

Durrington, Wiltshire, England

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



6866 PRIVATE

J. M. COOK

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 34

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private J. M. Cook is located in Grave Plot # 159
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

John Meyrick COOK

John Meyrick Cook was born at Caveside, Deloraine, Tasmania on 16th November, 1883, to parents Thomas Knight Cook & Mary Beach Cook (nee Roberts).

John Meyrick Cook was a 32 year old, single, Farmer from Deloraine, Tasmania when he enlisted on 11th June, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6866 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Miss Maida Beach Cook, Caveside, via Deloraine, Tasmania.

Private John Meyrick Cook was appointed Acting Corporal on 1st October, 1916 while at 1st Depot Battalion, Claremont, Tasmania.

Acting Corporal John Meyrick Cook embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 25th October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28th December, 1916.

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

Acting Corporal John Meyrick Cook reverted back to rank of Private on arrival in England on 29th December, 1916 & was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington Camp, Wiltshire from Australia.

Private John Meyrick Cook was admitted sick to Fargo Military Hospital on 20th January, 1917.

Private John Meyrick Cook died of Bronchitis at 8.15 a.m. on 25th January, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital. This was later revised to died of Broncho-pneumonia.

A death for John M. Cook, aged 32, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private John Meyrick Cook was buried on 27th January, 1917 in Durrington Cemetery – plot number 159 and has a Commonwealth War Graves headstone.

Private John Meyrick Cook was entitled to British War Medal only as he did not enter a Theatre of War. A Memorial Plaque was also sent to Private Cook's next-of-kin – his sister Miss Maida B. Cook (March, 1922). In a letter from Base Records, dated 28th June, 1921, Base Records advised Miss M. B. Cook that: *"I have endeavoured to get into touch with the custodian of his ex-nuptial child without success so, in the circumstances, am prepared to recommend that these items be handed over to you but only on the distinct understanding that they will be preserved with due care as memorials of the deceased's services and produced to this Department at any time upon receipt of its demand should a claim be received on behalf of the late soldier's son which is upheld by the Minister."*

In a letter from Clement Byard J.P. dated 13th May, 1921 regarding the late Private J. M. Cook - *".....In regard to the reputed son of the late soldier; it certainly is a matter for doubt whether it is his son or no; as the mother is a bad case, and the child may belong to anyone. We there ford strongly object to either pension, or medals going in this direction....."*

