

**Wareham Cemetery,
Wareham, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2638/A PRIVATE

G. F. COOK

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH APRIL, 1917 Age 26

*In Memory
Of The Dear Father
Of Leonard G. Cook
Of Booval, Queensland*

George Frederick COOK

Frederick George Cook was born at Maryborough, Victoria on 16th March, 1891 to parents Frederick George and Elizabeth Ann Cook (nee McCullagh).

George Frederick Cook attended Sherwood State School, Queensland.

Frederick George Cook married Elsie Matilda Heck in Queensland on 31st December, 1913. A birth was registered in 1914 for Leonard George Cook, son of George Frederick & Elsie Matilda Cook (nee Heck). Leonard was born on 20th October, 1914.

The 1915 & 1919 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Oxley, subdivision of Sherwood, Queensland, recorded George Frederick Cook, Carter & his wife Elsie Matilda Cook, Home Duties, of Sherwood.

George Frederick Cook was a 25 year old, married, Carter from Sherwood, Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 5th August, 1915 in Brisbane, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2638 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Elsie Matilda Cook, of Sherwood, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private George Frederick Cook was posted to 6th Reinforcements of 25th Battalion on 5th August, 1915 for recruit training.

Private George Frederick Cook was written up for being absent without leave from 2 pm till 11 pm on 25th August, 1915 while posted at Frasers Hill. He was admonished & no punishment or forfeiture of pay was recorded.

Private George Frederick Cook embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Seang Bee (A48)* on 21st October, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private George Frederick Cook was allotted to & proceeded to join 9th Battalion from Zeitoun on 27th February, 1916. He joined 9th Battalion at Habeita on 28th February, 1916.

Private George Frederick Cook proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 27th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916.

Private George Frederick Cook was wounded in action on 21st July, 1916. He was admitted to 44th Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to right arm. Pte Cook was transferred to Hospital Train & admitted to 4th General Hospital at Camiers, France on 23rd July, 1916. He was listed to transfer to England & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Dieppe* from Calais, France on 26th July, 1916.

War Diary – 9th Battalion

CONTALMAISON 20th July, 1916:

Reached CONTALMAISON about 0200 on 20th "B" Coy, relieved Coy. of Staffordshires. "A" Coy is to relieve tonight, We are to hold part of trench O. G. 1 East of POZIERES. Three Companies are in bivouac in old German trenches east of CONTALMAISON.

.....

Operations commencing 19th July and concluding 25th July, 1916

....

3 Officers Killed, 2 Off. missing (believed killed) 8 Off. wounded. 54 O.R. Killed 63 O.R. missing and 263 O.R. wounded. Total 393.

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

Private George Frederick Cook was admitted to 2nd Northern General Hospital, Becketts Park, Leeds, England on 26th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right arm. He was transferred to No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England on 4th August, 1916.

Private George Frederick Cook was taken on strength of No. 2 Australian Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Harefield on 6th September, 1916 and medically classified Class B.

Private George Frederick Cook proceeded overseas from 3rd Training Battalion in England on 14th October, 1916. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 15th October, 1916. Private Cook proceeded to join 9th Battalion from Etaples on 14th November, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 17th November, 1916.

Private George Frederick Cook was sent to 5th Field Ambulance on 24th December, 1916 suffering from diarrhoea & debility. He was transferred to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 24th December, 1916 then transferred to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 8th January, 1917. Private Cook was transferred to No. 25 Ambulance Train on 9th January, 1917 & admitted to No. 5 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 10th January, 1917. Private Cook was transferred to England on 22nd January, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Glenart Castle* suffering from diarrhoea & debility.

Private George Frederick Cook was admitted to Reading War Hospital, England on 23rd January, 1917. He was discharged & sent on furlough on 12th March, 1917 & was to then report to Wareham.

Private George Frederick Cook was sent sick to Wareham Military Hospital from No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham on 1st April, 1917 suffering from Influenza. He was transferred to Alderney Isolation Hospital, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset on 2nd April, 1917 – seriously ill with C. S. Fever.

