

John Krempowiecki COOK

Born: 1916
Parents: William John and Violetta Cook of Lowestoft Suffolk
'The Martlet' Summer 1932 – Short story – An Earthquake
School Years: 1931-1933

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Private
Services Number: 7264536
Services Record: Royal Army
Medical Corps
Services Base: Four Motor
Ambulance Company
Date of Death: 1 October 1941



"Austin K2/Y Heavy Ambulance in France 1940"

'The Martlet' 'School Notes' July 1947

"We record with deep regret the death of John Cook (1931-1933) who died in service in the war. He had already enlisted as a private in the R.A.M.C. before the war was declared and went overseas in September 1939. He was captured at Boulogne on May 20th, 1940, and taken to a prison camp in Germany. He then contracted tuberculosis and died on 1st October 1941, in Kingswartha Hospital, near Dresden"

John Krempowiecki COOK is buried in the Berlin 1935/1945 War Cemetery, Plot 11M3 Charlottenburg, Wilmersdorf, Berlin.

Reflection

Lodged at the WSCC Records Office is a small portfolio of records E35N/19/14 appertaining to John Krempowiecki COOK that include:

A document which states that a few years after the war his mother sent his papers for safekeeping to the School. She remarked that his thirteen tightly written pages of an attached short story had been adapted from one of his 'productions'. In 'Derby Day 1937'

he falls asleep in the family garden following a difference with his brother in law and awakes into a world in chaos which has gone into a reverse gravity.

A footnote on the last page in faint pencil reads "J.K.Cook served with the R.A.M.C in the Second World War and died as a prisoner of war in Poland in 1941.

His imagination for producing surreal stories first appeared in the 'The Martlet' Summer Term edition 1932. Under the title of 'An Earthquake' he dreams of an impending, but unlikely, disaster whilst travelling on a local train journey. Had he returned to civilian life who knows where his imagination literary talents would have taken him?

His plight of lying in a hospital terminally ill, far from home, in a foreign land as a prisoner of war contrasts sharply with that of the enclosed pre-war 1930's studio head and shoulders photo print of a young man 'coming of age'.

Also enclosed is The Royal Army Medical Corps (R.A.M.C) 'Book of Remembrance' where its fallen ranks of the World War II are listed – Officers 437 – Other ranks 2026.

'In arduis fidelis' – Faithful in adversity

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial