

13.3.97	Umballa	<p>Dear Father & Mother</p> <p>Just a line to let you know I received the girs' letter alright. I have been going to answer it every week, but the mail has gone out with out it, so I am beginning it while think of it.</p> <p>I am very glad to hear that Sadie's wedding went off alright, I shall send her something, but I don't know when it will be I am shore(sic), for I can't see what I want hear(sic), and there was so many at Peshwar, but no one seems to come round with them hear(sic). I daresay she will think I am never going to send it, but I shan't forget her.</p> <p>I hope this will find you alright @ Well House. I suppose Mother is lonely now she as(sic) gone, - no one @ home with her. I don't see much chance of getting home yet. I ought to stand a chance one way or the other, for I am registered for Duty @ the Depot as well as the Militia, so I should get home between the two of them. I shall be glad to get home too, for it is just as cheap to live @ home as it is out hear(sic), for I never seem to have any pice for there is always something to take it away - subscriptions, now we are likely to be separated(sic) for the summer , - that's a nother expence(sic), - two homes on the go. My Company goes to the Hills this summer & there is no accommodation for Molly, so she will have to stay on the planes(sic) - just the reverse to what it was at Nowshera, - she went to the Hills & I had to stay down, everything seems to go against us - just my luck. I shall be only too happy to get back and get a settled home for it is nothing else, only sepperation(sic) out hear(sic), - we have had twelve months of it. The first six months I di manage to get a pass or two, but the year before last we was at the front and that was a solid six month's sepperation(sic), - now it looks like a nother.</p> <p>I would rather be on active service. I hope I shall manage to get home next winter. I think I stand first for the Depot as a Sergt., you see there was so many put down for it, that they have decided to take them from a certan roll, that is Sergts. Have to do 3 months work as Col. Sergts. Before that, get made when they have passed fit they are on the roll for the Colors(sic), - so they are taking them from that roll, so I stand first for the Depot and about seventh for the Militia.</p> <p>No more now, trusting this will find you all well at home.</p> <p>I remain your loving Son & daughter</p> <p><u>G.A. & M.B. Jones</u></p>
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1897

George Alfred Jones John Jones Louisa Hannah Jones Selina Jones Miscellaneous

<p>April 16th 1897</p>	<p>Well House Bletchley</p>	<p>Dear Louie, Just a line to acknowledge the receipt of your 3/- order which I received with thanks. I got a letter from Lean last night. We are glad to say she is, like yourself, getting on well. We are also glad to hear Will is an A.B. and getting on alright, shall drop him a line out to Gib. Mother has had a cold, and full of pain in her limbs. Both of us are better this morning. I must tell you we have had Spider Read in for two or three days to mend the windows, and paint them & the doors. (No doubt it will cost 15/- , but we shall have the comfort). You would hardly know the old house, it looks so smart in front, but garden wants doing up a little. You may think of me next Monday night, if you are up, (h)as I am going to play for Womens' Guild at the Town Hall. I think I have told you all for this time. I must close, with fond love From your Father & Mother J & E.A. Jones</p>
<p>May 24th 1897</p>	<p>Well House Bletchley</p>	<p>Dear Son & Daughter, No doubt you think it very strange, me keeping you so long without a letter. But to tell you the truth I have not felt in the right fit for writing. I have been working very hard in the garden and field so that not only made me tired, but shakey as well. These cold months give me fresh colds. My voice is no better than it was when you was home with us. I am alright as far as my health (goes), and so is Mother. We have got Will home again for a few days. I suppose his shp is at Chatham, which you know. He is quite well, and enjoys himself pretty well with us. He is rated an O.S. now. He treated Mother to a trip to Luton on Thursday. They enjoyed themselves very well, but Mother was regular knocked up for the remainder of the week. She said she don't know how she should be coming down to Rochester. She don't think she will ever be able to manage that long journey. You aked if I had done posting. I gave the job up altogether a fortnight before Easter. I must tell you I got Spider Read to mend the windows and paint them and the door. Cost us 14/6d. I have done up the front garden, so we look quite smart. My back garden looks very well, but sadly, wants rain and everything else. Flo is alright, but she is a lot of trouble to us. She wants more exercise than we can give her. We sold the two pigs we had when you was home, and got two more. Mother and me was talking about you both on Easter Monday & thought you was at Southampton, but, by your letter, you had got back home. We was very pleased to hear Sarah got such a good reception(sic) with the Wallis's family generally. I suppose they said you was pretty well matched. How do you get on with the exam?, - do you think you will stop at Chatham long, or not leave at all?. I don't know whether you have had a letter from Lou & Lean lately, but they are both getting on very well. Rather hard worked, but good people to live with by all accounts. Mrs. Bennitt is got better. They are gone to Yarmouth for 3 weeks. Mrs. Saunders at the 8 Bells has been through much the same operation. Wallis Parmeter is dead and burried(sic) nearly a month, also Mrs. Prince, Saral Morry as was. I think I have told you all for this time, so I close, with fond love from your Father & Mother</p>

