

Lavar Thomas Jones

Compiled by Judy Hansen
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I'm not really sure which is correct Lavar Thomas Jones or Thomas Lavar Jones as I have seen it both ways on various official documents. Nevertheless, I believe he was called Lavar. He was born on the 27th of January 1918 to Evan and Jemima Hansen Jones in Lehi, Utah. He lived there most of his life, attending schools there through Lehi High School. It was reported he did attend one year of school in Panaca, Nevada. He also attended two years of college but we don't know where that was. He had siblings Evan Arnold Jones, Fern Irene Edwards (born Jones), Sarah Myrl Meredith (born Jones), David John Jones, Vida May Barnhart (born Jones), Blain Lionel Jones and George Ralph Jones.

After he finished school he worked several jobs to include driving trucks for the Utah Construction Company, the Deer Creek Dam project, and for the Utah Ordinance plant in Salt Lake City. He also worked as a leaser at Mercur (which was a mining town). He leased a farm in Kaysville, Utah where he lived for six months and after that he went to work for the mines when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He enlisted on the 3rd of October 1942 and was described as 5'6," 145

pounds, red hair, blue eyes, freckles, and his right eye defective.



LaVar T. Jones

Two weeks after he entered the Army he was released from his service in November 1942. He went back to work in the Calument Mine for Combined Metals Reduction Company. Calument Mine was a lead, silver, and gold mine. This mine was located in Bauer, Utah where he was living at that time. Bauer is a ghost town now between Tooele and Stockton Utah.

Lavar was employed at the Calument Mine for three months when *"he was operating a motor in the mine and apparently was standing on the wrong side, Samuel E. Craig, mine official reported. He worked as a 'pocket man and motor man' for the company, Mr. Craig said."* Lavar was *"Operating a tunnel motor, and as he looked back to see if the motor was clear, he was dragged off and crushed, resulting in instant death."*

Lavar was killed February 25, 1943 and was buried in the Lehi City Cemetary. His name is honored on the Lehi City Cemetery Veterans wall.

This story is a combined effort of the Lehi Historical Society and the Stories Behind the Stars project, a national effort of volunteers to write the stories of all 400,000+ of the US WW2 fallen on Fold3. Related to this, there will be a smart phone app that will allow people to visit any war memorial or cemetery, scan the fallen's name and read his/her story.

WWII Draft Registration <https://www.fold3.com/image/597382687>

Utah Military Records <https://Ancestry.com>

Western Mining History - https://westernmininghistory.com/mine_detail/10102070/

Salt Lake Telegram, Feb 26, 1943

Lehi Sun, Mar 4, 1943