**COOPER, Brigid Winifred Thérèse (Budge),** m. **Alexander,** born Putney, London 2 Sept. 1913, died Dundee 25 April 1983. Documentary film-maker. Daughter of Alinda Hayes, and George Alexander Cooper, film technician.

Starting as a continuity girl at Elstree, Budge Cooper was part of the British documentary movement of the 1930s–40s, which created openings for women such as \*Ruby and Marion Grierson and herself to start directing. In 1941, while working for the Crown Unit, she met documentary filmmaker Donald Alexander (1913–93), of Scottish descent, whom she married in 1945. In 1942, after leaving her job as assistant to Humphrey Jennings, the couple joined Paul Rotha Productions, and both filmed social- and health-themed documentaries.

Budge Cooper was responsible for two key Scottish documentaries. She scripted and directed *Children of the City* (1944), commissioned by the Scottish Office via the MOI, which examined child delinquency in Dundee. Having, with her husband and others, formed the co-operative film unit Documentary Technicians Alliance (DATA), her second Scottish project, sponsored by the Department of Health for Scotland, was ‘*Birth-day’* (1945, co-director Mary Beales), a film encouraging women to seek medical advice in early pregnancy.

Budge Cooper directed several films for the National Coal Board, including *First Aid in the Mines:* *Burns from a Colliery Explosion* (1960). To make this, she had to challenge an Act of Parliament to allow her, as a woman, to go underground.

In 1969 the couple moved to Dundee, where Donald Alexander taught at the University and Budge Cooper spent the rest of her life. JBr

McBain, J. and Cowle, K. (eds) (1997) *With an Eye to the Future: Donald Alexander and Budge Cooper, Documentary Film Makers*, Scottish Screen Archive [contains filmography].