

# Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**1818 PRIVATE**

**J. E. COOK**

**42<sup>ND</sup> BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 1916 AGE 35**

*HE LIVED FOR OTHERS*

*FIRST, MOTHER*

*SISTERS & BROTHER*

*SECOND, COUNTRY*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. E. COOK is located in Front Row*

*Grave Plot # 7 of Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery*

Joseph Edwin Cook was born in Laidley, Queensland in 1880 to parents Joseph & Eliza Cook. He was a farmer, single & aged 35 years & 8 months from Thornton, Laidley, Queensland when he enlisted on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 1916 with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army. His Service Number was 1818 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother, Mrs Eliza Cook of Thornton, Laidley, Queensland. Joseph's father had died when Joseph was 14 years old & Joseph had remained at home with his mother & sisters until he enlisted.

*(The first page of his Attestation Paper has his age typed as 25 years & 8 months, however page 3 has his age handwritten as 35 years & 8 months)*

Pte Cook embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on H.M.A.T. *Boorara* (A42) on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area in the county of Wiltshire.

On 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1916, Pte Cook was marched into No 3 Command depot. On 17<sup>th</sup> November he was marched into 3<sup>rd</sup> Amal. Trg Btn 11<sup>th</sup> Camp at Hurcott, then marched out on same day to 11<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion Camp 13 Lark Hill, Durrington, Wiltshire.

Private Cook died of Broncho Pneumonia at Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire at 2 a.m. on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1916, aged 36. A death for Joseph E Cook was registered in the September quarter of 1916, in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. ( Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Pte Cook was buried at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery, Wiltshire on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Private Joseph Edwin Cook is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 135.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

Pte Cook is also remembered on the Laidley War Memorial located on Patrick Street & Whites Road, Laidley, Queensland.



Photos by Diane Watson

Pte Cook was entitled to British War Medal. Mrs Eliza Cook – mother of Pte Cook received a Memorial Scroll (July, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (July, 1922).

(39 pages of Joseph Edwin 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*

oooOOOooo

## **TOWN & COUNTRY**

*Mrs Cook, Thornton, Laidley, has received word from the military authorities that her son Private Joseph E. Cook (and nephew of Mrs Cook, Tolga) died on December 6<sup>th</sup>, at Larkhill Camp.*

(Cairns Post, Qld – Saturday 30th December, 1916)

## **PERSONAL NOTES**

*Mrs Cook of Thornton, via Laidley, has received word from the military authorities that her son Private Joseph E. Cook (and nephew of Councillor John Cook of Laidley) died on December 6 of bronchial pneumonia at Lark Hill Camp.*

(The Queenslander, Brisbane – Saturday 30th December, 1916)

oooOOOooo

## 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 Compton Chamberlayne 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 J E Cook does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte J. E. Cook's headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey