

**All Souls Cemetery,  
Kensal Green, London, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2884 LANCE CPL.**

**A. J. HOOK**

**31ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**11TH MAY, 1917 Age 25**

*In Memory Of  
The Dearly Loved Son  
Mr & Mrs Hook  
Of Paddington*

## Arthur James HOOK

Arthur James Hook was born at Chelsea, London, England on 13th October, 1891 to parents Frederick James and Elizabeth Hook (nee Smith).

The 1901 England Census recorded James Hook as a 10 year old living with his family at 150 Kensal Road, Paddington, London, England. His parents were listed as Frederick Hook (Laundryman, aged 40, born Chelsea, London) & Elizabeth Hook (aged 39, born Chelsea, London). James was one of seven children listed on this Census (all born at Chelsea, London) – Frederick Hook (Van Guard, aged 16), Elizabeth Hook (aged 14), Florrie Hook (aged 13) then James, Ethel Hook (aged 8), Thomas Hook (aged 7) & William Hook (aged 3).

The 1915 Queensland Police Gazette Index recorded an “Arthur James Hook” as a discharged Prisoner.

The 1915 Queensland Police Gazette Index recorded Arthur James Hook, alias James Cook as a discharged Prisoner.

Arthur James Hook enlisted under the name of James Cook & stated he was a 22 year old, single, Station Hand from Blackall P.O., Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 26th October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2884A & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his step-brother – Fred Hook, 150 Kensall Road, Paddington, London, England.

Private James Cook was posted to “B” Coy, 8th Depot Battalion on 26th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to “B” Coy, 41st Battalion on 23rd January, 1916. Pte Cook was transferred to 25th Battalion, 10th Reinforcements on 22nd February, 1916. He was transferred to Reserve Company on 27th March, 1916 then transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 31st Battalion.

Private James Cook embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 14th April, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 31st Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Port Said on 16th May, 1916.

Private James Cook was written up for being Absent without leave at Tel-el-Kebir – on 13th June, 1916 – absent from 18.00 Parade. He was awarded 3 days Field Punishment No. 1.

Private James Cook was written up for being Absent without leave at Tel-el-Kebir – absent from 12.00 on 17th June, 1916 to 12.00 on 18th June, 1916. He was awarded 1 day C.C. (confined to camp) & forfeited 2 days' pay.

Private James Cook was written up again for being Absent without leave at Tel-el-Kebir – absent from 05.00 on 17th June, 1916 until 05.00 on 18th June, 1916. He was awarded 1 day C.C. (confined to camp) & forfeited 2 days' pay.

Private James Cook embarked from Alexandria on *Huntsend* on 20th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th June, 1916.

Private James Cook proceeded to join his Unit from 5th Divisional Base at Etaples, France on 22nd July, 1916. He was taken on strength of 31st Battalion in France on 23rd July, 1916.

Private James Cook was appointed Lance Corporal on 2nd February, 1917.

Lance Corporal James Cook was wounded in action in France on 23rd February, 1917. He was admitted to 45th Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd February, 1917 with shell wounds to scalp & a compound fractured skull. Lance Corporal Cook was admitted to No. 1 SM Casualty Clearing Station on 24th February, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train the same day. Lance Corporal Cook was admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France in 1st March, 1917. He embarked on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* from Boulogne for England on 2nd March, 1917 with gunshot wounds to head & right arm.

### 31st Battalion

The 31st Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane, in August 1915. Some of the battalion's companies, however, were also raised at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria.

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The 31st Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19 July 1916, having only entered the front-line trenches 3 days previously. The attack was a disastrous introduction to battle for the 31st - it suffered 572 casualties, over half of its strength. Although it still spent periods in the front line, the 31st played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.

In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line allowing the British front to be advanced and the 31st Battalion participated in the follow-up operations. The battalion subsequently missed the heavy fighting to breach the Hindenburg Line during the second battle of Bullecourt as the 8th Brigade was deployed to protect the division's flank.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 31st Battalion

22nd March, 1917:

*FRONT LINE – Enemy bombardment throughout day, being particularly severe at 4.30 am and again at noon. A gas shell in a salvo of 4 was repeatedly fired but no casualties.*

23rd March, 1917:

*FRONT LINE – Battalion relieved by 30th Battalion and moved back again to Intermediate Line, Relief completed by midnight.*

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

Lance Corporal James Cook was admitted to General Military Hospital, Edmonton on 2nd March, 1917 with gunshot wounds to head (severe) & right arm.

Lance Corporal Arthur James Hook (served as James Cook) died on 11th May, 1917 at Edmonton Military Hospital, Edmonton, England following an operation from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to Head & fractured skull.



