## First World War Service Record of Arthur Leslie Gwynne-Jones

The following is from the National Archives: WO 339/80565

Second Lieutenant A. L. G. Jones, Royal Garrison Artillery.

"KILLED IN ACTION (ACCIDENTALLY)" 4th May, 1918.

Next of Kin:-

J. A. Jones, Esq., (Father)
Tay Dyfrig,
Llandaff,
Near Cardiff.

9.V. 33098,

M.S.3. (Cas.) 10.5.18.

2

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auth desp

96.

.3. Cas ./ 518 .A.

2nd August, 1918.

Dear Sir.

I am directed to inform you your representation regarding the death of your son, 2nd. Lieutenant A.L.G. Jones, Royal Carrison Artillery, has been sent to France.

The authorities there have determined that it is to be recorded "Killed Accidentally".

With their report the Proceedings of a court of Enquiry have been received from which it is established that a fire broke out in the North Western Tower of ..... Chateau. That 2nd. Lieutenant Jones, who was in a room above that in which the fire occurred, get out of a window and tried to climb down the wire lightning conductor. Another got on to the wire at the same time with the result that the wire broke and both fell to the ground from a height of about 75 feet.

The Military Secretary desires me to convey to you his deep sympathies in the sorrow caused by this unfortunate accident.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

tenant-colonel J.B. Jones. Palersele allacted to Taj Dyrig.
Llandaff. The Eug. Jul & France are in Cardiff.

Cardiff. Sold and State of the Assistant Financial Secret

# Extract from

Letters of Administration (-Will-amexed). Probate of Will. Confirmations

med 18th Way 1919

Granted at P.P.R.

Resculed . Rot

- 1. Estate of John Apthur Jones of thy Dairie Llandair in the co of Glam / formerly of Charavect 40 Resport Rd Cardiff in the said C
- Date and Place Egen January 1919 at the Dyfrig aforesaid of Douth
- 32 Will , Formal Will dated by August 10/02.
- Annie Blinabeth Jones Widow the Reliet of deceased and 4. Grantesia William John Samuel the surviving Executors named in the enic Will
- Grees value £ 124045.4.1.
- Disposal of Merials

Decembers

- Henars Lewis Horgan, Box, Browne & Haslam, 7. Extracted by Selicitore, 31 High Street, Cardiff.
- Produced by

31.7.10.

Jummary of Evidence shaige against 125063 Sept. Fraser. D. That he, in the field on 4th may 1918. neglected to obey GR.O. 2717. by allowing a beauter in which was fee, to be on a wooden floor. Conduct to be prejudice of good order, and military discipline, in that he, in the field, on the 4th may 1918 negligently allowed a beages in which was fix, to be on a wooden foor. 125116. Opl Generall. D. of Witness There were no standing orders with regard to five put up in any place where Sigh Trases could have seen them. 125116. Gel Gemmell. D 126693 Fte menicol N. Than never seen amplanding orders se fire in VLAMERITAGHE Chateau. There were certainly none wear the tower. The Intelligence Officero of the Copo were Sometimes up in the tower When he fire was on, and nothing was said about it 126693 Fried Mu Micol Statement of Junes Booth attached. (11) Naturent of Gunner Harris attached 126693. Tto McNicol. N. (II) The forat Scouts were living in the loom where the Witness beagies was. The beagies was apetrol tim with holes in and was sitting on two bricks. The two bricks were on the centre of a 2 foot Square Sheet of ion. We only used the brazies for cooking. The floor was of wood. Sof Flaser was in Charge of the borat Scouts. in the room. We used to get the lations cooked below, but when a new lot came in, we were not allowed to use their cookhouse. major hungease told no to be near the post. 126693 Ricol McKicol

XIII CORPS. 2 2 JUN. 1918 A. 18869.

\* droup, Levat's Secuts.

The attached file relating to a fire which occurred which control with May, 18, is forwarded for you information and return.

