

**Hollybrook Memorial,
Southampton, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



14498 SAPPER

G. O. COOK

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

16TH AUGUST, 1916

George Oswald COOK

George Oswald Cook was born at Cotswold, near Beaudesert, Queensland on 4th April, 1897 to parents Thomas (Tom) & Lizzie Emma Cook (nee Soul).

George Oswald Cook attended Maroon State School, Queensland.

George Oswald Cook was a 19 year old, single, Carpenter from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 2nd November, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 14498 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Tom Cook, Cotswold, via Beaudesert, Queensland. George Cook state don his Attestation Papers that he had served 4 years with Cadet's Militia in Brisbane.

George Oswald Cook was posted to 6th Field Company Engineers with the rank of Sapper on 2nd November, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to Engineers Depot, Moore Park, Sydney, NSW on 22nd February, 1916.

Sapper George Oswald Cook embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Vestalia* (A44) on 11th July, 1916 with the Field Company Engineers – July, 1916 Reinforcements.

Australian Engineers in the First World War

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Sapper George Oswald Cook was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 13th August, 1916.

The Hospital Admissions form recorded the following: *"Patient had been attending sick parades for several days with a cold. His temperature was normal. On 13: Aug: 1916 the temperature was 101°, and he was admitted to hospital, complaining of headache and cough. On 14: 5:16, the temperature dropped to normal in the morning, and patient felt much better. The temperature rose to 100° in the evening, and the headaches returned; he now began to suffer from vomiting after taking anything by the mouth.*

On 15:5:16 the morning & evening temperatures were 99° & 99° respectively. The heart and lungs were clear. There were no head-retraction or other signs of meningitis.

During 15:5:16 the headache increased in intensity. Phenautin__ (?) was given, but was almost immediately vomited. At 7 pm patient said that he could not bear the pain, which certainly seemed to be intense. The pain seemed to come in paroxysms, & during such there was twitchings of the limb muscles. A hypodermic injection of morphine _1/6 was given, and shortly afterwards, patient fell into a peaceful sleep. He awoke at 2.30 am and complained of return of headache, He was in a rather excited state, but his pulse was good, and his condition did not appear serious. Phenazone __ was given.

At 7 am the patient was dead, death having apparently taken place during an epileptiform seizure, as the whole body was rigid, the jaws being tightly clenched."

(Note: Dates showing above "14:5:16" & "15:5:16" are as recorded on Hospital Admissions form – the dates should be for August not May)

Sapper George Oswald Cook died at 5 am on 16th August, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Vestalia* (A44) from Meningitis. A correction was made on Statement of Service form in the Service Record file for Sapper Cook which recorded *"delete complete entry 19/105E"* which states he died of Meningitis & this was replaced with died of Heart failure.

From Ships Order, *Vestalia*, 30th August, 1916: "On Wednesday, 16th August at 5 am Sapper George Oswald Cook No. 14498, July Reinforcements, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Div. Field Company Engineers, died and was buried at sea at 11.15 am. The cause of death was suspected Meningitis."

Sapper George Oswald Cook was buried at Sea at 11.15 am on 16th August, 1916 from HMAT *Vestalia* (A44). He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0776

Port Melbourne, Victoria 6 December, 1916

The tug 'Racer of Melbourne' pushes the troopship HMAT Orsova (A67) away from the wharf watched by a large crowd of well wishers. The troopship HMAT Vestalia (A44) stands at the wharf.

A confirmation of Telegram was sent from Headquarters of South African Military Command to Base Records on 18th August, 1916: "No. 6979 Officer Commanding the Troops, "*Vestalia*" regrets to report death of No. 14498 Sapper George Oswald Cox, Field Company Engineers, 16th August, at sea." (Note "Cox" was circled in red & replaced with "Cook.")

Sapper George Oswald Cook was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Cook's father – Mr T. Cook, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

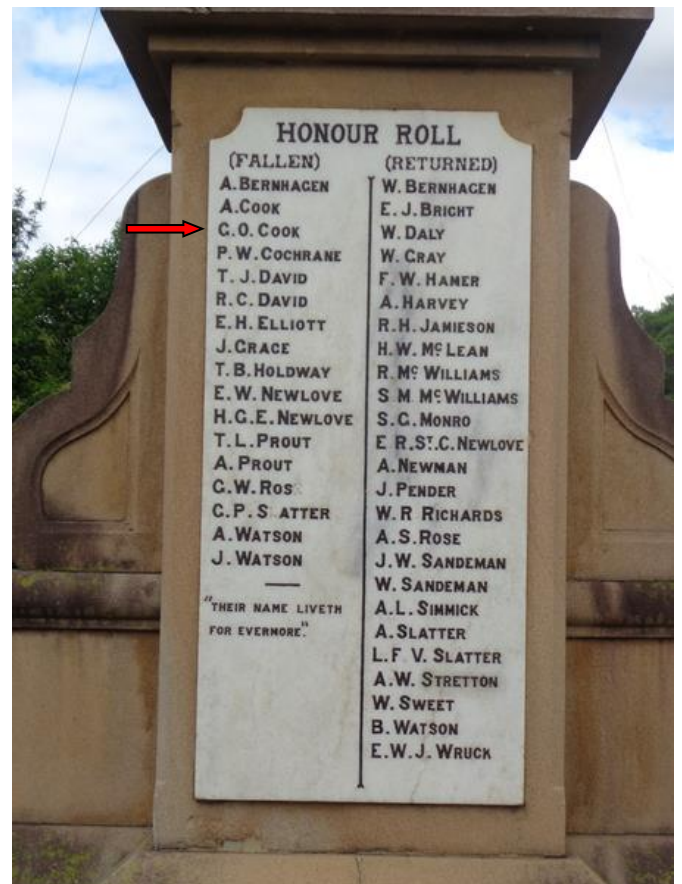
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper George Oswald Cook – service number 14498, of 5th Div., Australian Engineers. No family details are listed.

