

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



740 SERJEANT

W. G. HOOKER

45TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH JUNE, 1917 Age 36

In Due Season

We Shall Reap

If We Faint Not

William George HOOKER

William George Hooker was born at Lambeth, London, Surrey, England on 24th September, 1880 to parents William & Lucy Hooker (nee Bird). He was baptised on 5th December, 1880 at St. Mark's Kennington, Lambeth, England. The family lived at 89 Wickham Street & William Hooker was listed as a Coach-smith.

The 1881 England Census recorded William G. Hooker as a 6 month old living with his family at 89 Wickham Street, Lambeth, London, England. His parents were listed as William Hooker (Locksmith, aged 37, born Isle of Wight) & Lucy Hooker (aged 39, born Lambeth, Surrey). William was the youngest of four children listed on this Census (all born Lambeth, Surrey) – Lucy Hooker (aged 11), Mariam Hooker (aged 8), Caroline Hooker (aged 7) & William.

The 1891 England Census recorded William G. Hooker as a 10 year old Scholar, living with his family at 49 Paradise Street, Lambeth, London, England. His parents were listed as William Hooker (Coach-smith, aged 47) & Lucy Hooker (aged 49). William was the youngest of four children listed on this Census – Mary Hooker (Dressmaker, aged 21), Mary Ann Hooker (Dressmaker, aged 19), Caroline Hooker (aged 17) & William.

According to information provided by his sister for the Roll of Honour – William George Hooker attended L.C.C. School, Walnut Tree Walk, Lambeth, London. He served in the South African War from March 1901 – September, 1902 & was awarded Medal with 5 clasps.

William George Hooker, aged 21, Billiard Cue Maker from 118 Royal Rd, Kennington, England enlisted on 5th March, 1901 in London for one year with the Colours. He was posted to XI Imperial Yeomanry, 112th with a Service number of 1975. Private Hooker was on Home Service from 5th March, 1901 until 5th April, 1901. He served in South Africa from 6th April, 1901 until 27th August, 1902 & was on Home Service again from 28th August, 1902 until he was discharged on 3rd September, 1902, having served for 1 year & 183 days for termination of his engagement.

The 1911 England Census record William Hooker as a 30 year old, single, Billiard Cue maker, living with his sister & brother-in-law in a four roomed dwelling at 21 Hazelbourne Rd, Balham, London, England. His brother-in-law was Charles Lehner (Salesman in Military Uniform business, aged 33) & his sister was Lucy Lehner. Charles & Lucy had been married for 4 years with no children.

According to information provided by his sister for the Roll of Honour – William George Hooker came to Australia when he was 31 years old & he was a Billiard Cue Maker.

William George Hooker was a 34 year old, single, Labourer from 118 Upper Ford Street, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Rosehill, Sydney, NSW on 30th September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 740 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Lehner, 144 Cavendish Road, Clapham Park, London, England. William Hooker stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 1 year & 6 months with Imperial Yeomanry.

Private William George Hooker embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 22nd December, 1914 with the 13th Infantry Battalion "G" Company.

Private William George Hooker proceeded from Alexandria on 12th April, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli.

Private William George Hooker was to be Acting Corporal at Gallipoli vice No. 721 Corporal Davies from 21st May, 1915.

Acting Corporal William George Hooker was to be Corporal from 11th June, 1915 while posted at Gallipoli – vice No. 785 Corporal Sutherland.

Corporal William George Hooker was to be Sergeant from 27th August, 1915 while posted at Gallipoli – vice No. 787 Sergeant Scott reported Missing then Killed in Action.

Sergeant William George Hooker reported sick on 17th November, 1915. He was transferred & admitted to St. Patrick's Hospital, Malta on 24th November, 1915. Sergeant Hooker was discharged to All Saints Convalescent Camp at Malta on 15th December, 1915. He embarked for Egypt on 20th December, 1915 fit for active Service. Sergeant Hooker rejoined his Battalion at Ismailia on 3rd January, 1916. He disembarked at Alexandria on 26th January, 1916.

13th Battalion

The 13th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. The battalion was recruited in New South Wales, and with the 14th, 15th and 16th Battalions formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The Brigade embarked for overseas in late December. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, it proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an AIF division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division.

