

## **ANTHONY MATTHEW COOPER (R35-39)**

He was born on 1 February 1921 and served in Algeria, Middle East and Sicily with Royal Artillery during WW2. Between 1948-50 he served in Malaya and Singapore, followed by time in Hong Kong and Royal Ordnance. Retired from Army in 1968 as Lt. Col. and initially joined Rolls Royce, before International Computers. Retired in 1986.

He wrote a book titled "Somehow They Knew: A True Love-Story". As the title implies it is a true love story that starts during WW2. An artillery officer about to go overseas on active service meets a pretty girl in a small village in the south of England. She is a talented draftsman in the drawing office of a key wartime research establishment. They fall in love. His embarkation leave turns into a whirlwind courtship. Separated by war and duty, they never lose hope that one-day they will be together.

There is a first-hand account of the Allied landings in North Africa and the invasion of Sicily. A charming picture is painted of the day-to-day life of the young girl as she awaits his return, with fascinating glimpses of life in wartime Britain.

Their dreams come true and they are married. In the post-war years their life together is rich in travel and adventure; the scene moves to Singapore, Hong Kong, America and France.

It also mentions a couple of times **General Sir Pat Howard-Dobson (R33-40)**.

In 1994 he published a book on the experiences of his father in the Great War, titled "*We Who Knew*" and it is considered by many to be one of the best accounts of life in the trenches on the Western Front. The book is an edited version of actual journals kept by his father (Matthew) during the First World War. It describes his father's two years of trench warfare in Flanders, including an account of the battle at Messines.

He died aged 91 on Saturday 25th August 2012 at the Queen Alexander Hospital, Portsmouth after a short illness following a bout of pneumonia. Here is a brief obituary published on the SOF website at the time :

*Tony was at Framlingham College from 1935-1939 where he was a member of Rendlesham House. Whilst at Framlingham he was a close friend of Patrick Howard-Dobson and Paul Griffin - friendships that endured for the rest of their lives. From Framlingham Tony went to Woolwich Military College and then straight into the Second World War. He was a Forward Observation Officer in the Royal Artillery and took part in the landings in North Africa and Sicily. He married his war-time sweetheart Tatiana (Tina) who pre-deceased him. (General Patrick Howard Dobson read the eulogy at Tina's funeral). He remained a soldier for more than 30 years and enjoyed postings to Singapore and Hong Kong. On retiring from the Army Tony pursued a successful career in the field of management training where he worked for Rolls-Royce, ICL, The Institute of Chartered Accountants and Oce.*

*At the age of 70 he and Tina retired to Boulogne-sur-Mer in Northern France where he taught himself fluent French and lived for the next 20 years. In France they were often visited by Patrick Howard-Dobson and Paul Griffin. He wrote two books and also several articles on Napoleon, whom he greatly admired. He was widowed in 1998, but continued living on his own, in France, until his return to England in 2011 at the age of 90. Tony was buried on 7th September, next to his wife Tina, in the new cemetery at Woodbridge close to his old school. He is survived by his 3 daughters, Helen, Julia and Anna.*

