

**Towcester Road Cemetery,
Northampton, Northamptonshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



664A LANCE CPL.

S. R. COOKE

41ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 33

Samuel Robert COOKE

Samuel Robert Cooke was born in Buckingham, Province of Quebec, Canada around 1885 to parents Henry and Nancy Cooke.

According to information provided by his brother for the Roll of Honour – Samuel Robert Cooke came to Australia when he was around 29 years of age.

Samuel Robert Cooke was a 31 year old, single, Labourer from (care of G.P.O., Brisbane, Queensland) when he enlisted on 6th January, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 664 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Daniel Cooke, Spooner, Wisconsin, United States of America. Samuel Cooke stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 weeks in Compulsory Camp at Toowoomba & had previously been rejected as medically unfit for His Majesty's Service.

Samuel Robert Cooke was posted to Depot Battalion as the rank of Private on 6th January, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Depot Battalion on 8th February, 1917. Pte Cooke was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 47th Battalion on 3rd March, 1917. He was transferred again on 23rd March, 1917 to Machine Gun Regiment & transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 11th Machine Gun Company at Seymour on 29th March, 1917.

Private Samuel Robert Cooke embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 21st June, 1917 with the 11th Machine Gun Company, 11th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 26th August, 1917.

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 Samuel Robert Cooke was marched in to 11th Training Battalion at Lark Hill, Wiltshire from Australia on 27th August, 1917.

Private Samuel Robert Cooke was transferred to 41st Battalion from 11th Machine Gun Company (Authority C.R. 24055(R)) on 27th August, 1917.

Private Samuel Robert Cooke was marched into 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 5th November, 1917 from 11th Training Battalion.

Private Samuel Robert Cooke proceeded overseas to France from Fovant, via Southampton on 27th December, 1917. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Rouelles, France from England on 28th December, 1917. Pte Cooke was marched out to his Unit from to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Rouelles on 30th December, 1917.

Private Samuel Robert Cooke was taken on strength of 41st Battalion in the field on 4th January, 1918.

Private Samuel Robert Cooke was re-allotted a new Regimental Number of 664A.

Private Samuel Robert Cooke was reported as being with his Unit in the field on 1st August, 1918.

Private Samuel Robert Cooke was appointed Lance Corporal on 1st September, 1918.

Lance Corporal Samuel Robert Cooke was wounded in action on 29th September, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 29th September, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to wrist then transferred to 41st Casualty Clearing Station. Lance Corporal Cooke was admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 2nd October, 1918. He was invalided to England wounded on 12th October, 1918.

9 Officers & 85 Other Ranks from 41st Battalion were listed as Casualties on 29th September, 1918.

41st Battalion

When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in blunting the drive towards the vital railway junction of Amiens.

The Allies launched their own offensive on 8 August 1918, and the 41st played an active role both in the initial attack and the long advance that followed throughout August and into September. The 41st participated in its last major action of the war between 29 September and 2 October 1918 as part of the Australian-American operation that breached the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion was out of the line when the war ended, and was disbanded in May 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Samuel Robert Cooke was admitted to Northampton War Hospital, Duston, Northamptonshire, England on 14th October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to right arm - amputated & his condition was reported as severe.

Lance Corporal Samuel Robert Cooke died at 10.15 am on 4th November, 1918 at Northampton War Hospital, Duston, Northamptonshire, England from wounds received in action – Shrapnel wounds to right arm & back, pyaemia & septic Peritonitis. The "Morning State of Sick" Army Form A. 27 recorded the following additional causes of death – "1. Syn. Knee 2. Influenza 3. Pneumonia."

A death for Samuel Cooke, aged 33, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.

