

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**6303 PRIVATE**

**A. J. COOK**

**27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH MARCH, 1917 Age 28**

*The Lord Has Our Loved One*

*In His Keeping*

*Just The Other Side*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. J. Cook is located in Grave Plot # 227  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Alfred James COOK

Alfred James Cook was born at Moora, Western Australia in 1888 to parents Alexander Herman (Hermer) Cook & Martha Ann Cook (nee Liddelow). He was a 27 year old, single, Farm Hand from Watheroo, Western Australia when he enlisted on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 with the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 13<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6303 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Alexander Herman Cook of Barbarton via Moora Western Australia.

Pte Alfred James Cook embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Berrima (A35)* on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1917. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on the journey to England from 19<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 for a period of 7 days with influenza.

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.

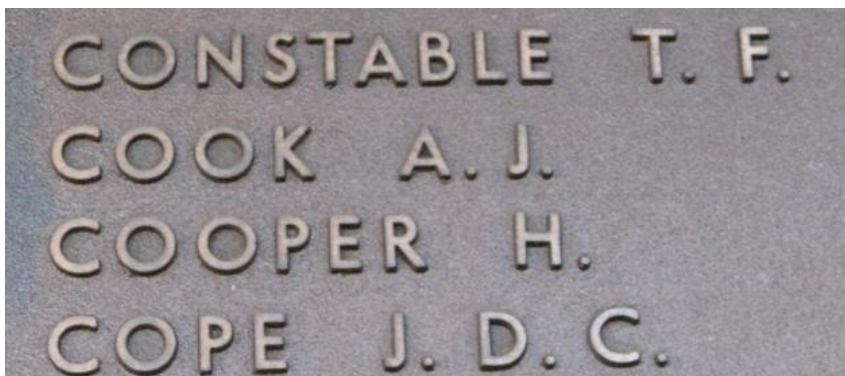
Pte Alfred James Cook was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 with Bronchitis & reported to be severe.

Pte Alfred James Cook died at 4.35 p.m. on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital of Broncho-pneumonia.

A death for Alfred J. Cook, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Alfred James Cook was buried on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 227 and has a Commonwealth War Graves headstone. From the burial report of Pte Cook – *Military Funeral. Coffin was Elm with black furniture.*

Private A. J. Cook is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 110.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

A. Cook is remembered on the Moora War Memorial located at Clinch Street, Moora, Western Australia.



*Moora War Memorial*

Pte Alfred James Cook was entitled to British War Medal only as he did not enter a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Cook's father – Mr A. H. Cook Barbarton, Moora, Western Australia (both sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred James Cook – service number 6303 as being 28 years old & served with 27th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alexander H. and Martha Ann Cook, of the Post Office, Moora, Western Australia.

(38 pages of Pte Alfred James 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*

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\* Herman Alexander Cook, younger brother of Alfred James Cook also enlisted on same day as his older brother & was given the service number of 6304. He was aged 22 when he enlisted & embarked with Alfred on HMAT *Berrima (A35)* on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916. Pte Herman Alexander Cook survived the War & embarked for Australia on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1919.

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## Newspaper Reports

### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **The Roll of Honour**

A. J. Cook, Barberton, seriously ill

*(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia Friday 6 April, 1917)*

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### **W.A. CASUALTIES**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Military District**

A. J. Cook, Barberton, died of illness, previously reported seriously ill.

*(The Daily News, Western Australia Tuesday 10 April, 1917)*

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## BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mrs. A. H. Cook, and Family of Havelock Moora, desire to THANK, all kin & friends for letters and expressions of sympathy in their sad bereavement in the loss of their son, Private Alfred James Cook, who died of illness while on active service.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia Saturday 28 April, 1917)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

COOK – In loving remembrance of our darling little Doris Harriett, who died February 29, 1908, aged 9 years; also our darling little Eva Janet, who died September 13, 1912 aged 8 years 11 months; also our dearly beloved son Private Alfred James Cook, who died March 28, 1918 at Fargo Military Hospital, England with bronchitis.

God has them in His Keeping,  
Just on the other side.

Inserted by their loving parents, sisters and brothers, Moora.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia Saturday 28 February, 1920)*

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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 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)*

Pte A. J. Cook does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*The Lord Has Our Loved One In His Keeping Just The Other Side*



Photo of Pte A. J. Cook's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)