

Lance Corporal 4984 Wilfred Cooke Gloucestershire Regiment died on 10/09/1916 aged 29 and is buried in the Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez.

He was the son of George & Mary Cooke of 25 Carolgate, Retford

On the 16th Aug 1916 the Retford Times reported the death of Wilfred Cooke under the title "FELL IN ACTION"



As briefly announced last week, Lance Corporal Wilfred Cooke, Gloucesters, second son of Mr George Cooke and the late Mrs Cooke, 25 Carolgate, Retford was killed in action on September 8th. Captain H Calvert Fisher has written the following letter to Mrs Cooke "Owing to the number of letters that arrive for your son, the late Lance Corpl Cooke I feel rather doubtful as to whether you can have received the letter from his platoon officer informing you of his death. It is of course possible that his officer's letter may have miscarried or perhaps the officer's letter was lost in the trenches, for I understand that the officer although wounded at the time wrote to you before he himself went to the dressing station. Your son was shot in the chest on the night of the 8th inst. and died instantaneously. Although I personally was not in the trenches on that occasion being away at base for a month, I, as Company Commander, should like you to know what a fine straight fellow I thought him. He was undoubtedly one of my best men, always cool and never worried or upset. Whenever I wanted a man for a particularly fatiguing or difficult job I never I never had to look further than your son who was always keen and eager to volunteer. Permit me to offer you and Mr Cooke in your bereavement my very deepest sympathy. Some day if I am spared through this ghastly war I shall do myself the honour of calling upon you and telling you the circumstances of the case. Lance Corpl Cooke who was 29 years of age, served his apprenticeship with Messrs Holoran & Co, printers, Retford and then went to Letchworth Garden City Press. He volunteered for the army whilst at Bristol in 1915 and was in the trenches for the first time on Whit Sunday. He was a scholar at the Retford Wesleyan Day and Sunday Schools and was highly respected by a large circle of friends. The greatest sympathy is felt for members of the family and for the deceased's fiancée, Miss Black, Bristol.