Tidworth Military Cemetery, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7251 PRIVATE

L. F. COOPER

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. 24TH JULY, 1918 Age 23

In Loving Remembrance

Of A Good Son

Of W. & F. Cooper Of Langford

Louis Frederick COOPER

Louis Frederick Cooper was born at Longford, Tasmania on 22nd June, 1895 to parents William James & Fanny Maria Cooper (nee Briggs). He was baptised on 22nd August, 1895 at Longford, Tasmania.

Louis Frederick Cooper attended Longford State School, Tasmania.

Louis Frederick Cooper was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Longford, Tasmania when he enlisted on 28th October, 1916 at Camp at Western Junction, Tasmania with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs F. M. Cooper, Longford, Tasmania.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper was posted to 24th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion. He was written up on 17th December, 1916 while in Camp at Claremont, Tasmania for being Absent without Leave. He was fined 1 days pay.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper, Service number 7251, embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT Seang Bee (A48) on 10th February, 1917 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 24th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 5th April, 1917 & discharged on 9th April, 1917. Private Cooper disembarked at Devonport, England on 2nd May, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 2nd May, 1917 from Australia. He reported sick to Parkhouse Hospital on 22nd June, 1917 & was admitted the same day with Mumps. Private Cooper was discharged to duty on 12th July, 1917 & was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire the same day.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 9th October, 1917 from 3rd Training Battalion. He was marched in to A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 10th October, 1917 then proceeded on 13th October, 1917 to his Unit. Private Cooper was taken on strength of 12th Battalion from Reinforcements in Belgium on 16th October, 1917.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper reported sick on 1st January, 1918 while in France. He was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance on 1st January, 1918 with Trench Foot then transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 2nd January, 1918. Private Cooper was transferred & admitted to 8th Stationary Hospital at Wimereux on 4th January, 1918. He embarked from England on 6th January, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick*.

12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

. . . .

In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line..... The battalion subsequently returned to Belgium to participate in the offensive that became known as the Third Battle of Ypres.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Louis Frederick Cooper was admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England on 7th January, 1918 with Trench Feet – slight. He was discharged to Furlo on 3rd April, 1918 until 17th April, 1918 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Mrs F. M. Cooper, Longford, Tasmania, mother of Private Louis Frederick Cooper, was advised by Base Records on 5th February, 1918 that Private L. F. Cooper had been admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England on 7th January, 1918 suffering from trench feet, mild.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 17th April, 1918 from Furlo. The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Private Cooper had "Pains in feet when cold, tender after walking distance." He was medically classified as B1A2 (fit for Overseas Training Camp in 3 – 4 weeks) on 26th April & 2nd May, 1918.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 13th May, 1918 – cause "NYD" (not yet determined). The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Syphilis*." He was discharged to Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 16th May, 1918. Total V.D. period – 4 days.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 26th June, 1918 with Influenza & discharged to lines on 30th June, 1918.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper reported sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Parkhouse, Wiltshire & was transferred Delhi Hospital, Tidworth on 13th July, 1918. He was transferred & admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 23rd July, 1918 with Broncho Pneumonia – seriously ill. (The Hospital Admissions form recorded Private Cooper was transferred to Delhi Hospital on 13th July, 1918 with Broncho Pneumonia. "Bronchitis sounds throughout & Pneumonia involved both lower lobes. Had epistaxis very cyanosed throughout illness…" An entry for admission to Military Hospital, Tidworth has date on 13th July, 1918.)

Private Louis Frederick Cooper died at 12.45 pm on 24th July, 1918 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from (1) Bronchitis (2) Pneumonia. A Telegram sent from Medical, Tidworth to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London on 24th July, 1918 advised that "cousin 807 Gnr W. C. POWELL, A Coy, Australian Machine Gun Training Depot, Grantham" had been notified of Private Cooper's death.

