

## Thomas Francis Cooper

### 1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census

35 Elm Grove, Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, England

Name	Relationship	Status	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
<i>Thomas Cooper</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Widower</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>Retired Army Pensioner</i>	<i>Norwich</i>
Dorothy Cooper	Granddaughter	Single	21	-	Lancashire
Elsie Gustar	Servant	Single	18	General Servant	Newport, Isle of Wight

### Isle of Wight County Press

26 December 1914

#### NEWPORT

**Death of ex-Sergt.-Major Cooper.**—We greatly regret to announce the passing away of one who in his time has been a notable local personality, had won peculiar respect and admiration, and had done his country splendid service as a soldier for over 43 years. We refer to ex-Sergt.-Major Cooper, who died on Sunday at his residence, Yelverton, South-mall, at the age of 83; he would have been 84 in another month. A native of Norwich, he enlisted quite early in life in the Royal Artillery. The writer well remembers him as a magnificent specimen of manhood and a soldier of ideal efficiency and smartness at Portsmouth in the late 60's. He was then company sergt.-major and afterwards master gunner. With the latter rank he came to the Island and took charge of Sandown Fort. Later he became attached to the I.W. Artillery Militia when it was under the command of Col. Leopold Paget, a very distinguished officer. Writing in January, 1911, when the deceased veteran attained his 80th year, our esteemed contributor "Stylus" said: "His name will be especially remembered in connection with the I.W. Artillery Militia, now, alas! no more" . . . My gallant octogenarian friend was appointed Regimental Sergt.-Major of the I.W. Artillery Militia in 1874, to which position he brought all the knowledge and experience he had gained as a master gunner in the Royal Artillery. His connection with the regiment extended over many years, and it was during his period of service that the corps attained its highest standard of efficiency. At the time the announcement was made that the Duke of Connaught had become Honorary Colonel of the regiment I remember hearing a very distinguished officer say that the Island Militia was second to none in the Service . . . and I have often heard Sergt.-Major Cooper's praises sounded by officers under whom he served". Since retiring from active military work the deceased was for some years drill-instructor at the Newport Grammar-school and at the National (boys') school in this town, and although he had the reputation of being a strict disciplinarian he won the warm regard of the boys who came under his admirable tuition, and after they left school they continued to hold him in affectionate remembrance. He was a typical soldier, of fine physique, and his tall and upright figure was very familiar in our midst. In private, as in military life, he made many friends, and he won the high regard of all by his many estimable qualities. In politics he was a staunch Conservative. Sergt.-Major Cooper leaves three sons and two daughters. His wife died some five years since. His eldest son, Major T. Cooper, late R.A., of Gibraltar, has attained the high rank in his father's old corps, and he is also a Freemason holding a very high position in the craft. Another son, Lieut. F. Cooper, has just received his commission, and is stationed at Lewes. Mr. G. Cooper, the third son, now of West Hartlepool, has also done efficient service in the Army. The funeral will take place on Sunday at 1.15 p.m., having been postponed to give Major Cooper time to come from "The Rock". Military honours would have been accorded the deceased but for the postponement.

**Isle of Wight County Press**  
**2 January 1915**  
**NEWPORT**

**Funeral of Sergt.-Major Cooper.** —The funeral took place on Sunday of the later Sergt.-Major Cooper, R.A., the last master-gunner of the old Portsmouth lines and afterwards of the I.W. Artillery Militia, whose death was announced last week. The first portion of the service was held at St. Thomas's Church and the interment was at the Newport Cemetery, the Rev. J. L. Spratt officiating. The principal mourners were Major T. F. Cooper (Gibraltar), son, Mrs. T. F. Cooper being prevented by illness from attending; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cooper, Lieut. F. C. Cooper, R.F.A., and Mrs. Cooper, Paymaster Archie Cooper, R.N., and Miss Dolly Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Salter, Mr. and Mrs. G. Hoad, Mr. W. H. Morris and Miss Morris, and grandchildren. There were also present Col. Gordon, J.P. (late commanding the I.W. Militia), Capt. Frank King (late I.W. Rifles), Ald. R. Bird Cheverton, J.P., Ald. W. J. Whittington, J.P., Messrs. C. Steel, T.C., W. K. Ediss, J. B. Alderslade, H. T. Read, A. A. Lewis, A. Mearman, and G. Morris. Col. Clayton (late I.W. Militia) was unavoidably prevented from attending. The floral tributes were sent by Major and Mrs. T. F. Cooper and grandchildren; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cooper and grandchildren; Lieut. and Mrs. F. C. Cooper, R.F.A.; Paymaster Archie Cooper, R.N., and Miss Dolly Cooper (grandchildren); Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Salter and grandchildren; Mr. and Mrs. G. Hoad and grandchildren; Dorothy, Isabel, and Fred Morris (grandchildren); Mrs. Salter and Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins; Colonel Gordon; Commander Woolley, R. N., and Mrs. Woolley (Gibraltar); Mr. and Mrs. W. Stevens (Gibraltar); Miss Eleanor Cheverton; and Miss Elsie Gustar (his old servant). The coffin was of polished elm, with brass fittings. Mr. C. Webb carried out the funeral arrangements in conjunction with Messrs. H. and F. Damp.—Major Cooper writes: "As I am unable to write to all the kind friends we have in the Isle of Wight, especially in our home, Newport, owing to my short stay, I beg through the medium of the *County Press* to thank them for the kind messages of sympathy received on the death of my dear father, on behalf of my brothers and sisters. I can assure them it is very comforting".

*Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2020*  
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