool, then to Heswall and Barnston on the Wirral. By 1884, Thomas junior had found work as a domestic gardener, had met and married Margaret Catherine Jones from Chester, and had moved to work in Chorley in Lancashire. Their first son Llewellyn, was born there in 1885.

By 1888 they were in Farndon, living at Mount Hill next to the farm at the top of the High Street. Two daughters followed, Francis Adeline in 1888, Mary Agnes in 1890, and sons John Bebbington in 1892 and Joseph in 1884. By 1901, the family had moved down the hill in the High Street into No.2 Deva Terrace. Llewellyn, the eldest son, was now an apprentice joiner, possibly learning some of his skills from his retired maternal grandfather Joseph, a Welshman from Llanarmon, Caernarvonshire, a retired joiner, who came to live with the family. By 1911, John was a draper's assistant, Francis a teacher at the village school and Joseph was a grocers assistant in the shop in the High Street. Llewlyn was still working as a joiner, but as a building contractor, lodging in a terrace house near Walton Hospital in Liverpool.



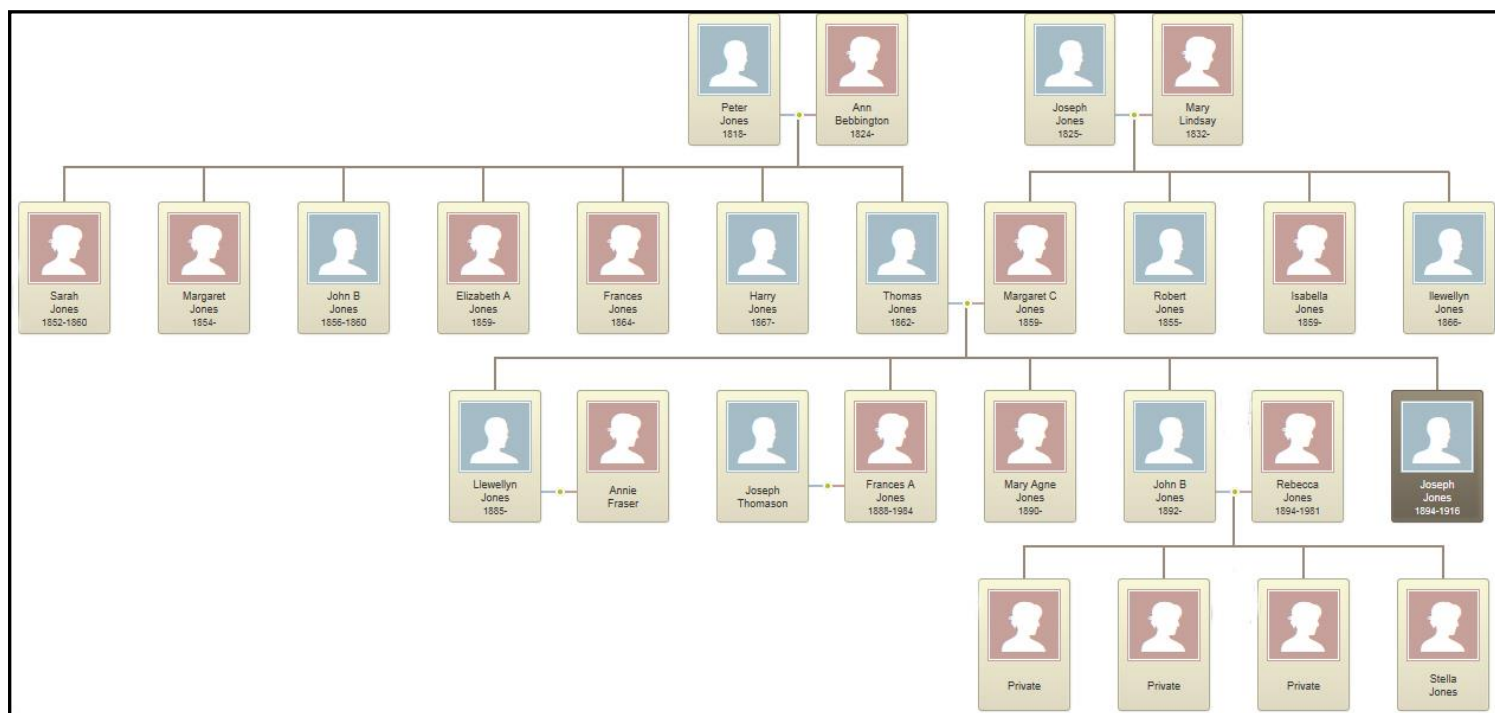
Deva Terrace

Top: The Jones family lived in the middle cottage at No.2. The terrace can also be seen in the bottom view of 1905, on the right beyond the white fronted Greyhound Inn (the original Inn).

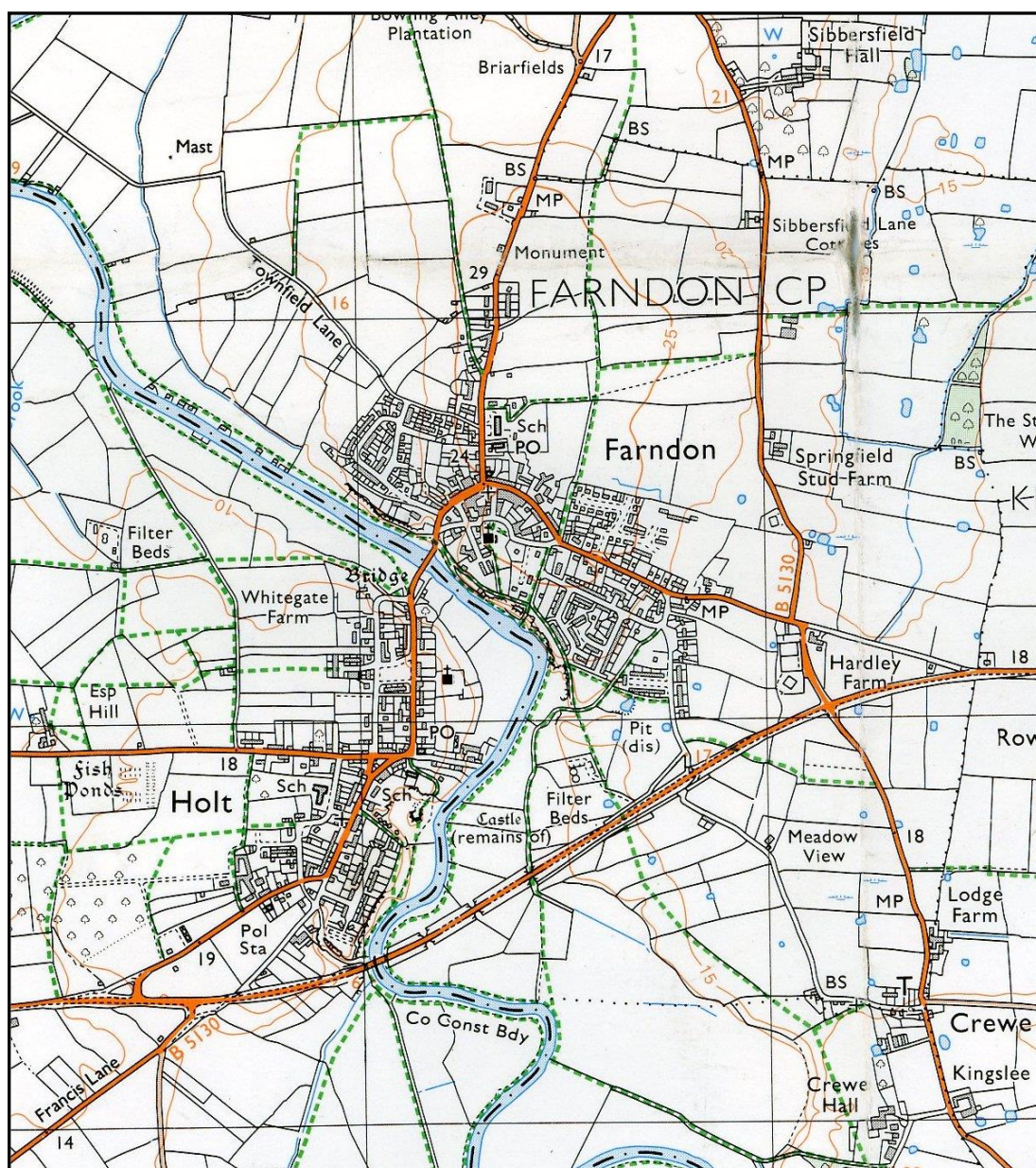


**High Street Farndon
c.1905**

Looking back up the
hill from Deva Terrace
(arrowed)



Brief ancestry tree of Joseph Jones.
Compiled by 'dmands82'



Modern map of Farndon Parish. Holt is on the Welsh side of the Dee, the birthplace of Joseph's father Thomas.

