

George was born in Maidstone, Kent on 7th July 1890, the son of Walter Albert Cooker and Mary Susan Cooker, nee Ware. On 8th Jan 1913 he joined the Australian Navy as a stoker, #2518 and was invalided out on 30th Jan 1914.



The Walter Cooker Family

1912

Maidstone, Kent, England

Front Row: Doris, Walter (father), Nellie, Mary (mother) holding Alice, Rose
Back Row: Sidney, Frederick, George, John, Albert

On 11th August 1914 he joined the AN&MEF stating that he was a Hospital Attendant, single and gave his mother at 69 Melrose Road, Maidstone as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired on 18th Jan 1915 after 161 days service.

On 10th March 1915 George enlisted in the AIF in Melbourne as a driver in the Royal Australian Navy Bridging Team, regimental number 31. He left with his unit on board the PORT MELBOURNE and served on Gallipoli. After the evacuation there was no purpose for the Team and so it was disbanded in Egypt on the 30th March 1917. All members had the option to be reassigned to another unit or return home. George elected for reassignment, was re-attested and then appointed a driver with the 50th Battery, 15th Field Artillery Brigade and his regimental number was altered to 31N.

After his unit was sent to France via the UK and on 8th Feb 1918 George was evacuated and sent to the Royal Victorian Hospital, Netley with trench feet.

During his convalescence he married Lucy Kate Millen in his hometown of Maidstone and returned to France on 3rd July 1918. George was discharged from the AIF in London on 17th August 1919 and lived in Kent where he died in 1957.