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George Alfred Jones John Jones **Louisa Hannah Jones** Selina Jones Miscellaneous

		<p style="text-align: center;">J & E.A. Jones</p> <p>Write at your leisure.</p> <p>Enclosed : Envelope addressed to Mr. C. Wallis Avenue 157 Rochester Rochester Kent</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Postmarked Bletchley Station May 23rd. 1897</p>
July 29 th 1897	Well House Bletchley	<p>Dear Sadie & Cyrus,</p> <p>It is with pleasure take my pen just to write you a few lines to say we are about as usual, not anything to boast of. The hot weather try's us, - Mother stands it better than I do. Well, I have been out and more exposed to it. My head has ached very much lately, but (it) is not so bad this morning. I hope you will excuse me for not answering you® long letter before, but I have been busy all the time, and working hard on the lands and field. I felt too tired and shakey(sic). We have thought about you all the more for not writing.</p> <p>We had a letter from Will a week or two ago. He is still on the Blenheim at Blacksod Bay, North West of Ireland. Lou & Lean are alright, but feel the heat very much. We sent George's books and I wrote him a long letter last night. We have not had a letter from him since you all went away. I suppose he is getting careless or lazy. I saw a Sergt., about a fortnight ago that belong(s) to Woburn Sands. He said he left him at Umballa 3 months ago. He was quite well then, and acting as Pay Sergt. They was expecting to go up to the Salon Hills.</p> <p>We was glad to hear you both enjoyed yourselves at the Jubilee, - by what you discribe(sic) , it was grand. It was very good at Bletchley, all sorts of sports and a grand display of Fireworks at the close of the evening. Mother nor me did not go(sic). I was engaged to play at Walton. I enjoyed myself there up to dick. There was plenty to eat. I had dinner, supper, plenty of ale and tobacco & 7 bob in my pocket to come away with. That was better than stopping at home for one snap and no beer not tobacco. I saw the fireworks going up when I left Walton at 11 o/c. The rockets looked grand at that distance. It was the best holiday ever was at Bletchley. Beat Leon's into fits. Mr. Craven bought the fireworks and him and Mr. Clode let them off.</p> <p>Lean is coming home for her holidays in September at Bletchley feast time. That will be 6 weeks next Monday, so if you can come about then, you will all be home together. Mr. Bennitt has let his House for the summer months. Will go away next week. The Bazaar and children's tea is tomorrow, Friday. We got the paper quite safe.</p> <p>Mrs. Collett sends her kind love to Sadie, also old Mrs. Yates and the Misses Yates. They all go away on Saturday for their holidays.</p> <p>I think I have told you all. So I must close, with fond love from your Father & Mother J & E.A. Jones</p> <p>(Stampless) envelope enclosed addressed</p> <p>Mr & Mrs. C. Wallis 157 Rochester Avenue Rochester Kent</p>