Page 22]		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the													
Civil Parish [or Township] of		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Village or Hamlet, &c., of		Local Board, or (Improvement Commissioners District) of		Ecclesiastical District of	
Warrington		Warrington		Warrington		Warrington		Warrington		Warrington		Warrington		Woodchurch Parish	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether	1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic				
		In- habited (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)	Out- standing (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)												
18		1		Thomas Jones	Head	Mar	40	Plumber & Painter	Wales Holt						
				Mary Do	Wife	Mar	39		Wales Holt						
				Elizabeth Do	Daughter	Mar	16	Scholar	Do Holt						
				James Do	Son	Mar	12		Do Do						
				Thomas Do	Son	Mar	10		Do Do						
				David Do	Son	Mar	8		Do Do						
				Edward Do	Son	Mar	6		Do Do						
99		1		Elizabeth Roberts	Head	Mar	44	Farmer	Cheshire Heston						
				James Do	Son	Mar	11	Scholar	Lancashire Liverpool						
				Edward Do	Son	Mar	10		Do Do						
100	Warrington Road	1		Robert Warrington	Head	Mar	54	General Servant	Cheshire						
	Rate House			Mary Do	Wife	Mar	51	Farmer & General (Plumber)	Lancashire Liverpool						
				William Do	Son	Mar	19	General Servant	Cheshire Heston						
101		1		John Wilson	Head	Mar	60	Labourer	Bedfordshire						
				John Do	Son	Mar	26		Do Do						
				James Do	Son	Mar	24		Do Do						
				James Do	Son	Mar	11	Scholar	Cheshire Heston						
				Elizabeth Do	Wife	Mar	9		Do Lancashire						
102		1		Thomas Roberts	Head	Mar	27	Plumber & Plasterer	Do Warrington						
				Elizabeth Do	Wife	Mar	28		Do Warrington						
				John Do	Son	Mar	5	Scholar	Do Warrington						
				Edward Do	Son	Mar	1		Do Warrington						
				William Do	Son	Mar	3 days		Do Do						
5	Total of Houses..	5		Total of Males and Females..											

Census 1871

The family of Thomas Jones – Joseph's father, Thomas junior, is shown aged ten.

Administrative County of <u>Cheshire</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 16			
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District	
of <u>Harnden</u>		of _____		of _____		of _____		of <u>Harnden</u>		of <u>Harnden Union</u>		of <u>Eddisbury</u>		of <u>Harnden</u>	
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited at	Col. 4	Col. 5	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	10	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	14	WHERE BORN	16
															(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot
98	Barton Road	1			William Powell	Head	M	44		Farmer			X	Cheshire Harnden	
					Elizabeth H. Do	Wife	M	43						Do Warrley	
					Thomas H. Do	Son	S	X						Do Harnden	
					Margaret Moss	Serv	S	14		Dom				Do	
99	"	1			William Farrell	Head	M	67		Shumber & Glasier	X	X	X	Do Do	
					Elizabeth Do	Wife	M	74						Do Chester	
					Mary C. Do	Serv	S	24						Do Harnden	
100	Hall, Mount	1			Thomas Jones	Head	M	29		Gardener Domestic		X		Do North	
					Margaret Do	Wife	M	32						Cheshire	
					Elizabeth Do	Son	S	6		School				Cheshire Chorley	
					Frances A. Do	Serv	S	15						Cheshire Harnden	
					Mary Jones Do	Serv	S	X						Do Do	
101	"	1			William Holmes	Head	M	31		Butcher			X	Do North	
					Frances Do	Wife	M	28						Do Common Wood	
					Elly Ethel Do	Serv	S	16						Cheshire Harnden	
					Florence C. Do	Serv	S	5						Do Do	
					William Parry Do	Son	S	1						Do Do	
					Mary Jones	Serv	S	14		General servant Domestic				Warrley Gyrdayn	
102	Masons Arms	1			Ralph Fowler	Head	M	33		Publican & Barber Arms	X	X		Cheshire Warrley	
					Annie C. Do	Wife	M	32		Pub		X		Do Harnden	
					Ralph S. Do	Son	S	12		School				Do Do	
					Annie C. Do	Serv	S	10		"				Do Do	
					Gertrude A. Do	Serv	S	7		"				Do Do	
					Angela L. Do	Serv	S	6		"				Do Do	
103	"	1			John Walker	Head	M	46		By Courman Domestic		X		Cheshire Warrley	
					Isabel Walker	Wife	M	43						Do Warrley	
					Joseph Do	Son	S	14		School				Cheshire Harnden	
					Henry Do	Son	S	9		"				Do Do	
104	"	1			Thomas Ince	Head	M	39		Wagon			X	Do Do	
					Elizabeth Do	Wife	M	38						Do Do	
					Thomas Do	Son	S	4		School				Do Warrley	
7	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	7		2	Total of Males and Females...					14	14			Cheshire Warrley	

Administrative County		Cheshire		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the													Page 9	
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet						
of <u>Farnford</u>		of <u>Farnford</u>		of		of		of <u>Farnford</u>		of <u>Buddisbury</u>		of <u>Farnford</u>						
No. of Schedules	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES			Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Qualification as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded					
		Uninhabited	Not in Occupation	Building														
41		1			Daniel Edge	Head	m	30	Carter John Thomas J. Jones	Worker		Farnford Cheshire						
					Mary Edge	Wife	m	31				Cheshire Cheshire						
					Thomas Edge	son	s	8				Farnford Cheshire						
					George Edge	son	s	1				do do						
42		1			Broster Pippott	Head	m	30	Butcher	own account at home		Cheshire Farnford						
					Mary Pippott	Wife	m	29				Denbigh Holt						
					John Pippott	son	s	7				Cheshire Farnford						
					Frank Pippott	son	s	5				" "						
					Broster Pippott	son	s	3				" "						
					George Pippott	son	s	1				Cheshire Farnford						
43	1 Deva Terrace	1			Joseph Walker	Head	m	45	Imprison	Worker		Cheshire Macclesfield						
					Elleanor Walker	Wife	m	44				" Eccleston						
					Joseph Walker	son	s	20	Miner	Worker		do Cheshire						
					George Walker	son	s	16	do Miner	Worker		" Aldford						
					Benjamin Walker	son	s	11				" Aldford						
					Samuel Walker	son	s	7				" Aldford						
					Thomas Walker	father	had	84	Labourer	Refined		" Buxton						
44	2	1			Thomas Jones	Head	m	39	Gardener	Worker		Denbigh Holt						
					Margaret B Jones	Wife	m	42				Cheshire Cheshire						
					Ellen Jones	son	s	16	do			Lancashire Chorley						
					Francis A Jones	son	s	13				Cheshire Farnford						
					John B Jones	son	s	9				do do						
					Joseph Jones	son	s	7				do do						
					Mary Ann Jones	son	s	11				do do						
					Joseph Jones	son	s	7	Rgt. Artillery			Denbigh Llanarmon						
45	3	1			Emmanuel Sherring	Head	m	46	Brigadier	Worker		Salop Oswestry						
					Esther Sherring	Wife	m	46				Cheshire Farnford						
					Edwin J Sherring	son	s	20	Brigadier	Worker		do do						
5	Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	5			Total of Males and of Females				21	7								

