

Private George Arthur Cooke 40706

1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

Died of wounds Thursday 18th April 1918.

Age 20

Lijssentheok Military Cemetery Plot 27 Row G Grave 3

Son of George and Clara Cooke.

8 Grove Road, Burbage.

George Arthur Cooke (known as Arthur) was born in Thurleston 1898. The eldest of three children. The family moved to Burbage about 1905 firstly living at 62 Church St 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 the hosiery, but on the 23rd November 1914, he had enlisted in the army. He would have been under the age of enlistment age only 16. Col. HP 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.



Grove Road, Burbage.

8 Grove Road (1st cottage on left)

After basic training it is presumed that George served with the Leicester's through until 1918. In April 1918 the 1st battalion the Leicester's were sent to the Ypres area and George would have seen heavy action in that area.

Sometime during the fourth battle of Ypres George was badly wounded. He survived to be taken to the ambulance clearing station near the village of Ijssenthoek. 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 Ijssenthoek cemetery which is the second largest in Belgium having 10121 graves.

After the war when the Burbage war memorial was unveiled in 1921, Harold, Georges younger brother who had been born after he had enlisted carried a wreath in memory of his older brother he hardly knew.



At the Unveiling of the War Memorial at Burbage,
on Saturday, February 26th, 1921.