

PRIVATE THOMAS ALFRED JONES VC, DCM



SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST 2014 MEMORIAL GARDEN, GREENWAY ROAD, RUNCORN.

The World War One Commemoration and the Unveiling of the Statue Of our local Hero Private Thomas Alfred Jones.

It was a beautiful summer's morning well attended by our local Town to show their respect and gratitude not only for "Todger" but for all the men and women he represented in other conflicts.

This Statue/dream would not have been possible for the vision and hard work of one man, some years previous Mr Tony Miller, thanks go to him for organising fund raisers and forming a committee for making this day possible.

The Parade commenced from St Michael's Church, up Greenway road, arriving at the War Memorial for 11am. The Opening welcome by Martin Kilduff, Secretary of the "Todger" Jones Statue Appeal, followed by the Address by Halton Mayor Cllr Shaun Osborne. Service introduction The Revd Canon John Beaney, Exaltation by Bob Dunn, Chairman Halton Royal British Legion. Bugler Raymond White - The Last Post followed by 2 minutes silence. Bugler Raymond White ended the silence with Reveille and laying of wreaths. Bible Readings and Closing Prayers Pipe Major - James Axon Leads the speakers across to the Memorials Gardens with "Flowers of the Forrest" Lament.



The Statue Unveiling - Address by Neil Thornton, Chairman of "Todger" Jones Statue Appeal. Address by Major Rob Prentice Mercian Regiment. Address by Rob Polhill Leader Halton Borough Council introducing the unveiling. Current serving and Veterans assisting with the unveiling, Jim Duckworth, Harry Langton, Steve Mainwaring, Kealan Ashley.



Sculptor by David Annand from Scotland

Thomas



SSS1880 – 1956) First World War Her
Jonas 35 years old, on 25 September 1916 during the Battle Of M when

Thomas Alfred Jones known locally as "Todger" Jones was born 25th December 1880 and Died 30th January 1956 age 75, buried on the 3rd Feb 1956 section 11 grave 399 at Runcorn cemetery. He was a Private in the 22nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment and won 3 medals for his outstanding bravery in the 1st World War: the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Territorial Efficiency Medal and the Victoria Cross. The latter for when he captured 102 prisoners single handed at the battle of Morval 25th September 1916.

He was with his company securing the defences in front of a village and noticed an enemy sniper at 200 yards, he went out to investigate and one bullet went through his helmet and another through his coat. He returned the sniper's fire and killed him. He then saw two more of the enemy firing at him, both of these he also shot. Reaching the enemy trench he found several occupied dug-outs and single handedly disarmed 102 of the enemy, including 4 officers, and marched them back to our lines through a heavy barrage.

Todger was born and bred in Runcorn and still has descendants living in Runcorn today. His name still lives on and is not forgotten for the bravery of one man who risked his own life to save his colleagues, Town, King and Country, like so many other young men and women that have fought in many wars.



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