

## Arthur Thomas JONES

Born Llantwit Major, Glamorgan, 29 May 1887      Died 31 May 1916, aged 29  
Able Seaman, R.N.      Service no: 231814      H.M.S.DEFENCE

**Arthur Thomas Jones** is one of the missing men from Dawlish War Memorial but this profile may show how he deserves to be there. Although he was born in South Wales, he married a Dawlish lass and left a widow and two young children when he was lost in the Battle of Jutland.

He was born to Thomas Jones (1841-1901), a coachman from Carew, Pembrokeshire, and Emma (1842- )\_from Rockfield, Monmouthshire. In 1891 They were living at Llantwit Major with six children:

|                               |                  |      |                           |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------|---------------------------|
| James, 24, (1867- ) son       | general labourer | born | Rockfield, Monmouthshire  |
| William, 15, (1876- ) son     | stable boy       |      | Llantwit Major, Glamorgan |
| Catherine, 12, (1879- ) dau   | scholar          |      | "                         |
| Edwin, 8, (1883- ), son       | "                |      | "                         |
| Harry, 6, (1885-), son        | "                |      | "                         |
| <b>Arthur, 3, (1887-1916)</b> |                  |      | "                         |

There are three other children recorded on the Swaker family tree, Elizabeth (1886- ), Mary J (1871- ) and Hilda J (1874- ).

The family were still there, living in Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major in 1901 without Edwin or Harry, but with a grand-daughter, Anne (1900- ). The father is now described as a general labourer, as was William.

**Arthur Jones** joined the Royal Navy at Devonport on 22 August 1904 and at the age of 17 as a Boy Seaman he was sent to H.M.S.PEMBROKE for periods of training until, at the age of 18, he signed for 12 years service.

He joined H.M.S.DEFENCE on 2 September 1913 and stayed aboard until she was destroyed and he lost his life in the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916.

She was stationed in the Mediterranean when the First World War began and participated in the pursuit of the German battlecruiser SMS Goeben and light cruiser SMS Breslau. She then blockaded the German ships inside the Dardanelles until the ship was ordered on 10 September to South Atlantic to reinforce Rear-Admiral Cradock's squadron; diverted to Cape of Good Hope in November 1914.

H.M.S.DEFENCE became flagship 1st Cruiser Squadron of the Grand Fleet, based in home waters in January 1915. She was sunk by gunfire of the German battleship Friedrich der Grosse at Jutland, 31 May 1916.

### Extract from the Official History; " Naval Operations" by Sir Julian S. Corbett. 1923

.....Both the *Defence* and *Warrior* had already hit the doomed *Wiesbaden*. Still Admiral Arbuthnot, in spite of straddling salvos, held on till within 5,500 yards of his prey he turned to starboard. Both ships were now in a hurricane of fire, which the Germans were concentrating with terrible effect to save their burning ship, and there quickly followed another of the series of appalling catastrophes which so tragically distinguish this battle from all others. Four minutes after crossing the *Lion's* bows the *Defence* was hit by two heavy salvos in quick succession, and the Admiral and his flagship disappeared in a roar of flame (6.20). The *Warrior* barely escaped a similar fate.....

[www.northeastmedals.co.uk](http://www.northeastmedals.co.uk)

**Arthur Thomas Jones** had married Lily Bond at the Register Office, Newton Abbot, on 7 January 1915. Their address at the time was shown as 2 Stockton Cottages, Dawlish. He would have been granted leave from H.M.S.DEFENCE for this and it is likely that the ship was berthed in Devonport on return to home waters before taking up station with the Grand Fleet.

The Bond family had lived for a while in Ireland as Richard John Webber Bond (1849-1901) had transferred from the Royal Navy to the Coastguard service in 1877 and was rated as Boatman when attached to H.M.S. BELLEISLE in 1878. She was commissioned on 2 July 1878, and served for the next fourteen years as coastguard ship at Kingstown, Ireland. Her only activity there was firing practice four times a year, the annual squadron cruise, and one refit at Devonport.

Richard Bond was born in Dawlish on 31 March 1849 and joined the Navy. On 31 March 1867, at the age of 18, he signed for 10 years service and was rated Petty Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in 1876 at the age of 27. In the same year he married Mary Ann Evers (GRO ref 1876, July-Sept, N.A., Vol 5b, p 305). Two of their children were born in Ireland, the others in Dawlish:

|                              |              |                                    |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Alice, dau, (1878- )         | born Ireland | married Thomas Samuel Rendel, 1903 |
| Herbert Webber, son (1879- ) | Dawlish      |                                    |
| Arthur.J. son (1883- )       | Ireland      |                                    |
| Lily dau, (1885-1964)        | Dawlish      |                                    |

Richard John Webber Bond left the Coastguard Service in September 1888 and died in 1890, aged 41 (GRO ref 1890, Apr-June, N.A., vol 5b, p 81). His widow was living in the home of her married daughter Alice in 1911 and her unmarried daughter Lily at 2 Frederick Cottages, Dawlish.

**Arthur Thomas Jones** married Lily Bond after the birth of their first child, Ethel May Jones Bond (GRO ref 1914, Apr-June, N.A., vol 5b, p 163), but this may have been forced upon him joining H.M.S.DEFENCE in September 1913 and then serving in the Mediterranean and the South Atlantic, as described above. They appear to have married as soon as the DEFENCE returned to home waters sixteen months later.

Their second child, Hilda Mary Jones (1917-2010), was born on 2 February 1917, after the death of her father. She married Kenneth S O Pook in 1940 and there were two children from that marriage.

Lily Jones did not remarry and she died at Dawlish Hospital on 9 October 1964. She had been living at 35 Old Town Street, possibly with Ethel May Jones(1914-1986) who was granted Probate and was a spinster.

He is not listed on Dawlish War Memorial.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: Commemorated at [PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL](#)

Location: Devon, United Kingdom

Number of casualties: 23228 Cemetery/memorial reference: 12.

He was awarded the Star medal, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Last known address: 2 Stockton Cottages, Dawlish

Next of kin: Lily Jones, nee Bond, at Blyth Lodge, Dawlish

## Dawlish World War One Project

### References:

wikipedia – coastguard data

Naval-History.net

Marriage certificate from General Record Office

refs from subscription sites:

- National Archives, naval ratings service records

- Swaker family tree – Ancestry.co.uk

- Census entries

- Birth, marriage , death entries

- UK, Royal Navy and Royal Marines War Graves Roll

- UK, Naval Medal and Award Rolls