

BROOK Louis Shannon 484

Louis Shannon Brook was a 21 year old farmer at 'Hillside' Curban NSW, when he enlisted in August 1914. He was 5'1", 10st 13lb (69kgs) and had a florid complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair.

Louis was born in Pimpinio, Victoria, the second child of Fred and Eliza Brook (nee Bullen), and was one of six children. He enlisted 28 August 1914 in Sydney and, along with many men from Gilgandra and the Central West of NSW, was placed with the 1st Light Horse Regiment C Squadron.

After training at Roseberry, they embarked at Sydney on the 'Star of Victoria' 20 October 1914. They were part of the first convoy that left Albany, WA, on 1 November 1915. This was to be the last time that many of the young soldiers saw Australia.

After training in Egypt, Louis was on Gallipoli from 9 May 1915 until October, when he was admitted to Cairo Hospital with tonsillitis. He re-joined the unit 2 December, just in time to be evacuated from the peninsula later that month.

The Light Horse was involved in the Third Battle of Gaza (which included Beersheba) from 27 October to 7 November. Brooks was wounded in action at Tel Khuweilfeh on 3 November with a gunshot wound to the chest. He was one of 57 enlisted men wounded, with thirteen killed. Ten officers were wounded and three killed. 22 horses were killed, 62 wounded and four missing. He re-joined the 1st Light Horse on 4 January 1918.

His promotions were as follows: Lance Corporal 1 January 1916, Corporal 21 November 1916, and Sergeant 31 October 1917.

A Military Medal was approved for Louis Shannon Brook the day before he died. It was awarded for his actions at Amman on 25 September 1918. When his troop passed through machine gun fire and were unable to withdraw, he cut the wire blocking their path, thus enabling his troop to retire to safety.

He was killed in action 28 September 1918. The Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau reports stated:



'Brook was Sergeant in C Squadron and was known as 'Loo' he was tall and fair ... they were shot by Bedouins ... Brook was shot through the forehead and was killed instantly' (informant Trooper R Coote 1085).

'Sergeant Brook came from Gilgandra. The informant intends

going there in a few days and will then see Brook's people' (Sergeant JF Clancy 401, a Gilgandra boy who enlisted with the other young men of 1st Light Horse).

The Memorial Plaque and Scroll was received 10 December 1922 by the stated next of kin (father) in Preston, VIC.

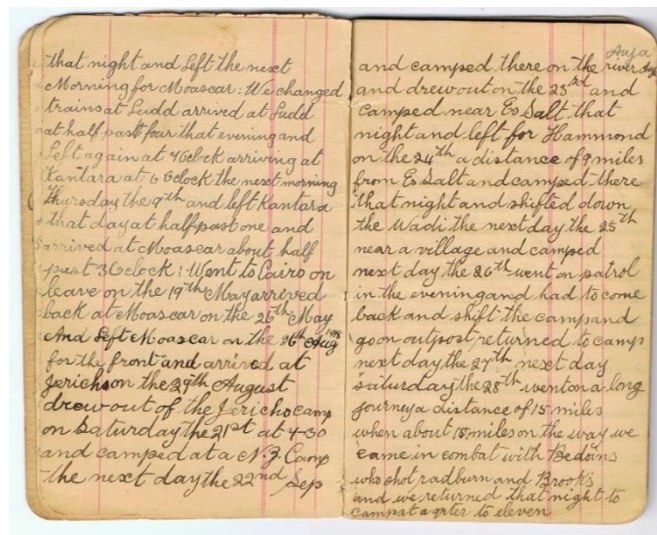
He is also commemorated on the grave of his sister, Burly Vera Brook who died 25 October 1916 aged 17 years. The following words are on the Curban Cemetery grave:

'In Loving Memory
Of
BURLY VERA BROOK
Died 25th Oct 1916
Aged 17 years
Also
No 484 Sergt L.S. Brook M.M.
1st LIGHT HORSE KILLED IN ACTION
PALESTINE 28TH SEP 1918
AGED 25 YEARS



thy will be done'

The Gilgandra Shire gave all local returned men and families of the fallen a Scroll. Many have survived today, showing how valued and appreciated they were.



This Diary written by Trooper Wilde 3371, was found on Dubbo Rubbish tip. Fortunately, it was handed over to Military Historian, Maurice Campbell, and so will be preserved and valued. In the diary Wilde wrote 'we came into combat with Bedouins who shot Radburn and Brook and we returned that night to camp at a quarter to eleven.'