

**George Hilton Coop**  
**Remembered with Honour**  
**A.I.F. Burial Ground, Flers**

**In Memory of**  
**Private**

**20208, 26th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 08 October 1916 Age 20**  
**Son of Charles Woolley Coop and Lily Coop, of 38, Granville St., Ashton-under-Lyne.**

The great majority of the graves in A.I.F. Burial Ground date from the autumn of 1916, but one are from 1914, and there are others from the spring of 1917 and the spring and summer of 1918.

The 26th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers formed part of the 41st Division engaged in the 1916 Battle for the Somme.

Phase: the Battle of Le Transloy, 1 - 18 October 1916

Fourth Army (Rawlinson)

III Corps (Pulteney)

9th (Scottish) Division

15th (Scottish) Division

23rd Division, which captured Le Sars

47th (2nd London) Division, which captured Eaucourt L'Abbaye

50th (Northumbrian) Division.

Note: all above except 50th (Northumbrian) Division took part in attacks on the Butte de Warlencourt during this Phase; 48th and 50th attacked that feature at a later date.

XIV Corps (Cavan)

Guards Division

4th Division

6th Division

20th (Light) Division

56th (1st London) Division.

XV Corps (Watts)

12th (Eastern) Division

21st Division

30th Division

41st Division

55th (West Lancashire) Division

New Zealand Division

88th Brigade of 29th Division.

From Wikipedia the Battle for Transloy

With the successful conclusion of the preceding [Battle of Morval](#) at the end of September, the Fourth Army of [Lieutenant General Henry Rawlinson](#) had finally captured the third line of [German](#) defences on the Somme. Unfortunately, while there had only been three lines at the start of the Somme battle in July, the Germans had not been idle during the slow Allied advance and Rawlinson's army was now confronted by a fourth line of defences along the Transloy ridge beyond which fifth and sixth lines were under construction. The prospect of a breakthrough was as distant as ever.

Nevertheless, the [British](#) commander-in-chief, General [Sir Douglas Haig](#), still had plans to achieve a breakthrough involving his three armies on the Somme; the Fourth Army in the south, the [Reserve Army](#) (later the Fifth Army) in the centre and the [Third Army](#) of General [Edmund Allenby](#) in the north. The first step was the capture of the Transloy line by the Fourth Army.

Battle[[edit](#)]

Fourth Army[[edit](#)]

The battle, which opened on 1 October, began well with the capture of [Eaucourt L'Abbaye](#) by the [47th \(1/2nd London\) Division](#) as well as an advance along the [Albert-Bapaume](#) road towards [Le Sars](#). The advance was resumed on 7 October and Le Sars was taken by the [British 23rd Division](#) but progress along the Canadian lines stalled. In XIV Corps the 56th Division attacked Hazy, Dewdrop and Spectrum Trenches in the afternoon but was forced back but nightfall and the Germans reoccupied Rainy Trench which had been left empty. In III Corps the 47th Division made a failed attempt to take Stag Trench but was able to get posts onto the Eaucourt l'Abbaye–Warlencourt road, connecting with the 23rd Division

which had attacked Flers Trench (Flers Riegel) at dawn and established a post 750 yards (690 m) north-west of Le Sars.<sup>[1]</sup>

The weather was rapidly deteriorating and the battlefield, which had been pummelled to dust by relentless [artillery](#) bombardment over the preceding three months, turned into a quagmire. Rawlinson mounted further attacks on 12 October including the [Newfoundlanders](#) at [Gueudecourt](#), 18 October and 23 October but there was little chance of a significant gain.

### **Background:**

In 1911 George is living with his mum Lily Coop at 51 Henrietta Street, she is a caretaker at a doctor's surgery. Lily had been married for 15 years and they had had 4 children one of whom had already died.

George is 14 and still at school and has two sisters Nellie Hilton Coop aged 11 and Mildred Coop aged 6. His father is not there on census night.

I found the marriage of his parents at St James Church, Ashton-under-Lyne in 1895

I can't be certain, but it looks like Charles Woolley Coop is living in a lodging house on Half Street in Stalybridge and says he is a butcher by trade.

I have tried to find him earlier than this and may have found him on the 1891 census living with his widowed mother Sarah who is a butcher and Charles is also a butcher. Living next door, maybe his uncle, who is a cattle dealer.