The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC Cove late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915. From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the ANZAC front line. In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost, although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. The 13th also suffered casualties during the attack on Hill 60 on 27 August. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While in Egypt the AIF was expanded and was reorganised. The 13th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 45th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant William George Hooker was transferred from 13th Battalion to 45th Battalion & was taken on strength of 45th Battalion on 3rd March, 1916.

Sergeant William George Hooker was transferred to 12th Training Battalion on 14th May, 1916.

Sergeant William George Hooker was to be Acting CSM (W.O. Class II) from 4th July, 1916 while posted at Rollestone, Wiltshire, England. He reverted from Acting Warrant Officer on 18th July, 1916 to rank of permanent Sergeant while posted at 12th Training Battalion, Rollestone, Wiltshire, England.

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.

Sergeant William George Hooker embarked from England on 5th September, 1916 for France. He joined 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France from 12th Training Battalion, No. 11 Camp, Rollestone on 11th September, 1916. Sergeant Hooker was taken on strength of 45th Battalion in the Field on 22nd September, 1916.

Sergeant William George Hooker was recommended for the Military Medal for his bravery at Guedecourt between 23rd & 24th November, 1916.

War Diary – 45th Battalion

November 22nd:

Conditions normal during the day. At 5 pm two support companies relieved the two companies in the front line. After relief was complete and the two companies just relieved returning, enemy opened an intense bombardment just if rear of front line. He probably saw inter-company relief being carried out, and assumed we were massing for an

attack. Taking into consideration the heavy barrage our casualties were slight, being, Killed – 3 Other ranks Wounded – 7 Other ranks.

November 23rd:

Dug outs and kitchens being built. Ground cleaned in the vicinity of support trenches. Bodies which were found in the open were buried. Our heavy artillery considerably knocked about enemy trenches at N 20 d 48.

Casualties – Killed – 1 Officer (Lt H. Barter)

1 Other rank

Wounded – 11 Other ranks

November 24/26th:

Still holding line and improving same. Inter- company relief carried out on evening of 24th, Owing to rain on 25th improvement to area was considerably interfered with. Rain greatly damaged trenches which in many cases fell in. Men had a hard time being wet through but their spirit was excellent.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant William George Hooker was wounded in action on 23rd ** February, 1917. He was admitted to 45th Casualty Clearing Station in France on 22nd ** February, 1917 (** dates as recorded on Casualty Form – Active Service). Sergeant Hooker was transferred to Ambulance Train 21 on 25th February, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th February, 1917 with GSW (gunshot wound/s) left Knee. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Western Australia* on 17th May, 1917 with GSW Thigh & compound fracture Femur & embarked for England.

45th Battalion

The 45th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 2 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 13th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 13th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men from New South Wales.

As part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division, the 45th Battalion arrived in France on 8 June 1916, destined for the Western Front. It fought in its first major battle at Pozieres in August, defending ground previously captured by the 2nd Australian Division. After Pozieres the battalion spent the period until March 1917 alternating between duty in the trenches and training and rest behind the lines, first around Ypres in Belgium, and then in the Somme Valley in France.

The 45th Battalion was in reserve for the 4th Division's first major action of 1917 'the first battle of Bullecourt' and was not committed to the attack.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 45th Battalion

Gueudecourt – 22nd February, 1917 – 12 Midnight:

With the assistance of Stokes Guns under Capt Johnson and the 12th M.G.Co under Capt Sawyer. Our attacking party consisting of 1 Off (Lt L. D. Ferguson) and 2 bombing sections attacked and held the above position of the enemy's trench, capturing 32 prisoners and inflicting the following casualties on the enemy – 8 killed and 15 wounded. Our casualties were slight being 3 ORs wounded. In both the above attacks Camp H. C. HOWDEN, M.C., acted as O.C. attacking the front line and it was largely due to his energy, organizing ability and attention to detail that both attacks were successfully carried out. For further particulars see appendix 3 and 4. Casualties – 1 Off (2Lt Maiden, H) and 26 OR wounded. 1 Officer (2Lt R. L. G__ing) joined Bn from 4th O.T.C. New College, Oxford.

Gueudecourt – 23rd February, 1917:

Artillery was active on both sides. Our snipers were also very busy. NO MAN'S LAND actively patrolled.