The Corps Commender directs that No. 125005, Serg

The charge will be:
W.O.A.J., Meglecting to obey a standing order, in that
in the field, on 4th May, 1918, neglected to obey G.R.C. 2717, b;
allowing a brazier in which was fire, to be on a wooden floor

. discipline, in that he, in the Field, on the 4th May, 1918, negligantly allowed a brazier in which was fire, to be on a wood of floor.

The evidence will be :-

(i) That the G.R.C. (or a repatition of it or some standing with regard to fire to the same effect) was promulgated in a pla where the accused could and ought to have made himself acquaints

There were no fire orders in the Chateau.

Sunner Booth.

Conner Harris.

(iv) That the room where the brazier was, was in the coours of Lovat's Secute and had a wooden floor and that the accused we in charge. Pto. McMICOL could probably prove this and the fact he alleges the subsequent fire was caused by Gurner Booth does natical the above charges. Sct. Frasks evidence at the Court of mquiryyle not admirable against him.

Please cause a surmary of evidence to be taken on the abbve lines. It will not be necessary to call for Gunners Booth and Harris at the summary. A copy of their statement at the Cop of Engulry should be attached to the Survey. Their attendance of course be required at the trial.

as possible, a copy being handed to the accused.

for D.A.A.O., MIII Corps

The Sergeant France shows to tried on the following

order in that he in the trees on 4.5. 1918 heglesher to obey 9.8.0. 2717 by allowing fine to afragies in alice was fire to be on a wooden floor, alternatively

- in bee- 40 As contract to the prejudice 10 in that he in the biend on 4 05 1918 heghquisty above a brayin in always was free to be on a wooden floor.
- I he soi dence but be G.R.O ( or a repetition of in bordence that the G.R.O ( or a repetition of it for bone standing mober with regard to fire it same a past ) was promuegated in a the same apart to have place the accel. Comes & ought to have there are the accel. Comes & ought to have there are the accel. Comes & ought to have there are fire acceleration acquainter with it. There will be a fire adars on the Chakean.
- (i) June Barin

  (ii) June Barin

  (iv) brodence Rat Ru room Where the brayinstons

  (iv) brodence Rat Ru room Where the brayinstons

  wor in the occupation of lovati vernts, had a grow in the occupation of the property for the charge. Ite hooden floor of that acced was in charge. Ite hooden floor of the obtain from the was fact that he alleges the onlessment fire was fact that he alleges the onlessment fire was fact that he alleges the onlessment of the Court Charges.

  Charges. Spl. France's evidence at the Court charges.
  - 3. Is to the place of wind: It should have a waitable as indende to a live above are available as the with the the als now because on the tourty.

    The with the the als now because of the Courty.

    Annually. Copies of (ii), v(iii) in the Courty.

    Asseming proceedings can be shown to acced to the continuous the tours are to the dealer to the humanay.

    The the dealer to the humanay that the trial.

quarters,



irst' Army No. A(B)X. 1341/15.

19/6/18.

- 1. The attached Second Army file relates to a fire which occurred at VLAMERTINGHE CHATEAU on 4/5/18.
- 2. From the evidence it appears that No. 125003, Sergt. D. FRASER, Lovat Scouts, was in charge of a party of observers in the turret and that the fire occurred in a room occupied by his men.
- 3. He was considered to blame for allowing an open brazier to be used on a wood floor.
- 4. It appears that No. 88070, Gnr. W. BOOTH, 252nd Siege Battery, R.G.A. has been tried by F.G.C.M. in connection with this occurrence and that Sergt. FRASER was a witness for the prosecution.
- 5. Sergt. FRASER could conveniently have been tried by the same Court, when all the witnesses were collected together, but owing to an oversight this was not done.
- 6. The attached file is forwarded to you in order that you may take such disciplinary action as you consider necessary against Sergt. FRASER.
- 7. Please return file when finished with.

Headquarters, First Army.

Madlum

D.A.A.G., First Army.

the top storey, but by that time zymieut Jones and one in the turret had got over the coping & I could not senother man on the edge of the coping & I told him to another man on the edge of the coping & I told him told h

Sgd. A.KEDGE.

