HENRY COOPER 1870 – 1915

AND HIS SON

WILFRED GEORGE HENRY 1900 -1918

A young girl named Phoebe Moore was born in 1863, her parents were John and Sarah (nee Spinney) and they lived in Flowers Drove, Lytchett Matravers.

In 1888 Phoebe married James Henry Holloway from Corfe Mullen. He worked as a Merchant Seaman. They had two daughters Ethel May b.1889 and Nellie Maud b.1891. Their marriage only lasted 8 years as James died in March, 1896 aged only 32.

In 1899 Phoebe then married Henry Cooper (originally from Essex). They had two sons Wilfred George Henry b.1900 and Charles Maber b.1903.

The family lived at Luscombe Cottages, Blandford Road and at the time of the 1911 Census Phoebe was aged 47 and Henry 41. He was receiving an Army Pension and also working as a General Labourer. Ethel and Nellie had left home and Wilfred and Charles were at school.

A happy family life came to an end with the onset of WW1. After 16 years of marriage to Henry, Phoebe was a widow once more.

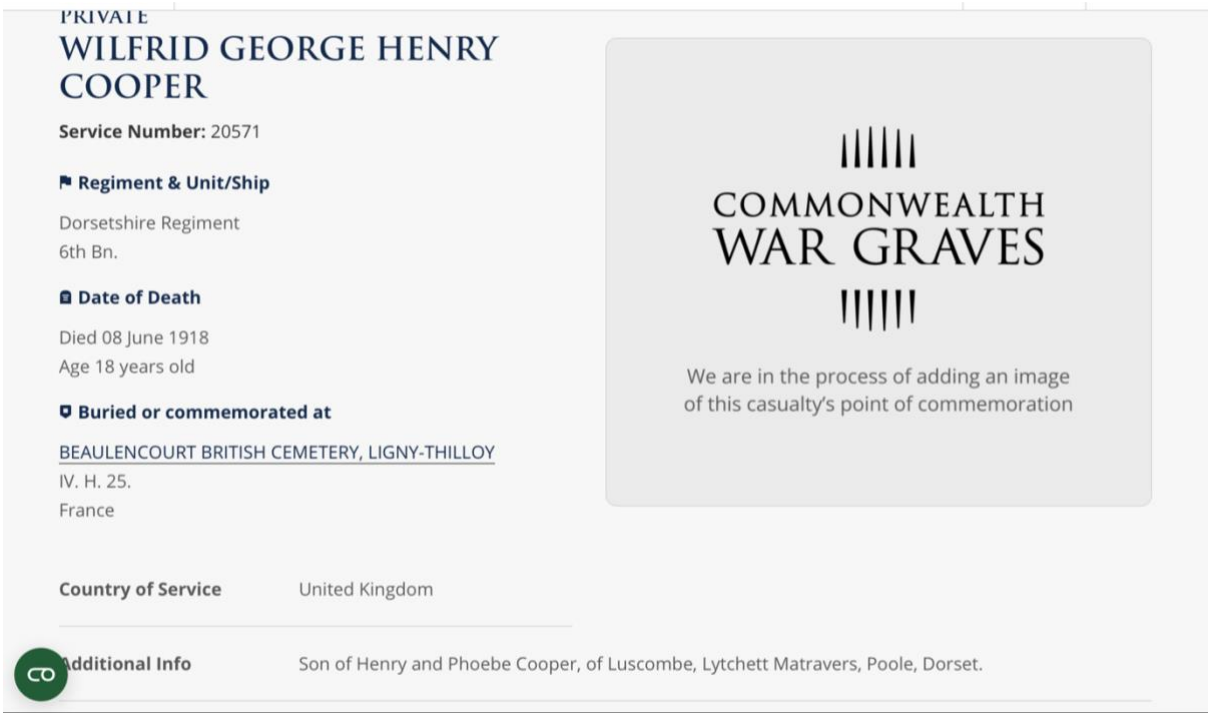
Henry was serving in the Royal Marines Light Infantry on H.M.S. Goliath when it was torpedoed and sunk on 13th May, 1915.



From March, 1915, H.M.S. Goliath was part of the Dardanelles Campaign and remained in support of the landings at Gallipoli in April. “Goliath” was sunk in Morto Bay off Cape Helles by three torpedoes from the Ottoman Destroyer Muavenet – Milliye.

Out of her crew of 750, 570 were killed in the sinking. Henry Cooper was one of those who lost his life. He was aged 45.

More sadness was to befall the family. Wilfred was only 18 and serving in the 6th Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment when he died in France.



Phoebe had lost a husband and a son within 3 years of each other. She must have been relieved that by the time Charles was eighteen the War was over.

Charles married Dorothy Pearce in 1926. He worked as a Gardener and they lived in Upton.