

**Louth Cemetery,  
Louth, Lincolnshire, England**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4755 PRIVATE**

**F. S. COOK**

**9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**18TH APRIL, 1917 Age 27**

## Frank Sydney COOK

Frank Sydney Cook was born at Louth, Lincolnshire, England in 1890 to parents Robert Taylor Cook & Ellen Cook (nee Pridgeon).

The 1891 England Census recorded Frank S. Cook as a 10 month old, living with his parents at London Road, Louth, Lincolnshire. His parents were listed as Robert T. Cook (Blacksmith, aged 20, born Boston, Lincolnshire) & Nellie Cook (aged 20, born Louth, Lincolnshire).

Frank Sydney Cook attended Wesleyan Day School, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Frank S. Cook as an 11 year old listed with his Grandparents at Louth Manse, Louth, Lincolnshire. His grandparents were listed as Francis Pridgeon (Farmer, aged 62, born Louth, Lincolnshire) & Mary A. Pridgeon (aged 58, Louth, Lincolnshire). Also listed in the household was their daughter – Lucy A. Pridgeon (aged 16) & a Servant - George Crowson (Cowman on a Farm, aged 16).

Ellen Cook, mother of Frank Sydney Cook, died in 1904 in Louth, Lincolnshire, England.

The 1911 England Census recorded Frank S. Cook as a 20 year old Farmer's Grandson working on Farm at The Grange Farm, Louth, South Lincolnshire, England. His Grandparents were listed as Francis Pridgeon (Farmer, aged 72) & Mary Ann Pridgeon (age 68). Also listed was their daughter – Lucy Ann Pridgeon (Farmer's daughter – Dairy Work, aged 26). Frank's 2 siblings were also listed – Constance Nellie Cook (Dressmaker, aged 18) & Cyril Montague Cook (At School, aged 13). Two others were listed in the Household – John William Ashley (General Engineer at Wall Paper Printing Company, aged 27) & Walter Fleshbourne (General Servant on Farm, aged 15).

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour – Frank Sydney Cook came to Australia when he was 23 years of age. A "Frank Cook", 22 year old Farmer was a passenger on Beltana which had departed from the port of London, England on 15th May, 1913.

The 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wide Bay, subdivision of Kilkivan, Queensland recorded Frank Sydney Cook, Labourer from Woolooga.

Frank Sydney Cook was a 25 year old, single, Labourer from Woolooga, Kingaroy Line, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 10th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4755 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr R. T. Cook, Little South Street, South Lincolnshire, England.

Private Frank Sydney Cook was posted to 15th Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 10th October, 1915.

Private Frank Sydney Cook embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Commonwealth* (A73) on 28th March, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements.

Private Frank Sydney Cook embarked from Alexandria on *Arcadian* on 29th July, 1916.

Private Frank Sydney Cook was taken on strength from Egypt to 3rd Training Battalion at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 9th August, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Frank Sydney Cook proceeded overseas to France on 14th October, 1916 from 3rd Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 16th October, 1916. Private Cook proceeded from 1st A.D.B.D. on 14th November, 1916 to join 9th Battalion & joined his Battalion in France on 17th November, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private Frank Sydney Cook was wounded in action in France on 26th February, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 26th February, 1917 with G.S.W. (guns hot wound/s) to right Leg. Private Cook was

transferred & admitted to 1/1 S. M. D. Casualty Clearing Station on 27th February, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 28th February, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 1st March, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to neck & right leg -severe. Private Cook embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* on 13th March, 1917.

### **9th Battalion**

The 9th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Queensland, and with the 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

In March 1916 the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley..... Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917 the battalion moved back to Belgium for the advance to the Hindenburg Line, and in March and April 1918 helped stop the German spring offensive. The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918 and fought near Amiens on 8 August.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 9th Battalion

*26th February, 1917 – Front Line*

*At 0100 "C" Coy moved forward towards WHEAT TRENCH. At 0130 this trench was occupied by our troops from N.12.D.4.3 to N.7.C.1.6.*

*Snipers and M.G's were very active. At 13.00 the situation was as follows:*

*"C" Coy WHEAT TRENCH (N.12.D.4.3 to N.7.C.1.6)*

*"D" Coy OAT LANE (M.12.D.6.2 to N.13.A.6.5)*

*"A" Coy BANK TRENCH (M.18.A.7 ½.2 to M.18.D.7.5 ½)*

*"B" Coy THE MAZE*

*Hqrs Coy – Old front line*

*Two Vickers Guns were emplaced – one at M.12.D.4.3 and one at N.7.C.1.6. At 1330 the following patrols moved out:- 1 Off. 30 O.R's and one Lewis Gun to N.7.C.8.9, one boulb team and rifleman to N.7.A.4.4. At 1530 the patrols returned having encountered the enemy and were forced back. Enemy snipers and Machine Guns were very active. At 1800 our troops established posts at N.7.C.5.7 and N.7.C.8.5 ½.*

*At 2000 the 11th Bn. moved in to relieve our troops. The relief was completed by 2400. Our casualties during the advance were approximately 4 Officers 74 O. Ranks*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Frank Sydney Cook was admitted to Horton County of London War Hospital, Epsom, London, England on 13th March, 1917 with G.S.W. to neck & right thigh. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "*Rt limb very badly infected, Traumatic trachertomy infected when admitted, Limb under treatment improved but patient lately (?) developed pneumonia.*"

Private Frank Cook was reported as seriously ill on 22nd March, 1917.

