

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

A. L. K. COOPER

AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT

14TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 28

Beloved Son

Of J. & E. B. Cooper

Of Sydney

God Touched Him & He Slept

Arthur Lionel Keith COOPER

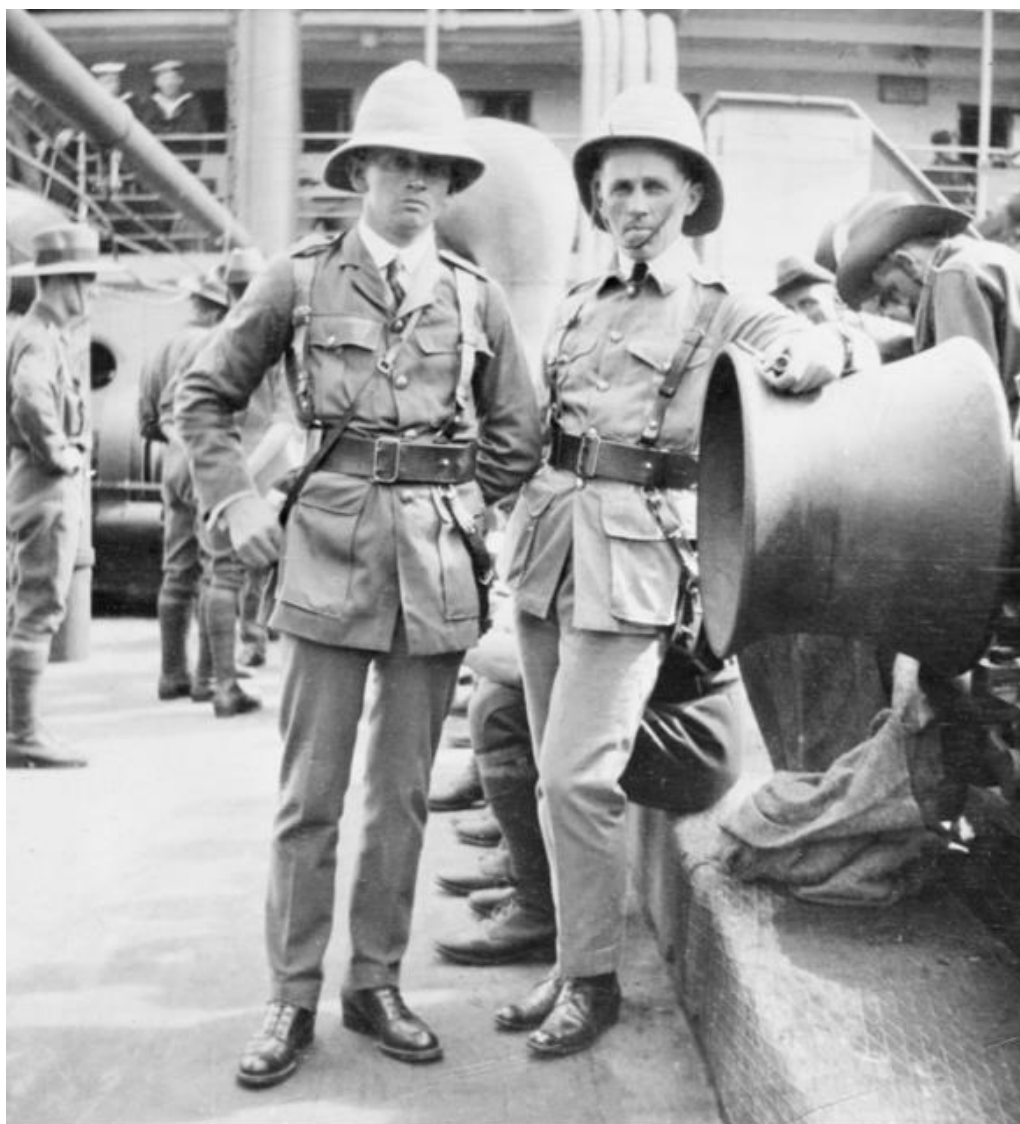
Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was born on 12th January, 1891 to parents Joseph & Emily Blanche Cooper (nee Lewis). His birth was registered in the district of Waverley, Sydney, New South Wales.

Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper attended Fort Street Public School, Sydney, New South Wales.

Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was a 23 year old, single, Clerk from "Hollingbourne," Abbott Street, North Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 11th August, 1914 with Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father Joseph Cooper, "Hollingbourne," Abbott Street, North Sydney, NSW. Arthur Cooper stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 2 ½ years service with Senior Cadets.

Private Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was posted to "G" Company, Naval & Military Expeditionary Force on 11th August, 1914. He applied for a Commission in the Australian Expeditionary Force on 14th August, 1914 & was appointed 2nd Lieutenant on 18th August, 1914.

Private (*rank as per Embarkation Roll*) Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper, Service number 590, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 19th August, 1914 with Naval & Military Expeditionary Force – Tropical Unit.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 2830

Australian Army 590 Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper and 859 Lieutenant John Malbon Maughan on board the troopship Berrima bound for New Britain. The ship was carrying the first contingent of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) which was to remove German control from the area. (September, 1914)



1 (Tropical) Battalion, Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force colour patch. The colour patch consists of a grey rectangular base with a horizontally aligned central green strip.

History / Summary

Associated with the service of Second Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper, who was born on 12 January 1891, in Sydney, NSW. During his time in secondary school, Cooper joined the senior cadets, serving for two and a half years and reaching the rank of captain. He continued his service during the early years of his university degree.

Just after the outbreak of the First World War, Cooper enlisted in the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF), bound for German New Guinea and the neighbouring islands of the Bismarck Archipelago. He was allocated the service number 590 and posted to G Company of the 1st (Tropical) Battalion with the rank of private. Reid was commissioned with the rank of second lieutenant on 18 August and embarked with his battalion from Cockatoo Island, Sydney aboard HMAT Berrima on 19 August.

The ANMEF landed at New Britain in September - the initial force, mainly naval personnel, landing at Kabakaul at dawn on 11 September. A day later, Cooper went ashore with the main force at Herbertshohe on 12 September. The actions fought by the Australians were short and the German forces surrendered on 13 September. The Union Jack was raised over Rabaul the same day.

Cooper was promoted to lieutenant on 1 January 1915 and returned to Australia with the first contingent in late February. He was discharged on 4 March 1915.

Cooper took up a post with the Australian Instructional Corps for the next two years before applying for a commission in the AIF. He undertook and passed the exam for second lieutenant on 13 July 1917. It wasn't until early May 1918 when he was commissioned and posted to the 11th NSW General Reinforcements.

(Information from Australian War Memorial)

Second Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was on active service in German New Guinea from August, 1914 to February, 1915.

Second Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was promoted to Lieutenant on 1st January, 1915 at Rabaul. (The Record of Service in the Field form recorded he was promoted to Lieutenant in November, 1914)

Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper's appointment was terminated on 4th March, 1915 & he was discharged on 4th March, 1915 – termination of period of engagement. He was returned to Australia per *Berrima*.

Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was a 27 year old, single, Engineer from Manly, NSW when he joined the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 13th May, 1918. His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Cooper, care of Messrs Dalgety & Co., Sydney, NSW. Arthur Cooper stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for “2 years Commissioned Service S.C. 6 mths active service German New Guinea. 11 mths A & I Staff. 1 year 11 mths mobilised A.I.F. Camps.”

Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper had applied for a Commission in the Australian Imperial Force on 7th May, 1918. He was appointed Second Lieutenant on 13th May, 1918.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour - Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper had been a Commissioned Officer in Cadet Force (Captain). He had served as O.C. in Rutherford Military Camp & also Adjutant in Dubbo & Liverpool Camps,

Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was posted to New South Wales 11th General Service Reinforcements from 17th July, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 17th July, 1918 with the 11th New South Wales Reinforcements & disembarked at London, England on 27th September, 1918.

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.

Second Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper “having arrived from Australia was taken on strength of A.I.F. in England” on 27th September, 1918 & was appointed Lieutenant (A.I.F. List 391). He was marched in to 5th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire, England on 28th September, 1918.

Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was on Command at School of Instruction at Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from 21st October, 1918.

Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 31st October, 1918. He was reported to be dangerously ill with Pneumonia on 2nd November, 1918 & seriously ill on 14th November, 1918.

Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper died at 02.50 on 14th November, 1918 at Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Arthur L. K. Cooper, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was buried on 16th November, 1918 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 329A. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass fittings. Deceased was buried with full Military honours the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party from the Australian Machine Gun Training Depot and Band of the “Royal Scots Greys.” Six officers of the A.I.F. supported the Pall and a number of Officers, N.C.O.’s and Men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. A large floral wreath from the Commandant and Staff of Southern Command School of Instruction was placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Base Records contacted Mr J. Cooper, Hollingbourne, Abbott Street, North Sydney, NSW, father of Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper, on 17th November, 1918 to advise that Lieutenant Arthur Cooper had been admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, England on 31st October with Influenza. Another notification on the 17th November, 1918 advised that Lieutenant Arthur Cooper was seriously ill.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper contains a letter from Sister E. M. Sanders, Isolation Hospital, Delhi, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England regarding Lieutenant A. L. K. Cooper which reads: *"I wrote full particulars to Miss Cooper, sister of the above officer, almost immediately after his death, but in the event of my letter having perhaps miscarried, I will willingly supply them to you again. Lt. Cooper was admitted to my ward on the 28th of October 1918, he did not appear seriously ill on admission, but rapidly became so, and was put on the danger list & notice sent to his relatives in Australia – he was suffering from pneumonic Influenza & though everything possible was done for him, there was no response to treatment, he was conscious though, rambling slightly at times until a few hours before he died. He spoke about his relatives very little & sent no messages to any of them. Several officer friends of his visited him from time to time & I believe followed him to his grave, he was also I believe buried in the cemetery near here & with full military honours."*

Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper, of Liverpool Camp, NSW wrote out his Will on 15th July, 1918 requesting that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects were to be given to his sister Gladys Mary Cooper, care of Mr Le Plastrier, "Linton", Moriarty Rd, Chatswood, NSW. She was also appointed sole Executrix of the Will.

Base Records were advised on 17th December, 1918 by 2nd Military District that Mr Joseph Cooper, next of kin of the late Lieutenant A. L. K. Cooper, 11th N.S.W. General Service Reinforcements desired any further information to be addressed to him c/- Dalgety & Co Ltd, Miller's Point, Sydney.

Herbert L. Tress, Solicitor, 107 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 24th October, 1919 requesting an "Official Military Certificate as to the death of Deceased" as he was acting for Miss G. M. Cooper, sister of the late Lieutenant A. L. Cooper, for the *"purpose of abstaining payment from the Commonwealth Bank of the amount outstanding to Credit of Deceased's Account."*

Base Records replied to Herbert L. Tress, Esquire on 29th October, 1919 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late Lieutenant A. L. K. Cooper, 11th (NSW) General Service Reinforcements.

Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper was entitled to 1914/15 Star (for his Service with AN & MEF), British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lieutenant Cooper's father – Mr J. Cooper, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL/11842

Memorial Plaque issued to Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper (also known as Death Penny)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper, aged 28, of 11th General Service, Australian Reinforcement. He was the son of Joseph & Emily Blanche Cooper, of Miller's Point, Sydney.

Lieutenant A. L. K. 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 185.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. L. K. Cooper is remembered on the Fort Street High School Honour Roll, located in Fort Street High School, Parramatta Road, Petersham, Sydney, NSW.



Fort Street High School Honour Roll (Photo from War Memorials Register of NSW – Manny Martin)

(84 pages of Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith 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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00391.001

Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

COOPER – November 14, 1918, of pneumonia, at Tidworth Military Hospital, England, Capt. A. L. Keith Cooper, A.I.F., dearly beloved eldest son of Joseph Cooper, of Dalgety and Co., Ltd, Miller's Point; also dearly beloved brother of Gladys, Mildred, and Harold, in his 28th year. He is not dead, but sleepeth.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 30 November, 1918)

THE 450th CASUALTY LIST

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

NEW SOUTH WALES

Lieut. A. L. K. Cooper (N. Sydney)

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 27 December, 1918)

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)

Lieutenant Arthur Lionel Keith Cooper does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Beloved Son Of J. & E. B. Cooper Of Sydney

God Touched Him & He Slept

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)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

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)



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



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Lieutenant A. L. K. Cooper's Original Grave marker in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00391.002

Photo of Lieutenant A. L. K. Cooper's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England



(Photo courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)

