

'ALKALI IKE'

The Life of Lieutenant Arthur Hast Jones 147th Aero Squadron

by Alan L. Roesler

ARTHUR HAST JONES (hereafter often referred to as 'Art') was born in Vallejo, California on 6 December 1892, the fourth child of seven brothers and sisters. His parents, Algernon Sydney Jones and Harriet Tower Hast, were English immigrants. Most of the Jones family appears to have been born and raised in Alameda County, California, along the East Bay sub-region of the San Francisco Bay Area. The family seems to have migrated from Vallejo in Solano County (about 25 miles north of Oakland) shortly after Art's birth, to the Eden Township/Hayward area in Alameda County (about 15 miles southeast of Oakland). In fact, the Jones Family's presence in Hayward was aptly noted by Art and his sister Winnie riding on a horse-drawn float during a mile-long 4th of July 1899 parade that attracted a throng of 10,000 people. This event was noted at the time as being 'the most successful celebration held in Hayward'.¹ By mid-February 1904, the Jones Family moved from their lower B Street home in Hayward to a ranch home in Castro Valley, about two miles north in Alameda County. Father, Algernon Sydney's documented occupation varied over the years from capitalist (1896 and 1898, perhaps in business for himself) to lumberman (1900) to farmer (1910).²

At some point, the family settled in Hayward, where Art attended Hayward High School. On 24 August 1910, after a

The Jones Family, c.1909, (l-r, showing the birth dates and approximate ages of the children): Gwendolyn (18.3.1902, about 7), Algernon Sydney (father, about 55), Harriet Tower Hast (mother, about 43), Harriett Caroline (16.10.1886, about 23); (second row) Margery Charlotte (24.12.1895, about 13), Winifred Sophia (1890, about 19), Algernon Sydney, Jr. (11.1.1888, about 21), Keppel Baylis (2.12.1894, about 14), and Arthur Hast (6.12.1892, about 16).
:courtesy of the Jones Family



general election of the entire school at the start of his junior year, Art was elected President of the student body affairs committee.³ Then on graduating with 14 other students of Hayward High School's four-year course on 13 June 1912, Art sang a vocal solo during the graduation exercises that Thursday evening.⁴ After graduation, he attended Stanford University,



A Jones Family Tradition – Valentine's Day at the Hayward Hotel in Hayward, California. The Jones Family liked to go to there on special occasions, as in this case, Valentine's Day in 1904. With them were Harriett 'Hattie' Hast, Jones' sister Gertrude's family and Grandma Sophia Hast (seated in the chair, with Art Jones sitting, facing her with eyes closed). This photograph was probably taken by Gertrude Ward on 14 February, about the time the Jones Family moved home.
:courtesy of the Jones Family

but returned home to have Thanksgiving dinner with his parents on 28 November 1912.⁵ At the end of the 1913 school year, he found a summer job in Reno, Nevada, about 250 miles east of Stanford, California.⁶ Art became a member of *Delta Kappa Epsilon* (DKE) fraternity at Stanford. However, after Crayton Long, Art's former high school classmate, fraternity brother and close friend died accidentally near Bakersfield in Kern County on 12 August 1914, Long's death so affected Art that he then found himself unable to return to his studies at Stanford.⁷

With the advent of the U.S. entering World War I on 6 April 1917, Art, his two brothers and oldest sister had already moved away as adults working

on their own. Meanwhile, the Jones Family had moved from their ranch in Castro Valley to 924 Warren Street in Hayward, perhaps their father, Algernon Sydney's passing being a contributing factor. The Jones household then consisted of 15-year-old Gwendolyn, Margery, a teacher, Winifred, also a teacher, and their mother, Hattie Jones.⁸ Stanford University had by then been turned into a War College, and three units

Members of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at Stanford University, Art Jones standing on right, third row.

:1914 Stanford yearbook, *The Quad*, courtesy of Patricia Thompson

