

PRIVATE GEORGE ARTHUR COOKE

Service Number: 40706

Enlisted: 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

Died: Died of wounds: Thursday 18th April 1918, Aged 20

Memorials: Lijssentheok Military Cemetery Plot 27 Row G Grave 3

Burbage War Memorial



George Arthur Cooke, known as Arthur, was born in Thurlaston 1898, the son of George and Clara Cooke, (late of 8 Grove Road, Burbage), the eldest of three children. The family moved to Burbage around 1905 firstly living at 62 Church Street, Burbage. His father was employed as a domestic coachman to one of the wealthy families in the village. His father later became a hatter in a local factory. At the age of 13 George left school and was employed as a runner in one of the local hosiery factories. When the war started in August 1914 George was still employed in hosiery, but on 23rd November 1914, he enlisted in the army.

Arthur would have been under the age of enlistment aged only 16. Col. H P Atkins signed the certificate of enlistment. Col. Atkins was a very respected man in Hinckley and it is surprising that he would have recruited a boy so young. After basic training it is presumed that Arthur served with the 'Leicesters' until

1918. In April 1918 the 1st battalion the 'Leicesters' were sent to the Ypres area and Arthur would have seen heavy action in that area.

Sometime during the fourth battle of Ypres Arthur was badly wounded. He survived to be taken to the ambulance clearing station near the village of Lijssentheok. This was set up to be near the front of the battlefield but out of range of the German artillery. Unfortunately, he could not be saved and died on the Thursday after the fourth battle. Many of the casualties were buried at the Lijssentheok Cemetery which is the second largest in Belgium having 10121 graves.

Harold, Arthur's younger brother, was born 4 days after war was declared on the 7th August 1914. After the war, when the Burbage War Memorial was unveiled in 1921, the six-year-old Harold, carried a wreath in memory of his older brother, a brother he hardly knew.



Grove Road, Burbage.

8 Grove Road (1st Cottage on left)

BURBAGE FALLEN OF WORLD WAR I



Unveiling the Burbage War Memorial



Lijssestheok Military Cemetery



BURBAGE FALLEN OF WORLD WAR I

Transcript - Census of England & Wales, 1911						
Address:	<i>62 Church St Burbage Hinckley</i>					
Name	Relationship	Age	Male/ Female	Marriage Status	Occupation	Birth Location
<i>George Cooke</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Coachman Domestic</i>	<i>Ilmington, Warwickshire, England</i>
<i>Clara Cooke</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Married</i>		<i>Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, England</i>
<i>Arthur Cooke</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Male</i>		<i>Hosiery Worker Runner On</i>	<i>Thurlaston, Leicestershire, England</i>
<i>Emily Cooke</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Female</i>		<i>At School</i>	<i>Thurlaston, Leicestershire, England</i>

1911 Census – 62 Church Street, Burbage