Casualties 12 OR Killed 16 OR Wounded

Still holding the line. Situation normal.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant William George Hooker was admitted to 2nd London General Hospital, Chelsea, London, England on 17th May, 1917 with compound fracture of Thigh.

Sergeant William George Hooker had been placed on Supernumerary List on 23rd May, 1917 having been evacuated wounded on 23rd February, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Sergeant William George Hooker on 29th May, 1917 at 2nd London General Hospital. His disability was recorded as "G.S.W. L. Leg with compound fracture of femur & secondary infection of knee joint." The injury had occurred on 23rd February, 1917 in France while in action: "Lower lid of femur fractured. Knee joint became infected and was drained on 2nd April, 1917. Further incision was again made on 10th April, 1917." Sergeant Hooker's present condition was listed as "Knee joint is very much swollen and there is a free discharged of pus. X Ray shows a severe fracture just above the condyles of femur. Moving of leg and joint causes exceedingly severe pain." An operation was performed & the knee joint drained. The Officer in charge of the medical case recommended that Sergeant Hooker be discharged as permanently unfit. The Medical Board also agreed on 7th June, 1917 that Sergeant Hooker be discharged as permanently unfit.

Sergeant William George Hooker died at 2.20 pm on 12th June, 1917 at 2nd London General Hospital, Chelsea, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. leg (some forms have left leg listed, others have right leg)

A death for William G. Hooker, aged 36, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Chelsea, London, England.

Sergeant William George Hooker was buried on 15th June, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179414.

From the burial report of Sergeant William George Hooker - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party furnished by the South African Regiment were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by a member of the A.I.F. The coffin was shrouded with the Australian flag, and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes. The coffin was borne to the graveside by member attached to the Administrative Headquarters Staff A.I.F. Mr & Mrs Lehner (Brother-in-law & sister) of 144, Cavendish Road, Balham, Mr & Mrs Britton (Brother-in-law & sister) of 53, Grove Road, Balham & Mrs & Miss Lehner (friends) of 58, Buckingham Palace Road, were present at the funeral. Temporary oak cross to be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

A slip of paper in Service Record file for Sergeant Hooker reads : Buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery Plot 11, Row E. Grave 10. (In other instances in other Service Record files - Base Records wrote to the next of kin of the deceased soldier in 1923 stating that the site of their late relative's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot _ Row _ Grave _ , whereas at the time of burial the soldier's grave's were listed as a six digit number).

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. E. 10. Sergeant William George Hooker now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private William George Hooker requested in his Will dated 25th April, 1915 that in the event of his death the whole of his money due to him be given to his sister – Mrs Lehner.

The Public Trust Office, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 25th February, 1918 requesting a certificate in duplicate relating to 740 William George Hooker, 45th Battalion, late 13th Battalion; the address if the deceased prior to enlistment & the name & address of the person nominated as his next of kin.

Base Records replied to Public Trustee on 5th March, 1918 enclosing certificate in duplicate of report of death of the late No. 740 Sergeant W. G. Hooker, 45th Battalion. They advised his address prior to enlistment was 118 Upper Ford Street, Sydney, NSW & that his next-of-kin was Mrs L. L. Lehner (sister) 44 Cavendish Road, Clapham Park, London, England.

Sergeant William George Hooker was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Hooker's sister – Mrs L. Lehner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England (no date recorded).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant William George Hooker – service number 740, aged 36, of 45th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William & Lucy Hooker.

Sergeant W. G. Hooker is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 139.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(48 pages of Sergeant William George Hooker'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

STILL GALLIPOLI TALLY

ANOTHER CASUALTY LIST

The latest casualty list (No. 137).....

IN HOSPITAL

Sergt W. G. HOOKER, 13th Bn, England (in hospital, Malta)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 29 January, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST NO. 284

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Sgt W. G. Hooker, England

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 2 April, 1917)

THE 315th CASUALTY LIST

KILLED OR DIED OF WOUNDS

NEW SOUTH WALES

H. Sgt W. G. Hooker (England), p.r.w.

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 29 June, 1915)

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)

Sergeant W. G. Hooker does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Due Season We Shall Reap If We Faint Not

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.

Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Serjeant W. G. Hooker's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave - Wertypop)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