A death for <u>Leonard</u> F. Cooper, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Andover, Hampshire/Wiltshire, England.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper was buried on 26th July, 1918 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 300 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private Louis Frederick Cooper - Coffin was good, polished Elm with brass mountings. Deceased was buried with full Military Honours his body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun-Carriage, preceded by a firing Party and a Band of the Australian Machine Gun Training Depot. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pallbearers and the Officers N.C.O.'s and Men of his Company, followed the remains to the graveside. Floral tributes were sent by Australian soldiers in Tidworth Military Hospital. Deceased was very popular with both Officers and Men of his Unit and always proved himself a good comrade. Headquarters A.I.F. in U.K. were represented at the Funeral.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper requested in his Will, dated 27th October, 1916, that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Fanny Maria Cooper, whom he also appointed as Executrix.

The Independent Order of Rechabites, Salford Unity Friendly Society, Launceston, Tasmania, wrote to Base Records on 26th August, 1918 with the following "Will you please oblige with the usual records required under provisions of Aid to Friendly Societies Act 1917 for the following who was a member of the above Order Louis Fredrick Cooper Private No 7251 12 Battalion 24 July 1918."

Base Records replied to Mr J. Lloyd, District Secretary, Salford Unity Friendly Society, Tasmania District No. 79, on 18th September, 1918 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 7251 Private Louis Frederick Cooper, 12th Battalion.

The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 24th September, 1918 requesting a certificate of death of Louis Frederick Cooper, No. 7251, 12th Battalion, Tasmania together with identification particulars.

Base Records replied on 30th September, 1918 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 7251 Private L. F. Cooper, 12th Battalion together with identification particulars.

Base Records contacted Mrs F. M. Cooper, Longford, Tasmania, on 23rd May, 1921 stating she was registered on the records of the late No. 7251 Private L. F. Cooper as the next of kin, but required to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs Cooper replied to Base Records on 28th May, 1921 advising that the father of Private Louis F. Cooper's name was William Cooper & he was residing at Longford, Tasmania.

Private Louis Frederick Cooper was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Cooper's father - Mr W. Cooper, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Louis Frederick Cooper – service number 7251, aged 23, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William & Fanny M. Cooper, of Longford, Tasmania.

Private L. F. Cooper is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



L. F. Cooper is remembered on the Mothers in Sympathy & in Memory of those Sons from Longford Roll of Honour, located in Longford Memorial Hall, Wellington Street, Longford, Tasmania.



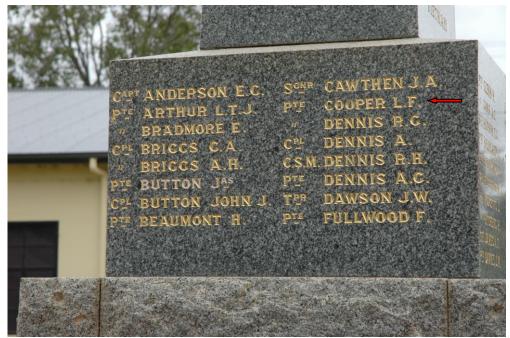
Longford Memorial Hall (above) & Mothers in Sympathy & in Memory of those Sons from Longford Roll of Honour (below) (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



L. F. Cooper is remembered on the Longford War Memorial, located on Wellington Street, Longford, Tasmania.



Longford War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



L. F. Cooper is remembered on the Longford District Roll of Honour, located in Longford Memorial Hall, Wellington Street, Longford, Tasmania. Another copy is located in Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania.









Longford District Roll of Honour (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

L. Cooper is remembered on the Mountain Vale Methodist Church Roll of Honour, located in Liffey Baptist Church, 1807 Liffey Road, Liffey, Tasmania.



Mountain Vale Methodist Church Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

Louis Cooper is remembered in the Liffey State School Roll of Honour, located on Liffey Road, Liffey, Tasmania.