The address of the next-of-kin for Private Frank Sydney Cook were changed on his Records on 15th March, 1917 for his Father – Mr R. T. Cook, Little South St, South Lincolnshire, England to the new address of 35 Kidgate, South Lincolnshire, England.

Private Frank Sydney Cook died at 1.15 pm on 18th April, 1917 at Horton County of London War Hospital, Epsom, London, England from Wounds received in Action – G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to neck and knee & Pneumonia. A

Telegram was sent from O.C. County of London War Hospital to Commandant, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London advising "*Private Cook, F, 4755 9th A.I.F. Died here 1.15 pm today. Sister present.*"

According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour – Robert Taylor Cook, father of Private Frank Sydney Cook, was with his son for 4 days continually before he died.

A death for Frank S. Cook, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Epsom, Surrey, England.

Private Frank Sydney Cook was buried in Louth Cemetery, Louth, Lincolnshire, England – Plot number 70.1 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London, wrote to The Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne on 28th March, 1918 in regards to the late Private F. S. Cook, 4755, 9th Battalion: "*A request from the person entitled in receiving the personal belongings of the above-named late soldier, namely his sister, Mrs C. N. Emerson, 3 Darnley Road, Royal Crescent, Notting Hill, London, has been directed to this Administration for certain pre-military effects of the late Private Cook which he left in the custody of Mrs Broderick, "Wyreema" Lennox Street, Maryborough, Queensland, when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force. Will you please have arrangements made for the property in question to be obtained by the proper authorities and despatched at the first opportunity to the Officer Commanding, A.I.F. Kit Store, 110 Greyhound Road, Hammersmith, London, W.6 for transmission to Mrs C. N. Emerson.*"

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London, wrote to The Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne on 1st January, 1918 (Base Records stamped receipt of letter on 27th February, 1919) advising that the articles had "*been duly despatched to Mrs C. N. Emerson, 3, Darnley Road, Royal Crescent, Notting Hill, London, the sister and person entitled in receiving the property of deceased.*"

The Pre-Military effects of the late Private F. S. Cook were contained in a trunk with 50 separate items listed – some examples - clothing, boots, shaving mug, prayer book, cuff links, pocket knife, watch & chain etc and a "golliwog". A suitcase containing a list of 10 items was also inside the trunk – postcard album, 25 books, 1 ring & 4 keys attached etc.

Private Frank Sydney Cook was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Cook's father – Mr R. T. Cook, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in December, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frank Sydney Cook - service number 4755, aged 27, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Robert Cook, of 35 Kidgate, Louth, Lincs, and the late Mrs Cook.

F. S. Cook is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



F. Cook is remembered on the Woolooga & District War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Bauple - Woolooga Road, Woolooga, Queensland.



