



## COOK, ARTHUR

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Private

Regiment: Bedfordshire Regiment 2nd Battalion.

Age: 35

Killed in Action Date of Death: 18/09/1918

Service No: 35891

In August 1914 : The 2nd Battalion was in Pretoria, South Africa. Returned to England and landed at Southampton 19 September 1914. At this date it was attached to 21st Brigade, 7th Division.

On the 19 December 1915 : moved with the Brigade to 30th Division, and transferred to 89th Brigade. 11 February 1918 : transferred to 90th Brigade, 30th Division. 22 May 1918 : transferred to 54th Brigade, 18th Division. His Battalion had been in action in late August in the Battle of Albert & the capture of Combles on the 29th August 1918. He appears to have died in the battle to recover ground previously lost the preceding March during the Battle of Spehy- Ronssoy on September 18th 1918. The following is an extract from the War Diary:-

*The Battalion remained in huts near Leuze Wood till September 16, when it embussed and went to a wood west of Aizecourt-Le-Bas, prior to taking part in the operations near Ronssoy in connection with a breaking of the Hindenburg Line.*

*At dusk on the 17th the Battalion moved to assembly positions west of Ronssoy. The Brigade plan was that the 7th Royal West Kents, who had been attached to our Brigade, were to advance eastwards and capture a line roughly two miles ahead. We were to follow, and in conjunction with the 24th Welsh Division on the right were to "attack, capture and consolidate the southern portion of the village of Ronssoy". The other two battalions of our Brigade, as soon as we had got to our objectives, were to form up to right angles to our advance and attack northwards.*

*At 5.20 a. m. the assault began; in the darkness the 7th Royal West Kents drifted slightly to the right, so that our leading companies, who were following in support, became involved in the fighting. Captain Gott's company specially distinguished itself by clearing a spinney where three machine-guns and 30 prisoners were captured and many killed. From here the leading companies were in touch with the enemy, and consequently were somewhat exhausted and reduced in strength on arrival at our correct jumping-off line.*

*The Battalion attacked in square formation, with C Company on the left and B Company on the right in front line, 2nd Tank Battalion, were of the greatest help in the village. .\*\*\**

*It was rather hard to count the exact number of prisoners we captured, as many were mopped up in conjunction with the 8th East Surrey Regiment, who passed through us at their zero hour. But it is estimated that our capture were about 400 Boche, 30 machine guns, 5 anti-tank rifles and 3 trench mortars.*

*Our parapet strength on the 18th (i. e. those who actually took part in the assault) is shown as 19 officers and 540 other ranks, and our casualties were 9 officers wounded, and among the other ranks 23 killed, 90 wounded and 6 missing\*\*\*\*\**

Arthur was one of the 23 killed.

His service number indicates that he only qualified for the war and victory medals i.e. he went overseas after 1/1/1916. In fact he is thought to have joined up in 1916.



| Name.                          | Corps.     | Rank  | Regt. No. |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------|-----------|
| COOK.<br>Arthur.               | Bedf. R    | Pte   | 35891     |
| Medal.                         | Roll.      | Page. | Remarks   |
| VICTORY                        | K/104 B/11 | 759   |           |
| BRITISH                        | do         | do    |           |
| STAR                           |            |       |           |
| Theatre of War first served in |            |       |           |
| Date of entry therein          |            |       |           |

He was born in Fingringhoe. Enlisted at Warley Barracks. Husband of Kate Ellen Cook, of 17, Charles St., Colchester. Before joining up he was employed at the Sanitary Authority's yard in Osborne Street. The 1901 Census for the Cook family shows :- Arthur Cook, aged 18 born in Fingringhoe & living in Colchester, working as an Agricultural Labourer. He is shown with a brother, Frederick Cook aged 20 born Fingringhoe living Colchester working as a Bricklayer's Labourer. Another brother John Walford Cook was killed, while serving in the ASC when the troopship *Royal Edward* was torpedoed in 1915.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: IV. A. 13.

Cemetery: STE. EMILIE VALLEY CEMETERY, VILLERS-FAUCON

Villers-Faucon was captured by the 5th Cavalry Division on 27 March 1917, lost on 22 March 1918, and retaken by the III Corps on 7 September 1918. On the site of this cemetery at the Armistice, there were three large graves of Commonwealth soldiers buried by the Germans, which now form part of Plot I. The remainder

of the cemetery is composed almost entirely of graves brought in from an older cemetery of the same name or from the battlefields. A large proportion of these concentrated graves were those of soldiers of the 16th (Irish) Division who died in March 1918. Ste. Emilie Valley Cemetery contains 513 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. 222 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 21 casualties believed to be buried among them. There are also ten German burials in the cemetery. The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.



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#### OTHER MEMORIALS Colchester Town Hall



*THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ABBERTON, EAST DONYLAND, FINGRINGHOE ,LANGENHOE*