Private George Frederick Cook died on 24th April, 1917 at Alderney Isolation Hospital, Parkstone, Dorset, England from Nephritis following Cerebro Spinal Fever.

A death for George F. Cook, aged 25, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Poole, Dorset, England.

Private George Frederick Cook was buried on 27th April, 1917 in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England – Plot number B. D. 14. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte G. F. Cook - Coffin was polished oak – well set. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private George Frederick Cook contains a letter from The Chairman, Alderney Isolation Hospital, Parkstone, Dorset which reads: "*I personally wrote to Mrs Cook giving very full particulars of the case as far as it was possible, I also saw the poor man several times. His case was hopeless from the first. He was admitted on the 2.4.17 died from nephritis following C.S.M. He was buried by his Battalion at Wareham. Every possible attention was given him and during his periods of consciousness he expressed his gratitude to the Matron and talked of his wife. I can add nothing to what I have told her and trust she received my letter in which I asked to be furnished with instructions what to do with one or two small belongings he had with him.*"

A War Pension was granted to Elsie Matilda Cook, of Lockwood Street, Sherwood, Queensland, widow of the late Pte George Frederick Cook, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 28th June, 1917. A Pension was also awarded to Leonard George Cook, son of the late Pte George Frederick Cook, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 28th June, 1917.

Private George Frederick Cook was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Cook's remarried widow – Mrs Elsie M. Rossner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922). Elsie Matilda Cook remarried in 1919 to William Rossner.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Frederick Cook – service number 2638A, aged 26, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frederick George and Elizabeth Ann Cook; husband of Elsie M. Cook, of Alexandra St., Booval, Queensland.

G. F. Cook is remembered on the Graceville War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Oxley Road, Graceville, Queensland. The Graceville War Memorial was originally erected to commemorate the servicemen & servicewomen of the Sherwood Shire who served in World War 1. Plaques were added at later dates to commemorate those who served in World War 2, Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam.



Graceville War Memorial (Photos by Shiftchange & Kgbo)



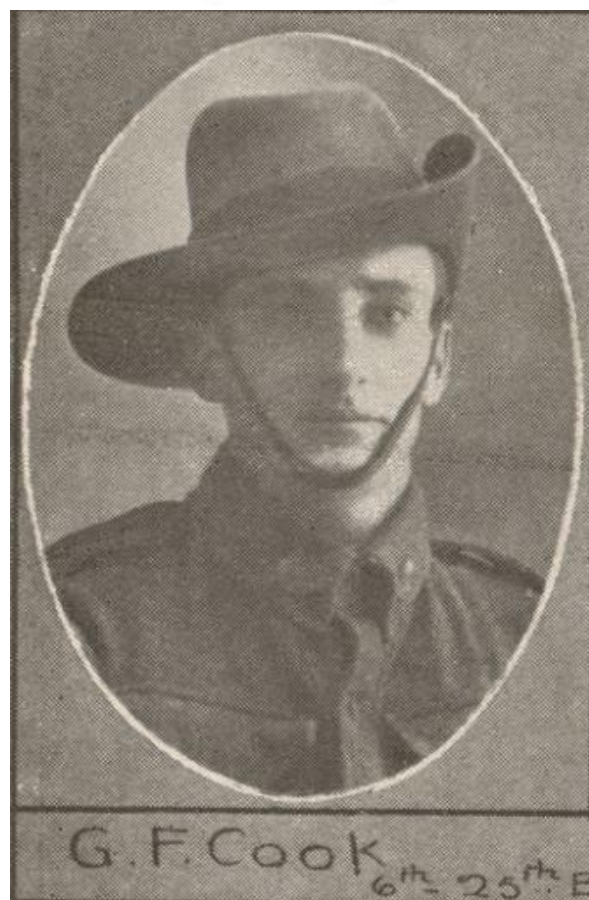
Private G. F. Cook is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(52 pages of Private George Frederick 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