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George Alfred Jones John Jones **Louisa Hannah Jones** Selina Jones Miscellaneous

		Faint postmark on back is "Rochester July 29 th 1897"
Aug 30 th 1897	Well House Bletchley	<p>Dear Son & Daughter, Yours to hand this evening. I am very pleased to say I am very much better than I was last week at this time. I have just got up and dressed for the first time for a week. I hope to be getting much better by the time you get home which we hope to see you both on Saturday. Lean will be home on Saturday all being well. I cannot write much so I must tell you all when you get here. I must close with fond love. From your Father & Mother J. & E.A. Jones</p> <p>[Enclosed envelope addressed to: Mr. & Mrs. C. Wallis 157 Rochester Avenue, Rochester, Kent Postmarked Bletchley Station, August 30th 1897]</p> <p><i>This is the last recorded letter from John Jones before his death</i></p>

Undated,, but envelope postmarked July 16 th 1897	Well House, Bletchley	<p>Dear Cy & Sadie,</p> <p>Just got your letter & one from Geo which we will send for you to read if you would like it. Well, you want to know all the news, to start with Dad's cold is no better, but Mother is better today than she has been since you left. I think she felt your going away very much. Bill came home on Thursday – he looks wonderfully well. Lena, Bill & I went out in the evening. We went to the school-house first & they were delighted with the cake & thought the wedding card was awfully pretty & they thought what a pretty wedding it was. They wanted us to spend the evening there but Bill wanted to do a bit of shopping and we had to go elsewhere so could not stay, but they have asked Bill to spend an evening with them before he goes back. After that we did the shopping business & on our return called on Mrs. Collett & left her cake. She was so very pleased. We had a long chat about you both & Mrs. Collett said she was so miserable at the thought of your going away that she was quite thankful to go for a walk to help her forget your loss, she almost cried about your going away. On Saturday we went to Poll Gordon's and Mrs. Lockwood's. Lena & I went to the second door, it looked more private than the first one and asked if Miss Gordon was at home & could we see her. A tall girl in a big hat answered the door and asked us in and Miss was just inside so I gave her the cake and said I was asked to give it to her from Mr. & Mrs. Wallis. She spoke very nice & thanked me very much then on to Mrs. Lockwood's. I felt so very sorry for her that fellow had his girl down here again from Saturday till Wednesday & she told me she was nearly worried to death. He brought a large turkey for her to cook & she had to pick, draw & truss the huge thing herself, as if she had enough to do without that. She knew Lena at once & begged us both to come down again so I have promised to call on her one evening after the lady visitor had taken her departure. She asked me if we saw Johnny at the wedding, he went & told her on Saturday that he saw Mr. Wallis married. He said there were two carriages, Mr. Wallis and two ladies were in the first & Mr. Wallis had a <u>long sleeve hat</u> on, then in the next carriage Mr. Wallis's <u>tart</u> & another gentlemen with a <u>long sleeve hat</u> on & <u>reddy whiskers</u> & we all had blue dresses on.</p> <p>The Bennitt's all said what pretty dresses & what a pretty wedding, in fact everybody echoes the same thing. Mrs. Collett & the Misses Tates were charmed with the whole concern & they said how plucky Cy spoke up, we had a laugh over Sadie being thumped to say <u>I will</u>. Mrs. Bennitt was in on Saturday as per usual & asked after both of you, she wished to be remembered to you when we wrote & was very pleased to know you were all right. Lena brought Miss Gate in last night to have a piece of cake – she said he cake was splendid & she wished to you both every happiness. I saw Lena off this morning & Bill went to London this afternoon for a day or two. We are so very glad to know you are both so happy & comfortable. I have no doubt you will feel much better than when you were in lodgings, there is really no place like having a home of your own. Mother & I were glad to know that Sadie cooked the dinner alright & we both hope she will always give you every satisfaction, take care of her dear boy – in fact take care of each other & you cannot be any else but happy if you make each other's happiness your own. How glad you must feel, dear Cy, to know that Sadie is pleased with all you have done for her. I thought of you both last night & wondered how you were getting on. Dear Old Sally, how we all miss you. It is dreadful without you, but we must not mind if it is for your happiness.</p>
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George Alfred Jones John Jones Louisa Hannah Jones Selina Jones Miscellaneous

