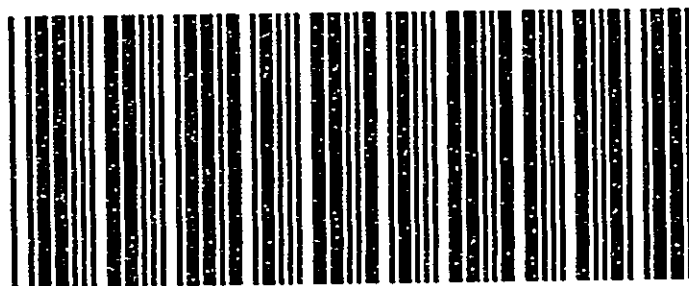


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing  
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War  
1DRL/0428

Lieutenant  
Leonard Charles  
Cooke

11th Battalion



0790906V

11th. A.I.F.

COOKE, Lieut L.C.  
H.Q.

Killed by shell 7.10.17. Det.D/B.

"Informant was close by when a shell burst in the dug out killing Lieut Cooke instantaneously. He was buried at Puchendelle and a cross was erected over the grave. 7th Oct. 1917."

Eye-witness:- Yes.

Description:- About 5ft.6 or 8. Dark.

Informant:- Pte. Alex. Sickley, 5053,  
11th A.I.F.  
D.Coy, XV Plat,  
Graylingwell Hospital,  
Chichester.

Home address:- Perth,  
West Australia.

19.8.18.  
L.M.S. Howard.

(SA)

FRANCE.

11th BATT. A.I.F.

COOKE. Lt L.O.

K. Oct 7th. 1917. Det.

He comes from Western Australia and his father is Mr J. Cooke. He was my signalling officer and was in a dug-out on Broodseinde Ridge during our attack in October. A 5.9 shell fell in the dug-out and killed four, including Mr Cooke, and wounded one who afterwards died. They were buried on the spot and our signal Sergeant when we were out at rest, put up a cross where they were buried. I was further back at the time it happened.

JNA.

Ref ---Cpl Fathers. 782. HQ. SIG.  
No 2 Can. Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. August 27th. 1918

(JA)

A.I.F. 11 Bat.

Lieut. Cooke, L.C.

K. Oct. 7/17.

We were in trenches in front of Anzac Ridge, at Passendale, in Oct. Cooke, Major Steele, and three signallers were in a dug out, when a shell came through the roof and blew them up.

All five were in pieces, and we could only recognise the Major by his stars, and Cooke by his face.

We dug the remains out and buried them in the side of the dug out in a shell hole.

Cooke came from near Northern, W.A. where his people are farmers; and I think he too had been on the land.

He used to be Sergt. with us, and was easily the most popular chap in the Coy.

His age was 27; short, stout, and dark.

Inf. Newman, L/C H. No. 447 A.

G.F.G.

Harefield

28/618.

(SA)

P

FRANCE.

11th BATT. A.I.F.

COOKE. Lt L.C.

K. Oct 7th. 1917. Det.

He was signalling officer. I was there when he was killed. He and Major Steele and Signaller Main and another man were together in a German pill-box on Brodseinde Ridge. The top of the pill-box had already been much battered by shells. A shell fell on the top of it and crashed the whole thing in on the top of them and killed them outright. They are buried close to the spot. When we had moved from there I sent up a cross which was taken to the place by the signal Sergeant. To find the place you go from Anzac House to Retaliation Farm and thence go across the swamp a little to the right and their place of burial is facing you on the near slope of Brodseinde Ridge below the top.

JNA.

Ref --- Sgt Fewster. 172.  
No 16 Gen. Hospital.

Le Treport. August 29th. 1918

(57A)

P. 217

31th Battn.  
A.I.F.

COOKE.  
Lieut. L.C.

"Killed 7-10-17"

In H.Q. At Glencorse Wood near Diekebusch on 7th Oct. He was in Pill Box with a runner and 3 Signallers. Early in the morning, shell burst on Pill Box and buried the party. I saw him after they had got his body out about 3 hours after it happened. Was not hit by shell, but badly ~~knocked~~ crushed by fall of concrete. All in the party were killed. Know nothing of burial. Came from Buxbury, Western Australia.

Informant: - Ste. O. G. Coleman. 2661.  
11th Battn. H.C.  
HARFIELD.

A.D.G.  
London.  
5-9-18.  
S.A.

P.