

In Memory Of

HERBERT LEONARD COOPER

Second Lieutenant

**7th Bn., Territorial, Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regt)
who died on Saturday, 16th September 1916. Age 35**

Born	Enlisted	Residence
Died How	Killed in action	Theatre of War France & Flanders

Additional Inf. Son of Charles and Hanah Cooper, of Itchingfield, Horsham;
Husband of Helen Louisa Cooper, of "Ivydale", Brighton Rd.
South Croydon

Commemorative Information

Cemetery: COMBLES COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Somme, France
Grave Reference/ VII. D. 20.
Panel Number:

Location: The large village of Combles is 16 kilometres east of Albert and 13 kilometres south of Bapaume. From Bapaume take the N17 towards Peronne. Just after the village of Suilly Suillisel, take the D172 towards Combles. The Communal Cemetery is on the right just before the village, and the Extension is at the back, or north-east, of the Communal Cemetery.

Historical Information: The village was entered in the early morning of the 26th August, 1916, by units of the 56th (London) Division and of the French Army; and it remained in Allied occupation until the 24th March, 1918, when the place was captured after a stubborn stand by the South African Brigade at Marrieres Wood. It was retaken on the 29th August, 1918, by the 18th Division. The village was later "adopted", with Flers, by the County Borough of Portsmouth. The cemetery was begun in October, 1916 by French troops, but the 94 French graves made in 1916 have been removed to another cemetery. The first British burials took place in December, 1916. From March, 1917, to the end of May, 1918, the Extension was not used. In June, July and August, 194 German soldiers were buried in what was afterwards called Plot I, but these graves, too, have been removed; and in August and September further burials were made by the 18th Division. Plots II, V, VI and VII and most of Plot IV were added after the Armistice by the concentration of 944 graves from the battlefields in the neighbourhood and from a few smaller cemeteries. There are now over 1,500, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified and special memorials are erected to nine soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from South Africa, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of three soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in Maurepas and Longtree Dump Military Cemeteries, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. The Extension covers an area of 5,356 square metres. It is enclosed by brick walls on the North-East and South-West.