



COPPIN, ALBERT EDWARD

Rank: Corporal Service No: 7898

1st Battalion. Suffolk Regiment 84th Brigade, 28th Division

Date of Death: 09/02/1915



Divisional badge was a red stripe on the epaulette

His next of kin was given as Miss F. J. Coppin, of "Grasmere," Church Rd., Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. The CD "Soldiers Died in the Great War" shows that he was born in Old Heath & enlisted at Woolwich.

At the outbreak of war, the 1st Battalion were in Khartoum, Sudan. On 20 Nov 1907 they had set sail for Malta, arriving there on 27 Nov. On 25 Jan 1911 they went from Malta to Alexandria, arriving in Alexandria on 28 Jan. On 23 Jan 1912 they went from Alexandria to Cairo. In Feb 1914 they went from Cairo to Khartoum, where they were stationed at the outbreak of World War One. In Sept 1914 the 1st Battalion were ordered home, and they arrived in Liverpool on 23 Oct 1914. They then went to Lichfield, Staffs before going to Felixstowe on 17 Nov 1914 (they were allotted to 28th Div under Major Gen E S Bulfin). Three weeks later they went to Winchester, where they stayed until 16 Jan 1915 when they went to Southampton and set sail for France. They sailed to Havre on Jan 17 and disembarked on Jan 18. On 2 Feb 1915 they went to Ypres, arriving shortly before midnight. They spent the next few months fighting in the Ypres salient.. During the month of February they had been in the Verbrandenmolen sector. The Official history says :- "*Throughout February 9 the enemy shelled unremittingly one part or another of the Verbrandenmolen sector. The trenches held by the battalion were in a shocking state, those on the right being two feet deep in water. Battalion headquarters, despite the attention it had received from the enemy's artillery during the afternoon, remained intact. The next evening the battalion returned to Ypres and during the night of the 11th-12th went into billets near Ouderdom. On the afternoon of February 15th after Albert had been killed, the 1st Suffolk regiment was ordered up towards evening to take over some temporary trenches, to the south of Ypres and west of the canal. These so-called trenches consisted of banks which did not provide any cover and ditches mostly waist-deep in water. 'O' Trench had been captured by the enemy, but was now reported to have been retaken by the Buffs that evening. 'C' company was ordered to relieve the Buffs in this trench and hold it till morning. When they arrived, however, they learned from the Buffs that the main part of the trench was in the hands of the enemy. As they moved forward the front platoon of 'C' company were stopped by grenade and machine-gun fire. All attempts to get beyond this point failed and the company suffered heavy casualties during the rest of the night. By dawn all survivors had been taken prisoner.*" reference :- : 'History of the 12th (The Suffolk) Regiment, 1685-1913' by Lt Col E A H Webb and 'The History of The Suffolk Regiment, 1914-1927' by Lt Col C C R Murphy.



Name		Corps		Rank		Regt. No.	
COPPIN		1/ Suff. R.		Cpl.		7898	
Last		First		Middle		Initials	
A.E.							
Serial		Regt.		Page		Remarks	
15		14/10315/83644		K-A		9-2-15	
Unit		Date		Page		Remarks	
15		5/14/82		87B			
Theatre of War that served in		(1) France					
Date of entry theatre		16/1/15					

1901 Census shows : A family comprising :- Gertrude aged 6, Florence aged 7, **Albert** aged 11, Beatrice aged 12 all born in Colchester and living at Essex East Donyland together with their father George Coppin aged 36, who had been born at St. Giles Colchester and worked as a labourer in a brickfield. There is a younger brother Alfred Coppin aged 6 who was born in East Donyland and sisters Alice aged 1, Ethel aged 4, ; this suggest they moved about 1895 to East Donyland . Also there are two ladies presumably the mother and aunt; Annie Coppin aged 30 born at Great Bromley and Elizabeth Coppin aged 39 born at Thorpe Le Soken Essex . In the second World War his nephews Robert Coppin died with the RAFVR & Stanley Neville with the Essex Regiment.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: IXA. K. 6.



Cemetery: HOOZE CRATER CEMETERY

Hooze Chateau and its stables were the scene of very fierce fighting throughout the First World War. On 31 October 1914, the staff of the 1st and 2nd Divisions were wiped out when the chateau was shelled; from 24 May to 3 June 1915, the chateau was defended against German attacks and in July 1915, the crater was made by a mine sprung by the 3rd Division. On 30 July, the Germans took the chateau, and on 9 August, it and the crater were regained by

the 6th Division. The Germans retook Hooze on 6 June 1916 and on 31 July 1917, the 8th Division advanced 1.6 kilometres beyond it. It was lost for the last time in April 1918, but regained by the 9th (Scottish) and 29th Divisions on 28 September. Hooze Crater Cemetery was begun by the 7th Division Burial Officer early in October 1917. It contained originally 76 graves, in Rows A to D of Plot I, but was greatly increased after the Armistice when graves were brought in from smaller cemeteries in the area and from the battlefields of Zillebeke, Zantvoorde and Gheluvelt. There are now 5,922 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 3,578 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials record the names of a number of casualties either known or believed to be buried among them, or whose graves in other cemeteries were destroyed by shell fire. The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.