Sapper G. O. 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 23.



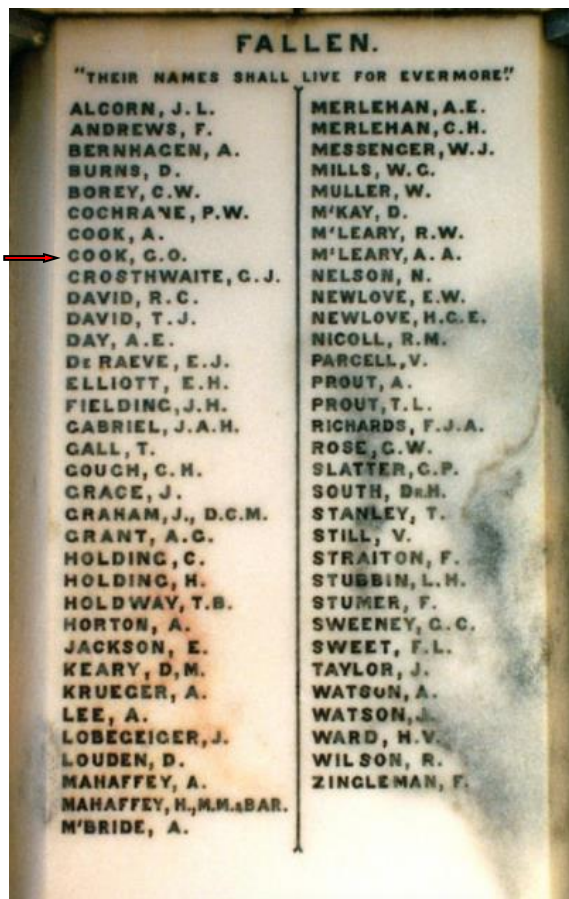
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. O Cook is remembered on the Maroon War Memorial, located at Maroon State School, Boonah-Rathdowney Road, Maroon, Queensland.



Maroon War Memorial (Photos from VWMA)

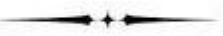
G. O Cook is remembered on the Boonah War Memorial, located in Boonah Memorial Park, Yeates Avenue & Park Street, Boonah, Queensland.



Boonah War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

(48 pages of Sapper George Oswald 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) & National Archives





Sapper George Oswald Cook



Newspaper Notices

Roll of Honour

202nd and 203rd Lists

QUEENSLAND

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Spr G. O. Cook, Beaudesert, Q., 16/8/16

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 31 August, 1916)

Maroon

UNVEILING OF HONOUR BOARD

(From our own Correspondent)

On Saturday, 18th inst., Maroon School of Arts was crowded with visitors who had gathered there to witness the unveiling of the Honor Board (some journeying many miles). On the platform were Messrs. E. T. Bell, M.L.A. (Member for Fassifern), T. B. Murray-Prior, Bowman, and Rev. F. Knight; Mesdames Murray-Prior (senr.), T B. Murray-Prior, Bowman, Bell and Miss Bundock. Mr W. Slater introduced the visitors and said he had much pleasure in calling upon Mr. Murray-Prior to take the chair, after which all rose and sang the National Anthem and "All People that on Earth do Dwell," the pianoforte accompaniment being played by Miss Elliott. Mr. Murray-Prior then made a short speech, and afterwards called upon Mr. Bowman (chairman of the Goolman Shire Council) to say a few words. Mr. Bowman, in responding, spoke on the Referendum and the coal strike now raging, and how a body of men like the strikers can hold the Commonwealth in their power. He said there was a prospect of the strike being over on Monday. Mr. Bell was next to address the gathering, and spoke in eulogistic terms of the manner in which a small settlement like Maroon had responded so nobly to the Empire's call and had sent every available man that could be spared, and had donated liberally to all Funds, according to their means. He then unveiled the Honour Board, which was without doubt a credit to Maroon, and more so to the worthy gentleman (Mr. S. Rose) who so nobly and so generously made and donated the same. He (Mr. Rose) spared neither time nor expense to make this one of the finest boards In the Commonwealth. And again, this true Britisher has given two of his sons to the Empire — one never to return, he lies covered with honour and glory on Gallipoli. The Honour Board is of cedar grown on Maroon, and Mr. Rose (the donor and maker) an old and respected resident of the locality. The Board has on it now 34 names, which are as follows Lieutenant W. Richards, Corporal J. Pender ; Privates T. L. Prout. W. Daley, P. Cochrane, A. Watson, Geo. Rose, A. S. Rose, Eric Newlove, J. Sandeman, S. McWilliam, R. McWilliam, W. Gray, A. Newman, E. W. Newlove, F. W. Hamer, E. J. Bright, **G. O. Cook**, J. Slater, W. Sweet, J. Grace, Alex Slater, H. Elliott, A. Cook, J. Watson. R. H. Jamieson, R. C. David, J. Watson, A. L. Simmerich, Geo. Slatter, T. J. David, Ezra Newlove, A. Harvey, and R. W. Stretton. The names of three others are to be added. Three of the above boys have fallen in action (Geo. Rose, A. Watson and P. Cochrane), and two have died of ill ness (**G. O. Cook** and J. Grace). Mr. Bell called for three cheers for Mr. Rose, which were heartily given, after which Mr Bell said he was indeed proud to be the representative of each loyal and patriotic supporters as the residents of Maroon, and it afforded him the greatest of pleasure to be with them and have the honour of unveiling their Honour Board. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the committee of the Maroon Patriotic Fund, thus concluding the proceedings. Then some of the smaller people did "good biz." in selling badges for "Button Day," which Fund will greatly benefit thereby.