Private George Frederick Cook

Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

THE 192nd LIST

WOUNDED

Pte G. F. Cook, Sherwood

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 12 August, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Queensland Casualties at Front



PTE G. F. Cook
Wounded

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 16 September, 1916)

CASUALTIES

LIST 254

RETURNED TO DUTY

(Casualty Previously Reported)

Pte G. F. Cook, Sherwood

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 21 December, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED QUEENSLANDERS

ILL

Pte G. F. Cook, Sherwood, ser., 2nd occ.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 24 April, 1917)

CASUALTIES

293rd LIST

NAMES OF QUEENSLANDERS

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte G. F. Cook, Sherwood, 24/4/17 (prev. rep. ill, 2nd occ., ser.)

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 7 May, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COOK – In loving memory of Private Fredrick G. Cook, died 24th April, 1917.

No loved ones stood around him to catch his last faint sighs,
Or whisper just one loving word before he closed his eyes.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, aunty, and grandma.

COOK – In loving memory of Private Fredrick G. Cook, died 24th April, 1917.

'Tis just 12 months ago to-day,
Since my dear brother passed away;
The blow was hard, the shock severe;
To the one I loved so dear.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister, Jack and Ethel.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 24 April, 1918) & (*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 26 April, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COOK – In loving memory of our dear Husband and Father, Private Geo. F. Cook, of Sherwood, who died on active service 24th April, 1917, aged 25 years.

There is a lonely grave, so far away,
Where my beloved sleeps in peace to-day,
Yet not more lonely than the sorrowing heart,
Which still mourns for the hero who played his part.

(Inserted by his loving Wife and Son, Elsie and Len Cook).

COOK – In loving memory of our dear Brother, Private Geo. F. Cook, of Sherwood, who died on active service 24th April, 1917, aged 25 years.

Far and oft our thoughts do wander,
To a grave so far away,
Where they laid our dear brother,
Just one year ago to-day.

(Inserted by his loving Sister and Brother, Florrie and George Woolard.)

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 24 April, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COOK – In loving remembrance of our dear son, Private George Fredrick Cook, of Sherwood, died of illness 24th April, 1917.

Friends may forget him, his parents will never,
He'll dwell in our hearts till life's journey is done ;
Lord, teach us to live that when our days are ended,
We'll be met at the gates by our dear hero son.

Inserted by his loving mother and father.

R.I.P.

COOK – In loving remembrance of our dear brother, Private George Fredrick Cook, of Sherwood, died of illness 24th April, 1917.

He asked his loved ones not to cry
If on the battlefield he should die ;
A loving brother, true and kind,
But God will comfort those left behind.
No loved ones stood beside him
To hear his last farewell ;
No word of comfort could he give
To those he loved so well.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Jack and Ethel.

R.I.P.

COOK – In loving remembrance of our dear brother, Private George Fredrick Cook of Sherwood, died of illness 24th April, 1917.

We longed for his safe returning,
We longed for the clasp of his hand;
But God has postponed the meeting,
Some day we will understand.

Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers-in-law, Sarah and Tom, Florrie and George.

R.I.P.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 24 April, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private G. F. Cook does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dear Father Of Leonard G. Cook Of Booval, Queensland

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset contains 71 Commonwealth War Graves. Wareham Military Hospital, with 185 beds, was at Worgret Camp during the First World War and the regimental depot of the Royal Armoured Corps was at nearby Bovington during the Second World War. Wareham Cemetery contains 49 First World War burials and 15 from the Second World War, 5 being unidentified. The cemetery also contains 12 German burials, 1 being an unidentified airman. *(Information from CWGC)*



Wareham Cemetery, Wareham *(Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)*



Wareham Cemetery, Wareham (Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)



(Photo from "[Following the Twenty-Second](#)")

Photo of Private G. F. Cook's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)