

John Cooper tells the sad story of his Great Uncle Walter Edwin Cooper who was born in Lambeth 1884. Walter Edwin was a soldier in WW1 with the 6th Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was killed in action (going over the top) on 13th October at the age of 31 in France and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

'The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay, from the first day of the Battle of Loos to the end of the war'



John has found a note entry in the 6th Buffs War diaries relating to the day before Walter Edwin died- it says; *"A notice was put up on the German parapet opposite MACHINE GUN HOUSE having the words "Good luck to you, Englishmen".* It seems the Germans knew what was about to happen to the English.

John has been lucky enough to have inherited Walter Edwin's silver card and cigarette case which has been passed down through the generations to John.



I am also including this poignant photograph of the family taken soon after Walter Edwin's passing. Walter Edwin's Army portrait is seen on the wall behind in his family. John's father Jack Cooper is in the back row, leading John to conclude the photograph was taken in about 1918.