4th WITNESS. 192,259. Sapper J.B.LOWE. 2nd Corps Wir Division, states. I was on duty in the room below the Division, states. When two Artillerymen rushed down

PROCEEDINGS of a COURT OF ENQUIRY held at VLAMERTINGHE CHATEAU on May 5th, 1918 to enquire into the cause and if possible assess damage caused by a fire which took place in the building on May 4th & which resulted in the death of an officer & serious injury of one other rank.

#### PRESIDENT.

Captn. J.M.BANKES-WILLIAMS. 26th Bty.RFA.

#### MEMBERS.

Lieut.C.W.JEFFRIES. 123rd Brigade Signal Section. Lieut.H.GREIG-THOMPSON. 124th Brigade Signal Section.

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The Court having duly assembled proceed to take evidence.

1st WITNESS. 85,070 Gr W.BOOTH. 252nd S.B., RGA. states! At about 1.p.m. on 4/5/18, I wanted to cook my dinner, and not being able to so so downstairs, I got permission from a man of Lovat's Scoule to use their fire in the tower. I put a tin of water on the fire & in coins so knocked over a tin of petrol which caught fire and set some S.A.A. off. I tried to put the fire out but had to go & fetch some water. I shouted fire to 2nd Lt.A.L.G.Jones, RGA. who was two stories higher up, observing with some men. The petrol tin was open. The fire was an ordinary brazier.

Sgd.W.BOOTH.Gunner.

2nd WITNESS. 87,796. Gr.W.HARRIS. 252nd S.B.,RGA. At about a I.p.m. on 4/5/18. 2/Lieut Jones asked me to cook some dinner for him I went downstairs, but could not cook it there, so went back. A men of Lovat's Scouts said we could use their fire. I then went upstairs to the storey above and the next thing I knew was that the turret was on fire. I shouted to 2/Lieut.Jones & then rushed downstairs & managed to get through the fire. I did not hear any answer from above when I shouted owing to the noise. The fire started in the fourth storey from the top of the turret

Sgd. W.HARRIS.Gunner.

3rd WITNESS. 5,747. Pte B.KEDGE, Royal Fusiliers, attached Divisional Observation Station states. About 1.p.m. on 4/5/18 2/lieut Jones came up to the top storey but one, where I was. He then started to go down again, but called to me & said the place was on fire. We tried to get down, but there was too much smoke & flames. I then went to the top storey, but by that time 2/Lieut Jones and one of the other men in the turret had got over the coping & I could not see them. There was another man on the edge of the coping & I told him to stay where he & wait till the fire was out or a rope was got up to us. When we elimed to the top we were all pretty nearly sufficients.

#### Sgd. A.KEDGE.

4th WITNESS. 192,259. Sappor J.B.LOWE. 2nd Corps Wireless, attd 41st Division, states. I was on duty in the room below that occupied by some Lovat's Scouts when two Artillerymen rushed down shouting Arire Petrol trickled down the stairs & caught fire. The time was about 1.20pm 4/5/18.

SEC. J.B.LOWE.

5th WITNESS. 125,063. Sgt.D.FRASER, Lovat's Scouts, attd Corpe Cheerves states. I was in charge of the party of observers in the turnet occupying the room where the fire took place. I was not there at the time of the outbreak. I allowed them to have a fire in the room. It was mall brazier. I am certain there was no petrol in the room. I callowed the fire to be used for cooking. The brazier was out when I left the room five minutes before the fire started. The petrol time we used for water were old ones & had been in use some time.

Sgd. Sgt.D.FRASER. Lovate Secute.

TINESS. 126,693. Pte.N.HeNICOL, Lovat's Scouts, attd Corps vers states: At 1.pm on 4/5/18. I was alone in our room in liret. A gummer came downstairs and asked if he could light a in our brazier. He had a tim of petrol in his hand & when he put a match to the fire he poured some on. The whole tim flared and he dropped the tim. We tried to put the fire out but could a manage it. The Sergeant had left about five minutes before. The A.A. in our equipment went off.

Sgd M.McNICOL.

