

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,
Birmingham, West Midlands**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2588 CORPORAL

R. COOKE

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH DECEMBER, 1916

Richard COOKE

Richard Cook / Cooke (?) was born at Islington, London, England around 1876.

[Note: There is insufficient information to correctly identify Richard Cook / Cooke's parents or his inclusion on any of the England Censuses. Richard Cooke did list on his Attestation Papers that he had served in the Royal Navy.

The following information regarding the Royal Navy may be Richard Cooke who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force]

- A "Richard Cook" joined the Royal Navy on 30th July, 1894 on his 18th birthday. His date of birth was listed as 30th July, 1876 at Islington, Middlesex & he was a Labourer. Richard Cook joined for 12 years & was issued a number of 162234 (Chatham). He was rated as Boy 2nd Class then Boy 1st Class, moving up the ratings to Ordinary Seaman then Able Seaman & Leading Seaman. Richard Cook's Service sheet matches that he was serving in H.M.S. Wildfire (as Able Seaman) from 30th January, 1901 till 28th May, 1901 when he was transferred.
- The 1901 England Census recorded Richard Cooke as a 25 year old Seaman, listed as Crew on Royal Navy's H.M.S. Wildfire.

Richard Cooke was a 39 year old, single Labourer when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 31st May, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2588 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Lizzie Wright, 88 Barnsbury Road, Islington, London, England. Richard Cooke stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 15 years in Royal Navy.

Richard Cooke was posted to 8th Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 31st May, 1915 for recruit training & with rank of (Acting) Sergeant.

Private (as per Embarkation Roll) Richard Cooke embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on 16th August, 1915 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

Sergeant Richard Cooke joined 9th Battalion at Mudros on 18th November, 1915 from Reinforcements. He reverted to ranks on joining 9th Battalion from Reinforcements.

Private Richard Cooke was promoted to Corporal on 4th December, 1915 while posted at Lemnos.

Corporal Richard Cooke disembarked from *Grampian* at Alexandria on 4th January, 1916 from Mudros (after evacuation of Gallipoli).

Corporal Richard Cooke proceeded from Alexandria on *Saxonia* on 27th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916.

Corporal Richard Cooke was written up for a Crime - Drunk on 2nd April, 1916. He was severely reprimanded on 8th April, 1916.

Corporal Richard Cooke was wounded in action in France on 22nd July, 1916. He was admitted to 57th Field Ambulance on 22nd July, 1916 with shrapnel wound/s to right leg. Corporal Cooke was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred & admitted to No. 2 Canadian General Hospital at Treport on 25th July, 1916 with bomb wound/s to leg. He was transferred to England from Havre on 13th August, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Lanfranc* with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Leg.

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.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. It was split to help form the 49th Battalion and bought up to strength with reinforcements. 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. The 9th Battalion attacked on the extreme right of the line and it was during this action that Private John Leak won, with the bayonet, the battalion's only Victoria Cross.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary - 9th Battalion

22nd July, 1916 – For particulars of operations see attached report.

(Extract of Report on Operations carried out by 9th Infantry Battalion commencing 19th July and concluding 0400 25th July 1916)

...on 21st July orders were issued for the 1st Aust. Divn. To attack the enemy's defences surrounding the village of POZIERES on the night 22nd/23rd. The 1st Infantry Bde. Was allotted the left sector, the 3rd Inf. Bde. The right sector and the 9th Bn. was given the right flank of the 3rd Bde. Sector. Its objectives (two) were the enemy's front line trenches extending from X.5.b.2.0 to X.5.c.8.5 and his second line extending from X.5.a.8.6 to X.5.a.4.4. It was also given the task of driving the enemy from his two main trenches O.G.1 and O.G.2 as far as the railway line, parts of which were attacked the previous evening.....

The method of attack was as follows. During the day the artillery was to bombard the positions and just prior to the attack an intense bombardment was to cover the first objective for two minutes after which the fire was to be lifted and placed for 30 minutes on the 2nd objective.

....

The Bn. had now been fighting since the night of 20th. Strenuous hand to hand fighting with shells bursting everywhere the whole time both night and day. No sleep and sometimes for half an hour the helmets had to be worn on account of Gas shells. Everyone was absolutely worn out and nerve shattered but notwithstanding the indomitable spirit remained. The wounded were evacuated and the dead buried. The Bn. was relieved by the 17th Bn. of 5th Bde. At 0400 on 26th instant. Our casualties during the three operations were 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...."

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Corporal Richard Cooke was admitted sick to 1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham, England on 14th August, 1916. He had a compound fracture of lower third of the thigh.

A Progress Report was made on Corporal Richard Cooke – Improving (no date recorded).

An entry was recorded on 21st September, 1916 on Casualty Form – Active Service that Corporal Richard Cooke was admitted sick to General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham.

Corporal Richard Cooke's condition was posted regularly on the summary page in his Service Record file but the dates recorded are the dates that the information was received at Headquarters London.

- Seriously ill enquiring disability (London Rec. 27/9/16)
- Stationary (London Rec 5/10/16)
- Progressing favourably (Dated London 9/11/16)
- Improving (Dated London 21/10/16)
- Stationary (Dated London 2/12/16)

Corporal Richard Cooke died on 15th December, 1916 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England from wounds received in action in France – compound fracture femur.