Census 1901

The family have now moved to Deva Terrace – Joseph Jones aged seven

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.															Number of Schedules 5		
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.																	
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.																	
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.			BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.				
<p>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who</p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>																	
		For Infants under one year state the age in months, or "under one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)		The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.		Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.		(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.		(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.	
		For Infants under one year state the age in months, or "under one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)		The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.		Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.		(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.		(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	
Thomas Jones	Head	49	Married	27	Sex	Male	Gardener	Domestic Gardener	Worker			Denbighshire. Holt.	Eng.				
Margaret Adams Jones	Wife	53	Married	27	Sex	Female	Teacher	Elementary School	Worker			Cheshire St. Mary's (Holt)	Eng.				
Frances Adeline Jones	Daughter	23	Single				Teacher	Elementary School	Worker			Cheshire Arndon	Eng.				
Mary Jones	Daughter	21	Single				working at home					Cheshire Arndon	Eng.				
John Adlington Jones	Son	19	Single				grocer's assistant	grocery	Worker			Cheshire Arndon	Eng.				
Joseph Jones	Son	17	Single				grocer's assistant	grocery	Worker			Cheshire Arndon	Eng.				
Joseph Thompson	Visitor	26	Single				Teacher (School Master)	Elementary School	Worker			Denbigh St. Paul's Church	Eng.				
<p>(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)</p> <p>(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)</p> <p>Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Tenements, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.</p> <p>I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p>Signature: Thomas Jones</p> <p>Postal Address: Deva Terrace Arndon (Chesh.)</p>																	

Census 1911

Joseph Jones is now a Grocer's Assistant aged seventeen.

Also recorded is schoolmaster Joseph Thomason, a 'visitor' – the future husband of Joseph's sister Frances, also a teacher.

When the war came, it is likely that Joseph was an early volunteer [his war record has not survived, but his medal card indicates he was in France by 2 December 1915] and as the son of Welsh parents he went off to Wrexham to enlist for the Royal Welch Fusiliers, where he was posted to the 16th (Service)

Battalion. The 16th Battalion was raised at Llandudno in November 1914 by the Welsh National Executive Committee from recruits surplus to 13th Battalion (1st North Wales) which had been formed in Rhyl on 3 September 1914. Later in the month they joined 128th Brigade, 43rd Division at Llandudno, which was renamed 113th Brigade, 38th (Welsh) Division on the 28 April 1915. They were then moved to Winchester in August 1915 for final training, before embarking for the Front, landing in France in December 1915, taking up the line near Fleurbaix. **Joseph** must have been with them from an early stage and followed this itinerary.



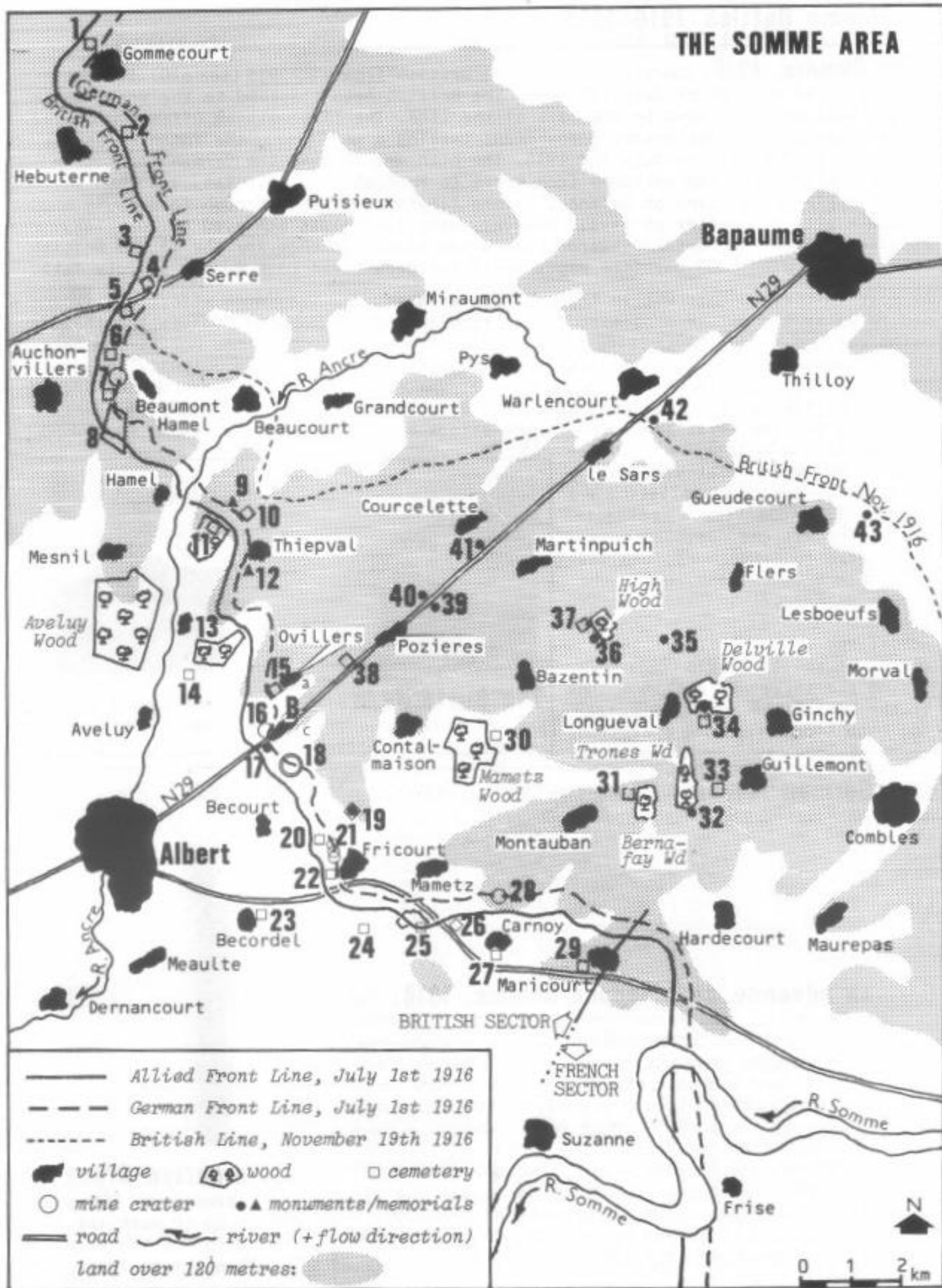
Their first winter was spent in the trenches near Armentieres, after which they were moved behind the lines, where the 38th Division began the long march south to the Somme arriving in June 1916. Ten battalions of the Royal Welch Fusiliers (RWF) became part of the British Army's huge concentration of men and firepower, which was to begin a major assault on the German front line, soon to be known officially as the First Battle of the Somme. Two were Regular battalions, and another was a pre-war Territorial battalion. The other seven battalions consisted of men who had answered Lord Kitchener's call for volunteers early in the war, and five of these 'New Army' battalions (13th-17th RWF) were in brigades 113th and 115th – part of the aforementioned 38th (Welsh) Division – Lloyd George's 'Welsh Army'. **Sergeant Joseph Jones'** 16th Battalion were part of this force.

