

**Archives Branch  
Naval History and Heritage Command  
805 Kidder Breese Street, SE  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060**

**Processor:** Roy Grossnick (Updated November 2012) and originally processed by Barbara Posner (July 2008).

## **Charles W. Cooper Papers**

### **COLL/573**

**Creator:** Aviation Machinist Mate Third Class Charles W. “Bill” Cooper, USN

**Extent:** 4 boxes  
1.3 cubic feet

**Date Range:** 1943-1946

**Classification:** Unclassified

**Access:** Open

#### **Scope and Content Notes**

This Collection consists of approximately 750 letters and postcards written by and to Charles William “Bill” Cooper. The letters reflect the regular exchange between an enlisted man and his family. The letters from family offer a unique window into life on the “home front.”

The Collection is organized into three Series. Series I contains the original correspondence and postcards exchanged between Bill Cooper and his friends and family. Sub-Series A of Series I are the “Incoming” letters – those that Bill received from his friends and family. Predominant correspondents are his mother, Gladys Bolon Cooper; his father, Charles Cooper; sister, Dorothy and brother, Donald. Bill received communication also from his grandmother, Fanny Cooper Stewart and his aunt (Fanny’s sister) Jennie Knowles. Sub-series B of Series I includes all “Outgoing” letters, those letters written by Bill to his family. Sub-series A and B are organized in chronological order by month and year. Sub-Series C of Series I are the postcards exchanged by Cooper and his family; they are also arranged chronologically.

Series II represents the Research copies of the original letters and postcards, arranged chronologically by month and year, based on date created and completely integrated (not separated by creator).

Series III is the Family History. Included in this series is a brief biography about Charles Cooper, the Cooper/Dolman family genealogy, an excerpt from the diary of Cooper’s mother, Gladys Bolon Cooper covering the period from 1943-1946, and correspondence between Cooper’s grandmother, Fanny Cooper Stewart and various family members.

**Subject Heading (LCSH)**

United States. Navy—History—Sources  
United States. Navy—Enlisted.  
United States. Navy—Aviation Training

### **Biography**

Charles William “Bill” Cooper was born in Columbus, OH, on August 13, 1924, to Charles and Gladys Bolon Cooper. After graduation from North High School, Columbus, OH, Cooper entered the Navy on June 26, 1943. During his 3-year enlistment he served as an Aviation Machinist’s Mate 3/c, stationed primarily state-side and overseas in the Pacific Theater as part of the Patrol Bombing Squad #26. After World War II ended, Cooper spent several months in Japan before being discharged on April 21, 1946.

After his discharge, Cooper completed 2 degrees from Ohio State University and was for most of his professional life, a teacher in the elementary schools of Columbus, OH. Married to Gloria Bond Cooper in 1950, they lived on a farm in Sugar Grove, OH, where they raised five children. At the age of 49, Cooper contracted Hodgkin’s disease; after 15 years in remission, the disease returned. He died on November 23, 1988 and was buried in Lancaster, OH.

### **Places Served**

NAFLP 70 Eng Div  
Litchfield Park, AZ

CAC Student, Bldg. 35  
U.S. Naval Air Station  
Corpus Christi, TX

Company 15  
N.A.T.C. Corry Field  
Pensacola, FL

COMFAIR WC,  
U.S. Naval Air Station  
San Diego, CA

A.M.M. School, Bldg. 942, Squad 2A  
Ellyson Field  
Pensacola, FL

Night Flyer, Squadron 2A  
Ellyson Field  
Pensacola, FL

Company 34, Barracks 10  
Naval Receiving Station, Algiers  
New Orleans, LA

A & R Dept. Night Check Crew  
U.S. Naval Air Station  
Minneapolis, MN

CO 46-A-3  
U.S. Naval Air Gunners School  
Jacksonville, FL

Squadron 41c  
U.S. Naval Air Station  
Banana River, FL

## **Box and Folder Listing**

### **Box 1**

#### **Series I: Original Correspondence, Jul. 1943-Dec. 1944**

##### **Sub-series A: Incoming Correspondence, Jul. 1943-Dec. 1944**

- |                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1. Incoming Correspondence  | Jul. 1943  |
| 2. Incoming Correspondence  | Aug. 1943  |
| 3. Incoming Correspondence  | Sept. 1943 |
| 4. Incoming Correspondence  | Oct. 1943  |
| 5. Incoming Correspondence  | Nov. 1943  |
| 6. Incoming Correspondence  | Dec. 1943  |
| 7. Incoming Correspondence  | Jan. 1944  |
| 8. Incoming Correspondence  | Feb. 1944  |
| 9. Incoming Correspondence  | Mar. 1944  |
| 10. Incoming Correspondence | Apr. 1944  |
| 11. Incoming Correspondence | May 1944   |
| 12. Incoming Correspondence | Jun. 1944  |
| 13. Incoming Correspondence | Jul. 1944  |
| 14. Incoming Correspondence | Aug. 1944  |
| 15. Incoming Correspondence | Sept. 1944 |
| 16. Incoming Correspondence | Oct. 1944  |
| 17. Incoming Correspondence | Nov. 1944  |
| 18. Incoming Correspondence | Dec. 1944  |

