

# Wayne Bennett Cooper, T-38

## 9 October 1920 – 17 September 1944

(aged 23)



*Lieutenant Wayne B. Cooper of 2632 LaRoss, recently awarded the Silver Star by Lieutenant General Carl Spaatz, commanding general of the Army Northwest African Air Forces, for bravery in attempting to save the life of his navigator, after his plane was shot down to sea.*

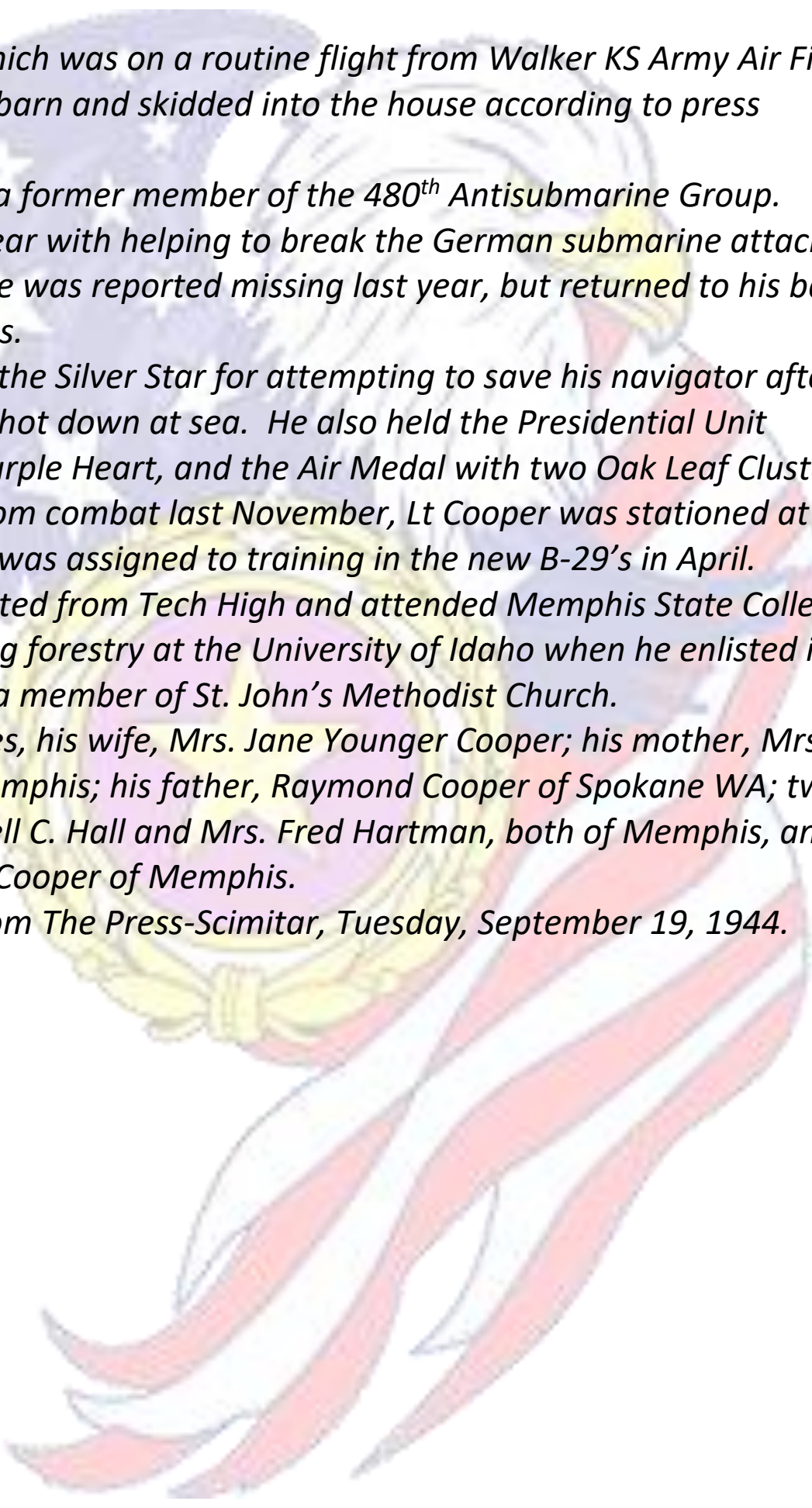
*Lieutenant Cooper, son of Mrs. V. E. Cooper of the LaRoss address was commissioned at Kelly Field TX in November 1942. He was graduated from Tech High School and attended Memphis State College and the University of Idaho.*

*Information from The Commercial Appeal, Saturday, December 11, 1943.*

### **AIR CRASH ENDS NEW HOME PLAN**

*When Lt. Wayne B. Cooper, B-29 pilot, was home on leave several weeks ago, he and his wife bought a modern bungalow at 432 N. Highland. They planned to make it their permanent home when the war was over. Mrs. Cooper had already moved in.*

*Lt. Cooper, his crew of 10, a rancher and the rancher's one-year-old grandson were killed Sunday night when a B-29 crashed into the ranch house near Garden City KS.*



*The bomber which was on a routine flight from Walker KS Army Air Field, crashed into a barn and skidded into the house according to press dispatches.*

*Lt Cooper was a former member of the 480<sup>th</sup> Antisubmarine Group. Credited last year with helping to break the German submarine attacks in the Atlantic. He was reported missing last year, but returned to his base after two weeks.*

*Lt Cooper won the Silver Star for attempting to save his navigator after his plane was shot down at sea. He also held the Presidential Unit Citation, the Purple Heart, and the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Upon return from combat last November, Lt Cooper was stationed at Clovis NM and was assigned to training in the new B-29's in April.*

*He was graduated from Tech High and attended Memphis State College. He was studying forestry at the University of Idaho when he enlisted in 1941. He was a member of St. John's Methodist Church.*

*Lt Cooper leaves, his wife, Mrs. Jane Younger Cooper; his mother, Mrs. J. E. Savely of Memphis; his father, Raymond Cooper of Spokane WA; two sisters, Mrs. Nell C. Hall and Mrs. Fred Hartman, both of Memphis, and his brother, M. D. Cooper of Memphis.*

*Information from The Press-Scimitar, Tuesday, September 19, 1944.*