Lance Corporal Samuel Robert Cooke was buried on 8th November, 1918 in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England – Plot number 446. 2. 17323 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Cpl. Samuel Robert Cooke - *Coffin was good with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full military funeral, firing party, bugler and pall bearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent by Nursing Staff & Hospital patients, Officers & Staff Barry Road, Aux. Hospital, Miss Mackinnel, Aust. Red Cross Rep. The Rev. G. R. Thorton, C.F. officiated at the graveside, and the "Last Post" was sounded. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives and Friends present at the Funeral – Wounded Australians, New Zealanders, Australian Red Cross Representative & Hospital Nurses.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Samuel Robert Cooke contains a letter from G. M. Stewart, Matron, Northants War Hospital, Duston, Northampton which reads: " *Pte Cooke, 41st Battalion, was admitted to this Hospital on Sept. 20th suffering from shrapnel wound of right arm, Flesh wounds in back – penetrating chest and shrapnel wound of right eye. His wounds were very severe and on Oct. 21st his right arm was amputated. His lungs and heart were also affected. He suffered terribly but everything possible was done to alleviate his suffering and although both Doctors and Nurses did their utmost to save him, it was all to no avail and he died at 10.15 am on November 4th. He was buried on Nov 8th with Military Honours at Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton. His grave adjoins those of other Australians.*"

A letter was sent to Base Records by E. Martin, 27 Washington Street, Essendon, Victoria, on 2nd December, 1918 asking for any information & the present address of Private Sam, R. Cooke, No. 664 if 41st Battalion, who enlisted in Queensland. Base Records replied on 9th December, 1918 regretfully advising that Pte Cooke was officially reported as having died on 4th November, 1918. E. Martin had previously written to Base Records in July, 1918 requesting the same information. Base Records had replied & advised that the postal address was "No. 664, Private Samuel Robert Cooke, 41st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, Abroad" & that there had been no recent reports for this soldier so it was assumed he was with his Unit.

Samuel Robert Cooke requested in his Will, dated 23rd May, 1917 that all his real and personal estate be bequeathed to his Brother-in-law – Alf Standen, 452 Jackson Street West Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Base Records contacted Mr D. Cooke, Spooner, Wisconsin, U.S.A. in May, 1921 stating that he was registered on the records as the next-of-kin of the late Lance Corporal S. R. Cooke but were asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself – “is his father and mother living, and has he any brothers older than yourself” due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mr D. G. Cooke replied stating that he was the eldest brother of the late Lance Corporal Samuel Robert Cooke, who was unmarried & both parents were deceased.

Lance Corporal Samuel Robert Cooke was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Cooke’s eldest brother - Mr D. G. Cooke, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

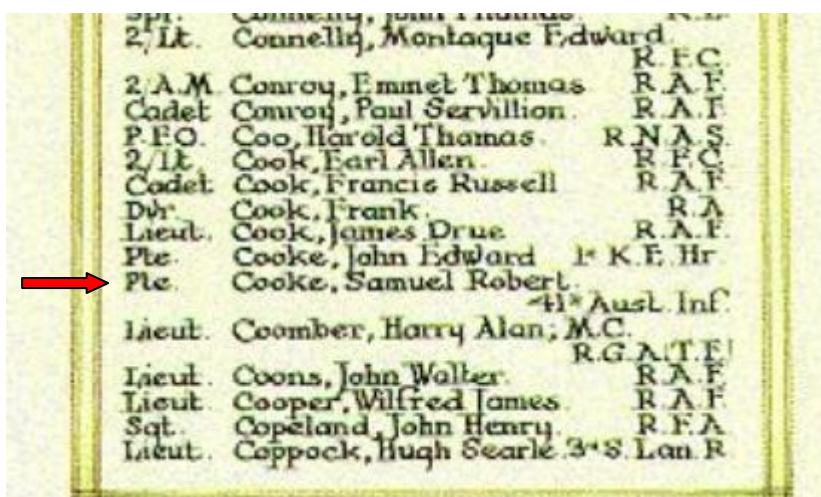
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Samuel Robert Cooke – service number 664/A, aged 33, of 41st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Nancy Cooke. Born at Buckingham, P.Q., Canada.

