

First World War Service Record of Alan Welldon Cooke

The following is from the National Archives WO 339/2039

✓ Register No. 2966/7
(Accts 4.)

Extract from ✓ Letters of Administration (Will annexed).
Probate of Will.
Confirmation.---

✓ Dated 5th June 1919

✓ Granted at P.P.R.

Resealed _____

- ✓ 1. Estate of Alan Welldon Hands Cooke of Aldenham School Elstree in the
Co of Hertford Capt: 22nd Durham L.I.
- ✓ 2. Date and Place of Death 24th March 1918 near Monchy in France killed in action
- ✓ 3. Will *Formal June 27th 1915.*
- ✓ 4. Grantees the Rev: Alfred Hands Cooke clerk father of deceased one of
the Executors named in the said Will. Power reserved to the
other Executor
- ✓ 5. Gross Value £ 1509.5.5.
- ✓ 6. Disposal of Medals } *15th British Lyril*
" Decorations }
- ✓ 7. Extracted by) Messrs Broad & Riggall,
Solicitors,
Barclays Bank Chambers,
High St.,
Watford.
8. Produced by)
9. Returned to)
10. Date of Registration 5.9.19. *28/9/19.*

7 Mar. 1919

Aldenham School,
Elstree, Herts.

Dear Mr. Capper,

I am very much obliged to you for your kind letter. My action in writing to Mr. Eade was, I feel, irregular. But as Mr. Casanelli's Dept. treated my letters with contempt, I was bound to do something. For I do not think that the Headmaster of a School, which has sent 900 boys into the war, deserves contemptuous treatment when his own son is killed.

You tell me that a decision of the D.O. forbids the presumed death of my son being officially announced. On what principle does that decision rest? It is not, I think, unreasonable to expect that when an officer has given his life, official justice shall be taken of the fact, & publicly given. Why does the W.O. come down with a decision that, because no one happened to see the poor lad fall, therefore no further intimation shall be given of the fact that he has fallen?

That is the question to which I am still seeking an answer. And if you can give it to me, I shall feel very grateful.

Yours very truly
(Rev. Dr.) A. W. Jooke

FOR INFORMATION ONLY. NOT TO BE COMMUNICATED OUTSIDE THE WAR OFFICE.

Ext. Nos. X. 94775. X. 94776. & X. 94777.

Extract. No. X. 94775.
2968/7.

Major A. W. H. Cocke, 22nd Bn. Durham Light Infantry Reported "Wounded and Missing 24th March, 1918" on List No. C.1521.

No further information has been received, and in view of the lapse of time since he was reported Missing, his death has now been accepted for official purposes as having occurred on or since 24th March, 1918.

Extract No. X. 94776.

Form M.T. ✓
393

This Form is to be used for a candidate who is neither a cadet or ex-cadet of the Senior Division, Officers Training Corps, nor a member of a University. Form M.T. 392 should be used for an Officers Training Corps (Senior Division) University candidate.

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO A TEMPORARY COMMISSION IN THE
REGULAR ARMY FOR THE PERIOD OF THE WAR

The candidate will complete the following particulars and obtain certificates below as to character and educational qualification.

1. Name in full { Surname. Christian names.	Cooke Alan Weldon Hands ✓
2. Date of birth.	15 th Oct: 1886 ✓
3. Whether married.	No ✓
4. Whether of pure European descent.	Yes ✓
5. Whether a British born or a naturalized British subject.	British born ✓
6. Permanent address.	Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts.
7. Present address for correspondence.	Chy des dale, Priory Rd: , Malvern
8. Whether now serving, or previously served, in any other Government Department (Home, Indian, or Colonial). If so, give particulars.	No
9. Whether able to ride.	No

Accepted candidates will be gazetted to a general list. They may, however, be

10. The Branch of the Service (Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Infantry, or Army Service Corps) in which desirous of serving

Infantry

11. The unit (if any) to which desirous of being appointed

but no guarantee can be given that they will be appointed to any particular unit.

I certify the above statement to be correct, and I request that I may be appointed to a commission in the Regular Army for the period of the war.

Date Nov: 25th 14

Signature of parent or guardian, if the candidate is under 21 years of age

A. W. H. Cooke
Usual Signature of

Certificate of moral character during the past four years. If the candidate has been in a college, or other educational establishment during any portion of the period the certificate should be signed by the head of the establishment, otherwise it may be signed by a responsible person (near relative or connection), e.g., the minister of the parish or other local clergyman, or a senior officer of the Army or Navy who has been well acquainted with the candidate's life during the period.

If the above-mentioned person cannot certify for the whole period of four years, a certificate for the period not covered by the first should be signed by a similar person.

I hereby certify to the good moral character of A. W. H. Cooke
for the last 4 years

Signature

†Rank, office or occupation

Date Nov 25

Address

School House, Malvern College

To be filled in when the above certificate does not cover four years.

I hereby certify to the good moral character of

from

to

Signature

†Rank, office or occupation

Date

Address

Evidence that the candidate has attained a good standard of education.

If the candidate has:—

(a) obtained a leaving or qualifying certificate as required of a candidate for admission to the Royal Military College under the regulations in force up to 1st April, 1912. Certificate should be attached;

(b) qualified at an Army Entrance Examination, the date of examination should be stated.

(c) passed the matriculation examination of a University, or a test accepted in lieu thereof. Certificate should be attached.