		<p>We sent the box as soon as you had gone – how jolly nothing was broken. Have sent the marriage certificate so write soon and let us know if you get all safe. Dad & Mother & Bill send their best love to both & accept the same from your own loving Lou.</p> <p>[Envelope enclosed addressed to: Mrs. C. Wallis, 157 Rochester Avenue, Rochester, Kent Postmarked Luton, July 16th, 1897]</p> <p>[Also enclosed a photograph of Sadie and the marriage announcement from local paper]</p>
Sept. 28 th , 1897	Well House, Bletchley	<p>Dear Sadie & Cye,</p> <p>You are very anxious I am sure to hear from us, you see I am here & am going to stay for good as both Dad & Mother want me to stay at home & help them. Well dearie, I am thankful to say that Dad is much better this afternoon. I should have written this last evening but Dad was so very poorly, also this morning but am thankful to say he is better this afternoon. I got my note Sunday morning & came off at once. Could not get beyond Dunstable so had to drive from there to Bletchley. On Saturday Dad himself thought he was going to die & begged Mother to send for us all but he would insist on Lena sending that wire to you to stop your coming for he was feeling much better & did not want to give you unnecessary expense. Still, if it will ease you you might run down for Saturday & Sunday – should be very pleased to have you. My dear Sadie, there is not the slightest need to worry about Dad for I will wire you at once if by any chance I found it necessary to do so, but I pray God it will not be so. Lena was home when I got here Sunday but went back 12 train to Watford yesterday. She said she hoped I would stay at home & when I got a letter from Mrs. S this morning I asked Dad what I should do & he said I want you here – after that there was nothing more to be said for I think it is nothing but right that one of ought to be here with them & who has more right to do it than myself. I came home Sunday afternoon & only went to bed this morning at four – the first rest since I came home. We must not leave him alone, for he has such dreadful fits of coughing that if there were no help at hand he would be choked. He has not eaten anything solid (till today) since last Tuesday & we have fed him with a spoon as he can only take a little at a time. We are giving him mutton broth – have made a jelly & have got a chicken for chicken soup for him & intend to get him beef for beef-tea. I got some lovely grapes last night & he has eaten a few – helps to clear his throat. I hope you will not worry upon any consideration for there is not need whatever, he is going on alright as far as he can. I asked him this morning if he would like another Dr's advice & he asked me why. I said I did not think he looked after him enough & he said he was quite satisfied with himself – he was going on alright. I shall drop you a Post Card or two very often until he is much better, so you shall know from day to day as far as possible how he progresses, which I trust will be alright. Mother feels better at home with me to help her & take some of the worry off her shoulders. We have had Mr. Webber in today to see him – he is coming again tomorrow & we expect Mr. Bennitt on Friday I am glad to say – can</p>

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George Alfred Jones John Jones Louisa Hannah Jones Selina Jones Miscellaneous