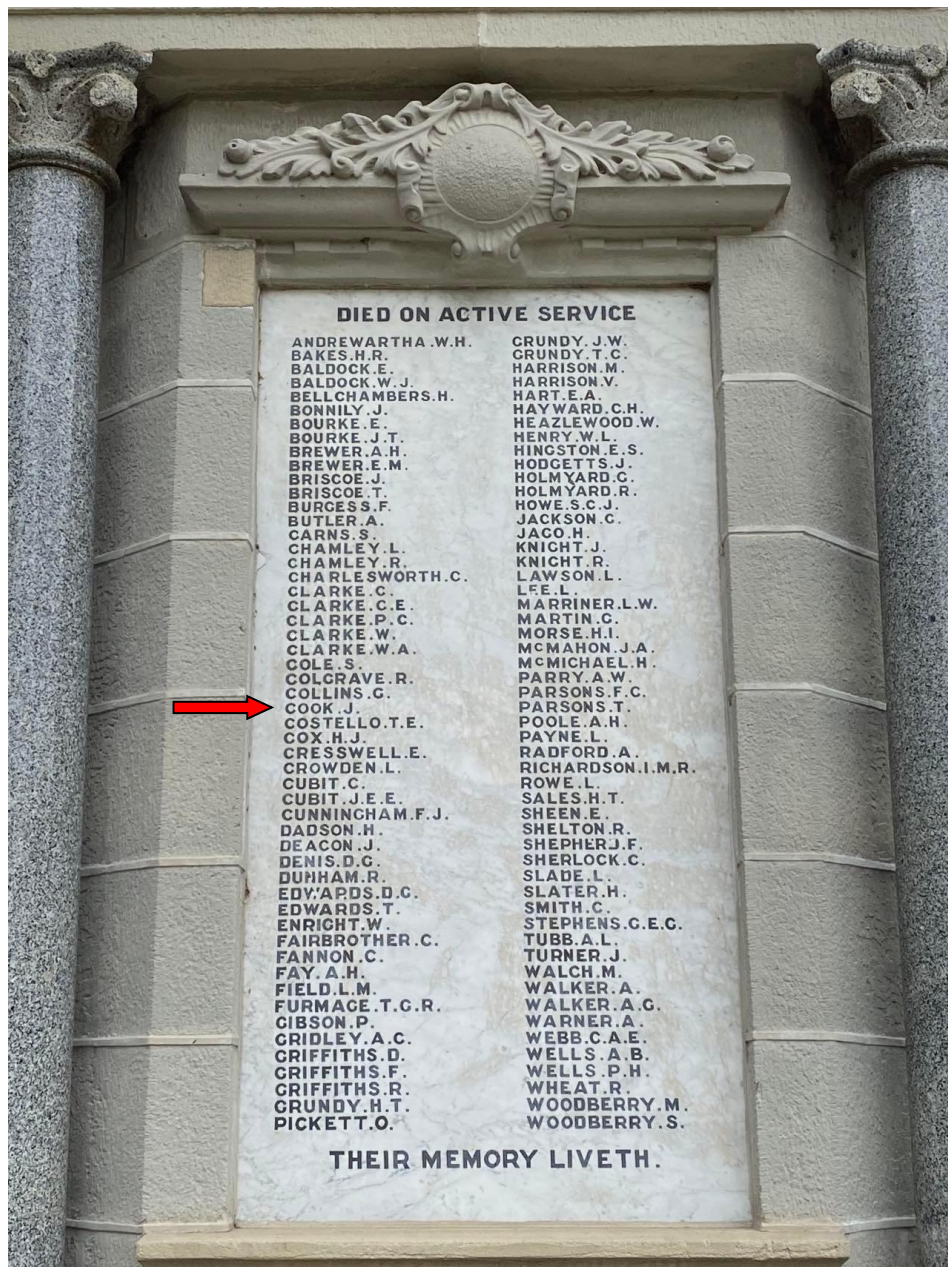
A War Pension was granted to Stanley John Cook, son (Ex-nuptial) in regards to late Private John Meyrick Cook in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 30th March, 1917 with Ivy Warren of Longford the Trustee (mother of Stanley John Cook). A War Pension was granted to Maida Beach Cook of "Moss Vale" Chudleigh, Tasmania, sister of late Private J. M. Cook in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 12th April, 1917. A War Pension was rejected for Cecil William Smith of "Moss Vale" Chudleigh – foster brother of late Private J. M. Cook on the grounds he was not a dependant. A War Pension was also rejected for Nellie Emma Cook, niece (ex-nuptial) of late Private J. M. Cook on the grounds she was not a dependant.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Meyrick Cook – service number 6866 as being 34 years old & served with 12th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas Knight Cook & Mary Cook.

J. Cook is also remembered on the Deloraine War Memorial (north-west face) located at Emu Bay Road & West Barrack St, Deloraine, Tasmania.



Deloraine War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Jennie Blake)



John Meyrick Cook is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania`s World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

