

John William Cooper

*1253 Hunts Cyclist Battalion, 30302 14th Battalion, royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Died 9 October 1917, aged 30*

John was born in Hartford 26 February 1887, the eldest of three sons of James Cooper, a labourer, and Mary Ann (nee Barker). The family moved to Church Street, Old Hurst then to Pidley where John attended school from 14 October 1895. They then settled in Ramsey Road, Warboys. In the spring of 1910 John married Marie Fordham, the couple lived in Fenton and John worked as a platelayer on the railway.

John enlisted with the Hunts Cyclist Battalion at Huntingdon in 1915 then joined the 14th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. As part of the 13th Brigade, 5th Division the battalion held the front line at St Laurent with sniping and mining in the spring of 1916, and was involved in the Somme battles that autumn.



John's battalion fought in the Battle of Arras in the spring of 1917 and was dug in afterwards for a period of stalemate.

It is not known when John was wounded but at some point that summer or autumn he was sent to the British casualty clearing station at Remi Quaghebeur Farm near Lijssenthoek on the Belgian border. This was just outside the range of German heavy artillery at the time though it had to be moved later. John died of his wounds on 9 October 1917 and is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.



John's father James died soon after in 1922, his mother lived until 1954 and his brothers, George and Percy, until 1965.