## SIDNEY ARTHUR HOOPER, Private 26759, 3rd Somerset Light Infantry

Sidney, born December 25 1897, baptised March 6 1898 in Buckland St Mary, 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.

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The children went to school in Buckland St Mary; two of them, Sidney and Walter, 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.

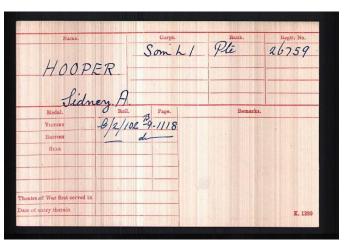
Sidney and Walter's names appear on the Absent Voters List for 1918 and 1919, living at Castle Comfort (again on the main – now A303 – road). Iney was a Private in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Somerset

Sidney was a Private in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Somerset Light Infantry. This was a training Battalion through which recruits passed, so the probability is that he was transferred to another Battalion. On the School Roll of Honour he's noted as Wounded. We can find no record of which Battalion he may have been transferred to, and his Pension Record doesn't reveal this either.

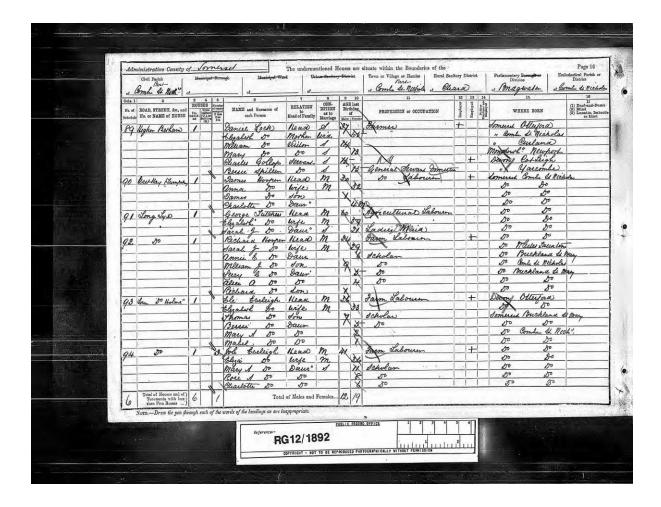
He was discharged from the Army on December 4 1919, his pension beginning

the day after. His disabilities are listed as a gunshot wound to the chest ('G..S.Wd Thorax Chest) and Heart Trouble. By the time of his final award on February 19 1924 the effect of his disabilities has reduced from 30% to 20%; he was being paid a conditional 8/- (a week?). This would appear to have ended on March 4 1924. (See website)

Interestingly, by this time he too is living close to his brother John in Gas Works Terrace, Bridgend. The brothers had evidently made South Wales their home (along it seems with another brother and sister). By the time of the 1939 Register of England and Wales Sidney is 'a Gas Worker on Heavy Work'; he lives at No 4 with his wife and two children, and his brother John at No 2. Sidney had a long life, dying in 1990 aged 93.



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