**Woolooga Memorial Park** (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Kevin McSweeney)

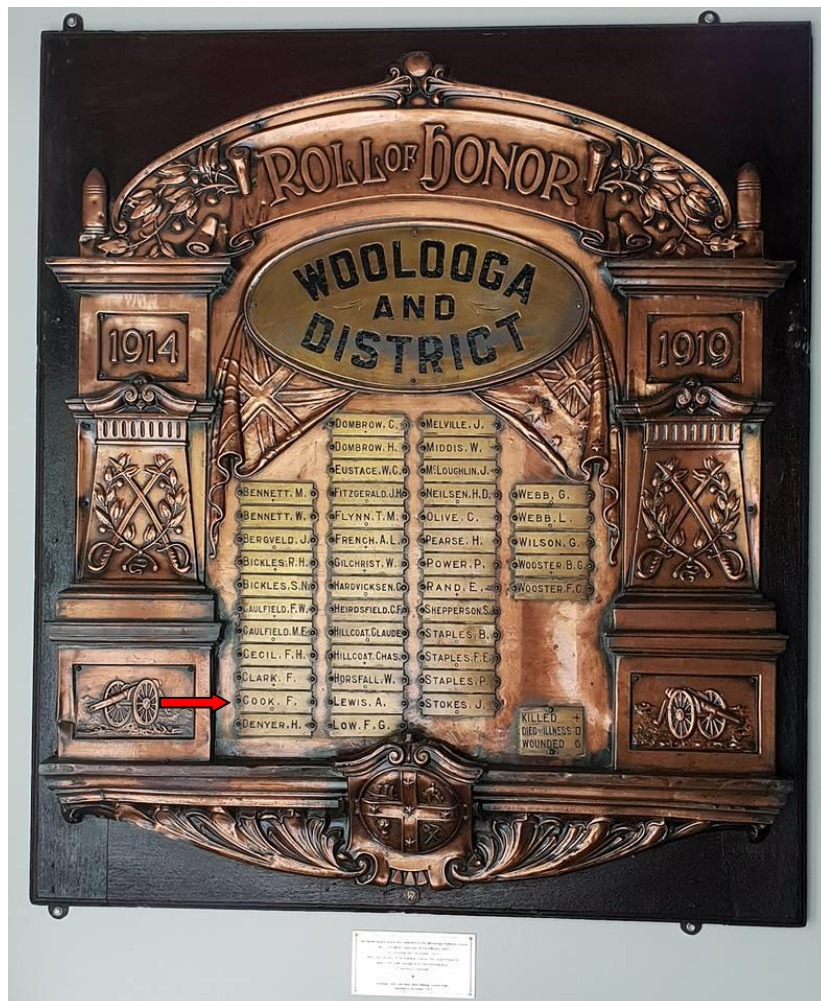


**Woolooga & District War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)





F. Cook is remembered on the Woolooga and District Roll of Honour, located in the Woolooga Community Hall, Bauple - Woolooga Road, Woolooga, Queensland.



Woolooga and District Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Liz Williamson)



A "Frank Cook" is remembered on the Louth War Memorial, located at Ramsgate Junction with Eastgate, Louth Lincolnshire, England.



**Louth War Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials Online)



(35 pages of Private Frank Sydney Cook's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DISTRICT RECRUITING**

There were six recruits passed for enlistment at the Lennox street Drill Shed yesterday, five of whom are Maryborough boys, three of them being members of the one family, whose parents should feel justifiably proud of the fact that their sons have heard and accepted the call of Empire. It is a fine example of the true spirit of patriotism, and one of many similar, instances that have happened through-out the State and the Empire. The three in question are the Messrs. J.G., G.H., and E. Price, sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. Price, Tooley street, Newtown, who leave for Enoggera on Saturday night. The remaining three recruits are Messrs. F. S. Cook (who left for Enoggera last night), and P. McGlinchey (both of Maryborough), and W. Goff (Biggenden). Mr. C. F. Tait (Tinana), who enlisted some days ago, leaves for Enoggera this morning.'

*(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 10 September, 1915)*



## **Roll of Honour**

### **290TH CASUALTY LIST**

#### WOUNDED

Private F. S. Cook. England (severely)

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Queensland – 24 March, 1917)*

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## **The Roll of Honour**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **285th LIST**

#### **QUEENSLAND**

#### ILL

F. S. Cook, England (ser., prev. rep. sev. wounded)

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 14 April, 1917)*

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## **Roll of Honour**

### **290TH CASUALTY LIST**

#### DIED OF WOUNDS

Private F. S. Cook, England

*(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 2 May, 1917)*

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## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private Frank Sydney Cook has a Private Headstone

## Louth Cemetery, Louth, Lincolnshire, England

Louth Cemetery contains 35 Commonwealth War Graves – 15 from World War 1 & 20 from World War 2.



**Louth Cemetery** (Photo above Find a Grave – Richard Pinder; below – Mike Berrell)





Photo of Private Frank Sydney Cook's Private Headstone in Louth Cemetery, Louth, Lincolnshire, England.



*(Photo from Find a Grave – Military Historian March, 2019)*

CWGC Policy in regards to Private Headstones: *Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.*

Note: The following photos were taken in June, 2021 by Wayne Bywater. I contacted CWGC to advise of the poor condition of the headstone but was advised in July, 2021:

*"The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a responsibility for all the First and Second World War graves in the UK, whether they are marked by Commission headstones or private memorials. A team of regional managers aim to visit the thousands of graves in their district within a three to five year cycle (for scattered graves such as this) in order to check that existing maintenance arrangements are satisfactory and that the war dead are adequately commemorated. The key element for us on such private memorials, is that the casualty's name be legible - parts of the cross, tier or kerbs may become damaged but it is not, in general, our responsibility to repair them.*

*At such point that an existing private memorial is considered to no longer provide commemoration then steps are taken to provide a Commission marker on the grave, subject to permission being obtained by the cemetery authority/remaining family.*

*This private memorial, along with all other war graves in the cemetery were last inspected/cleaned, in June 2021, with no issues being noted at that time. I will however pass on your e mail and photograph to the Regional Manager, Mr Chris Hawes, for his information."*





FRANCISYDNEY GOON  
A.I.F. DIED OF WOUNDS  
AT EPROM APRIL 12 1917





















