

## CAPPER, Edward Walter



FIRST FIFTEEN, 1909.

*Back Row* Mr. C. Potts (Referee), W. Warden, D.S. Slatton, W. Long, J. MacDonald, E.W. Capper, J. Elliot, — Holden (Referee). *Middle Row:* W.R. Cordingley, Mr. Newton, Mr. J.M. Hyndes, W.R. Colwell (Captain), V.N. Phelps, R. MacMillan, A.M. Porter. *Front Row:* R.M. Boyce, C.M. Warden, N. Milson, H.P. Waring.

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Arras Flying Services Memorial  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Image

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/99996/ARRAS%20FLYING%20SERVICE%20MEMORIAL>

Edward Walter Capper was born in West Maitland in 1889, the second youngest of Harry and Lydia Capper's five children.

Edward was educated at Barker College, NSW, and then HAC 1907-1909.

Capper gained a Piggery certificate in 1907, finishing top of the class and with honours. He then went on to graduate with a Diploma and Burdekin Medal in 1909. Edward was involved in many aspects of College life, gaining the Ambulance Class certificate in 1907, playing and competing in the cricket and rugby teams (First and Second XV), rifle club and athletics.

Edward worked on a cattle station out from Bundaberg from 1909, and had enlisted with British Forces by April 1915 (HAC Journal April 1915 p.63). Capper served with the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry and then the 19<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Royal Flying Corps.

Capper wrote from France to HAC Principal, Mr. Potts, 31/1/17: "Many thanks for the parcel which I received about a week ago. It was very acceptable, especially the Lucy Hinton tobacco...I have been out with No. 19 squadron for five months. We have been recently reequipped with the latest type of fast scout which is a great relief after the old machines we had...I have been flying single-seater machines all the time out here and have had a, good many scraps" (HAC Journal May 1917 p.65).

Edward was reported missing 14 April 1917, with articles published in the Maitland and Sydney newspapers such as "A cable message has been received from London by Mr. Hal Capper, of Bolwarra, stating that his brother. Lieut. E. W. Capper, of the Montgomery Yeomanry and Royal Flying Corps, was reported missing on April 14. Lieut. Capper is the youngest son of the late Mr. H.H. Capper, of West Maitland, and brother to Lieut. Basil Capper, who was with the Australian forces at Gallipoli. Letters received from him recently stated that he had been flying at the front for seven or eight months, and his name appeared in the Royal Flying Corps weekly communique as having brought

down an enemy plane..." (S.M.H. 21 April 1917, p14).

Edward is recorded as having died 14 April 1917, and is commemorated at the Arras Flying Services Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.