**Military Hospital, Edmonton, England**

A death for Arthur J. Hook, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Edmonton, Middlesex, England.

Lance Corporal Arthur James Hook (served as James Cook) was buried on 19th May, 1917 in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England – Plot number 27, Section 213 Square, Soldiers Plot and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte A. J. Hook - *Coffin was good, Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Gun carriage provided by the London Command. Firing Party comprising members attached to the Administrative Headquarters Staff, A.I.F., London were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag and covered with many lovely floral tributes. Prior to the interment a Service was held in the chapel at the Cemetery by Chaplain Richard of the A.I.F. Relatives present at the funeral were Mr & Mrs Hook (Father and Mother) several sisters, and one brother of 150, Kensal Road, Paddington, and many friends were also present. Temporary Oak Memorial is to be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities. The Father of the deceased soldier selected the grave. It was explained to the father that Australian soldiers were buried in single graves and that the deceased could be exhumed from the common grave by arrangement with the Superintendent and be buried in a single grave. The father decided to leave the deceased in a common grave.*

Private James Cook, No. 2884A, requested in his Will, dated 1st November, 1916, that in the event of his death the whole of his property and effects be given to Mr Frederick Hook, 150 Kensal Road, Westbourne Park, Paddington, London, England.

Lance Corporal Arthur James Hook (served as James Cook) was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal A. J. Hook's stepbrother – Mr F. Hook, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in March, 1924).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Arthur James Hook – service number 2884, aged 25, of 31st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frederick James and Elizabeth Hook, of 150 Kensal Rd., Paddington, London. Born at Chelsea, England.

Lance Corporal A. J. Hook is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 118.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(49 pages of Lance Corporal James 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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **CASUALTIES**

#### **315th LIST**

#### **QUEENSLAND**

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

L-Cpl. Arthur James Hook, England, 11/5/17 (prev. rep, wounded).

*(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 25 June, 1917)*

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### **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. A. J. Hook does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son*

*Mr & Mrs Hook Of Paddington*

## All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England

All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green contains burials of both wars - 538. Half of the 482 First World War graves form a plot in the south-west section of the cemetery, the rest form small groups or are scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 5s Second World War graves are scattered. There are also 2 non war burials here. A screen wall in the First World War plot (Sect. 213) records the names of casualties of both wars whose graves could not be individually marked. Also recorded on the wall are the names of five servicemen whose remains were cremated in Kensal Green Crematorium.

