

**Western Necropolis Cemetery,
Glasgow, Scotland
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5068 DRIVER

R. COOPER

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

27TH NOVEMBER, 1918

Randall COOPER

Randall Cooper was born at Hobart, Tasmania on 15th December, 1887 to parents Robert & Rebecca Cooper (nee Burgess).

Rebecca Cooper, mother of Randall Cooper, died on 1899 in Hobart, Tasmania.

Randall Cooper married Irene Wise on 3rd April, 1909 in Hobart, Tasmania.

A daughter – Sheelah (Sheila) Rebecca Cooper was born on 30th August, 1909 at Raneleagh, Tasmania & a son – Winston Rex Cooper was born on 27th January, 1911 at Raneleagh, Tasmania

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Denison, subdivision of Hobart North, Tasmania listed Randall Cooper, Labourer of Devonshire Square. Irene Cooper of Devonshire Square was listed on the Supplemental Roll.

Randall Cooper was a 28 year old, married, Labourer from Hobart, Tasmania when he enlisted on 8th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5068 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs L. Cooper, 216 Harrington Street, Hobart, Tasmania.

Private Randall Cooper was posted to 16th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion on 8th February, 1916 for recruit training.

Private Randall Cooper embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Orontes* on 29th March, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 25th April, 1916.

Private Randall Cooper was reallocated as Reinforcements for 52nd Battalion on 20th May, 1916.

Private Randall Cooper embarked from Alexandria on 7th June, 1916 on *Huntsbill* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 14th June, 1916.

Private Randall Cooper was marched in to Machine Gun Base Depot at Etaples, France for training on 7th August, 1916. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples on 1st September, 1916. Pte Cooper was transferred to 4th Divisional Machine Gun Company on 2nd September, 1916 & was taken on strength of 13th Machine Gun Company in the field on 14th September, 1916.

Private Randall Cooper was sent sick to Hospital on 17th October, 1916. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance with Influenza then transferred to 4th Australian Field Ambulance the same day. Pte Cooper was transferred to Divisional Rest Station & discharged to duty on 23rd October, 1916. He rejoined his Unit on 24th October, 1916.

A General Court Martial was held in the Field on 29th March, 1917. The charges against Private Randall Cooper were (1) Whilst on Active Service – absent without leave from 7 pm on 15th March, 1917 to 8 am on 17th March, 1917 (2) Conduct to prejudice of good order & military discipline – alteration of leave pass. Finding – Guilty. He was sentenced to 60 days Field Punishment No. 1. Time in confinement awaiting trial from 17th March, to 23rd March, 1917. Total forfeiture of 69 days' pay.

Private Randall Cooper was appointed Temporary Driver on 13th June, 1917 vice Driver E. G. Scott wounded in action on 12th June, 1917.

Temporary Driver Randall Cooper was appointed Driver on 5th August, 1917 under A.I.F. Order 785.

Driver Randall Cooper was on leave to England from 6th February, 1918.

Driver Randall Cooper was written up for an Offence in London on 12th February, 1918 – refusing to show his pass to Military Police. He was awarded a forfeiture of 4 days' pay.

Driver Randall Cooper returned from leave in the field on 23rd February, 1918.

Driver Randall Cooper was transferred to 4th Machine Gun Battalion on 1st April, 1918 – A.I.F. Order 1151.

Driver Randall Cooper was on leave from 20th November, 1918 to 4th December, 1918.

Driver Randall Cooper was admitted to 4th Scottish General Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland on 26th November, 1918, while on leave, seriously ill with Pneumonia.

Driver Randall Cooper died at 04.50 hrs on 27th November, 1918 at 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland from Pneumonia.

Driver Randall Cooper was buried on 3rd December, 1918 in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland – Plot number N.11 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Driver Randall Cooper - *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 conveyed to the graveside on a Gun carriage. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside and the burial service conducted by the Rev. D. A. Polhill. 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 the funeral – Friend – Mrs Adamson (wife of senior Chaplain).

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Driver Randall Cooper contains a request to the Red Cross by Gunner W. H. Leigh, 35341, Australian Field Artillery, for the burial place of Driver Randall Cooper. Gunner Leigh was writing from Belgium in February, 1919 stating that his wife's cousin was Driver Randall Cooper & that he would be in England in two weeks & would be going to Scotland shortly.

Private Randall Cooper requested in his Will, dated 18th September, 1917, that all his real estate be bequeathed to his wife - Irene Cooper, daughter – Shelia Cooper & his son – Winston Cooper to be divided into three equal portions.

Driver Randall Cooper was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Randall's widow – Mrs I. Cooper, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver R. Cooper – service number 5068, 4th Bn., Australian Machine Gun Corps. No family details are listed.

Driver R. 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 39.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



Soldiers Memorial Walk Tree Plaque

R. Cooper is remembered on the Honour Board located in the Hobart Town Hall Foyer, 50 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania.