The Battle began on 1 July, but the Division were tasked with the capture of Mametz Wood, which began a few days later on 7 July. They were met with fierce resistance, and it took until the 14 July to clear the wood. This was the first major action fought by the Division and its Welsh battalions. The first assault on the 7 July failed, but a renewed attack was made early on 10 July by the 113th and 114th Brigades, and gained a foothold in the Wood. Well until late the following day, Welsh battalions fought their way through the chaotic, shattered and bewildering mass of broken timber and dense undergrowth against an unseen enemy, preceded by a creeping artillery barrage which added to the deafening noise and further uprooted or brought down trees. To add to the horror and confusion, this even fell at times on their own men. Finally, on the night of 11/12 July the Germans withdrew from the Wood, leaving behind hundreds of dead.

This capture of the wood is now regarded as being attributed wholly to the 38th (Welsh) Division, but it came at great cost to the Division; nearly 4,000 men were lost, including 600 killed and as many missing. The five RWF battalions lost well over 1,000 men, including four out of five commanding officers. It is worth bearing in mind that not one man in the Division had been trained to fight in thick woodland, and for the majority this was their first experience of battle.

Nevertheless, the Commander in Chief, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig was moved to write in his diary that '...The 38th Welsh Division had not advanced with determination to the attack' – a view that was slammed by later commentators as a totally unjustifiable accusation, based on incomplete information. In fact, the 115th Brigade lost more than 600 men in this stage of the battle.

THE SOMME AREA



Sergeant Joseph Jones was one of those who was cut down in the battle to clear Mametz Wood. He was seriously wounded, but was recovered from the battlefield and taken behind the lines to a casualty clearing station, from where he was despatched to the Base Hospital at Rouen. Nothing could be done, and Sergeant Joseph Jones died of his wounds a few days later on 14 July 1916 at the age of twenty-three. He was buried in the nearby St. Sever Cemetery.

Commissioned into the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in August 1914, the distinguished author Robert Graves was with the 2nd Battalion on 16 July, bivouacked outside Mametz Wood among the dead of the Regiment's New Army battalions. In the original edition of *Goodbye to All That* (1929), he described how he went out into the wood to scrounge blankets for his men:



"I had to pass the corpse of a German... propped against a tree. He had a green face, spectacles, close-shaven hair; black blood was dripping from the nose and beard. He had been there for some days and was bloated and stinking."

He later recaptured the experience of death and destruction in one of his most famous poems, in similar sentiment to Owen's *Dulce et Decorum Est*:

'A Dead Boche'

To you who'd read my songs of War
And only hear of blood and fame,
I'll say (you've heard it said before)
"War's Hell!" and if you doubt the same,
Today I found in Mametz Wood
A certain cure for lust of blood:
Where, propped against a shattered trunk,
In a great mess of things unclean,
Sat a dead Boche; he scowled and stunk
With clothes and face a sodden green,
Big-bellied, spectacled, crop-haired,
Dribbling black blood from nose and beard.

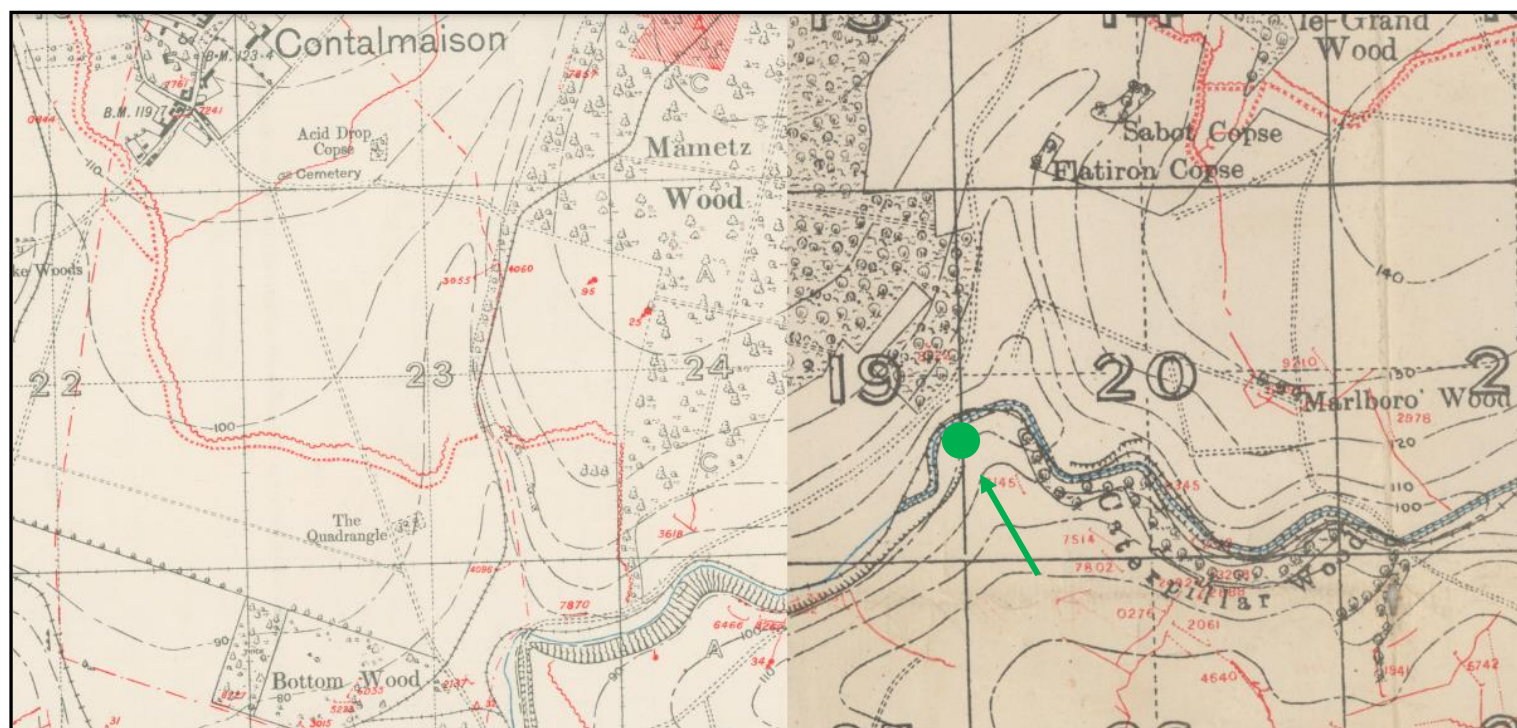
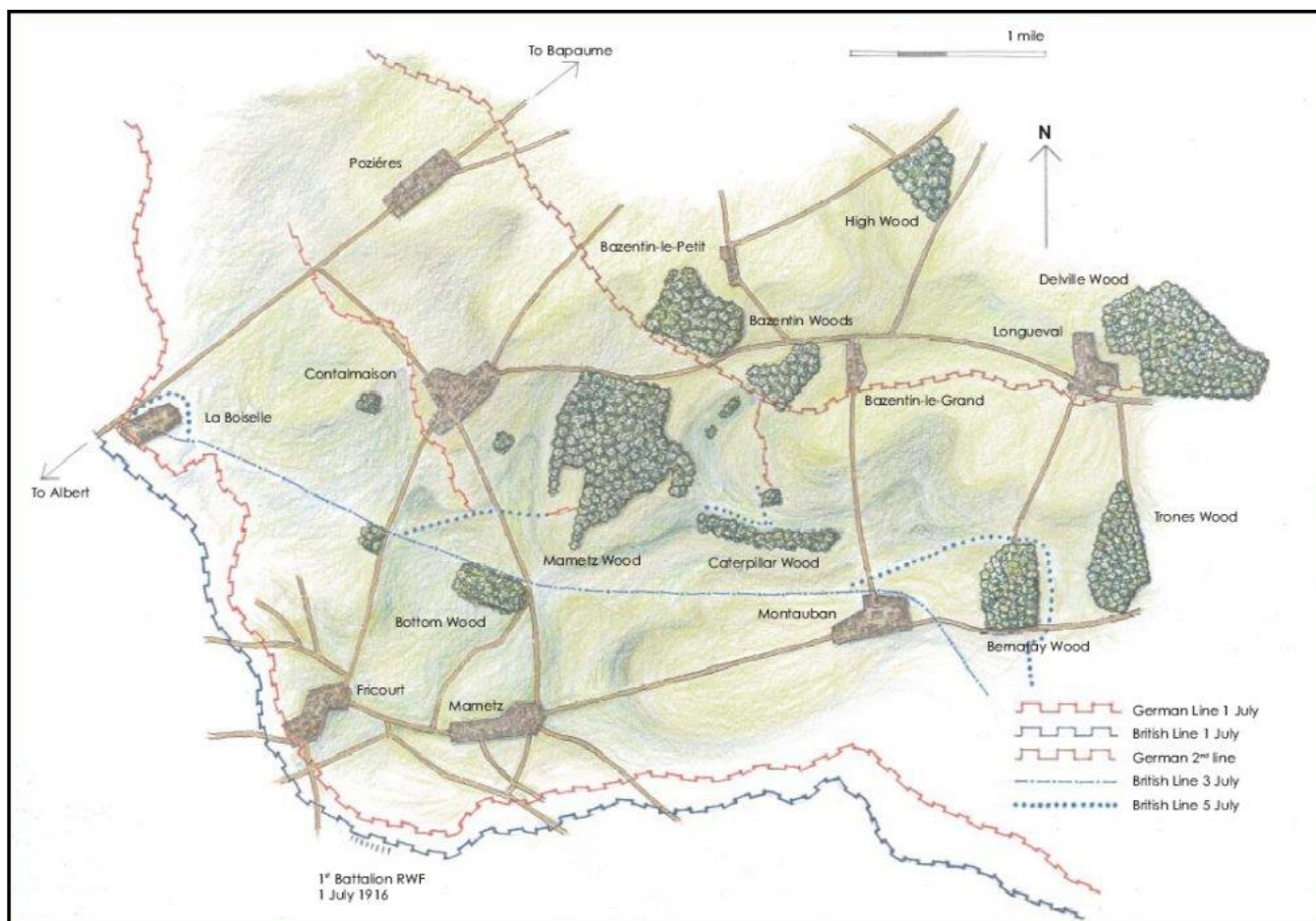
Robert Graves (1895–1985) *Fairies and Fusiliers* 1918

