

Aldous Cooke was born in Kogarah, NSW, on 4 July 1894. He enlisted in the AN&MEF on 11th September 1914 and embarked on the Berrima. On his Attestation from he listed himself as a Draftsman, single with his next of kin, his father Joseph Edmund Cooke, "Hayne", Harrow Road Kogarah, NSW. At the time of his enlistment he was employed in the New South Wales Lands Department. He had commenced his public service on 29th July 1912 as a junior clerk in the Darlinghurst Gaol, which was administered by the Attorney-General's Department. In 1914 he had become a Cadet Draftsman with the Lands Department, becoming a draftsman later that year.

Aldous served out his engagement with the AN&MEF returning to Australia on 4th March 1915.

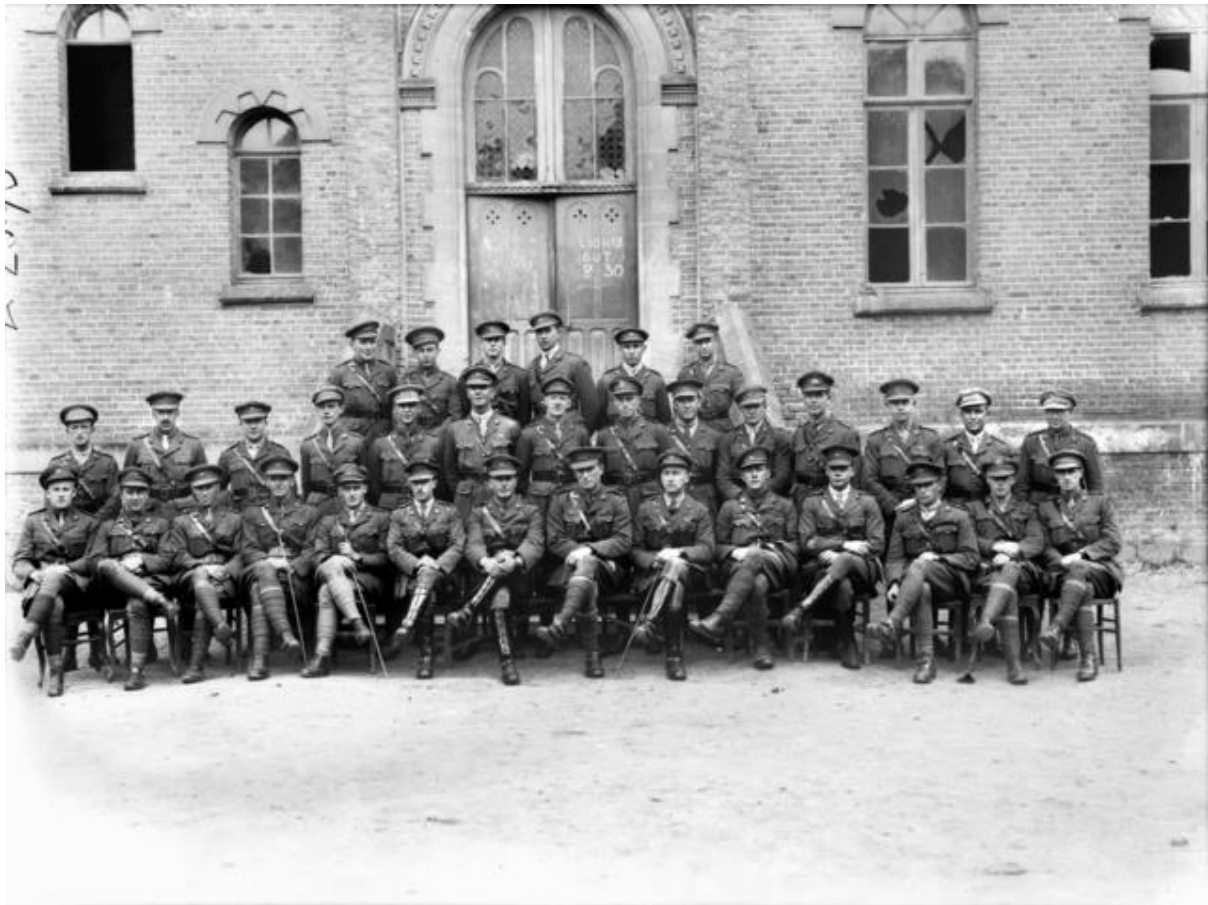
On 6th April 1915 he enlisted in the 19th Battalion of the AIF as a private and was promoted to Sergeant (Signaller) on 24th June 1915. The 19th Battalion was formed on 29th March 1915 and embarked for Alexandria aboard the C

"Ceramic" on 25th June 1915, arriving on 23rd July 1915. The battalion served on the Gallipoli Peninsular at "Poets Post" from 21st August 1915 till it was evacuated on 19th December 1915. Whilst at Gallipoli, Aldous suffered a malaria attack and was evacuated to hospital in Malta. He did not rejoin his unit until March 1915, just before the Battalion left Egypt for Marseilles, France.

Later that year he was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), and was awarded a Military Medal. In recommending the award the Commanding Officer of the 5th Brigade, General William Holmes, who incidentally was also his Commanding Officer in Rabaul, noted that:-

"This NCO has done excellent work. At Bois Grenier he went out frequently and mended wires under heavy shell fire in order to regain telephone communication. At POZIERES on 28th, 29th and 30th July 1916 he went out over open country during a severe bombardment on each occasion to mend wires which had been cut. His work and conduct throughout has been exceptionally good and his example has been of great value. Sgt. COOKE has frequently worked for long periods by day and night to keep the communications in order."

On 9th December 1916 he was appointed as @/LT and was further promoted to Lieutenant on 15th May 1917. On the 17th September 1917, the Battalion was at Bellewarde Ridge, near Ypres, Belgium. The CO noted in his diary – "Lt AA Cooke wounded – to hospital". Aldous has sustained a gunshot wound to his right thigh. He was repatriated to the UK and did not return to active duty until Jan 1918. In October 1918 it was decided to disband the 19th Battalion with the officers and men being absorbed into other battalions. Aldous was transferred to the 20th Battalion and the 19th officially disbanded on the 10th October. At this time, the 20th was at Vignacourt, North- West of Amiens, France.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Officers of the 19th Battalion, 26th June 1918, Aldous is third from left, back row

On 13th April 1919, Aldous departed Devonport, UK for Australia aboard the Castalia. He is appointment was terminated on 1st August 1919 and he returned to civilian life.

In 1920 Aldous married Florence Roberts Hopkins.

Aldous returned to the Lands Department as a Draftsman in the Map Compiling Branch through to 1947, when he moved to the Department of Local Government, firstly as a Survey Draftsman and then as an Assistant Town Planner. In Jan 1951 he was appointed a Town Planner. In 1964 he was appointed to the State planning Authority and died on 27th August 1966, aged 72. He is buried at Rookwood Cemetery and his name is inscribed on the Honour Roll at the Vacluse Town Hall.