(*The Beaudesert Times*, Queensland – 24 November, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

COOK – In loving memory of Sapper George O. Cook, who died on Troopship Vestalia, near Capetown, 16th August, 1916, aged 19 years.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 16 August, 1917) & (*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 25 August, 1917)

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.

Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice



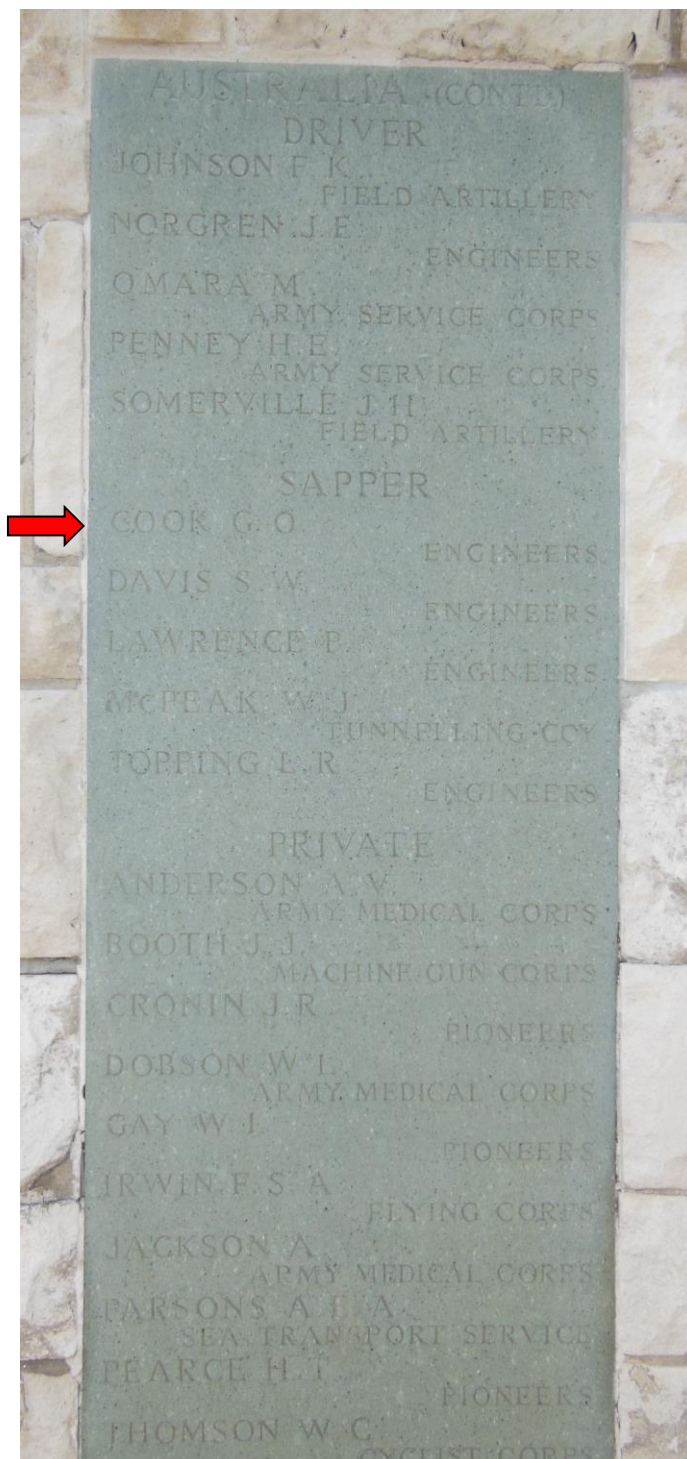
Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice



CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Sapper G. O. Cook's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

