

Albert Herbert JONES



Presented is a Queens's South Africa medal with 2 Bars Defence of Mafeking and Transvaal awarded to 2588 TPR.A.H.JONES. B.S.A.POLICE

Alfred Herbert Jones is said to have been born in Dartford, Kent circa 1876<sup>i</sup>, for he is stated as being 26 years of age when he died on 7 March 1902. Of his birth and likely christening I can find no record and I suspect the details to be wrong.

His mother, and stated next of kin, Annie Jones, lived at 47 Highfield Road, Dartford, a semi-detached house that stands to this day. It was to her that the Queens's South Africa medal awarded was sent posthumously.

Reference is made to a Trooper Jones of the British South Africa Police (BSAP) in the Cape Times Weekly Edition of the 27 December 1899 following a skirmish on 2 November 1899 which led to the destruction of Bryce's Store<sup>ii</sup> in a battle on the banks of the Pitsane River (in present day Botswana). Casualties at defence of Bryce's Store were "wounded, Trooper Carr and Trooper Jones, BSA Police, not dangerously, Trooper Harkney, R.R. not dangerously. Missing, Troopers Gubbins and Cooper, BSA Police. Lt. Hazerick, Rev. Leary, Troopers Waller, Hyde, Vaneyson, and Pierce, R.R. Rev. Leary and Trooper Hyde are known to be wounded." Though this is unlikely to be the Trooper Jones of this account, I do not have access to the BSAP medical rolls<sup>iii</sup> so the account is noted for the record and possible later research.

The presence of 2588 Tpr.A.H.Jones at the Siege of Mafeking (16 October 1899 until 17 May 1900) is supported by the medal roll. The bar, Defence of Mafeking, was awarded to only 80 men of the BSAP. An annotation in the remark column of the roll suggests what is to following for it states: "Issued to mother.Sub. No.60 Cpl.Cullignan's Horse".

Following the relief of Mafeking, Trooper Jones enrolled in Cullinan's Horse. This was a unit of some 64 men raised in Vryburg on 8 January 1901 by Arthur William Cullinan <sup>iv</sup>, the unit serving with Lieutenant General Lord Methuen's force in the Western Transvaal. Jones appears on the medal roll as "Jones Alfred Herbert Cpl. 60". Very few medals were ever issued named to Cullinan's Horse per se as many members had seen previous service in other units. This pertains in the case of A H Jones.

The Battle of Tweebosch (or De Klipdrift) near Sannieshof <sup>v vi</sup> was fought on 7 March 1902. It began proper at 6 o' clock in the morning and was over four hours later. *Inter alia* Dennison's Scouts, supported by Cullinan's Horse, the Cape Mounted Police under Major J C Berrange <sup>vii</sup> and Diamond Fields Horse came under vicious attack. The battle was disastrous for the British, in particular for Lord Methuen for it is here that he is injured and captured by boer forces under General de la Rey. The British lost 68 killed (of whom our subject was one), 121 (132) wounded and 872 taken prisoner; whilst the boers lost but 8 killed and 26 were injured.

His death notice is completed in the hand of A W Cullinan, Capt., O(fficer) C(ommanding) Cullinans Horse. Dated Vryburg 21 April 1902 and filed on 5 May 1902, it contains the following remark: "£13/0/0 February and March pay, private effects, balance of instalment of horse purchased [by] Govt. to refund £ 3/8/9, submitted his mothers name as next of kin in attestation book".

60 Corporal Albert Herbert Jones was buried at De Klipdrift, the exact site unknown. In the Ottosdal town graveyard there stands a memorial to the soldiers of the Imperial Army killed at the Battles of Bosbult, Brakspruit and De Klipdrift and later re-buried there <sup>viii</sup>. It includes his name.

If I should die, think only this of me:  
That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is for ever England.

#### References:

1. Nominal roll of the Cullinan's Horse a colonial unit of the Boer War of 1899-1902. [WO 127]. <http://www.britishmedals.us/files/127cullinan.htm>
2. The South African Military History Society. Military History Journal 1981, 5 (4). The Dust of Conflict. Julian Orford. <http://samilitaryhistory.org/vol054jo.html>
3. Western Cape Provincial Archives and Records Service, Cape Town
4. The Armed Forces of South Africa 1659 – 1954. Tylden,G,Major. City of Johannesburg Africana Museum Frank Connock Publication No.2. Facsimile 1982.
5. Cloete P G. The Anglo-Boer War: A Chronology. Publ: J P van der Walt, Pretoria. 2000
6. Defence of Mafeking Medal Roll. Mitchell, F K. Publ: Chimperie. 1962
7. Cape Times Weekly Edition. 27 December 1899. pgs. 3 & 16
8. Personal Communication: Terry Cawood , SA National Coordinator, South African War Graves Project.