1830	Sgt	Conna	John George	04.10.1917	23	NZEF WB	Glenorchy	674
33520	Pte	Clifford	Leslie Thomas James	25.09.1917	30	52nd Inf Bn	Hobart	1021
5067	Pte	Clifford	William James	12.10.1917	26	49th Inf Bn	Launceston	3682
803	Pte	Coburn	Charles Neville	07.07.1917	29	40th Inf Bn	Waratah	3285A
2545	Pte	Coghlan	Michael	18.10.1917	23	4th MG Coy	Wynyard	
371	Pte	Cole	Walter Rivers					
393	Cpl	Coles	David Henry	20.10.1917	23	10th Fd Arty Bde	Wilmot	6757
2555	Pte	Collins	Robert William	18.10.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Nabowla	1830
7300	Pte	Collins	Wivan Philip	30.10.1917	23	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	4316
3273	Pte	Collins	George James	18.04.1917	21	52nd Inf Bn	Deloraine	4790
6240	Lt/Cpl	Collins MM	Michael Henry	11.06.1917	42	13th Fd Coy Engrs	Burnie	384
6816	Pte	Collis	Albert Edward	21.09.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Launceston	393
(182)	Capt	Cottnell DCM MID	William Anderson	28.12.1917	33	12th Inf Bn, Boer	Launceston	34422
1507	Lt/Cpl	Cottnor	James Andrew	13.10.1917	25	3rd MG Coy	Epping	857
826	Pte	Cook	Leslie	13.10.1917	25	25th Inf Bn	Campbelltown	1973
2788	Pte	Cook	Percy	13.05.1917	25	57th Inf Bn	Hobart	6567
6866	Pte	Cook	John Meyrick	25.01.1917	34	12th Inf Bn	Caveside	2490
1065	Pte	Cooke	Robert Randall	03.03.1917	25	28th Inf Bn	Launceston	4326
1835	Pte	Combe	Maryn John	04.10.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Campbelltown	1218
2542	Cpl	Cooper	William Richard	12.12.1917	20	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	840
2819	Pte	Cooper	Edmund James	06.10.1917	23	12th Inf Bn	Seymour	4905
4038	Pte	Coole	Norman Isaac	12.10.1917	28	32nd Inf Bn	Queensland	842
6717	Sapr	Corby	Maurice Joseph	04.10.1917	25	8th Fd Coy Engr	Queensland	2346
(715)	2nd Lt	Cornell	Harold Gordon	11.12.1917	28	2 Sqn AFC	Somerset	4811
313	Pte	Cornwall	Robert Henry C	04.02.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Somerset	327
31442	Pte	Cosgrave	Harold John	28.09.1917	24	2Lt Trench Mirrilly	Launceston	6514
6822	Pte	Cosson	John Wesley	07.10.1917	21	12th Inf Bn	Mount Direction	6491
4774	Pte	Costello	Thomas Edward	05.05.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Kimberley	5712
1172	Sgt	Coutney	Wilfred John	11.04.1917	22	4th MG Coy	Bransholm	3046
5061	Pte	Cowall	William	11.04.1917	31	13th Inf Bn	Launceston	4523
4099	Pte	Cowall	Francis Alexander	22.08.1917	29	22nd Inf Bn	Wynyard	4328
2049	Pte	Cowan	Charles Watkin	23.07.1917	33	40th Inf Bn	Cygnel	1094
801	Pte	Cox	Claude Hamilton	04.08.1917	25	40th Inf Bn	Bridgewater	6281
153	Sgt	Cox	Charles William A	12.10.1917	32	40th Inf Bn	Wynyard	2030
800	Pte	Casal	Cyril Clarence	07.06.1917	24	40th Inf Bn	Queensland	1045
(814)	Lt	Cranwick	John Stewart	13.01.1917	20	40th Inf Bn	Stanley	4378
2327	Gnr	Crawford	Edward	21.10.1917	22	3rd Fd Arty Bde	Hopley	7427
6586	Pte	Croft	Arthur Williams	15.04.1917	24	4th Inf Bn	North Hobart	675
341	Sgt	Croft	Frederick Charles	08.05.1917	44	40th Inf Bn	Trowutta	3032
1839	Pte	Cross	David Owen	31.01.1917	28	40th Inf Bn	Bracknell	3277
1110	Pte	Crouch	Raymond	13.10.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	2593
15249	Pte	Crow	John Leslie	03.05.1917	19	25th Inf Bn	Caveside	6101
2312	Lt	Cullen	Linden Leslie	07.02.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	7026
T6313	Pte	Cummings	William James	12.02.1917	38	40th Inf Bn	Wilmot	6285
			Mortimer	13.07.1917	50	40th Inf Bn (Aust)	Forth	640
			Robert Wiseman	16.12.1917	45	6th Fd Arty Coy	King Island	ANZAC
			Francis Joseph	13.10.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Dunlop	1833
5877	Cpl	Cunningham	Arthur Edward W	08.10.1917	26	40th Inf Bn	Coppington	3600
160	Sgt	Curtin	Thomas Henry	06.10.1917	30	12th Inf Bn	Fingal	7287
828	Pte	Curtis	John	04.10.1917	27	40th Inf Bn	Songor	27857
817	Lt/Cpl	Dadson	Lionel Fleetwood	15.04.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	83516
185	Pte	Daley	Leslie	15.04.1917	28	12th Inf Bn	Wesley Vale	1029
6088	Pte	Darby	Martin	15.07.1917	35	38th Inf Bn	Franklin	641
5172	Pte	Darcy	Claude Stanley	04.10.1917	20	10th MG Coy	Wynyard	878
5880	Pte	Dart	John Thomas	10.04.1917	24	12th Inf Bn	St Marys	847
2231	Pte	Davern	Herbert James	07.10.1917	21	12th Inf Bn	Triabouna	ANZAC
4303	Pte	Davidson	George Edwin	03.10.1917	25	22nd Inf Bn	Claremont	1860
329A	Pte	Davidson	Gordon Raymond	06.10.1917	20	12th Inf Bn	Bothwell	ANZAC
2925B	Pte	Davie	John McLeod	03.01.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Elton	857
194	Pte	Davies	Cecil Harold	15.04.1917	32	12th Inf Bn	Huonville	ANZAC
395	Pte	Davis	Philo Douglas	02.05.1917	19	12th Inf Bn	Westbury	820
8884	Pte	Davis	Charles Arthur	03.07.1917	24	41st Inf Bn	Evandale	28141
3280	Pte	Davis	Albert William	05.05.1917	36	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	2587
3281	Pte	Davis	Francis Lempriere	07.06.1917	30	47th Inf Bn	Forest	2147
			Cyril Clive	06.12.1917	24	100th Fd Arty Coy	Scottsdale	ANZAC
1059	Pte	Dawes	Russell Harry A	20.07.1917	42	40th Inf Bn	Forest	ANZAC
89	Pte	Dawson	John William	09.01.1917	24	3rd Lt Horse Regt	Cressy	6287
310	Tpr	Dawson	Allan Roy	09.06.1917	29	49th Inf Bn	Breadalbane	ANZAC
3088	Pte	Dean	Harold James	06.10.1917	28	7th Inf Bn	Wynyard	1528
4768	Cpl	Deans						13159
752	Pte	Delaney MM	William Charles	30.09.1917	35	33rd Inf Bn	Darwest Park	849
2071	Pte	Denn	Laurence Joseph	12.10.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Uverstone	2611
1002	Pte	Derrick	John Walter	08.06.1917	29	52nd Inf Bn	Claremont	1168

