

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**21501 FARRIER**

**T. H. COOKE**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**16TH AUGUST, 1916**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Farrier T. H. Cooke is located in Grave Plot # 100  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Thomas Henry Cooke

Thomas Henry Cooke was born in Helston, Cornwall, England in 1866, to parents Albert & Elizabeth Jane Cooke (nee Williams).

The 1871 Census for England recorded Thomas H. Cook as a 4 year old living with his family at Helston, Cornwall, at Mawgan Cross. His parents were listed as Albert Cook (aged 27, Agricultural Labourer) & Elizabeth J Cook (aged 27). Three children were listed – Alice Cook (aged 7), then Thomas & Richard (aged 3). Also listed was Ann Grassle a visitor (aged 25, Servant) & 1 month old Richard L. Gay (grandson)

The Cooke family travelled to Australia as Unassisted Immigrant passengers aboard *Samuel Plimsoll* arriving in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1878. The family consisted of Albert Cooke (Farm Labourer, aged 35), Elizabeth Cooke (aged 34) & their 3 children – Thomas H. (aged 11), William R. (aged 9) & Albert (aged 5).

A marriage was registered in 1894 in the district of Forbes between Thomas H. Cook & Lilian M. Moreland.

Births were registered in the district of Parkes, NSW for the following children with parents Thomas H. & Lilian M. Cooke –

- 1895 – Albert W. Cooke. A death for Albert W. Cooke was registered in 1896
- 1897 – Alice A. Cooke
- 1899 – Amy Cooke

Thomas Henry Cooke was a 43 year old, married, Farrier from Parkes, NSW when he enlisted on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 with the Brigade Ammunition Column of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 21501 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Lilian Maude Cooke of Currajong Street, Parkes, NSW.

Thomas Henry Cooke embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1916.

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.

Pte T. H. Cooke wrote to Captain Gill, letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1916, requesting to be transferred as a Farrier in the A. M. C.

Farrier Thomas Henry Cooke was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 with Influenza.

Farrier Thomas Henry Cooke died on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 in Fargo Military Hospital of Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas H. Cook, aged 46, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Farrier Thomas Henry Cooke was buried on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 100.

A War Pension was granted to Lilian Maude Cooke, wife of late Thomas Henry Cooke in the sum of £2: 3/- per fortnight granted from 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.

A War Pension was granted to Amy Cooke, daughter of late Thomas Henry Cooke in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 until 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1918.

Farrier T. H. Cooke is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 15.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

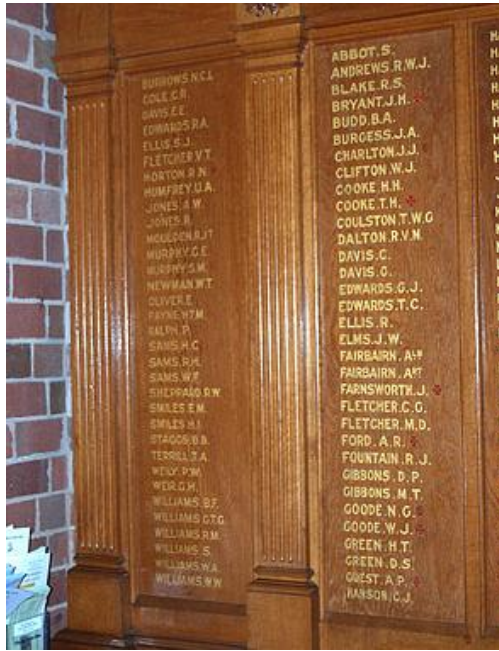
T. H. Cooke is also remembered on the Parkes R.S.L. Roll of Honour located at the R.S.L. Short St, Parkes.



(Photos from Register of War memorials in NSW)

T. H. Cooke is also remembered on WW1 Roll of Honour for St George's Anglican Church, Currajong St, Parkes.





(Photos from Register of War memorials in NSW)

Farrier Thomas Henry Cooke was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Cooke's wife – Mrs L. Cooke (April, 1922 & August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Farrier Thomas Henry Cooke – service number 21501 as having served with 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Albert Cooke, husband of Lilian Maude Cooke of Curragway St, Parkes, New South Wales. Born in Cornwall, England.

(47 pages of Farrier Thomas Henry Cooke'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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## Newspaper Reports

### **DEATH**

COOKE – AT Orange on the 24<sup>th</sup> instant, Elizabeth Jane, dearly beloved mother of T. H. Cooke, Currajong- street, Parkes. Aged 62.

(*Western Champion*, Parkes, NSW Friday 29 November, 1907)



## **BRIEF MENTION**

On Sunday last Mrs E J Cooke, mother of Mr T H Cooke, of Currajong Street, died at Orange aged 62. The deceased lady, who resided in this town for some 20 years, was well-known and highly esteemed by a large circle of Parkes residents.

*(Western Champion, Parkes, NSW Friday 29 November, 1907)*

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## **DEATH OF PRIVATE COOKE**

The sad news was received on Saturday of the death of Private T. H. Cooke, who enlisted with the "Boomerangs" and who had been for some time with the Australian Forces at Salisbury Plain, England. The deceased who was 51 years of age, was a native of Cornwall, but came to Parkes as a lad of 12 and had resided here ever since. He was a nephew of the late H. H. Cooke, the founder of the "Forbes and Parkes Gazette" and for some years one of the representatives of this part of the State in the Legislative Assembly. The cause of Private Cooke's death (which took place on August 15<sup>th</sup>) is stated to have been pneumonia. He leaves a wife and two daughters and also an adopted son, who is at present on active service. It will be noted that Private Cooke was considerably above military age, and one of his motives for enlisting was in order to accompany his adopted son. General sympathy is extended to the sorrowing relatives.

*(Western Champion, Parkes, NSW Thursday 31 August, 1916)*

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## **BRIEF MENTION**

We direct attention to the sale of household furniture and effects by Mr Os. Thomas, for Mrs. Thos. Cooke, at her residence, Currajong street, on Saturday, 12th inst. The late Mr. Thomas Cooke enlisted and died in England while in camp. A good sale will be most helpful to the widow and family and we hope that her friends will rally round and that bidding will be free so that her effects may turn in a substantial sum.

*(Western Champion, Parkes, NSW Thursday 3 May, 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 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)*

Farrier T. H. Cooke does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Farrier T. H. Cooke's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)