

Sutton Veny

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



4299 LANCE CORPORAL

H. C. COOPER

9TH BN EAST SURREY REGIMENT

26TH SEPTEMBER, 1915 AGE 19

Harold Charles COOPER

Harold Charles Cooper was born around 1896 at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire (according to details from 1901 & 1911 England Census) to parents George & Annie Cooper.

(George Cooper may have previously been known as George Stevens Trollope. The 1891 England Census recorded George Trollope (Thatcher, aged 31, born Sutton Veny) living at 13 Longbridge Deverill Road, Sutton Veny with his wife – Mary A. Trollope (possibly nee Collins) (aged 30, born Sutton Veny) & their 5 children – all born Sutton Veny – Katherine Trollope (Scholar, aged 7), Alice M. Trollope (Scholar, aged 5), Gertrude Trollope (aged 3), Elsie J. Trollope (aged 1) & Alma (aged 3 months). The last 3 Trollope children – Gertrude, Elsie & Alma match those in the 1901 England Census (listed below) but with the surname Cooper. Previously in the 1871 England Census - a George Trollop, (Farm Boy, aged 11, born Sutton Veny) was living with his Uncle & Aunt at Sutton Street, Sutton Veny. The Uncle & Aunt were listed as Thomas Cooper (Thatcher, aged 57) & Mary Cooper (aged 49).

The 1901 England Census recorded Harold C. Cooper as a 5 year old living with his family at Deverill Road, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. Harold's parents were listed as George Cooper (Thatcher, aged 41, born Sutton Veny) & Mary A. Cooper (aged 39, born Sutton Veny). Harold was the youngest of six children listed on this Census – Gertrude L. (General servant, aged 13), Elsie (aged 11), Alma (aged 10), George N. (aged 8), Florence M. (aged 7) & Harold C. All the six children on this Census had been born at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

The 1911 England Census recorded Harold Charles Cooper as a 15 year old Farm Labourer, living with his parents & older brother in a 7 roomed dwelling at Deverill Road, Sutton Veny, Warminster. Harold's parents were listed as George Cooper (Thatcher, aged 51) & Annie Cooper (aged 49). George & Annie Cooper had been married for 28 years, having had a total of 9 children, with 1 child deceased. Harold's older brother was listed as George Nelson Cooper (Farm Labourer, aged 18).

Harold Charles Cooper enlisted with the East Surrey Regiment at Weybridge, Surrey on 21st August, 1914. He was aged 19 years & 8 months & worked as a Gardener. He was given the service number of 4299.

Lance Corporal Harold Charles Cooper was killed in action on 26th September, 1915, aged 19 years. He was originally reported as "Presumed dead 26-9-15" on his Medal Index Card.

9th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment

During the First World War, the East Surrey Regiment raised 18 battalions.

The 9th (service) Battalion was formed at Kingston-upon-Thames in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's 3rd Army and came under orders of 72nd Brigade in 24th Division. They moved initially to billets in Worthing but by April 1915 were at Shoreham. The Battalion then moved to Blackdown (Aldershot) in June 1915.

The Battalion landed at Boulogne, France on 1 September, 1915.

War Diary of 9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment

25th September, 1915 – Battalion advanced through Vermelles & on towards Anay & Pont a Vedin. Lack of orders prevented Battalion (& Brigade) pushing on. 2/Lt Johnson & 2 O R wounded.

26th September, 1915 – Attack delivered on Hullock, Loos, Hill 70 quarry Battn took latter but had to give up on the 21st Division having to fall back of support on left. Battn Casualties 14 Officers 438 O.R.(other ranks)

Orders to attack the enemy's position at 11 am were received.

The attack was launched at 11 am & was carried right up to the enemy's trenches but the wire not being cut it was impossible to get through the enemy's lines although several fruitless attempts were made. The casualties were very heavy at this point chiefly owing to some machine guns which formed a heavy cross fire on our men. The order was then given for the Bde to retire to the line of trenches from which it had advanced in the morning. This retirement was carried out in orderly manner under heavy shell fire of all kinds & the trenches were lined & manned.

The enemy continued to shell very heavily until about 5 pm in the afternoon & many of the slightly wounded were wounded again or killed.