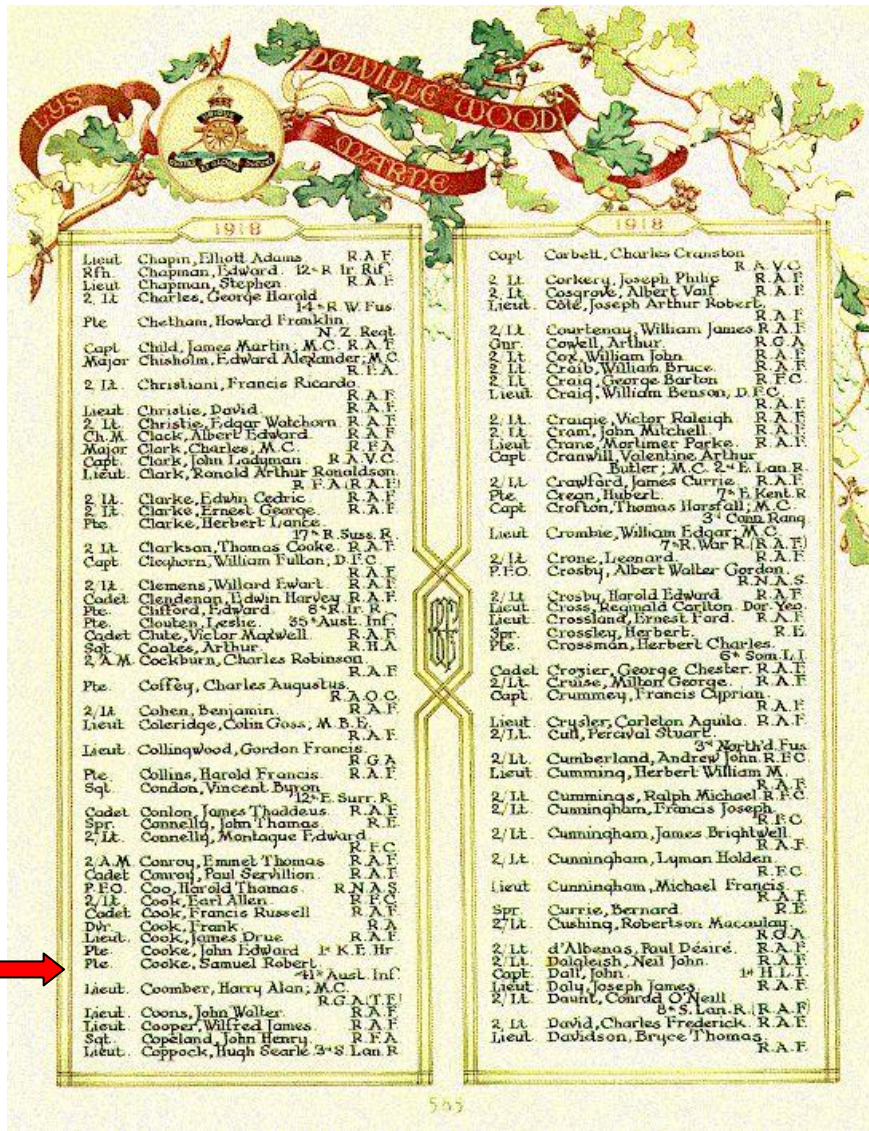
Lance Corporal S. R. Cooke is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Samuel Robert Cooke is remembered on the First World War Book of Remembrance for Canada (page 585).





First World War Book of Remembrance for Canada (page 585)

S. R. Cook is remembered on the Buckingham War Memorial, located on the northwest corner of Rue Maclaren E and Rue Charles, in Buckingham, Quebec, Canada.

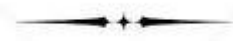




Buckingham War Memorial, Quebec, Canada (Photo by Bill F. G. Williams)

(64 pages of Lance Corporal Samuel Robert Cooke'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

QUEENSLAND VOLUNTEERS

SATURDAY'S AND MONDAY'S LISTS

The following men volunteered on Saturday:- Edward Hart, Brisbane; Edwin Bavister, Brisbane; Francis Harold Lawson, Brisbane; **Samuel Robert Cooke, Brisbane**; Thomas James Dwyer, Southport; Herbert Douglas Cantwell, Bundaberg; Joseph John Reeves, Brisbane.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 9 January, 1917)

CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 447

WOUNDED

S. R. Cooke, U.S.A.

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 28 November, 1918)

CASUALTIES

LISTS NOS. 450A AND 450

DIED OF WOUNDS

S. R. Cooke, U.S.A., 4/11/18 (prev. rep. wounded).

(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 7 December, 1918)

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)

Lance Cpl. S. R. Cooke does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England

Northampton (Towcester Road) Cemetery contains 116 First World War burials and 17 from the Second World War, most of which form a combined war graves plot to the left of the chapel. The cemetery also contains five non-war service burials and three Czech war graves.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton



Photo of Lance Cpl. S. R. Cooke's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.



(Photo from Great War Forum - Biffo)