### **Box 2**

#### **Series I: Original Correspondence, Jan. 1945-Apr. 1946**

##### **Sub-series A: Incoming Correspondence, Jul. 1943-Dec. 1944**

- |                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 19. Incoming Correspondence | Jan. 1945 |
| 20. Incoming Correspondence | Feb. 1945 |
| 21. Incoming Correspondence | Mar. 1945 |
| 22. Incoming Correspondence | Jan. 1946 |
| 23. Incoming Correspondence | Mar. 1946 |
| 24. Incoming Correspondence | Apr. 1946 |

##### **Sub-series B: Outgoing Correspondence, Jul. 1943-Apr. 1946**

- |                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| 25. Outgoing Correspondence | Jul. 1943  |
| 26. Outgoing Correspondence | Aug. 1943  |
| 27. Outgoing Correspondence | Sept. 1943 |
| 28. Outgoing Correspondence | Oct. 1943  |
| 29. Outgoing Correspondence | Nov. 1943  |
| 30. Outgoing Correspondence | Dec. 1943  |
| 31. Outgoing Correspondence | Jan. 1944  |
| 32. Outgoing Correspondence | Feb. 1944  |

33. Outgoing Correspondence	Mar. 1944
34. Outgoing Correspondence	Apr. 1944
35. Outgoing Correspondence	May 1944
36. Outgoing Correspondence	Jun. 1944
37. Outgoing Correspondence	Jul. 1944
38. Outgoing Correspondence	Aug. 1944
39. Outgoing Correspondence	Sept. 1944
40. Outgoing Correspondence	Oct. 1944
41. Outgoing Correspondence	Nov. 1944
42. Outgoing Correspondence	Dec. 1944
43. Outgoing Correspondence	Jan. 1945
44. Outgoing Correspondence	Feb. 1945
45. Outgoing Correspondence	Mar. 1945
46. Outgoing Correspondence	Apr. 1945
47. Outgoing Correspondence	May 1945
48. Outgoing Correspondence	Jun. 1945
49. Outgoing Correspondence	Jul. 1945
50. Outgoing Correspondence	Aug. 1945
51. Outgoing Correspondence	Sept. 1945
52. Outgoing Correspondence	Oct. 1945
53. Outgoing Correspondence	Nov. 1945
54. Outgoing Correspondence	Apr. 1946
55. Correspondence	Undated

**Sub-series C: Original Postcards, Jul. 1943-Jan. 1945**

56. Post Cards

**Box 3**

**Series II: Research Copies of Correspondence, Jul. 1943-Apr. 1946**

57. Research Copies of Correspondence	Jul. 1943
58. Research Copies of Correspondence	Aug. 1943
59. Research Copies of Correspondence	Sept. 1943
60. Research Copies of Correspondence	Oct. 1943
61. Research Copies of Correspondence	Nov. 1943
62. Research Copies of Correspondence	Dec. 1943
63. Research Copies of Correspondence	Feb. 1944
64. Research Copies of Correspondence	Mar. 1944
65. Research Copies of Correspondence	Apr. 1944
66. Research Copies of Correspondence	May 1944
67. Research Copies of Correspondence	Jun. 1944
68. Research Copies of Correspondence	Jul. 1944
69. Research Copies of Correspondence	Aug. 1944
70. Research Copies of Correspondence	Sept. 1944
71. Research Copies of Correspondence	Oct. 1944
72. Research Copies of Correspondence	Nov. 1944
73. Research Copies of Correspondence	Dec. 1944

**Box 4**

**Series II: Research Copies, Jul. 1943-Apr. 1946**

74. Research Copies of Correspondence	Jan. 1945
75. Research Copies of Correspondence	Feb. 1945
76. Research Copies of Correspondence	Mar. 1945
77. Research Copies of Correspondence	Apr. 1945
78. Research Copies of Correspondence	May 1945
79. Research Copies of Correspondence	Jun. 1945
80. Research Copies of Correspondence	Jul. 1945
81. Research Copies of Correspondence	Aug. 1945
82. Research Copies of Correspondence	Sept. 1945
83. Research Copies of Correspondence	Oct. 1945

**Series III: Family History**

84. Charles Cooper Biography	1924-1988
85. Gladys Bolon Cooper Diary	1941-1946
86. Cooper/Doman Genealogy	1843-2001
87. Correspondence of Fanny Cooper Stewart	Undated