

CORPORAL JOSEPH COOK

Service Number: 201310

Enlisted: 1/4th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment formerly Leicestershire Regiment

Born: Twyford, Enlisted: Leicester

Died: Killed in action Friday, 2nd November 1917, Aged 31

Memorials: Gaza Military Cemetery, Palestine

Plot 15 Row C, Grave 12

Burbage War Memorial



Joseph Cook was born in Twyford, the son of William and Mary Cook and at the time of his death was living with his wife Sarah at Balls Lane (now Britannia Road), Burbage.

At the end of March 1917, Gaza was attacked and surrounded by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the First Battle of Gaza, but the attack was broken off when Turkish reinforcements appeared. The Second Battle of Gaza, 17-19 April, left the Turks in possession and the Third Battle of Gaza, begun on 27 October, ended with the capture of the ruined and deserted city on 7 November 1917.

Corporal Joseph Cook was killed on 2nd November 1917, five days before the end of Third Battle of Gaza.

Some of the earliest burials were made by the troops that captured the city. About two-thirds of the total were brought into the cemetery from the battlefields after the Armistice. The remainder were made by medical units after the Third Battle of Gaza, or, in some cases, represent reburials from the battlefields by the troops who captured the city.



Gaza Military Cemetery

Corporal Joseph Cook, Gaza Military Cemetery

Reported in the Hinckley Times:

“Mrs Cook of the Horsepool, Burbage, has received the sad official news that her husband, Corporal Joseph Cook, was killed in action in Palestine on November 2nd.”

Previously, Joseph on the outbreak of the war he was called up as a reservist and went out to France in September 1914. In May 1915, he was invalided home, wounded. In January 1916 he was transferred to the Northampton and was sent out to Egypt.

Had he lived 2 more days he would have been a time-expired man, having completed 13 years service with the Colours. He was 31 years of age and previous to the outbreak of war worked for Messrs. Moore, Eady and Co. of Burbage”.



Turkish Camel Corps at the Third Battle of Gaza, October 1917



Windsor Street with the Barracks in the background, the former premises of Moore, Eady & Co.