Liffey State School Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

Louis Frederick Cooper is remembered with a Tree as part of the Liffey Commemorative Trees, Liffey Road, Liffey, Tasmania (on empty lot next door to Liffey Community Centre – former schoolhouse) (as recorded by Inside Story – "The names inlaid" – Anne-Marie Conde 24 April, 2021. "The relatives of twelve other soldiers then planted trees, the last one being for Louis Cooper. He had not been dead a month at that point.")



Liffey Commemorative Trees (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

Louis Frederick Cooper is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride - Henry Moulds)



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania

(69 pages of Private Louis Frederick Cooper's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P07687.001

Studio portrait of 7251 Private (Pte) Louis Frederick Cooper, 12th Battalion, of Longford Tasmania, with his mother, Fanny Maria Cooper. (c. November 1916)

Cooper enlisted on 29 October 1916 and travelled to Mitcham Camp, Adelaide for training before embarking aboard HMAT Seang Bee (A48) on 10 February 1917. Following further training in England, he proceeded to join his battalion in France in October. Pte Cooper died of pneumonia at Tidworth Military Hospital on 24 July 1918 and was buried with full military honours. In a burial report sent to his mother, Pte Cooper was reported as "very popular with both Officers and Men of his Unit and always proved himself a good comrade".





Private Louis Frederick Cooper with his mother, Fanny Maria Cooper

(Photo courtesy of Glennis Boxhall - great niece)

Newspaper Notices

RECRUITING IN TASMANIA

ENTERED CAMP AT CLAREMONT

The following are the names of the men (42) who entered the Claremont Camp on Monday:-

L. F. Cooper, labourer, Longford

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 1 November, 1916)

Roll of Honour

Casualty List - No. 383

Tasmanian Casualties

HOSPITAL CASES

Pte L. F. COOPER, Longford, ill

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 18 February, 1918)

Deaths on Active Service

COOPER – On the 24th July, 1918, at Tidworth Military Hospital, England, of bronchial pneumonia, Private Louis Frederick Cooper, fifth son of William and Fanny Cooper, of Longford, aged 23 years.

Duty nobly done

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania - 1 August, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

COOPER – On the 24th July, at Tidmouth Military Hospital, England, of bronchial pneumonia, Private Louis Frederick Cooper, fifth son of William and Fanny Cooper, of Longford. "Duty nobly done."

(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 3 August, 1918)

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 422

DIED OF ILLNESS (1)

Pte L. F. Cooper, Longford - 24/7/18

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – 13 August, 1918)

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ACKOWLEDGEMENTS

MR AND MRS W. COOPER AND FAMILY, of Longford, desire to thank all friends for letters, cards, telegrams, and visits of sympathy in the loss of their dear son and brother, Louis Frederick, who died at Tidworth Military Hospital, England, July 24th, 1918.

(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 17 August, 1918)

ABOUT PEOPLE

Mrs. W. Cooper, of Longford, has received particulars relating to her late son, Private L. F. Cooper, who died of bronchitis and pneumonia at the Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, on July 24, and was buried in the Tidworth Military Hospital two days later, when Chaplain the Rev. P. A. Smith officiated. The deceased was buried with full military honours. Six of deceased's comrades acted as pallbearers, and the officers, N.C.O.'s, and men of his company followed the remains to the graveside. The deceased soldier was very popular with both officers and men of his unit, and always proved himself a good comrade.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania - 26 December, 1918)

In Memoriam

On Active Service

COOPER – In sad and loving remembrance of our dear brother, Private Louis Cooper, died at Tidworth on 24th July, 1918.

In a soldier's grave our brother's sleeping,

One of the earth's bravest and best

In our hearts we shall miss him for ever.

Though we know he is only at rest.

-Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Les. and N. Cooper.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 24 July, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private L. F. Cooper does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Loving Remembrance Of A Good Son Of W. & F. Cooper of Langford

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Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL D00481

Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Private L. F. Cooper's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)

