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

5800 Private Joseph Percival Cooper

26th Battalion



0800401D

A.I.F. 26th Bn

COOPER
J.P. 5800

"M. 5-10-17"

Killed in action 5-10-17 - previously reported Missing
Cert. by A.I.F.Hqrs 21-2-18.

OFF.M.

London
22-2-18

46th Battn,
A.I.F.

COOPER,
Pte.J.P. 5800

"Missing 5.10.17."

My friend's name was J.P.Cooper. We went into camp in Queensland, Australia on the 17th June, 1915 and he left Australia on the 21st of Oct. He came from North Queensland, Prosepine, where his parents live and are cane farmers of which occupation he followed prior to enlisting. I never did know his regimental number until tonight and his number is 5800. I buried my comrade 400 yards from Zonnebeke Church as near as possible. He was killed on the 4th October 1917. The said soldier was a dear friend of mine and if this is the person you are enquiring about I would like his parents to know his comrades buried him decently.

Letter from:- Pte.G.Graham,
France 18.1.18.

London.
9.3.18.

NOTE We regret the delay in typing the above report but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.

Off.M.

I

26th Australian Infantry. Cooper. Pte.J.P. 5800.

M. Oct.5/17.

"I was told by Cpl.Smith (5857) of the 26th Bat.A Coy. Pltn 1V also by Pte.J Winter of the same Coy and Pltn. also by Pte Mills (since killed) that they found Cooper lyingdead alongside the duckboard on the way to the front line trench at Zonnebeke at about noon on Oct 5th and that they helped to bury him close to where they found him. Cooper was in A Coy. Ptn. 1V and his Christian name was Percy, He was darky clean shaven, about 5'8" and 19 to 20 yrs of age. They also told me they made a rough cross for his grave."

Eyewitness:

Description:

Informant: Pte.J.Arnold. 4256.
A Coy. 1V Pltn. 26th Australian Inf.
Tooting Hospital.

Home address:
Post Office.
Charters Towers, Queensland

7/12/17.

W.I.Jones.

Written Taith 2-1-18

th A.I.F. Cooper Pte. T.J. 5800.
A Coy.

M Oct.6/17.

"Informant states that the 26th A.I.F. were going into the f firing line at Zonnebeke at about 8.p.m. on Oct.4th/17 when Cooper was struck by a shell and killed instantly a piece of shell went right through his lungs.

Eyewitness: Yes.

Description: Thickset and fair.

Informant: Pte.V.H.Lusk.6103.
A Coy. 1V Pltn. 26th A.I.F.
Horton Hospital, Epsom.

Home address:
C/o W.A.Lusk,
Edith Street, Adderly, Grienhill Estate,
Brisbane.

11/12/17.

A.J.Heald.

A.I.F. 26. COOPER, I.P. 5809.

M. Oct 5th 1917.

He was in A.IV. and the initials should be J.P. I also know his number. I was told by George Graham of the same battalion and I think in B.Coy. that he helped to bury Cooper in the open on the morning of the 5th. He said that Cooper was killed instantly by a shell as he was going up on the duckb-cards at night to the front line near Zonnebeke. The day after we had taken that village. Cooper came from Proserpine, between Mackay and Bowen and worked on his father's farm.

Inf: H.McLean. 5863. 7th MGC fr 26.D.XVI.
No. 7 C.C.
BOULOGNE. 1.1.18.

FD

Walter Graham
12.1.18

26th Battn.
A.Coy.
A.I.F.

Cpoper.
J.P. 5800

"Missing 5.10.17"

I saw him killed at Ypres. He was caught by a shell fragment in the chest and killed instantly. I knew him very well, he came from Queensland. I did not see his grave but he was buried in the field atnplace of casualty by Pte.Mills who has since been killed. I do not think the grave was marked.

Witness:-
T.S.Burns 4991
26th Battn.A.Coy. 4th Pltn.
3rd A.A.Hospital.
Dartford.

W.Oman.

London.
9.1.18.

Off.M.

Havre 21st January 1918.

26th A.I.F. Cooper T.R. No. 5800.

M. 5th October 1917.

I knew Percy Cooper of A.Company. He came from Gavins N.Queensland - He was a labourer, stout, dark, aged about 22.
I saw him killed on the tape just as we left the duck boards to go over at Zonnebeke on the 4th October about 4.30 a.m. A whiz-bang killed him and Whipler and wounded several. He and Whipler were buried close to where they were killed and two crosses put up with their names. I knew the man who buried them, he has since been killed himself.

Infn- Pte J.S.Locke No.2899.
26th A.I.F. A.Co.
Australian Camp.
Rouelles.

GLM.

26th A.I.F.

Cooper, Pte.I.Percy. 5800
A.Co.

(E. Oct. 5/17)

"My cousin 5870 A.H.Mills (since killed) buried Percy Cooper on the way to Zonnebeke. Cooper had been killed instantly by a shell. My cousin told me of his death because I was a personal firend of Coopers."

Eye-witness: Np. Told by A.H.Mills, 5870. 26.A.I.F.
Description:- Thick set, darkish, about 20 years of age.

