Tom Cooper

1892 -22/41916

Tom Cooper's name appears on the Lytchett Matravers War Memorial and on researching his history it was revealed that he was the brother of Louisa Lillian Martin, whose husband, Horace Martin, had died just a year before.

Edward Thomas Cooper (known as Tom) was born in 1892, the only son of Samuel and Agnes Anne (nee Skinner). He had three sisters, Frances "Kate" b.1883, Elizabeth b.1887 (she died aged 4) and Louisa Lillian b. 1890.

According to the 1911 Census, Tom worked as a "Horseman in a Brickyard". With the onset of WW1 he joined 2nd Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment.

His Battalion was shipped to Mesopotamia (now Iraq) and took part in the battle to break the siege of Kut. It was during this battle that he lost his life.

One historian described the loss of Kut as "the most abject capitulation in Britain's Military History".

When General Townsend failed to negotiate an end to the siege, he surrendered on 29/4/1916 which ended in13,000 Allied Prisoners. They were forced to march around Baghdad while being maltreated by the Ottoman Troops.

Reading the history of this Battle it can only be hoped that Tom's death came suddenly. Unlike the death of some who were taken prisoners.