7th WITNESS. Major C.E.EDWARDS. Royal Fusiliers states: At about 1/50 pm on the 4th I was sitting in the 194th Brigade Mess, when I heard a lot of shouting outside. I went round to the North Tower & saw smoke coming out of the windows in the turret roof. There were about five men sitting on the copings or at the windows of the turret of the two men who fell. I saw one of them taxing hanging on to the lightning conductor in below the coping with his hands: the Officer was close behing him. I shouted to the man to try and get a grip of the lightning conductor with his legs which he tried to do. Just then I think the officer put his weight on the lightning conductor which broke & they both fell.

SER C. BDWARDS. Majora

lst WITNESS (recalled). 85,070. Gr W.BOOTH, 252nd S.B., RGA states on re-examination:- The tin in which the petrol was was handed to me by Gr Harris. I took it to be water but did not take the trouble to see whether it really was water or not. I did not try and light the fire with petrol, but knocked the tin over socidentally. The tin of petrol was brought from a higher storey by Gr Harris. Another tin which was brought down to put the fire out was found to be petrol. We took no water up to the tower with us, and these tins did not belong to us.

Sgd. W.BOOTH. Gunner.

#### FINDING.

The court find that the fire was caused by petrol being left in the Tower by some person or persons unknown & being knocked over by 85,070 Gr Booth, that this petrol was ignited by splashing on an open brazier which was in use contrary to G.R.O.IXX 1436: that there were no orders for prevention against fire posted in the Chateau.: that negligence was shown by 125,063.Sgt.D.Fraser,Lovats Scouts, in permitting an open brazier to be used on a wooden floor & by No 85,070 Gr Booth, 252.XXXXX Siege Battery, RGA., in failing to ascertain whether the tin handed down to him was contained petrol or water: that it is not possible to assess the damage, which is very small.

The Court recommend that some system of marking petrol tins should be universally adopted, which will enable anyone to recognise at once whether the tin contains or is meant to contain petrol or water: that ropes or rope ladders be provided in the higher stories of VLAMERTINGHE CHATEAU, of sufficient length to enable a man to escape in case of fire CHATEAU, of sufficient length to enable a man to escape in case of fire Out considers that 36.747 Fte A.KEDGE, Royal Fusiliers, attd 41st The Court considers that 36.747 Fte A.KEDGE, Royal Fusiliers, attd 41st Trying circumstances & that by encouraging an O.R. (now in hospital) trying circumstances & that by encouraging an O.R. (now in hospital) who had lost his head & wanted to jump from the coping, on which he was sitting, to the ground, undoubtedly persuaded him to stay where he was, and thus probably saved his life.

Sed. J.M.BANKES WILLIAMS. Capt.RFA. President.

sgd. C.W.JEFFERISS. Lt.R.S. sgd. H.GREIG THOMPSON. Lt.G.B Members The Court re- assembled on 10/5/18 & took further evidence as

\*\*WITNESS (re-called). 87,796.Gr W.HARRIS, 252nd S.B.,RGA. stated took a petrol tin from the wireless room down to the cockhouse when first went down & filled it with water. As far as I know this was he tin I handed to Gr Booth when we had gone back to the tower. There several tins in the room from which I handed the petrol tin down to Gr Booth. This room was apparently reserved for the use of the Observation Officer on duty. I have no idea how the tins got into the room: we had only been there two hours.

Sgd. W.HARRIS. Gunner.

lst WITNESS (re-called). 85,070. Gr W.BOOTH. 252nd S.Battery,RGA stated:- The tin Gr Harris handed down to me I put on the right side of the fire. This was the one I knocked down. Gr Harris and I had taken a petrol tin down to the Cook- house and filled it with water and I thought he was handing the same one down to me.

Sgd. W.BOOTH Gunner.

The Court confirms its previous finding & has nothing further to add to it.

Sgd. J.M.BANKES WILLIAMS.
Capt.RFA.
President.

I am of opinion that:-

The fire was caused by petrol being upset, but there is no evidence to show how madxwhy or why petrol should have been in the tower.

The evidence of Mar Gunner Booth and Pte McNicol is conflicting
 Sergt Fraser did wrong in permitting a fire of any kind in te tower.