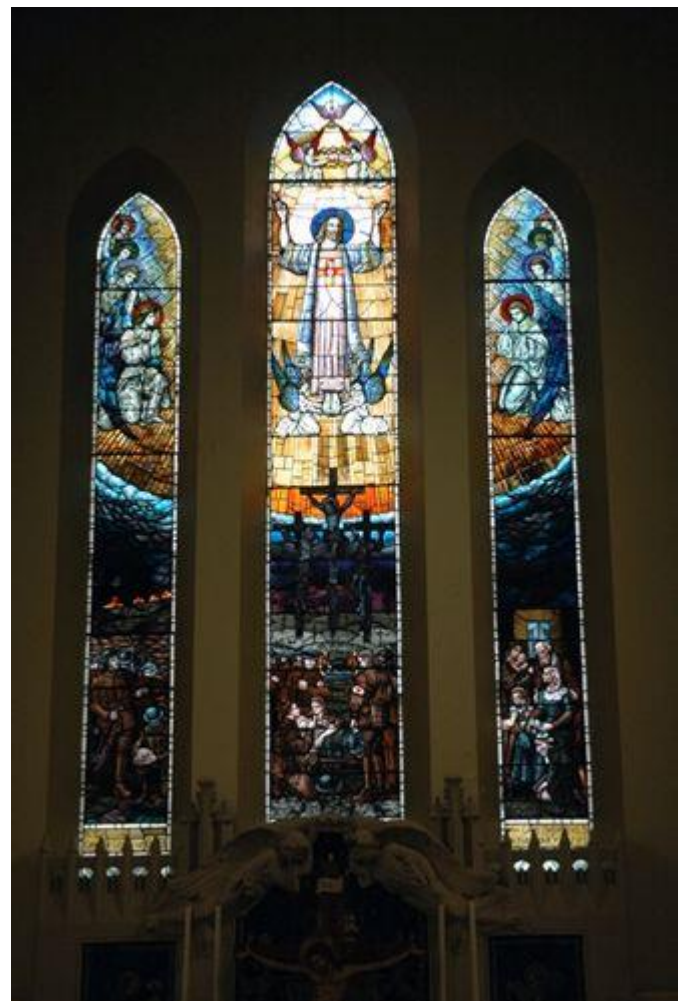


Hobart Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

R. Cooper is remembered on the Plaque dedicating the East Window to the men of the Parish who died in the Great War in Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 50 Warwick Street, North Hobart, Tasmania. (NOTE – The Anglican Church passed ownership of the Holy Trinity Church to the Greek Orthodox Church in October, 2007.)



Plaque & East Window in the former Holy Trinity Church (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)



(56 pages of Driver Randall 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

TASMANIA

A vote of condolence was passed at last night's meeting of the City Council with the relatives of the following member of the A.I.F. who had died on active service:- Driver Randall Cooper, 4th Machine-Gun Battalion (late 12th Battalion), died of pneumonia, November 11, next-of-kin, Mrs Irene Cooper (wife), 337, Elizabeth-street.....

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 10 December, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Tasmanian Casualties

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Dvr. R. COOPER, Hobart, 27/11/18, illness

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 16 December, 1918)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mrs Randall Cooper, of 10 Jordan Hill-road, wishes to tender her sincere thanks to kind friends and relatives for personal visits, cards, letters and telegrams in her recent sad bereavement in the loss of her dear husband.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 21 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Died on Active Service

COOPER – In loving memory of my husband and our dear Daddy, Driver Randall Cooper, who died in Scotland, November 27, 1918.

I remember the morning we parted,
I remember your last goodbye
And little I thought when you left me
You were going away to die.

His King and Country called him,
The call was not in vain,
On Australia's Roll Of Honour
You will find our dear Daddy's name.

Inserted by his wife and children, Sheila and Winston.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 27 November, 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)

Driver R. Cooper does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland

The Western Necropolis is a large cemetery complex north of Glasgow City Centre. Adjoining this site are the following large cemeteries: Glasgow Lambhill and Glasgow St Kentigerns Cemetery, all three are separate but adjoin each other. Glasgow Garnet Hill Hebrew Burial Ground and Glasgow Crematorium Memorial is also at this site.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Glasgow was one of the ports of embarkation for the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 and several military hospitals opened in the city during the First World War, including the 3rd and 4th Scottish General (1,200 beds each), and the Merryflats War Hospital (500 beds). Battalions of a number of Scottish regiments had their headquarters at Glasgow during both wars, most notably the Highland Light Infantry. The Clydeside shipyards were targeted by German bombers during the Blitz, and Glasgow suffered a particularly ferocious attack on the night of 13/14 March 1941 when many civilians and servicemen were killed.

Glasgow Western Necropolis contains 355 First World War burials, many of them grouped together in Section P, with a small group of Australian graves in Section N. A screen wall near the main entrance carries the badges of the regiments represented in Sections P and H. The 124 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, although there are two among the earlier war graves in Section P. Also in this group are two inter-war service burials and two German war graves.

There are 11 Australian Soldiers from World War 1 buried in Western Necropolis Cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland (Photo from CWGC)



Some of the Australian Headstones in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland (Photo from CWGC)

Driver R. Cooper's headstone marked by red arrow

Photo of Driver R. Cooper's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.



(Photo from Ben – Find a Grave)