About 11 pm on the night of the 26th the Guards Division relieved the 24th Div; the relief was completed soon after 1 am

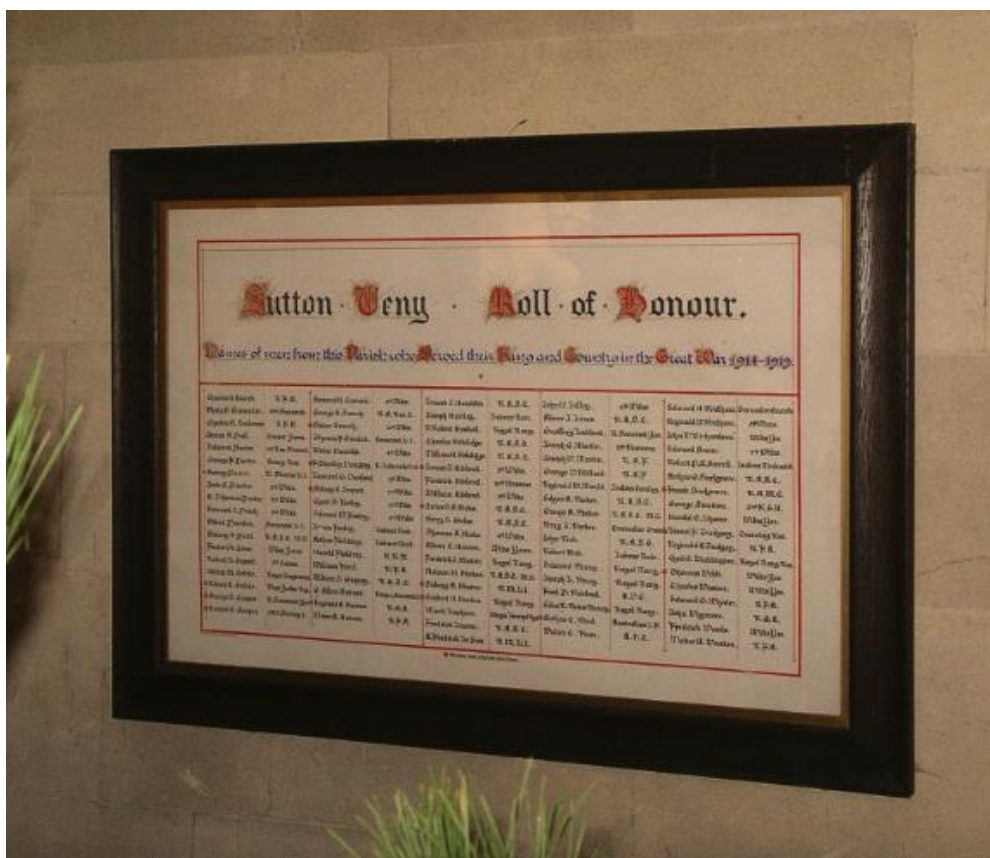
(War Diary information from [The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment](#))

Lance Corporal Harold Charles Cooper is remembered on the Loos Memorial, France – Panel No. 65 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Harold Charles Cooper, 4299, 9th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment as being the son of George and Annie Cooper, of 83 Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wilts.

Lance Corporal Harold Charles Cooper was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card shows that he had entered a Theatre of War – France on 31st August, 1915.

Harold C. Cooper is remembered on the 1914 -1919 Roll of Honour located inside St. John the Evangelist Church at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