		<p>talk to him better than Mr. Webber who is very nice. Poor Mr. Cox lies at the point of death, I am sorry to say, & that Bennie is a thorough bad lot. Old Mother Butcher was locked up Saturday, Sunday & all day on Monday for robbing Tommy Crane of two sixpences – what a bad woman she is to be sure. Have told you all for this time, am going to write Geo & Bill – will give you a P. C. sometime tomorrow.</p> <p>With best love from Dad, Mum & myself. I am always your ever Loving Lou</p> <p>Write as soon as you can – have written Lena P.C. L.H.J</p> <p>[Enclosed envelope addressed to: Mrs. C. Wallis, 157 Rochester Avenue, Rochester, Kent Postmarked Sept. 28th, 1897]</p>
Sept. 29 th , 1897	No location, but probably Well House	<p>[This is a postcard only] Just got your letter, did you get one from me yesterday giving you all particulars? Dad just a trifle easier today, but very weak & ill. Requires every care & attention. Have opened your letter before sending on to Lena. Write again when you get this. Will write you again tomorrow if I have time. Go to Luton tomorrow to fetch my belongings home. Have written George, Will & Lena today. Fondest love from Dad, Mother & your own loving Lou</p>
Sept. 30 th , 1897	No location, but probably Well House	<p>[This is a postcard only] Passed a dreadful night – 8 hours continuous coughing, quite exhausted but easier now. Don't worry, he is no worse but the cough tries him dreadfully. If we only could get rid of the cough all would be well. Temperature fair. I go to Luton today by the 12 from B. Hope to get back by the 3.30. Mother keeps fairly well. Write us as soon as you can. Have sent P.C. to Lena same time as sending this. With fondest love from Dad, Mother & self. Am ever yours, Lou</p>

1897

George Alfred Jones John Jones Louisa Hannah Jones Selina Jones Miscellaneous

Undated	Well House, Bletchley	My Dear Lou, You see I have not gone to Bedford as Phillips is very busy – helping her sister to pack as they are going into a new house. We received the enclosed letter this morning. Mother opened it not knowing who it was from. I had a letter from Cyrus this evening – they got to Rochester alright and are enjoying themselves very much. Going to the Theatre & Music Halls. I hope this will find you quite well as I am pleased to say this leaves me quite well at present. Write soon & let us know how you are faring. With love to you from all. I remain your ever loving Lena
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Sept. 25 th 1897	Unaddressed, but postmarked Bletchley	<p>[Writer unknown – not a member of the family]</p> <p>Dear Louie, Come at once. Father is dangerously ill. From Mother</p> <hr/> <p>Mother is quite well</p> <p>[Envelope enclosed addressed to: Miss Jones, 29, Park Street, West Luton, Beds. Postmarked Bletchley 8.30 p.m. Sept. 25th 1897]</p>
		<p>[Obituary recorded in North Bucks Times October, 1897]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BLETCHLEY</p> <p>It is with regret that we have to record the death of John Jones, Parish Clerk of St. Mary's Church, who died after a short illness, on Friday morning, October 1st. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Parish Church, the services being conducted by the Rector, the Rev. W. Bennitt, assisted by the Rev. A.C. Webber, who met the corps [sic] at the Churchyard gate. The opening services being taken by the Rector in a very impressive manner. On entering the church the choir were in their stalls awaiting the arrival to show their last token of respect to the deceased. The Rector read the Psalm 39 and the Lesson was read by the Rev. A.C. Webber, after which the choir sang hymn 280, "Days and Moments quickly flying". The cortege then proceeded to leave for the grave, headed by the Rector and Rev. Webber, the choir leading and the organist, Miss Gate, playing the Dead March in <i>Saul</i>. On their way to the grave could be heard the muffled tone of the big bell. The remaining portion of the service at the grave side being taken by the Rector after which the choir sang the hymn 199 "The King of Love my Shepherd Is". The cortege then proceeded to take the long and last farewell at the departed, while the big bell again boomed out its solemn tones. There had assembled a large number of friends to pay their last respect to the deceased. There was a large number of wreaths sent by the following:-</p> <p>Wreath, "In ever loving memory of My Dear Husband from his loving and sorrowing Wife"; wreath, "In ever loving memory of Dear Dad from his loving but absent boys George and Will"; wreath, "In ever loving memory of Dear Dad from his loving girls, Lou, Sadie and Lena"; cross, "With sincere sympathy and deepest regret from his son-in-law Cyrus Wallis"; cross, "In memory of our Dear Brother, from Tom, and Jane"; wreath "In loving remembrance of my Dear Uncle, from his affectionate niece, M.A. Cook"; wreath "With love and kindest sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. J. Garner"; wreath "With Mr and Mrs Farden's deepest sympathy"; cross, "With deepest sympathy from Bletchley Rectory"; wreath "With deepest sympathy from Mr and Mrs Val. Sear"; wreath "In deepest sympathy from the members of Bletchley Choir"; cross "In kind remembrance from Mr and Mrs. Collett"; wreath "In deepest sympathy from Miss M. Jones"; wreath "With deepest sympathy from Mrs. Norman Jones"; cross "With Mrs. Farden and Mrs. Bennitt's deepest sympathy"; wreath "With Mr and Mrs. Charles Sear's deepest sympathy"; cross "With sincere sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins"; cross "Mrs. Williams"; cross, "With deepest sympathy from Mrs. Halsey"; cross, "With W. Farden, W. Bennitt, and W. Grace's deepest sympathy". Flowers were kindly sent by Mr. and Mrs. Slark, the Hatch, Bletchley; and Mrs. Snoxell, Park Street, Bletchley.</p> <p>The coffin was of polished elm, the breast plate bearing the following inscription, "John Jones Died October 1st, Aged 63 years" being supplied by John James of Bletchley.</p> <p>The deceased leaves a widow and five children to mourn his loss. His widow and three daughters and several other relations followed. The deceased's two sons being</p>

