

# Neil Daniel Jones WWII Veteran

*By Carroll Jones Johnson, April 2024*

Neil Daniel Jones was born 13 Feb 1926 and died on 6 Mar 1945. He was killed in action in WWII.

Neil's parents were Jasper D. Jones and Mabel Andrew Jones. His siblings were Lucy M. Jones, Sherman H. Jones, Wayne A. Jones, and A. Mack Jones.

Neil grew up on a farm in Chatham County. His father was a farmer and a carpenter. He attended Siler City schools, graduating 30 April 1943, with many honors and commendations from his teachers a principal Paul Braxton.

Neil attended Hope Methodist Church in Bonlee, NC with his family and many relatives. He became a Christian at an early age and carried that faith with him everywhere.



Neil was a special, talented young man. He played piano and loved to sing. He wrote many beautiful songs and poems. Neil had a very positive future. His goal in life was to be a minister of music.

Neil was devoted to his family and friends. He had a special girl named Polly whom he planned to marry. During his time in the service, he wrote many letters home describing the beauty of places he had seen. He loved every phase of life.

Sadly, Neil was killed in action only a short time before the war ended. He died during a raid in Lampaden, Germany on 6 March 1945. He is buried in the American War Cemetery in Luxembourg. Neil has a memorial marker in the family cemetery at Bonlee, NC. He was awarded a Purple Heart for his service.

A special life lost way too soon.

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Neil's niece and nephew, Carroll Jones Johnson and Michael Jones, have donated digital copies of documents and photos related to Neil's life and service to the Chatham County Historical Association. A few of those are reproduced here. The first, a letter to his sister Lucy, written in February of 1945, highlights Neil's positive attitude.



February 19, 1945

UNITED STATES ARMY

Dearest Sis,

I'll write you a line tonight to let you know I have at last landed for a little while at least. Yes, I'm somewhere in France tonight. I have really been around the world.

I visited in Scotland, and spent my birthday riding through England. That is one more pretty country. I can't believe war ever hit that country, but I guess it did. Scotland certainly has some beautiful girls. The blonde that served us coffee and doughnuts can't be beaten. France is a victim of war. It was a pretty country one time - but now it is awful. All the people look so haggard and hungry. For two days and three nights, I rode through France in a box car. It was some trip. The day we landed in France was the best. We had two hot meals and in between we went to see a movie in one of the Beautiful French theatres. We saw "Dragon Seed." It was swell. Did you see that. I never dreamed.



UNITED STATES ARMY

that I would attend a movie in a French theatre. I really enjoyed it. Tonight, I went to a stage show here in camp. It was grand. one fellow played "Ave Maria" as a Violin Solo. I bet you could have heard a pin fall in that place. It sure was good.


I also had a real American coke tonight. Boy! was that good. I haven't had a body bath for 15 days now. Tomorrow we all go into the city and take showers in "the public shower place." Boy am I looking forward to that.

Well how are all of you now? Is Don as sweet as ever? I sure would like to see ~~the~~ you all. Tell Roland the army isn't so bad if you can get stationed in Scotland where all the pretty girls are. There are a few here in France. I guess. I just haven't had time to see yet.

I must close and get ready for bed. I get paid off tomorrow in French money. I'll be rich and won't know it. Write soon. Love,  
Neil

These brief letters to his mother were written just 2 and 3 days before Neil was killed.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

	TO: <u>MRS. J. D. JONES</u>	FROM: <u>PVT NEIL D. JONES 4447216</u>
	<u>ROUTE # 2</u>	<u>Co. H - 302 Inf. Regt.</u>
	<u>SILER CITY</u>	<u>A.P.O. 94</u>
	<u>NORTH CAROLINA</u>	<u>7, PISTMASTON</u>
		<u>NEW YORK N.Y.</u>

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2 (Sender's complete address above)

Dearest Mom,

At last, I'm settled for a while. I arrived here yesterday. I am completely alone. They sure split us up this time. Right now, I am living in an old captured German house. Our squad and a few others are cooking with ranges and sleeping in beds that's O.K. so far, but of course things can't always stay this way. It is snowing pretty nice. It just started. I hope it doesn't snow much. I am getting along fine. I get kinda jittery sometimes. ha

Mother, I am having \$40.00 sent home out of my pay each month. We get \$60.00 over here and I couldn't use it. You can put it away or use it. Either is O.K. with me.

Hope all of you are fine. When have you heard from Shermie? I don't expect any mail for three or four weeks, but keep writing. They'll get here someday. Send me the Chatham News!

Love,  
Neil

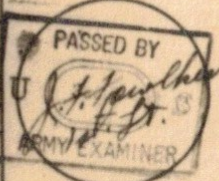
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP? 18

REPLY BY V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

540 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1940 66-20142-6

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: MRS. J. D. JONES  
ROUTE # 2  
SILER CITY  
NORTH CAROLINA

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

PT. NEIL D. JONES 44017216  
Co. B. 302<sup>nd</sup> Reg.  
ABCD 94-2. Postmaster  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

(Sender's complete address above)

March 4, 1945  
Somewhere in Germany

Dearling Mother,

I'll write you a line so you will not have to worry about me. I am still fine and dandy. It has snowed most all day, and cold - ~~old~~ have mercy! I didn't sleep much last night because we were expecting an attack. Boy! Was I myself! We have to be on the look-out all the time for snipers.

Today is Sunday - so Johnson ~~and~~ and I cleaned up the kitchen. I ram-racked the drawers in this house and found a pretty table cloth to put on the table. We are really living in style. ~~is~~

Hope all of you are fine. Is Dad having plenty of work now? I guess Mack is O.K. Where is Aunt Beulah now? How is Grandma and Aunt Kara?

I better close now. There is always something to do around here. Write soon and be good.

Love,  
Neil

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

18

REPLY BY

V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

GPO : U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1945 40-21850

## **Pvt. Neil D. Jones Is Reported Killed**

(Special to Daily News)

SILER CITY, July 25.—Pvt. Neil D. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Jones, Siler City, route 2, was killed in action March 6 in Germany, according to a war department telegram received by his parents July 15.

Private Jones was reported missing in action in April. He joined the army in September, 1944, and went overseas in February and served with the 94th division of the Third army, joining his unit three days before he was killed. He was a graduate of Siler City high school. While in the army he won recognition as a singer in camp shows.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by one sister, Mrs. Roland Brewer, of High Point, and two brothers, Sherman H. Jones, with the navy in the Pacific, and Mack Jones, of the home.

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