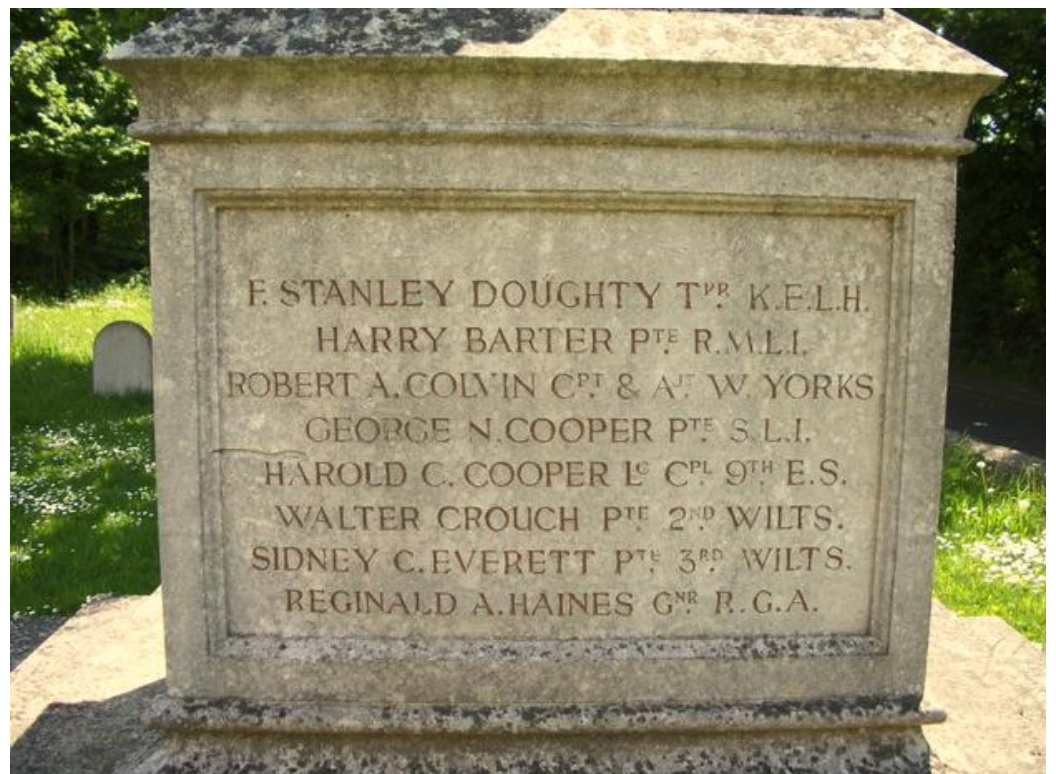


H. Cooper is also honoured in the Casualties of World War 1 Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book.

Harold C. Cooper is also remembered on the Sutton Veny War Memorial located in the foreground of St. John the Evangelist churchyard.



Sutton Veny War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth)



Loos Memorial

The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery.

Loos-en-Gohelle is a village 5 kilometres north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located about 1 kilometre west of the village, to the north-east of the D943, the main Lens to Bethune road.

Dud Corner Cemetery stands almost on the site of a German strong point, the Lens Road Redoubt, captured by the 15th (Scottish) Division on the first day of the battle.

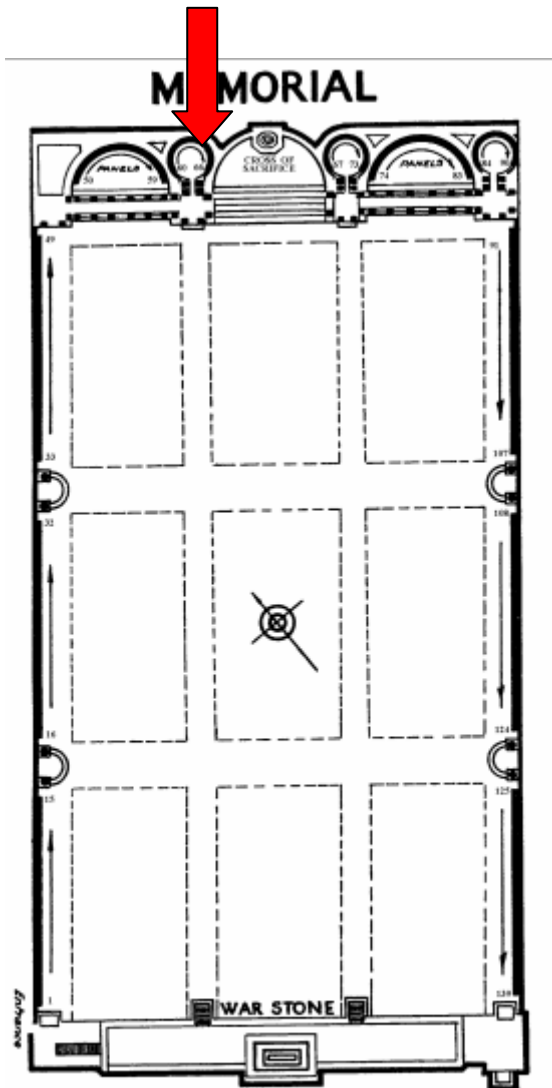
The name "Dud Corner" is believed to be due to the large number of unexploded enemy shells found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice.

The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated. At the back are four small circular courts, open to the sky, in which the lines of tablets are continued, and between these courts are three semicircular walls or apses, two of which carry tablets, while on the centre apse is erected the Cross of Sacrifice. *(Loos Memorial Information & Photos from CWGC)*





Panel 65 Loos Memorial (Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



LAYOUT OF THE PANELS, LOOS MEMORIAL