Informant:- Pte. D.S.Mills, 5909
26th A.I.F. A.Coy.
Alexandra Hospital, Cosham.

Home address: Burringbai,
N.S.Wales.

Jan. 30/18
E. Edmonds

26th Battn.
A.I.F.

Cooper.
T.P. 5800

"Missing 5.10.17"

Re 5800 Pte. J.P.Cooper. Percy Cooper was killed outright from a bursting shell on the night of Oct.3rd and was only smatter of 3 yards in front of me when he met his sad end. He was laid to rest in the early morning of Oct.4th by the Pioneers on Zonnebeke Ridge. P. J.P.Cooper was a 17th Rfts. being a very sturdy built young chap and before enlisting followed the occupation of farm hand at Proserpine North Queensland.

Letter from:-
Pte.N.D.Peak
France 14.1.18.

London.
4.2.18.

Off.H.

26th Battalion.
A.I.F.

COOPER,
J.P. 5800

"KILLED IN ACTION" 6.10.17"

Re 5800 J.P. Cooper 26th Battalion. A.I.F. I regret very much to have to inform you that I buried him on or about 6.10.17. not far in the rear of Zonnebeke. I buried him next to a man named Weppler upon whose cross I nailed his identification disc. I placed no cross at the head of Coppers Grave, because I had none to hand, and he had no disc. I asked the Engineers to make one with his name engraved upon it, but it was not completed when I left, and consequently was never put there, I was never again in that part, in day light, so had no further opportunity of doing so. J.P. Cooper came over in the 16th Rein. of 26th Bttn on board the "Boonah" I knew him well. He was stout, and of madium height and about 20 years of age, I should imagine or perhaps a bit younger. He was wounded in the lung, a piece of shell passing right through his chest. He must have died almost instantly His ~~people~~ personal belongings had been removed before I came accross him otherwise I would have written to his Mother but I do not know her address. I came out from the line on 30th October myself a casualty, hence the delay in receiving your letter. I sincerely hope this letter will be of service to you and will be able to remove any doubt that may exist in the minds of his poor relatives. He was always a jolly decent fellow and well

26th Battalion,
A.I.F.

COOPER.
S.P. 5800.

" 2 "

liked by all his comrades. I now close with very best wishes for your success in this worthy branch of War.,

Letter from:- Horace Smith, Cpl.
Salisbury.
24.6.18.

Note;- We regret the delay in typing the above report, but we have been obliged to hold it up on account of pressure of work and shortage of machines.,

London.
19.3.18.

Off. M.

Pt. J. P. Cooper 5800 — 26 Feb

see under

Pt. P. J. Bacine 5781

6/2/16

Ack. pl
24.2.18

5857 26th Batt.
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

5800
J. P. COOPER
26 Batt
5.10.17
KA
[illegible] 3
(ed)

Miss Vera Deakin
A.R.C.S.
26 Grosvenor Place
London

Dear Miss Deakin

I have only [illegible] your letter of inquiry re 5800 J.P. Cooper 26 Batt A.I.F. & I regret very much to have to inform you that I buried him on or about the 6.10.17 not far in the rear of Ginnebake. I buried him next to a man named Cuppler upon whose cross I wasted his Chaplain identification disc. I placed his cross at the head of his (Cooper's) grave because I had none to hand & he had no disc. I asked the Engineers to make one with his name engraved upon it but

it was not completed when I left & consequently was never put there. I was never again in that part, in daylight so had no further opportunity of doing so.

P. Cooper came over in the 96 Rein of 26 Batt on board the "Boonah". I knew him well. He was stout & of medium height & about 20 years of age I should imagine or perhaps a bit young.

He was wounded in the lung. A piece of shell passing right through his chest. He must have died almost instantly. His papers & Pay book had been removed before I came across him otherwise I would have written to his Mother but I do not know her address. I came out from the line on 31st Oct myself a casualty, hence the delay in receiving your letter. I sincerely hope this letter will be of service to you & will be able to remove any doubt

ack'd letter 24-7-18

[illegible] HELP US TO ECONOMIZE BY WRITING ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER.

CHURCH ARMY OPEN TO ALL

Church Army Recreation Hut
OR TENT.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH · THE · BRITISH · EXPEDITIONARY · FORCE

France 18th 1. 1918

Dear Madam.

In reference to your letter of the 12th ultimo, enquiring of the missing soldier Cooper.

My friends name was J. P. Cooper. We went into camp in Queensland (Ilot) Australia on the 17th June 1916 & He left Australia on the 21st of Oct. He came from North Ilot. Proserpine. Where his parents live & are cane farmers of which occupation he followed prior to enlisting. I never did know his regimental number until tonight & his No is 5800. I Buried my comrade 400 yds from Donnebeke Church as near as possible. He was killed on the 4th October 1917. The said soldier was a dear friend of mine & if this is the person you are enquiring about. I would like his parents to know his comrades buried him decently.

I am Your Ext

Pte. G. Graham

5800 Pte J. P. COOPER
26 Bath
Sn. 5-10-17 Ofm

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