

**Brighton Extra Mural Cemetery,
Brighton, East Sussex**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2983 1ST AIR MECH

A. W. COOPER

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

28TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 31

A Loved One At Rest

Arthur Weston COOPER

Arthur Weston Cooper was born at Brighton, Sussex, England in 1887 to parents Henry William and Louisa Jane Cooper (nee Weston).

The 1891 England Census recorded Arthur Victor Cooper as a 3 year old, living with his family at 87 Church Street, Brighton, Sussex, England. His parents were listed as Henry Cooper (Licensed Victualler, aged 39, born Stepney, London) & Louisa Cooper (aged 27, born Worthing, Sussex). Arthur was one of three children listed on this Census – Helen Clara Cooper (Scholar, aged 7, born Bayswater, London) then Arthur & Miriam (aged 8 months, born Brighton).

Henry William Cooper, father of Arthur Weston Cooper, died on 15th March, 1900 at the Brewer's Arms, Church Street, Brighton, Sussex, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Arthur W. Cooper as a 13 year old, living with his family at Brewers Arms, 87 Church Street, West Brighton, Sussex, England. His mother was listed as Louisa J. Cooper (Widow, Licensed Victualler, aged 37, born Worthing, Sussex). Arthur was one of five children listed on this Census – Helen C. Cooper (aged 17, born London), Edward H. Cooper (Electrical Mechanic, aged 16, born Brighton, Sussex), then Arthur, Winifred L. Cooper (aged 9, born Brighton, Sussex) & Harold Cooper (aged 6, born Brighton, Sussex).

The 1911 England Census recorded Arthur Weston Cooper as a 23 year old Milk Carrier living at 205 Southwark Bridge Rd, London, England. The Census was completed by Edward Edwin Cooper who listed Arthur as his nephew but was not listed himself.

According to information supplied by his widow for the Roll of Honour – Arthur Weston Cooper came to Australia when he was 26 years old. Arthur Cooper, Farmer, aged 26 & Alice Ford, aged 23 were passengers on the *Geelong*, which departed from the port of London on 28th August, 1913 bound for Australia. Arthur Cooper, Farmer, aged 26 & Alice Cooper, aged 21 were passengers on *Orontes* which departed from the port of London on 7th November, 1913 bound for Australia.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Henty, subdivision of Malvern, Victoria listed Arthur Weston Cooper, Gasfitter, of 53 Barkly Avenue, Malvern.

Arthur Weston Cooper married Virtue Alice Ford in 1915 in Victoria, Australia. A birth was registered in 1915 at Balwyn, Victoria for James Weston Cooper, son of Arthur & Virtue Alice Cooper (nee Ford).

The 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Fawkner, subdivision of South Yarra, Victoria listed Arthur Weston Cooper, Plumber, & Alice Cooper, home duties, both of 38 Hardy Street, South Yarra.

Arthur Weston Cooper was a 29 year old, married, Plumber from 210 Prospect Road, Canterbury, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 26th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2983 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs V. A. Cooper, of 210 Prospect Road, Canterbury, Victoria.

Sapper Arthur Weston Cooper embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 24th November, 1915 with the 5th Field Company Engineers.

Sapper Arthur Weston Cooper embarked for overseas on 17th March, 1916 from Alexandria on *Arcadian*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd March, 1916.

Sapper Arthur Weston Cooper proceeded to England on 26th November, 1916 to be Batman to Lieutenant Bassett. Lieutenant Bassett had joined R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps) at School of Military Aeronautics, Reading on 5th December, 1916.

(Batman – or orderly was a soldier or airman assigned to a commissioned officer as a personal servant.)

Sapper Arthur Weston Cooper was granted leave from 7th to 17th December, 1916.

Sapper Arthur Weston Cooper was written up for an offence at School of Military Aeronautics, Reading on 24th December, 1916 – when on active service absent from 9.30 pm on 24th December, 1916 till 10 pm on 26th December, 1916. He was awarded 3 days confined to Barracks and forfeited 3 days pay.

Sapper Arthur Weston Cooper was taken on strength of 29th Training Squadron at Shawbury on 16th March, 1917. He was appointed 2nd Class Air Mechanic & mustered as Rigger.

Sapper Arthur Weston Cooper was marched in from Australian Headquarters to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 10th May, 1917. He had been attached to R.F.C. for 5 months. Sapper Cooper had varicose veins in left leg & required an operation. He was classed as A3 – medically & dentally fit. He was transferred to 17th Field Company Engineers at Parkhouse on 17th May, 1917. He was taken on strength from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

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.

The 1917 & 1919 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Canterbury, Victoria listed Arthur Weston Cooper, Soldier, & Alice Cooper, home duties, both of 210 Prospect Hill Road, Canterbury.

2nd Class Air Mechanic Arthur Weston Cooper was attached to A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Details on 29th May, 1917 from 17th Field Company Engineers at No. 3 Camp Parkhouse, Wiltshire.

2nd Class Air Mechanic Arthur Weston Cooper was on command for instruction at Tern Hill (29th Wing) on 17th June, 1917.

2nd Class Air Mechanic Arthur Weston Cooper was appointed 1st Class Air Mechanic on 1st October, 1917.

Air Mechanic 1st Class Arthur Weston Cooper was transferred to 5th Training Squadron at Minchinhampton on 2nd August, 1918.

Air Mechanic 1st Class Arthur Weston Cooper was sent sick to 2nd Southern General Hospital at Bristol on 22nd October, 1918 then admitted to Queen Victoria Hospital (affiliated to 2nd Southern General Hospital) at Bristol on 22nd October, 1918 with Influenza.