		<p>away, the eldest one being in India and the youngest at sea. The deepest sympathy is felt by the Parish for the widow and children in their great loss. They have lost a good husband and father; and the Parish has lost a good and faithful parishioner and his place will be hard to fill. On Sunday last the ringers rang a half muffled peel on the bells to show their respect for the deceased. The bells were got ready on the Saturday afternoon by Messrs. Val Sear and A.G. Crane. The services at the church on the Sunday following throughout were of a mournful character, suitable hymns etc. being used. Mrs. Jones wishes to thank the many friends for the respect they have so kindly shown to the deceased and also to herself and children.</p> <p>A correspondent writes:- The deceased was well known round the district, and better known perhaps to many by the name of "Old John Jones". I will for the interest of your readers give a brief outline of his life as far as I am able. The deceased was a member of the village club, and also secretary from its commencement, it being in existence since April 5th 1874, which he fulfilled in a most satisfactory manner, and as far as the club itself is concerned, has lost a valuable friend and servant. He was also a ringer at the church for 21 years, although of late he has not taken any active part in it, but was always willing to give his assistance when required, and was never omitted to be asked to join the ringers at any of their special gatherings. He was also a member of the choir for 26 years, and has been of valuable assistance to it, he having a good knowledge of music, and will be very much missed; but owing to the last few months he had lost his voice and therefore was unable to take any active part. He was also clerk of the Parish for 11 years being appointed to that office in 1886. He succeeded John Clark who was Parish clerk up to that date. He was also in the army, in the Royal Field Artillery, 11 years and 100 days and got his discharge through being injured, and received a small pension up to his death, his last quarter's pension being due the day he died, the papers coming in the evening for his signature. He was also sub-postman for the district upwards of 14 years at Bletchley Post Office; and last, but not least, he was a good old violin player for over 40 years – and was well know for miles around as "Fiddler Jones", and his merry old face was always welcome wherever he went, his one aim being to add to enjoyment of others, and for his services with the violin he will be greatly missed among the young friends. For the last 12 months one could not help noticing him as he had caught a very violent cold, and thereby had almost lost his voice and could only speak like a whisper; but still for all this he kept on with his daily duties. He was an all-round man; nothing seemed to come amiss for him. He used to fill in all his spare time cleaning and mending watches and clocks etc., and in conclusion, I may say, he has also in addition to his duties as Parish clerk, fulfilled the position as grave digger and singular to say was known to remark at the last one which was the late Mrs. W. Parmeter, he wondered who would be the next, and, alas, it was his own.</p>
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