Failing one of the above, the following certificate must be signed by the Headmaster of a secondary school or other competent educational authority.

I certify from personal knowledge that

A. W. H. Cooke

has attained

State here educational position, e.g.,
Head of a College or School, etc.

Headmaster, Malvern College

†Here state whether Tutor, Head of School or College, Minister of Parish or other local clergyman, or Magistrate, etc.

CONFIDENTIAL

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

held at Bedford on 26th 2. 16
 order of the G. O. C. in C Eastern Command
 the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of
 (Rank and Name) 2/Lieut A.W.H. Cooke (Corps) 13/ Worcester Reg
 Age 29 Service 1 2/12 Disability Gastritis Debility
 Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability 4. 12. 15.
 Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability _____

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

This officer is improving in health but is still very weak and unfit for any work.
Medical Certificate herewith.

Address :- Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts

If Unfit for General Service at home is he fit for light duty at home?
 If not so fit how long is he likely to be unfit for light duty at home?

The opinion of the Board upon the questions herein is as follows:—

- (1) a. Is the officer fit for "General Service"? No.
 b. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit? Two months
- (2) a. If unfit for General Service, is he fit for service at home? No
 b. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit for service at home? One month
- (3) Was the disability contracted in the service? Yes
- (4) Was it contracted under circumstances over which he had no control? Yes
- (5) Was it caused by military service? Yes
- (6) If caused by military service, to what specific conditions is it attributed? Action Service Conditions

Signatures

G. H. Poynder President.
Lt Colonel R.A.M.C.R.P.
R. Brown Members.
Captain R.A.M.C.S.R.

17. 2. 16

MB 954/16
28 FEB 1916

RAVEN DENE.

STANMORE.

Lieut. Alan W. H. Cooke is still suffering from the effects of the severe attack of dysentery contracted in Gallipoli - He gets very easily tired - is below his normal weight - his pulse is irregular at times in Rhythm & strength, & his temperature persistently low - At present he is unable to make any but the very slightest physical exertion without distress - I consider that he is at present too debilitated to resume even the lightest military duty

R. Lushington
M.D. my L.R.C.P.

- (2.) a. If unfit for General Service, is he fit for service at home?
b. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit for service at home?
- (3.) Was the disability contracted in the service?
- (4.) Was it contracted under circumstances over which he had no control?
- (5.) Was it caused by military service?
- (6.) If caused by military service, to what specific conditions is it attributed?
- Active Service

CONFIDENTIAL

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

2968
498673
27 JAN 1916
4 DEC 1915
Assembled at Caxton Hall S.W
Order of G.O.C. London District
for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of
(Rank and Name) 2nd Lt. A.W.H. Cooke (Corps) 13/Worcesters (Lt 52)
Age 29 Service 1 Disability g. stritis Reliability
Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability 4 DEC 1915
Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that

he had discharge all the time he was in Gallipoli,
wounded 6 Aug, in Hospital Alexandria, discharge
still continued through less severe. has been treated
with E. metra. Discharge caused but some g. stritis
remained. Returned home on 12/1/15
from. The bowels are regular & cultivations from
feces are negative. He is well now & at times
intermittent

Aldenham School,
Elstree, Herts

The opinion of the Board upon the questions herein is as follows:—

- (1.) a. Is the officer fit for "General Service"? No
b. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit? 2 months
(2.) a. If unfit for General Service, is he fit for service at home? No
b. If not so fit, how long is he likely to be unfit for service at home? 6 weeks
(3.) Was the disability contracted in the service? Yes
(4.) Was it contracted under circumstances over which he had no control? Yes
(5.) Was it caused by military service? Yes
(6.) If caused by military service, to what specific conditions is it attributed? On active service with E

Signatures

J. H. Hall. Lt Col President.
M. L. C. Cooper Members.

HE HEATH,
(MIDLAND)

Jan 18
1916

Headmaster's House,
Aldenharn School,
Elstree, Herts.

2nd Lieut: Alan Cooke
is still suffering from
tachycardia + debility. His
pulse is regular but more
frequent than normal +
he gets very easily tired.
His toe is still suppurating
+ is painful + tender.
I do not consider that
this officer is fit to resume
duty at present.

R. Lushington
M.R.C.S.
Stamford

H. Combs, -

Transfer to ...

2968/2.
A. G. 4A

WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W.

1. Rank and Name	2 nd Lieut: A.W.H Cooke
2. Corps	13 th Batt: Worcestershire Regt
3. Address	Aldenham School, Elstree, Herts:
4. Date of leaving Unit	Aug: 7 th '15
5. Date of Embarkation	Aug: 7 th '15
6. Port of Embarkation	W beach, Cape Hellas (Was in hospital, Alexandria, from Aug: 10 th to Nov: 1 st .)
7. Port of Disembarkation (England)	Southampton
8. Date of Arrival in England	Nov: 15 th '15.
9. Name of Ship	H.M.H.S "Salta"
10. Cause of Return	gunshot wound, foot, followed by gastritis and general debility.
11. Dates if on leave, from	
to	
12. Authority	
13. Whether examined by a Medical Board since return from Continent	Examination by Medical Board will be Sat: Dec: 4 th '15.

(Date)

(Signature)

G.D. 4727 10,000 3/15 H W V(P 1242/4)
W 8201-3238 10,000 8/15

A.W.H Cooke, 2nd Lt:
13th Worcestershire Regt