I recommend that Gunner Booth and Sergt.Fraser be tried by Court Martial.

10/5/18.

Sgd. Brig.Gen. Commdg. 123rd Infantry Bd.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

Major, RFA.

Wasel

for Colonel i/c R.A.Section, GHQ, 3rd Echel

15/7/18.

100	Religion Enlisted (a	Lieut Surnamer Tomotion to present	Age on erms of Service (a)  t rank  Date o	istian Name Enlistment Service reckons for fappointment to lance	
	Extended			Qualification (b) or Corps Trade and 1	Rateof Officer i/c Records
		Report	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, because a reported on Anny Form Place of Casualty  Date of Casualty  The authority to be quoted in each case.		
	Date	From whom received		Casualty or other official documents	
	2.12.17	06.252 803.	Embarked Disembarke  Leave to U. K. 7	d Havre	3. 2. 14 Landing Stern and nominal Roll 4. 2. 17 262 Liefe Oty. 17 1217 8. 2/3
	10th May		Killed in action.		4/5/18· B.213·
				Marka	2 Lieut, RFA.
[Continued	15/8/1	18.	for Officer i/c R	.A.Section, 3rd	Echelon. BEF.
	14-5-18.	O.C. 252.S.	KILLED ACCIDENTALL		4-5-18 MEMORANDUM
ned	GH QB	EY		Thin 1/2 RASee	Leut R. F.A.
0	22-51-		1- 61	11: 4 pplea	the 3 of Estate

ties No. E.4. dated 1/7/18.
100,342. dated 9/7/18.
44,482. dated 12/7/18.

Army Form W. 3428.

### REPORT ON ACCIDENTAL OR SELF-INFLICTED INJURIES.

To be rendered in accordance with instructions on the back of this form.

1. Number, Rank, Name, and Unit 2nd Lieutenant.A.L.G. of injured man. 252nd Siege Battery, R.G.A.

Date of Casualty.

2. Nature, Location, and Severity of injury. (N.B. Field Ambulance to be notified at once if wound is believed to be self-inflicted.)

KILLED.

Medical Officer.

A fire broke out in the North Western Tower of VLAMERTINGHE CHATEAU. The above named who was in a room above that in which the stances of the case. (Signed to climb down the Wire Lightning Conductor. statements of witnesses to be Another got on to the wire at the same time, with the result that the wire broke and both fell to the ground, from a height of about x 75 feet.

4. Commanding officer's opinion as to whether the man was:—

(a) In the performance of military duty.

(b) To blame.

(c) Whether any other person was to blame.

A.G's Branch.
G.H.Q., 3rd Echelon.
1 Juil. 1918.
E.4.

NO.

NO.

CASUALTIES.

Date

Commanding

5. (a) Opinion of G.O.C. Brigade.

(b) Disciplinary action taken or proposed, whether against injured man or another.

Accidental.
Fire Caused by disobdience of orders
Sgt.Fraser, Lovats Scouts and Gunner
Booth, 252nd Siege Battery, R.G.A., to be
tried by Court Martial.

Sgd.

Brig.Gen.

Date /5/18.

Commanding 123rd I Brigade.

[Continued Overleaf.

 .S.3. Cas./518.A.

2nd August, 1918.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to inform you your representation regarding the death of your son, 2nd. Lieutenant A.L.G. Jones, Royal Garrison Artillery, has been sent to France.

The authorities there have determined that it is to be recorded "Killed Accidentally".

With their report the Proceedings of a court of Enquiry have been received from which it is established that a fire broke out in the North Western Tower of .... Chateau. That 2nd. Lieutenant Jones, who was in a room above that in which the fire occurred, got out of a windo and tried to climb down the wire lightning conductor. Another got on to the wire at the same time with the rest that the wire broke and both fell to the ground from a height of about 75 feet.