An insightful account of the battle came from the pen of Thomas Phillips. Although originally from Llanelli, he spent some time in Wrexham, where his son William was born. He was an acting Sergeant in the 16th Battalion during the Mametz action, and probably knew Sergeant Joseph Jones. He described what happened in vivid detail,

WITH THE 38th DIVISION IN FRANCE

At this place we saw our first batch of Boche prisoners placed in the cage. We only stayed at RIBEMONT one night. At noon the following day we were hurriedly dispatched to reinforce, leaving all surplus kit behind. After a few hours' march we were met by guides from a (the?) Staffordshire Regiment, and ultimately found ourselves consolidating the newly occupied line of German trenches in front of FRICOURT, a village which, on the previous day, had been completely demolished by our Gunners. For the following five days we occupied these trenches, and by this time the Division had completely relieved the troops who had taken this ground.

The Battalion suffered slight casualties in this area and, at the end of the tour, marched back some distance where we bivouacked. Improvised shelters out of ground sheets were made, and it rained very heavily. The following day we had orders to move forward again, and (we) relieved the 15th RWF in the front line, which system of trenches was half a mile in advance of FRICOURT. We remained in these trenches for four or five days and, although our relief had



Trench Map showing Mametz Wood

The site of the 'Red Dragon Memorial' is arrowed

been expected, in fact arranged but afterwards cancelled, we had orders on the night of the 9th/10th July to take Mametz Wood. Towards the evening of Sunday 10th July a message was received from the GOC Commanding, on the vast importance of taking this wood, and that it was up to the Welsh Division to maintain the traditions of the British Army and win for itself immortal glory, which it did. It was 10.00 PM when all officers were hurriedly summoned to a conference where the method of attack was fully discussed. The disposition of the Companies was as follows:

"B" and "D" Coys supported by "C" and "A", the extension covering a front of 200 yards and going forward in successive waves. Colonel Carden, to whom this great task was entrusted, addressed the men before going into action saying, "Boys, make your peace with God; we are going to take that position and some of us will not come back."

For the next few hours there was little time for rest of any sort, and finally arrangements had to be accelerated. At 2.30 AM on the 10th July the Battalion was assembled in extended order out of the trenches, and lay in prone position until 5.00 AM. During these 2½ hours the roar of our guns was deafening and the concerted action of the machine gunners added to the din. The suspense was very keen till we had the order to move forward at 5.00 AM. The dawn had broken and daylight was fast approaching, enabling us to see the ground we had to cover. We slowly ascended the ridge in front of White Trench (properly called such, as it had been dug out of chalk), and within 10 minutes or so a verbal order was passed down from our right to retire. No-one seemed to know from where this order emanated, but obviously it came from the 14th RWF as they were on our right. "B" and "D" Companies had gone too far forward for this order to be communicated to them. Presumably, if it had, the dauntless and courageous Colonel Carden would not have acted on it as he had set his teeth on getting to the wood. "A" and "C" Company officers were compelled to re-enter the assembly trench in compliance with this order. Orders were rapidly passed down to open fire (as) soon as the Boche appeared in view. Seconds seemed like minutes, and minutes like hours. In due time we saw the Boche but alas, unarmed with hands up, and escorted by one or two Tommies. These prisoners had been taken by "B" and "D" Companies. One of the escort waved his arm as a signal to go forward again and out of the trench everyone leapt without waiting for definite orders from superior officers. It displayed the instinctive valour of a British Tommy and individual determination to gain the objective. On we went in single file through a heavy Boche barrage and, on the other side of the crest was a steep embankment which offered the enemy machine gunners a good field of fire. I do not remember going down this embankment at all as I was so wrapped up in the task allotted to me. I was entrusted with the communications of the 113th Brigade.

Our first objective was to get to the wood and, for the purpose of re-organisation, seek natural cover in the folds of the ground. At this juncture the enemy put up a heavy barrage of incendiary shells that burst 100 yards or so short. The sudden burst of flame which extended from the point of bursting, 200 feet high, to the ground had a demoralizing effect, as no-one in the Battalion had previously heard of them. Colonel Carden was mortally wounded within 20 yards of the wood. After a brief stay the troops went forward into the wood, entering it at the nearest point which, for the purpose of clarity, can be described as the apex of a triangle. At this point the Boche had three machine gun posts which momentarily checked our entrance. These machine gunners were dealt with.

We pressed on until the second objective was reached. I skirted the edge of the wood and ascended the slope till I could be seen by the Brigade forward telephone station, and in doing so had to dodge the bullets which were fired by snipers up in the trees. I succeeded, with the help of my signallers, to maintain communication during the whole time of this inferno, and the chief messages required to be sent were for more and more stretcher bearers. The Battalion suffered a loss of about 400 casualties in this struggle, out of 600 who went into action.