1507	Lt/Cpl	Cottnor	James Andrew	13.10.1917	25	25th Inf Bn	Campbelltown	ANZAC
826	Pte	Cook	Leslie	13.10.1917	25	25th Inf Bn	Campbelltown	ANZAC
2788	Pte	Cook	Percy	13.05.1917	25	57th Inf Bn	Hobart	
6866	Pte	Cook	John Meyrick	25.01.1917	34	12th Inf Bn	Caveside	
1065	Pte	Cooke	Robert Randall	03.03.1917	25	28th Inf Bn	Launceston	ANZAC
				04.10.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Campbelltown	

Private J. M. Cook is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



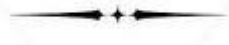
(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(63 pages of Private John Meyrick Cook's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Reports

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

PTE J. M. COOK, Caveside. – 25th Jan. 1917

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania - Friday 9 February, 1917)

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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)

A letter from Base records, dated 30th July, 1921, to Miss M. B. Cook (sister) reads : “.....It is noted you desire the Star of David inscribed on the permanent memorial, but I would point out that this is the emblem of the Jewish faith, and as the above named soldier is a member of the Methodist Church, it is thought you would prefer the Cross incised.”

Another letter from Base Records, dated 6th July, 1921, to Miss M. B. Cook advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription of the late Private J. M. Cook's headstone had not been answered.

Private J. M. Cook does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Durrington Cemetery contains burials of both wars. The 204 First World War burials were mostly from nearby Larkhill Camp. Many of the graves are of Australian servicemen and there is a separate Australian memorial in the cemetery. The Second World War burials number 22. In addition to the war graves, there are a number of post-war service graves in the cemetery, mostly of the Royal Air Force.

(Information from CWGC)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*

Photo of Private J. M. Cook's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)