*(Information from CWGC)*

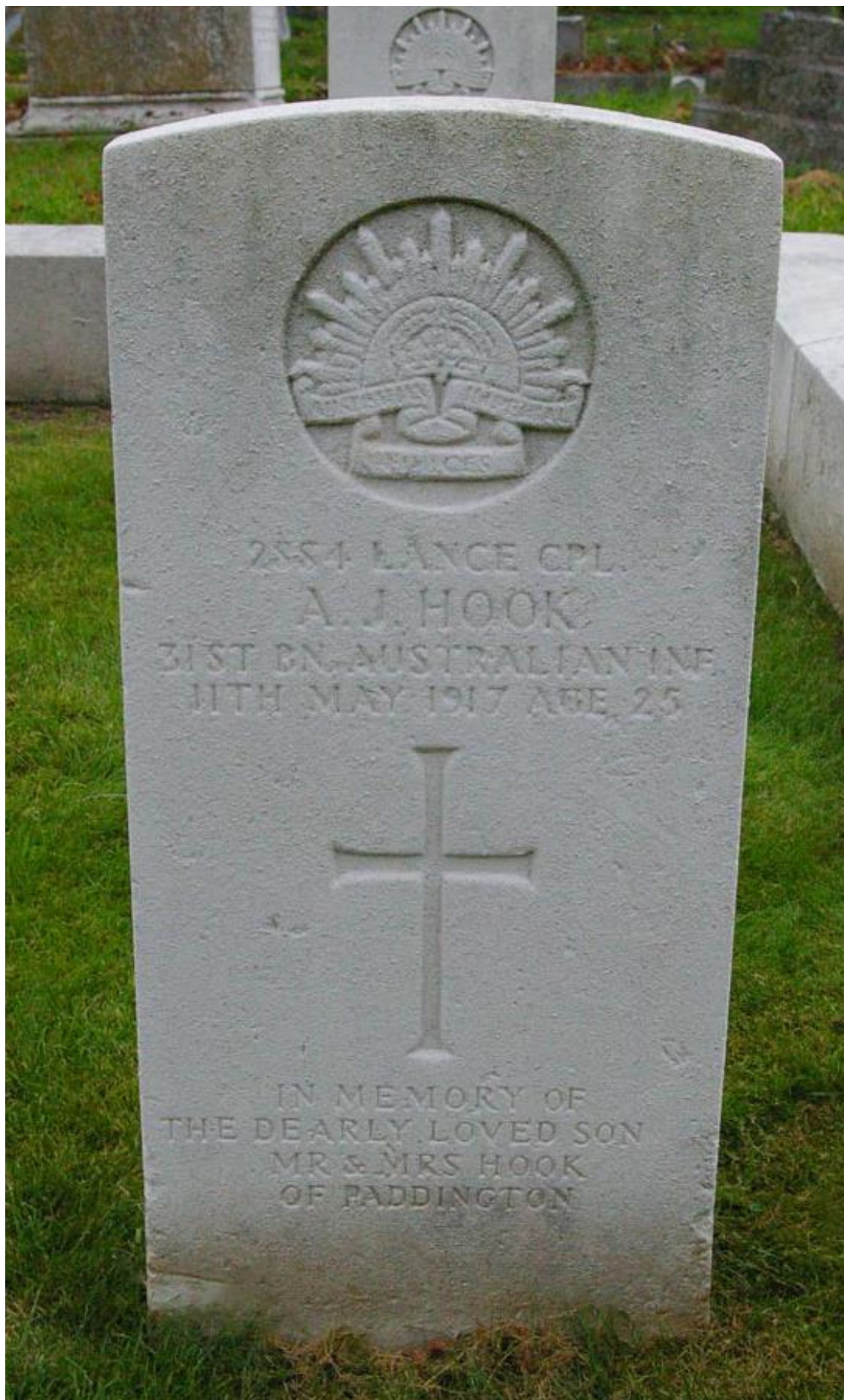


**All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green** *(Photo by Rodney Burton)*



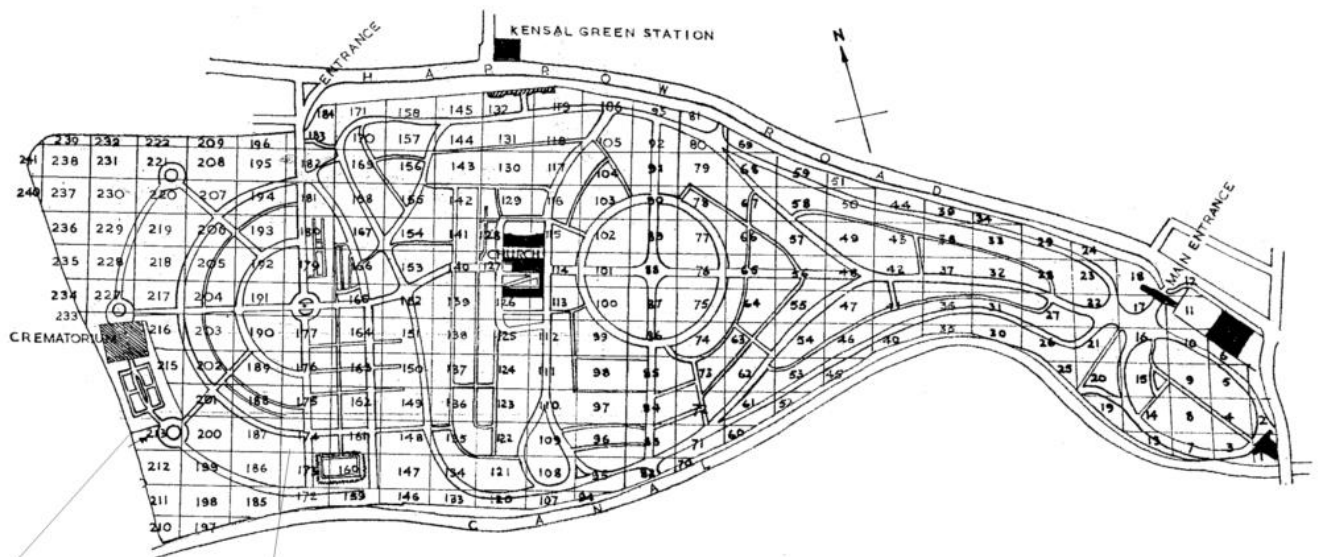
**Cross of Sacrifice - All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green** *(Photo by Chris Doran)*

Photo of Lance Cpl. A. J. Hook's (served as James Cook) Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, England.





All Souls Cemetery, Kensal Green (Photo courtesy of Francios Greeff)



Sect. 213 : Main U.K. and N.Z. Plot.  
 Sect. 173 and 174 : Main Dominion Plot