During the same evening we were relieved by an incoming battalion, and we retired to a sunken road called Queens Nullah, immediately behind the Chalk Trench. We had to be on the "qui Vive" all night as all sorts of reports were flying about. Early next morning I witnessed one of the best artillery movements I have ever seen; that of a Battery riding into action under heavy fire. We rested during the day on their left, and our time was chiefly taken up by devouring the Brigade rations which had been dumped nearby. Ample justice was made to the selection of ham, cheese, bread, rum etc which we had, as we had been on biscuits and water only during the 4/5 days we had occupied the trenches in front of FRICOURT. Our transport could not get anywhere near us. We were in very poor physical condition on the day of the 12th and, as we had been under such heavy fire for several days and nights, (we) did not regard the shelling we were subjected to on this day as of much consequence. Late in the afternoon the Boche guns got our range and pummelled Queens Nullah, causing several casualties to the few of us that remained. It was here that I narrowly escaped death myself and instead, received a wound in the chest and leg, as well as being crushed by a fall."

18531 Tom Phillips, Signalling Sergeant "C" Company, 16th Royal Welch Fusiliers
(from a document donated to the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum by his grandsons).

In the days that followed, the fighting moved to the north and east of Mametz Wood into the German second line defences. On 14 July, the 1st Battalion took part in the 22nd Brigade's successful assault on Bazentin-le-Petit village, and played a notable part in repulsing subsequent German counter-attacks. Then on 18 July, the 10th Battalion distinguished itself in the attack on Delville Wood where two of its number, Corporal J.J.Davies and Private A.Hill, were awarded the Victoria Cross on that day; although the Battalion lost 228 men, including 15 officers.

On 20 July, the 2nd Battalion drove the enemy out of High Wood but was subsequently ordered to withdraw – their Commanding Officer wrote of his men,

'I have never seen such a magnificent and wonderful disregard for death as I saw that day. It was almost uncanny it was so great – but of the 706 men who went into the wood, fewer than 100 emerged unwounded'.

But before this, shortly after the battle for Mametz Wood ended, the 38th (Welsh) Division, including its Royal Welch Fusiliers had been pulled out and did not return to major action for more than a 12 months. Colin Hughes, in his work, *'Mametz - Lloyd George's Welsh Army at the Battle of the Somme'* wrote that they had

...neither glory nor distinction...noticeably bestowed upon them, [but] instead were bundled unceremoniously away to a quiet sector of the Front, and took no further part in the fighting on the Somme.

The sacrifice of these brave men has not been forgotten, and it was fittingly remembered with the installation of the splendid red dragon of Wales, once the proud emblem of the 38th (Welsh) Division, looking out at the jumping off point towards Mametz Wood, where so many fell including Sergeant Joseph Jones of Farndon a century ago.



Above: Soldiers of the 16th Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers

Bottom: The remnants of Mametz Wood

The poet Robert Graves fought in the battle and described the wood immediately after the battle;

It was full of dead Prussian Guards, big men, and dead Royal Welch Fusiliers and South Wales Borderers, little men. Not a single tree in the wood remained unbroken.



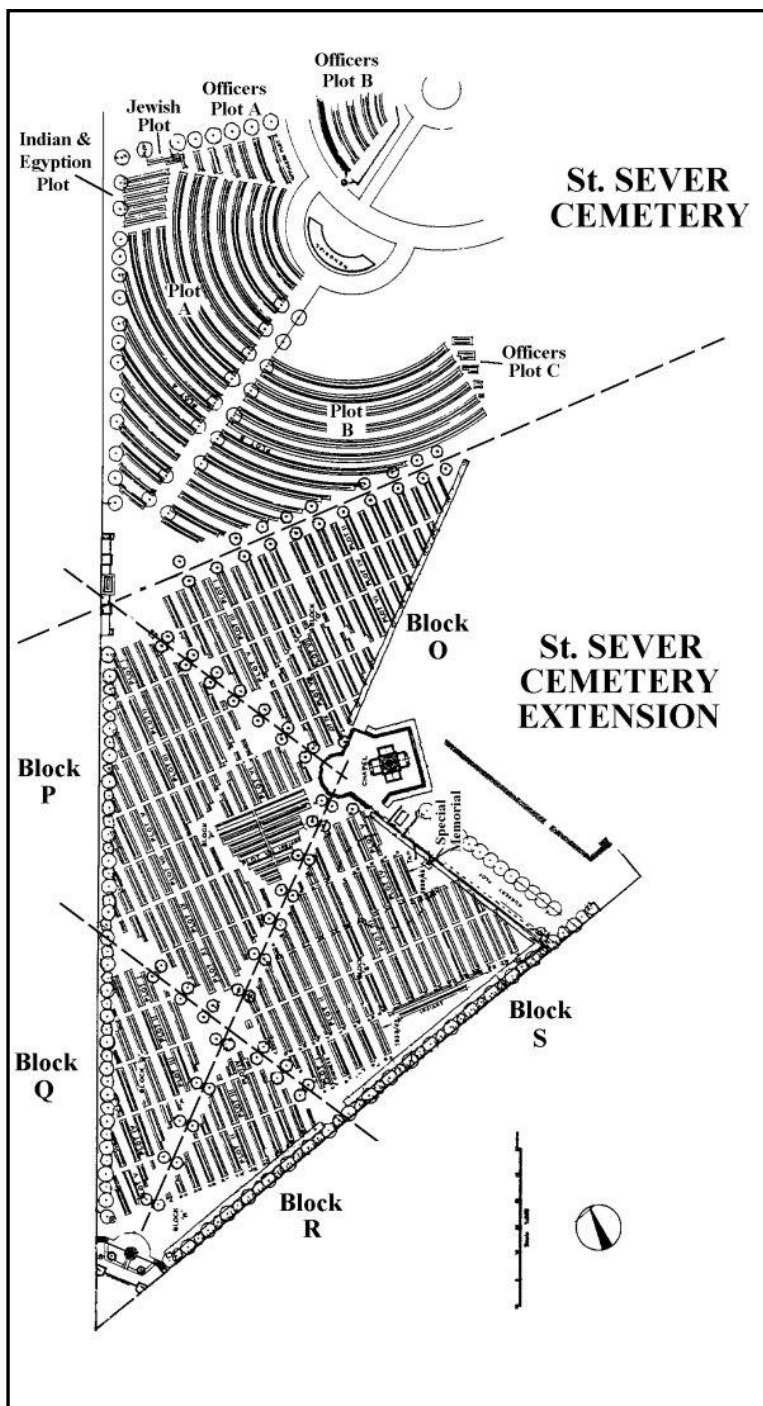
German ammunition wagons destroyed by British shellfire, Mametz Wood, July 1916

Another way to render German artillery ineffective was to wreck the supply system. Here, a small shell dump has been bombarded and several ammunition wagons severely damaged, although few shells seem to have exploded. The lack of permanent damage shows why the BEF focused, where possible, on destructive counter-battery fire. While this was doubtless a successful small bombardment, its effects would have been purely transitory, unless the British infantry happened to capture a particular position because some German batteries were short on shells at the key moment.

ST. SEVER CEMETERY and EXTENSION, ROUEN

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross and one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920. During the Second World War, Rouen was again a hospital centre and the extension was used once more for the burial of Commonwealth servicemen, many of whom died as prisoners of war during the German occupation. The cemetery extension contains 8,346 Commonwealth burials of the First World War (ten of them unidentified) and 328 from the Second World War (18 of them unidentified). There are also 8 Foreign National burials here. The extension was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield. **Sergeant Joseph Jones was buried in plot reference A. 29. 10.**

Right: Plan of St Sever Cemetery and St. Sever Cemetery Extension





Modern map of the area south of the Somme (*top right – Beaumont Hamel-Peronne*), showing location of Rouen (Base Hospital No.2 and St Sever Cemetery) *bottom left*.





