

Herts at War

(www.hertsatwar.co.uk)

Name: John (Jack) William COOPER
(poss William John)

Rank: Private

Service Number: 19562

Date of Death: 31st July 1917

Age: 41

Regiment/Service: Royal Berkshire Regiment, 6th Bn.

Award:

Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 45

Cemetery/Memorial: YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Belgium

UK Cemetery/Memorial: Hitchin War Memorial, St Mary's Church. Panel C
St Mary's Church Memorial Book, Hitchin (*not confirmed*)



Pre War:

Jack was the second son of Mrs H.W. Cooper of 35, Bedford St. Hitchin. However, confusingly the CWGC states that he was the son of Mrs Caroline Matilda Cooper of 26, St. John's Hill, Reading, Berks.

He was born in Reading, was resident there and enlisted in St. Pancras in London in November 1915. Prior to joining the army he had been employed by the Great Northern Railway as a junior clerk at Kings Cross in London.

Wartime Service:

He was given the Regimental Number 19562 in the 6th Battalion of the Berkshire Regiment which was part of the 53rd Brigade in the 18th Division of II Corps in the 5th Army. He was wounded on the 21st July 1916 and did not return to France until February 1917. He was then killed in action at Ypres in Belgium.

On the 31st July 1917 the 53rd Brigade was on the left of the 18th Division and their first objective was to enter Glencorse Wood. The 6th Berks, wrongly believing that it was in British hands, came under severe machine-gun fire just short of the Menin Road. Shellfire was also heavy and destroyed four of the five tanks sent to assist them and bombs were dropped on troops trying to consolidate their positions. A counter attack from Glencorse Wood was neutralised by British artillery in the afternoon.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium.

Additional Information:

Acknowledgments:

Adrian Dunne

David C Baines

www.hitchinatwar.org.uk

Jonty Wild

