## JOHN HENRY HOOPER - Regiment so far unknown

John, born May 30 1895, was one of the 12 children of Richard and Sarah Hooper. Richard was a farm labourer, born in Combe St Nicholas, as were all but two of the children, while Sarah came from Whitestaunton; they lived at Long Lye.

The children went to school in Buckland St Mary; two of them (but not John) appear on its Roll of Honour, and three of the brothers – John, Sidney and Walter - are on the Church Memorial Board; thankfully all survived the War.

In 1911 there were six children still at home, John being the eldest of them; he and Sidney were working as farm labourers, but John must have felt the need to branch out and leave home, for the next siting we have of him is in South Wales in 1914. Luckily for us, the GWR Register of Staff is preserved (and is available through Ancestry). We are confident we have the right J H Hooper here – his date of birth is correct, and, many years later, one of his brothers (who had joined him at Bridgend) is an executor of his will. By 1915 he's working as a porter for the GWR, first at Nantyffyllon, near Bridgend, and then as a learner Signalling Porter at Ebbw Vale.





On February 21 1915 he resigned, perhaps, given the date, to enlist. Against that, he married at Bridgend in the Summer of 1915 to Selina A. Richards and a son, Charles, was born in April 1916.

Trying to sort out his service career is proving difficult.

Unfortunately there are a lot of John Henry Hoopers, and for none of them do the details of their service career appear quite right for our J H Hooper.

After the war he made his home in South Wales. In the 1939 Register of England & Wales he and his wife Annie and their children (then numbering eleven) were living at 3 Gas Works Terrace, Penybont. Appropriately enough, John was a Foreman at the Gas Works. He died in

Bridgend on December 12 1963. His brother, Albert Edward Hooper, living nearby, was one of his Executors.

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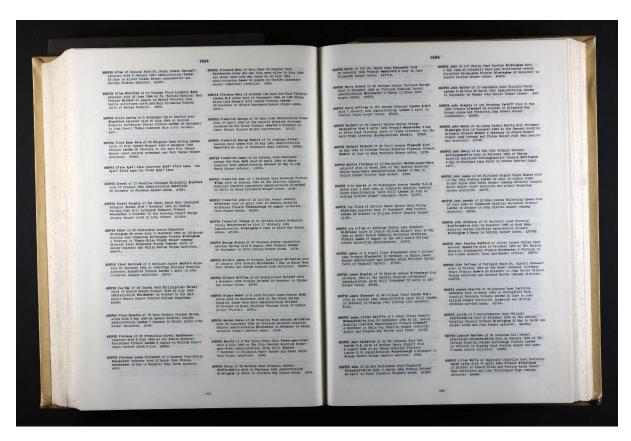
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