St Sever Cemetery and St. Sever Cemetery Extension





St Sever Cemetery and St. Sever Cemetery Extension





The Mametz Wood Memorial

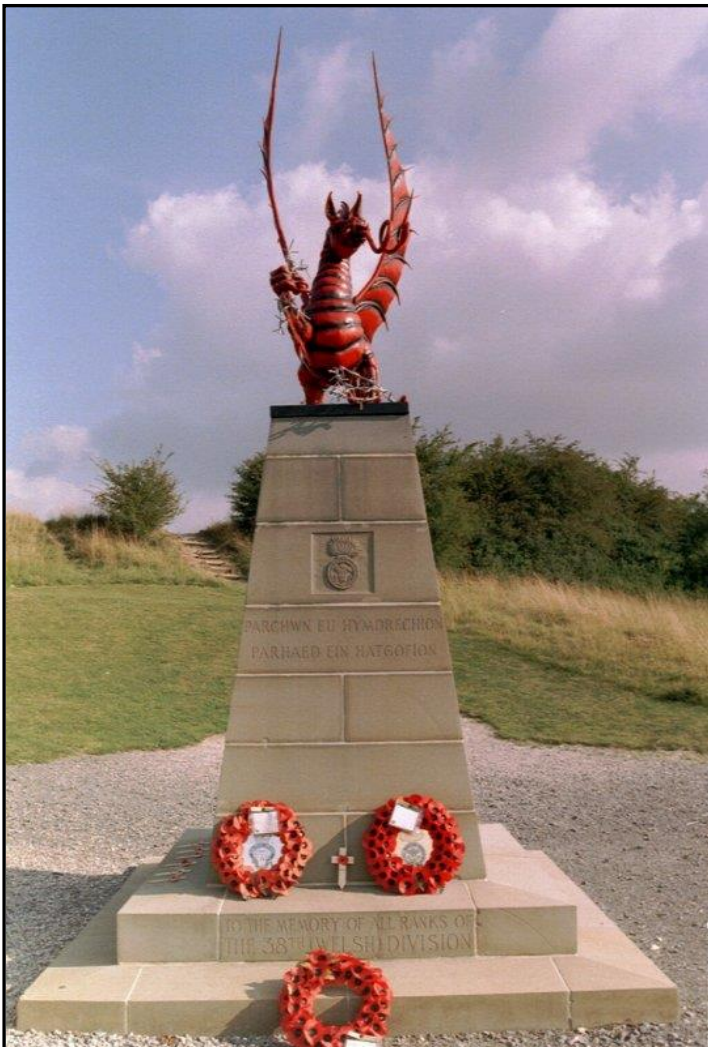
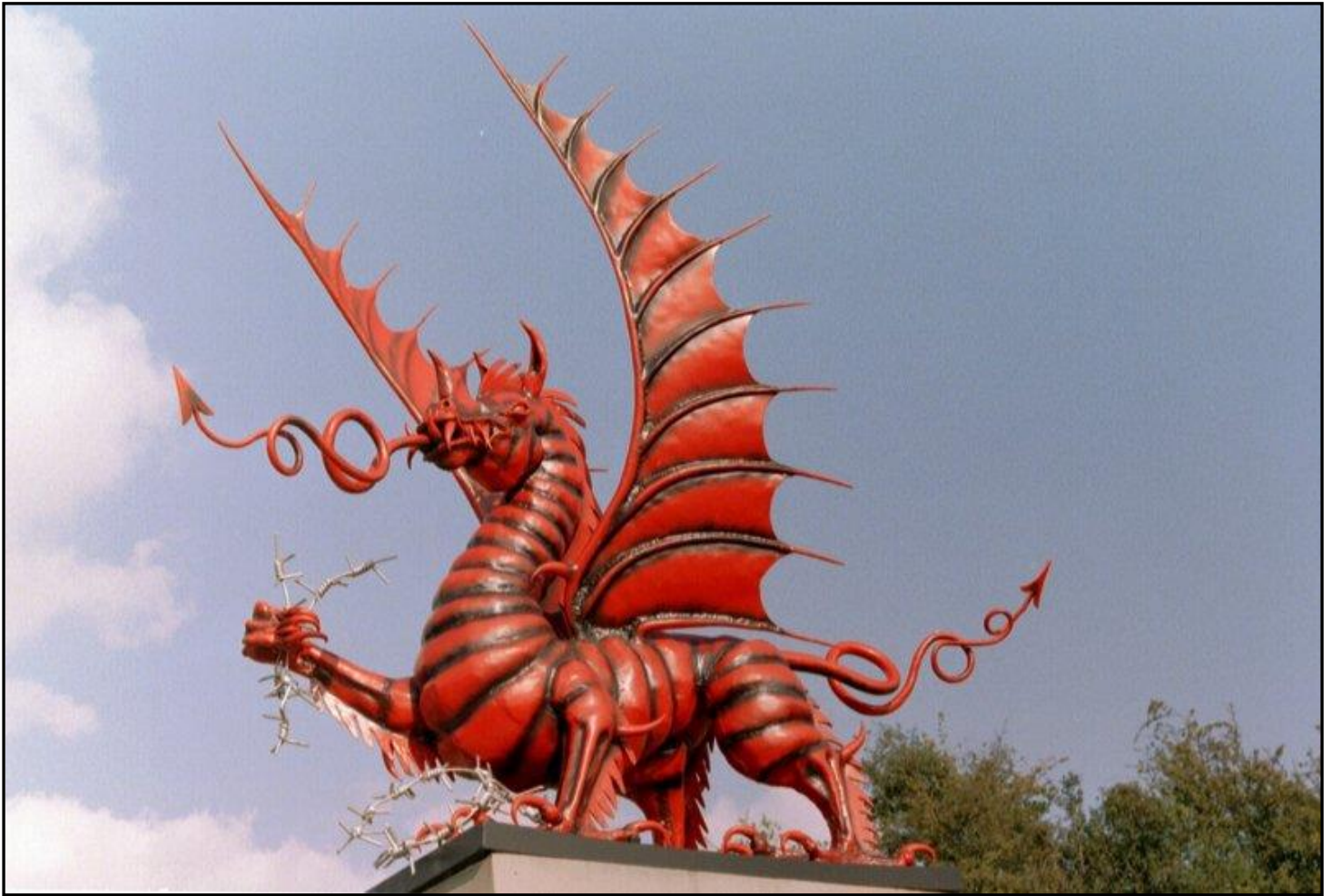
The memorial commemorates the engagement of the 38th (Welsh) Division during the First Battle of the Somme.

It was erected in 1987 by Welsh sculptor David Petersen, and is a large Welsh red dragon on top of a three-metre stone plinth, facing the wood and tearing at barbed wire. It was commissioned by the South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association following a public fund-raising appeal (refurbished for the centenary).

The memorial is located near the 'jumping of point' for the engagement and looks out over Mametz Wood.

The Mametz Wood Information Board is also pictured.

Photos by the author on a visit in 2005.



The Division suffered terrible casualties at Mametz, and were taken out of the line, and moved to Ypres to rebuild.

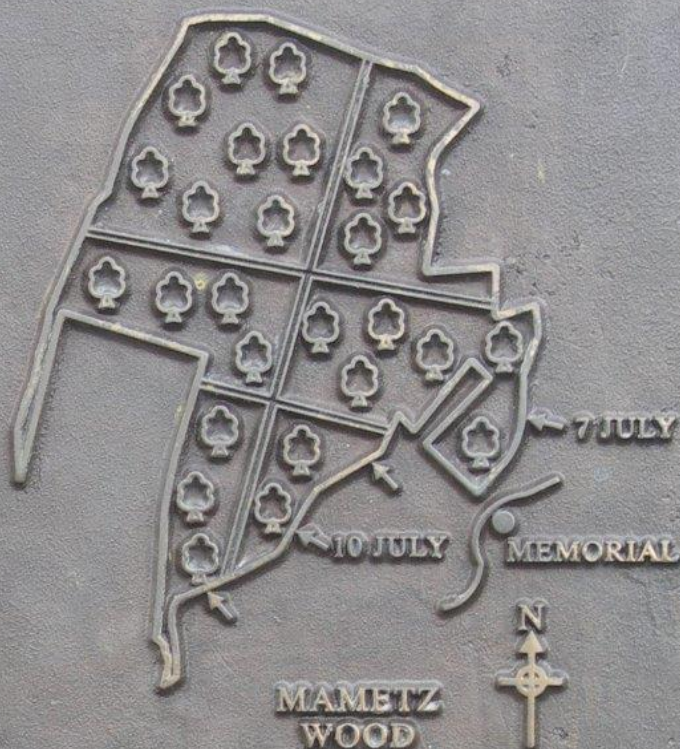
Here they fought at Pilckem and Langemarck, then moved to Armentieres, where they remained from September 1917 until March, 1918 when the German Spring Offensive was launched.