Air Mechanic 1st Class Arthur Weston Cooper died at 7.50 pm on 28th October, 1918 at Queen Victoria's Convalescent Home, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England from Influenza.

A death for Arthur W. Cooper, aged 32, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Air Mechanic 1st Class Arthur Weston Cooper was buried on 1st November, 1918 in Brighton Extra –Mural Borough Cemetery, Brighton, East Sussex, England – Cemetery reference 39272 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Air Mechanic 1st Class Arthur Weston Cooper - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent by:- Mother, Sisters and Brothers, Wife and Child in Australia, Aunt Nance and girls, Aunt Fan, Louis and Phyllis. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. Ashton officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives and Friends present at Funeral – Mother & Mrs Chant, Mrs Darban, Mrs Button, Mrs Hitts and many other friends.

Air Mechanic 1st Class Arthur Weston Cooper was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Air Mechanic 1st Class Cooper's widow – Mrs V. A. Cooper, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

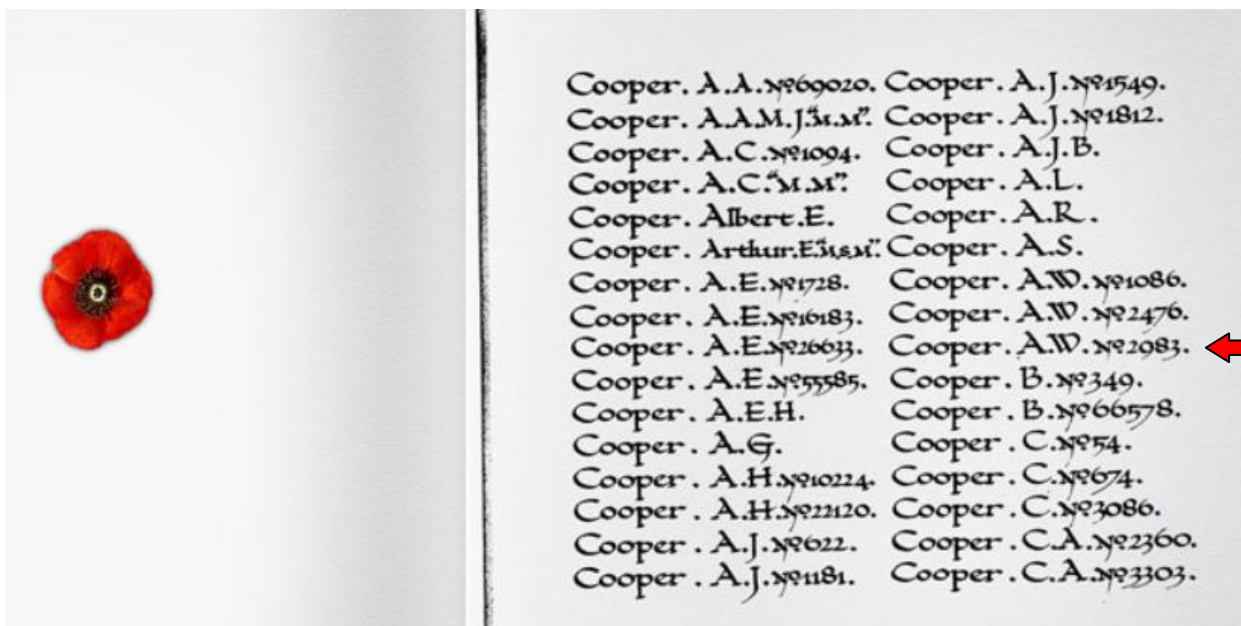
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Air Mechanic 1st Class Arthur Weston Cooper – service number 2983, aged 31, of 5th Training Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Henry and Louisa Cooper; husband of V. A. Cooper, of 5 Riversdale Rd., Camberwell, Australia.

Air Mechanic Class I A. W. 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 187.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. W. Cooper is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(83 pages of Air Mechanic 1st Class Arthur Weston 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



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

COOPER – A tribute of love to the memory of my dear husband and “daddy” of little Weston, 1st air mechanic, Arthur Cooper (late 5th Engrs.), died at Bristol, England, Oct. 28, 1918, after 3 years' service.

Some day we'll understand.

-(Inserted by his sorrowing wife)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 November, 1918)

THE 448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF ILLNESS

1st A.M. A. W. Cooper, Camberwell

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 4 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COOPER – In loving memory of my dear husband and Weston's "daddy," 1st Air Mechanic Arthur Cooper, A.F.C., who passed away at Bristol, England, October 28, 1918, after three years' service.

Sadly missed.

-(Inserted by his loving wife and little son, Virt and Weston)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 October, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COOPER – A tribute of love to the memory of my dear husband and Weston's daddy. 1st air mechanic Arthur Cooper (A.F.C.), who died on service at Bristol, England, October 28, 1918; also my dear bother Jim, who fell at Mons, September, 1914.

Fondly remembered.

-(Virt and Weston)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 October, 1920) & (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 October, 1920)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 6th July, 1921, to Mrs V. A. Cooper, 5 Riversdale Road, Camberwell, Victoria advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late No. 2983 1/AM A. W. Cooper, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

1st Air Mechanic A. W. Cooper does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Loved One At Rest

Brighton Extra –Mural Borough Cemetery, Brighton, East Sussex, England

This adjoins the Borough Cemetery and contains 31 WW1 War Graves & 8 WW2 War Graves. It belongs to the Brighton Extra-Mural Cemetery Company Ltd.; it was opened in 1851, and covers 20 acres.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo by js – Find a Grave)



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

Photo of 1st Air Mechanic A. W. Cooper's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton Extra – Mural Borough Cemetery, Brighton, East Sussex, England.





(Photo by js – Find a Grave – 2008)



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)