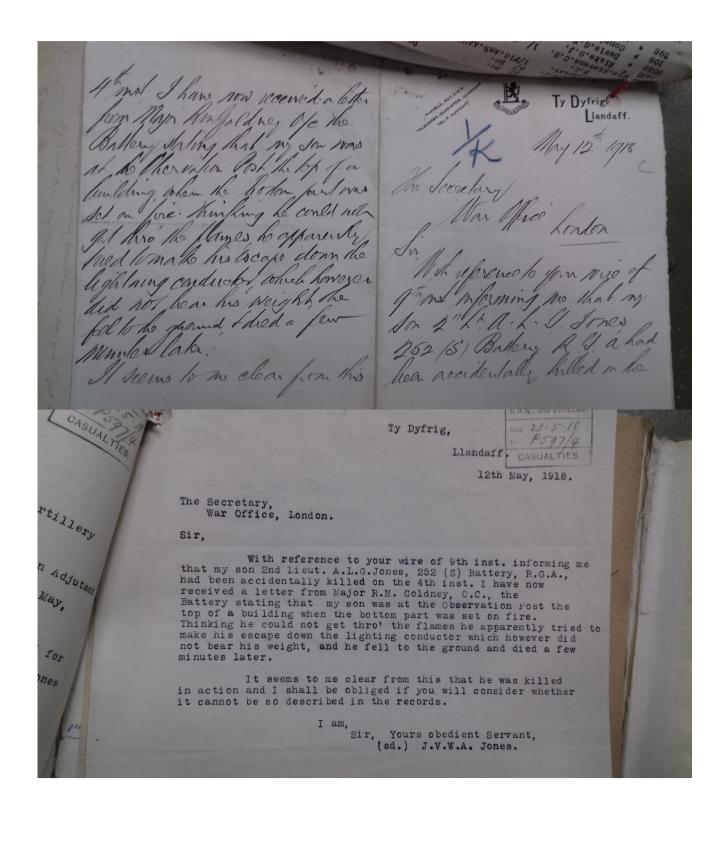
The Lilitary Secretary desires me to convey to you his deep sympathies in the sorrow caused by this unfortunate accident.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

Controller of Officers' Casualties.

cutenant-Colonel J.B. Jones, Taj Dyrrig, Llandaff,

Memo to Bowe as for copy attached 20/9/22 the play from Bowe states this officer was veg Killed in action on & 156 to.



## REPORT ON ACCIDENTAL OR SELF-INFLICTED INJURIES.

To be rendered in accordance with instructions on the back of this form.

1. Number, Rank, Name, and Unit 2nd Lieutenant. 4.1.5. of injured man. 252nd Seige Battery. R.G.A.

Date of Casualty. 4/5/19.

2. Nature, Location, and Severity of injury. (N.B. Field Ambulance to be notified at once if wound is believed to be self-inflicted.)

KILLED

namel, who was in a roum shows that in stances of the case. (Signed window and tried to climb form the fire statements of witnesses to be Lightning Conductor.

Another got on to the wire at the same time attached to this form.)

With the result that the wire broke and both fell to the ground, from a height of about 75 feet.

- 4. Commanding officer's opinion as to whether the man was:—
  - (a) In the performance of military duty.
  - (b) To blame.
  - (c) Whether any other person was to blame.

YES.

NO.

CASUALTIES

Date

Commanding

A fire broke out in the Burth Western Tower of VLAMERINGER CHART. The shows

5. (a) Opinion of G.O.C. Brigade.

(b) Disciplinary action taken or proposed, whether against injured man or another.

Accidental.
Fire caused by disabliance of orders.
Sgt.FRASHR, Lovete Scotts and Cumber.
BOOTH, 25ind Siege Battery B.S.S., to be
tried by Court Eartial.

Date /5/18.

Commanding

Brigade

Continued Organisal

MESSRS. Cox & Co.'s Shipping Agency, Ltd.,

16, Charing Cross, London, S.W.

The undermentioned effects of the late

2/Lieut. A.L.G.Jones, R. G. A.

INVENTORY.

Wallet. Photos &c.

Two Cheque Books

1 (damaged) Pocket Blask

2 Silver Match Boxs

Silver Cigarette Case

Silver Wrist Watch

1 Tie Pin

Cards etc.