The British had been over-run on the Somme, and so in April the Division was moved south, taking up positions North of Albert, from where they weathered the storm of the coming months, until the war turned during the Battle of Amiens, on the 8th August, 1918.

The Germans had now lost the upper hand, and the British regained the lost ground on the Somme after an attack which began on the 21st August, with the 38th Welsh in the midst of the attack during the Battle of Albert.

THE BATTLE FOR MAMETZ WOOD

AS PART OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME, WHICH BEGAN ON 1st JULY 1916, THE 38th (WELSH) DIVISION ADVANCED FROM OVER THIS BANK TO ATTACK AND CAPTURE THE STRONGLY HELD MAMETZ WOOD. THE FIRST ATTACK WAS MADE ON 7th JULY BY 15th BRIGADE BUT THIS WAS UNSUCCESSFUL WITH THE BRIGADE SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES. A DIVISIONAL ATTACK ON THE 10th JULY WAS ABLE TO CLEAR THE WOOD UP TO ITS NORTHERN EDGE BY 11th JULY AND BY THE TIME THE DIVISION WAS RELIEVED ON 12th JULY THE ENEMY HAD COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN FROM THE WOOD. DURING THE ACTION THE DIVISION SUFFERED OVER 4000 CASUALTIES AND THIS MEMORIAL WAS RAISED IN 1987 TO REMEMBER THIS SACRIFICE.



38th WELSH DIVISION

113 BRIGADE

13th ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS
(1st NORTH WALES)

14th ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS
(CARMARVON & ANGLESEY)

15th ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS
(1st LONDON WELSH)

16th ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS
(2nd NORTH WALES)

114 BRIGADE

17th WELSH REGIMENT
(ABERYSTWYTH)

18th WELSH REGIMENT
(2nd RHONDDA)

19th WELSH REGIMENT
(SWANSEA)

20th WELSH REGIMENT
(CARMARTHEN)

115 BRIGADE

10th SOUTH WALES BORDERERS
(1st GWENT)

11th SOUTH WALES BORDERERS
(2nd GWENT)

12th WELSH REGIMENT
(CARDIFF CITY)

17th ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

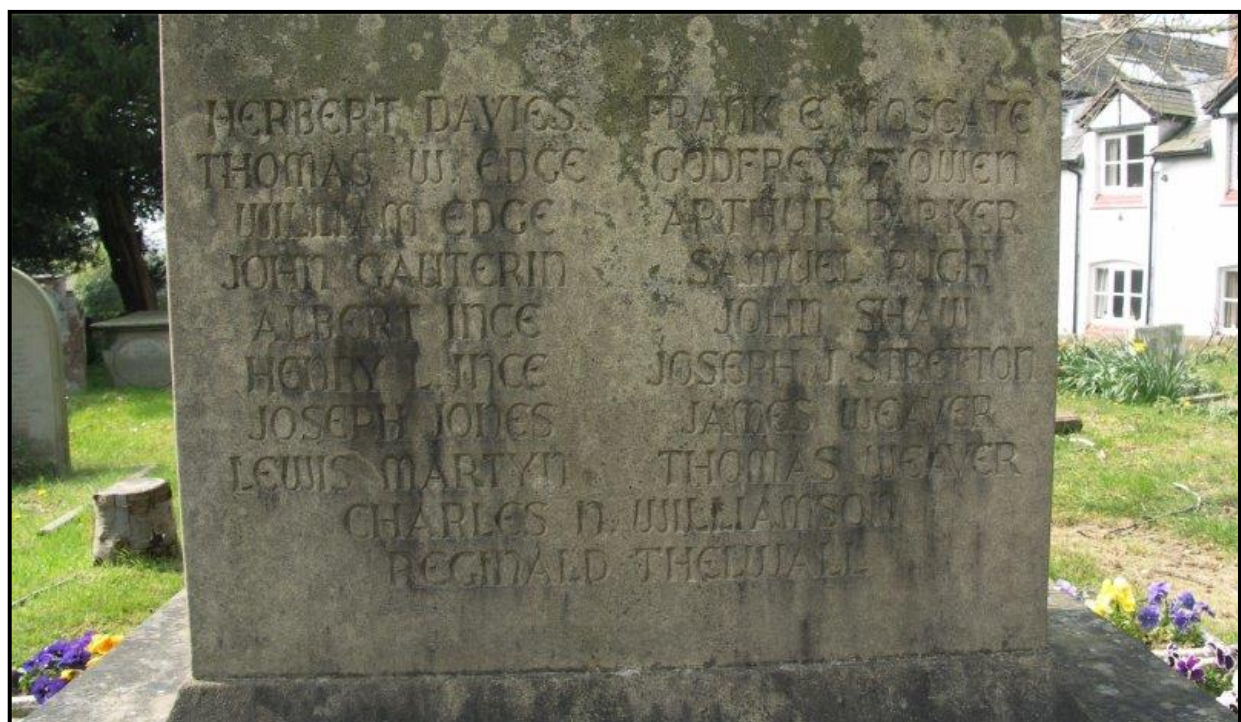
CE MONUMENT A ÉTÉ ÉRIGÉ
POUR MARQUER LE RÔLE
JOUÉ PAR LA 38^{ÈME}
DIVISION (GALLOISE) DANS LE
CAPTURE DU BOIS DE MAMETZ
DURANT LA BATAILLE DE LA
SOMME EN 1916.
4000 GALLOIS ONT PÉRÌ DURANT
LES COMBATS ET CE
MONUMENT MARQUE LEUR
SACRIFICE POUR LA LIBERTÉ.

O'R BRINCYN HWN YN IIS
GORFFENNAF 1916 LAWNSTODD
MILWYR Y GORFFLU CYMREIG
(Y 38TH AIN RHANIAD/ARFOG)
BUHYNMOSODIAD AR YR
ALMAENWYRIA OEDD EN
MEDDIANNU CODWIG MAMETZ.
ANODD OEDD Y DASE OND FE
FU YN GWRE LUYDDIANNU,
CODWED Y GORFF HON I GOTIO
AM BU HANBERTH A'U
HYMRODDIAD DROS RYDDID.
MEWN ANGOF NI CHANT FOD.



Farndon War Memorial

Left: the memorial plaque located in the entrance hall in the adjacent Memorial Hall (top left).



Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
JONES	R.W. Fus	1/cpl A/cpl.	19469
		* A/Sgt	"
Joseph			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	* J/2/02/38	24 55	2 of W 14-7-16
BRITISH	do	do	
15 STAR	J/2/2	753	
Theatre of War first served in 11 France			
Date of entry therein 2-12-15			

K 1380.



Above: Medal Card
Below: Service Medals (1915 Star, Victory Medal, and British Medal)
Memorial Plaque and Scrolls

In Memory of
Serjeant
Joseph Jones

19469, 16th Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers who died on 14 July 1916 Age 23

Son of Margaret Cathrine and the late Thomas Jones, of Deva Terrace, Fandon, Chester.

Remembered with Honour
St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Researched and written

by

Mike Royden

www.roydenhistory.co.uk