A death for Richard Cooke, aged 40, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Birmingham, Warwickshire, England.

Corporal Richard Cooke was buried on 20th December, 1916 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – his name is remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 158 as he does not have a headstone.

Corporal Richard Cooke requested in his Will that in the event of his death all his money be left to Mrs Everest, Murwillumbah, NSW, Australia.

Two separate parcels containing the personal effects of the late Corporal Richard Cooke were sent to Mrs Everest, Murwillumbah, NSW.

Corporal Richard Cooke was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Cooke's sister – Mrs L. Wright, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal R. Cooke – service number 2588, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

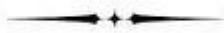
Corporal R. Cooke is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(32 pages of Corporal Richard 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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOR

The 194th and 195th Australian casualty lists were issued to-day.

Wounded

Corporal R. Cooke, England

(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Queensland – 18 August, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST NO. 233

ILL

Cpl R. Cooke, England (ser., prev. rep w'ded)

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 13 October, 1916)

The Roll of HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

240th LIST

QUEENSLAND

PROGRESS REPORTS

Cpl. R. Cook, England (prog. Fav.)

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 11 November, 1916)

The Honour Roll

CASUALTY LISTS 257 AND 258

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF WOUNDS

Cpl R. Cooke, England 8/12/16 (prev. rep. ser. III)

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 30 December, 1916)

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.

Corporal Richard Cooke does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



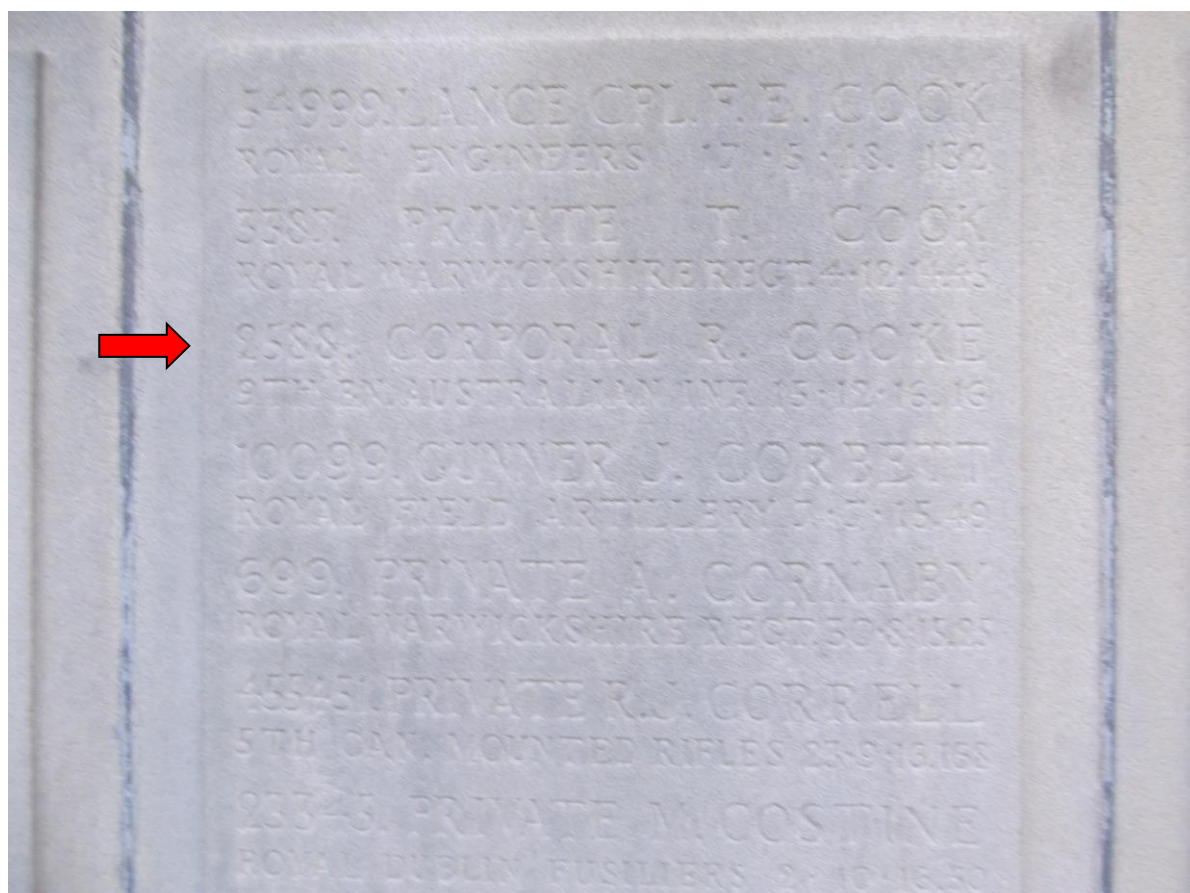
(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)



Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham (*Photos from CWGC*)



Photo of Corporal R. Cooke's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)





WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

Lodge Hill Cemetery