9. In Memoriam: Roll of Honour Imperial Forces Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902. Steve Watt. Publ: University of Natal Press. 2001 (incl. reference: WO 108/193, Register of soldiers graves, Transvaal Pub, Pretoria, 1905)

10. Rupert Brooke. The Soldier. 1914

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ABW Monument, Ottosdal. Photo: Terry Cawood, SA National Coordinator, South Africa War Graves Project. 2009

Subsequent communication circa May 2009

Trp. 2588 Alfred Herbert Jones was a member of the BSAP. No. 1 (Bechuanaland) Division. The Bechuanaland Mounted Police (BMP) became the No.1 Division on 2/8/1897, but on 11/3/1903 the Unit ceased to exist and became the Bechuanaland Protectorate Police (BPP). The No. 1 Division had its HQ in Mafeking and although it answered to PGHQ in Salisbury, it had its historical roots in the Bechuanaland Border Police (BBP). The No.1 Division also had an African wing, the Protectorate Native Police (PNP), which had its HQ in Gaborone.

The No.1 Division followed the BBP and later the BMP sequence of regimental numbers and not that of the BSAP. 2588 in the BSAP was Trp. George Trevor Ross, who attested on 1/2/1924.

The information you have about Trp. Jones service at Mafeking is correct. His medal is known to exist and BT (a member of the Group) may have more details. I always "thought" that those k.i.a. at Tweebosch were all dug up in the 1960's and reburied at a more central place, with the mass grave being marked with a single monument bearing the names of all those who'd died in the battle.

The National Monuments - Victims of Conflict Roll may contain more information, although I've found that their Roll isn't always entirely accurate and the information it contains is, in some instances, based on secondary sources which haven't been checked.

The S.A. Field Force Casualty Lists (couple of members in the Group have a copy of this publication) is likely to contain an entry recording the death, but nothing else.

Sometimes, but not always, the London Times and Cape Times Weekly edition also contains a couple of extra lines about some of the persons reported to have been k.i.a. or w.i.a. I've even been sent details of persons who were of members of the Rhodesian Forces k.i.a., including the lowly rank of trooper, from the London Illustrate News.

I've previously exchanged emails with Colin Walker at Scouting Milestones about Trp. Jones, but he doesn't have any additional information on file.

One of my areas of interest is the BSAP No.1 Division, so if you have any additional info. about Trp. Jones prior to him becoming a member of the BSAP and his actual service in the Force details would be much appreciated, please. Your report is the first I've had about Trp. Jones' death in action and burial.

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<sup>i</sup> KAB MOK Volume\_No 1/1/158 Reference 03084 Description: Jones, Alfred Herbert. Deceased Estate Papers. 1902; KAB MOOC Volume\_No 6/9/450 Reference 1518 Description: Jones, Alfred Herbert. Death Notice. 1902

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<sup>ii</sup> Cape Times Weekly Edition. 27 December 1899. p16 A first hand account of action at Bryce's Store was published here. National Library of South Africa: Cape Town General Collection. A.P.968.041 CAP. This will be the subject of a separate "Historical Note".

<sup>iii</sup> National Archives of Zimbabwe. Source: Defence and Police. Reference: S364. Description: Rolls. British South Africa Police: medal, South African War. 1903

<sup>iv</sup> KAB MOK Volume\_No 1/1/1128 Reference 5981 Description: Cullinan, Arthur William. Estate Papers. 1947

<sup>v</sup> For details read "The Dust of Conflict" by Julian Orford.

<sup>vi</sup> Sannieshof lies 40 km from Delareyville and 120km from Mafikeng (once Mafeking).  
<http://home.intekom.com/lichtenburg/klipd2-e.htm>

<sup>vii</sup> Cullinan's Horse later was merged into Western Light Horse; and, interestingly, in the First World War the unit, then consisting of three squadrons, served once again with a force under Berrange, this time in the German South-West African Campaign, two squadrons going to Luderitzbucht.

<sup>viii</sup> IMAGE Ottosdal Cemetery [www.hagsoc.org.au/sagraves/photos/grave39.jpg](http://www.hagsoc.org.au/sagraves/photos/grave39.jpg)