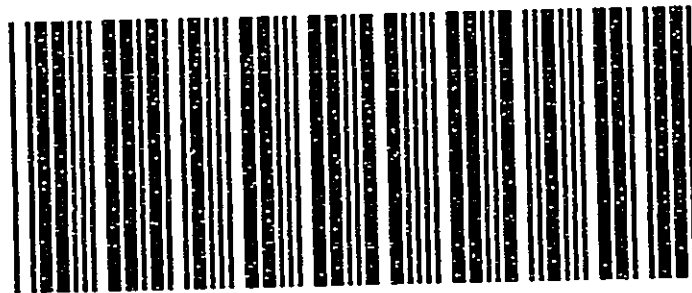


Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing
Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-18 War
1DRL/0428

1925 Private
Thomas James
Cooper

7th Battalion



0800602G

Barre

26th Nov. 1917.

7th AUSTRALIANS

COOPER, T.J. 1925

N. 7.10.17.

I knew him. He was very dark, short, aged 34. He was always called "Darkie" or "Jack". His number was 1925. He was knocked out on a pack horse train while leading a horse near a Pill Box at Westhoek Ridge on Oct. 7th. He was found lying unconscious and badly injured in the lag, and was sent to Hospital. I saw his brother, Pte. Cooper, (whose battalion I don't know) at Reninghelst on Oct. 16th, and he told me that his brother Jack was all right, and that he had heard from him in Hospital.

Informant: Pte. J. Booth, 6223
7th Australians, Transport;
(Pack Horse Train)
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

ELT

affairs

7th Bafn.
A.I.F.

COOPER
T.J. 1925

Missing 7.10.17.

He belonged to the Pack Horse Train - called "Tom" I saw him wounded lying near a Bill-box at Westhoek Dump on Octr 7th - He was badly knocked. I heard later that some of the 2nd Div. men had carried him out - I don't know if he died. One of the 2nd Div. men said he did, but another told me that he did not. We were on a Pack train from Westhoek to Carter's Point at the time. I don't know the names of the 2nd Div. men. He was knocked by shell.

Informant:- Booth J. 6283
7th Bafn.
Sarefield.

C. W.G.J.

London,
4.2.18

Off. M.

Intro.

11th. March. 1918.

Ch. Australians.

Cooper. F. J. No. 1925.

M. 7th. October 1917.

We were at Passchendaele on October 7th, and was sent from the Q. M's Stores with rations to the Front. He was last seen by L/Corporal Wignall of the 7th. Battalion (Transport) sitting down on the side of the tank. L/Corporal Wignall had no time to stop. A search party went to fetch him in but he was gone from that place and was never seen again. I know Cooper, he was a dark chap, about 5' 6". L/Corporal Wignall is still with the Transport, as far as I know.

Inf:- Private. F. Lane. No. 1760.
7th. Australians.
Australian Camp.
Beaulieu.

OFF MISS

CSS

Handwritten to L/C. Wignall. 25/3/18. Copy taken by H G

7th Battalion.
A.I.F.

COOPER.
1925. T. J.

"MISSING .7.10.17"

Re 1925. Pte. J.T. Cooper. 7th Battn. Aus. Inf. Force. Missing 7.10.17.
I am sorry that I cannot inform you definitely as to his fate, but in my opinion he must have been killed, for he could not have been taken prisoner, as we were well behind the line on the occasion of his disappearance, and if he had been wounded, there would have been some report come through to the battn, but they still show him in the register as missing. The last time I saw him was during a very heavy bombardment and general stampede of horses etc. He was then in a place of safety, but as I was busily engaged in attending to wounded men & horses I did not pay much attention to him ~~then~~, but when after carrying out a man, I returned to the place I had seen him I found that he had disappeared. I was not alarmed, for I thought that after losing his horse he like several others, had followed it to camp, but on reaching home I found him to be missing so I am almost certain that after leaving the place en route for camp, he was caught by a shell and killed. I made several enquiries after but did not get any satisfactory information. I did hear that one man of the Battn had seen him lying dead by the roadside, but as I could never find out the man who actually saw him, I did not place any importance in the information, for one hears so many rumours over here.,

7th Battalion.
A.I. F.

