

## DRIVER LESLIE DAVID JONES

Service Number: T/10702368

Enlisted: H.Q. 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division,

Royal Army Service Corps

Born: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 1923

Died: 20<sup>th</sup> September 1944, Aged 21

Memorials: Arnhem, Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Netherlands

Plot 16, Row A, Grave 12

St Catherine's Church Memorial

Burbage War Memorial



Leslie David Jones was born in the first quarter of 1923, the son of Mr Thomas William and Mrs Daisy Jones of 6¼ The Horsepool, Burbage. His father was a Bricklayer and General Labourer.



Cottages The Horsepool, adjacent the Congregational Church (now demolished)

Leslie was killed in action when a mortar bomb landed only a few feet away from him and was killed instantly on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1944, whilst the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division were taking part in "Operation Market Garden" in Arnhem, Netherlands.



Leslie would have attended the National School, Hinckley Road, Burbage along with his elder sister Vera Eileen.

Before joining the military Leslie was employed by Hunt & Co. a mineral water and drinks manufacturer of London Road, Hinckley.

On joining the military Leslie served with the Royal Army Service Corps as a Dispatch Rider with the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.



## History Information

Following the Normandy landings of June 1944, the Allied advance through northern Europe was extraordinarily rapid and on 11 September 1944, the Second Army entered the Netherlands just south of Eindhoven, the first Allied troops to set foot in the country since its fall in May 1940.

Their next aim was to cross the Rhine before the Germans had time to reorganise after their recent setbacks, securing crossings over the rivers and canals that stood in their path at Grave, Nijmegen and Arnhem.

'Operation Market Garden' would involve the United States 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, the Commonwealth 1st Airborne Division and the Polish Parachute Brigade.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 1944, the 1st Airborne Division began landing west of Arnhem, but German resistance, bad weather and problems with supplies and reinforcements led to heavy losses, and their objectives were not taken. They were forced to form a perimeter at Oosterbeek which they held stubbornly until 25 September, when it was decided to withdraw the remnants of the division across the lower Rhine.

Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery contains the graves of most of those killed during the September landings, and many of those killed in later fighting in the area.

There are now 1,684 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 243 of the burials are unidentified and two casualties are commemorated by special memorials. There are also 79 Polish, three Dutch and four non-war (including three former Commission employees) graves in the cemetery. The cemetery was designed by P.D. Hepworth.



Arnhem, Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Netherlands



Commemorating the Battle of Arnhem



Restored 1944 BSA M20 typical WWII Dispatch Riders Bicycle