COOPER.
1925. T. J.

nn 2 nn

He was only with me a short time, but I remember him as being a fair sized man, dark, with a large dark moustache. I am sorry that this is all the information I can give you, but hope it may help you a little..

Letter from:- Clarence Wignell. L/cpl.
Transport.
7th Battalion.
France.,
2.4.18.

London.
10.4.18.

Off. M.

A.I.F. 7.

COOPER T.J. 1925.

Pub. K.

N. Oct. 7/18.

He was leading some pack-horses on the right of Westhoek Ridge; a shell from the German line aimed at a pill-box which we had taken from the enemy, fell among the horses. I saw it fall and Cooper yelled and fell down. I and Cpl. Wignall, now with the Bn., saw him lying on the ground near the pill box. I went away, but Cpl. Wignall stayed longer. When I came back, after looking after some wounded men, we looked for him and he had disappeared. We think he must have tried to go away and was blown up by another shell, as there was much shelling at the place. He could not be taken P/W, because we were 2 or 3 miles from the German line, unless he wandered away being confused by shell ~~shock~~ shock. Cooper was in my section (Transport). He was 5 ft. 8, about 30, and had a dark moustache.

Reference: Dvr. A. Manning, 830. Transport Sec.
No. 1 Australian Rouen. 11.6.18.

ABEH.

A.I.F. 7th Battn.

COOPER
T.J. 1925.

Missing 7/10/17

Killed in Action 7/10/17.

Previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F. Hqrs 5/7/18.

London
9/7/18.

OFF.M.

7th Btn.

COOPER, T. J.
Pte. 1925.

K. in act. 7/10/17.

"I knew Casualty. He was about 5 ft. 9 ins. dark complexion, 35 years of age, known as "Jack". Casualty was going up to Menin Road, Ypres, with others carrying ammunition when a shell landed on duck-boards killing him instantly. I saw his body as I passed. I do not know where he was buried."

Informant:- Pte. W. G. Ratten,
No. 189, 7th Btn.

Private address:-
Oban Road,
Ringwood.

S.V.P.
8/8/19.

*Time 8.15
off M.*

J.P.A.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS INFORMATION BUREAU-MELBOURNE.

A.I.F.
7th. Battalion.

COOPER. 1925.
Thomas James.

"Killed in Action 7.10.17".

Not race Germany.

Cert. by Capt. Mills. 10.10.19.

London.
10.10.19.

Off. M

7th Bn.

COOPER,
T.J., 1925

R. 24002

He was with casualty taking ammunition up to the line on Pack Horses. They were on the Kenil Road when a shell came over which blew him to pieces. It was about 7 or 8 p.m. Believes part of his body was picked up and buried where killed. Also disc brought back to unit. He was about 5ft 9ins., medium built, dark moustache.

Informant:- V.G. Ratten,
7th Bn.

Private Address:- Oban Road,
Ringwood, Vic.

G. Robertson,
E.M.A.T. König Friedrich August
18/8/19.

ack by RC
6/4/18
2/1

1925
T.J. Cooper
7th Batt

2/4/18
Frame

M 7:10:17

off M
4

To Secretary,

W. G. Enquiry Bureau,

Dear Madam,

In response to your enquiry
of 1925. Pte. T. J. Cooper 7th Batt. Area Sup. Home
Inquiry 7/10/19.

I am very sorry that I cannot inform you
definitely as to his fate, but in my opinion he
must have been killed, for he could not have
been taken prisoner, as we were well behind
the line on the occasion of his disappearance, and
if he had been wounded, there would have
been some report come through to the Batt.,
but they still show him in the register as missing.
The last time I saw him was during a very
heavy bombardment and general commotion of
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men and horses I did not pay much attention
to him then, but when, after carrying out a
man, I returned to the place I had mentioned
I found that he had disappeared. I was not

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the information, for one knows so many rumors
circulate over here. He was only with me
quite a short time but I remember him as
being a fair sized dark man with a large
dark mustache. I am sorry that this is all
the information I can give you, but hope it
may help you a little.

J. Morrison

Yours faithfully

Wm. W. W. W.

2/cpl

Transport 7th Regt