

**Towcester Road Cemetery,  
Northampton, Northamptonshire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4761 LANCE CPL.**

**L. H. COX**

**58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**16TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 27**

## Lyle Hampden COX

Lyle Hampden Cox was born at Barnadown via Bendigo, Victoria in 1891 to parents Rev. William and Elizabeth Cox (nee Scott).

Lyle Hampden Cox attended the State School at Avoca.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Echuca, subdivision of Cobram, Victoria listed Lyle Cox, Blacksmith of Cobram.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Echuca, subdivision of Cobram, Victoria listed Lyle Hampden Cox, Blacksmith of Cobram. His parents William Cox, Clergyman & Elizabeth Cox, Home Duties were also listed at Kyabram.

Lyle Hampden Cox was a 21 year old, single, Milk Receiver (employed by Co-operative Milk Company, New South Wales) from The Manse, Kyabram, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 8th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4761 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Rev. W. Cox, The Manse, Kyabram, Victoria.

Lyle Hampden Cox was posted to No. 24 Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 8th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Depot Battalion at Bendigo on 3rd December, 1915. Private Lyle Hampden Cox was transferred to 15th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 6th January, 1916.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th March, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements. He was written up for an Offence while on Troopship "A18" – "Not alert whilst on sentry duty (sitting & dozing)." Pte Cox forfeited 1 days' pay. Pte Cox disembarked at Suez on 10th May, 1916.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was re-allotted from 2nd Training Battalion (6th Infantry Battalion) to 15th Training Battalion as Reinforcements to 58th Battalion on 19th May, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox embarked from Alexandria on H.T. *Ivernia* on 21st June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th June, 1916.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox proceeded to join 58th Battalion from 5th Divisional Base Details at Etaples, France on 22nd July, 1916. He was taken on strength of 58th Battalion in the field on 23rd July, 1916.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was admitted to hospital sick while in France on 16th September, 1916. He was taken to 14th Field Ambulance with Otitis Media then transferred to No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 25th September, 1916. Pte Cox was transferred to Hospital Barge on 26th September, 1916 & admitted to 7th General Hospital at St. Omer on 27th September, 1916 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Pte Cox was listed for transfer to England on 22nd November, 1916 & embarked from Boulogne, France on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* on 23rd November, 1916.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was admitted to War Hospital at East Leeds on 23rd November, 1916 for observation. He was transferred & admitted to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Weymouth on 4th December, 1916 & discharged on 9th December, 1916.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was marched in to No. 2 Australian Command Depot at Weymouth from Dartford on 8th December, 1916 (date as per Casualty Form – Active Service).

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was written up for an Offence at Weymouth on 4th January, 1917 – "*Absenting himself from Camp until apprehended by M.P. on Melcombe Regis Railway Bridge*". He was awarded 72 hours detention.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was marched in from Weymouth to Infantry Draft Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 8th January, 1917.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was sent sick to Parkhouse from Draft Depot at Perham Downs on 23rd February, 1917 with Mumps.

[The Casualty Form – Active Service for Private Lyle Hampden Cox records “Hosp Disch Queried 22/6/17” under the above entry]

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 11th March, 1917. He was admitted to 1st A.D.H. (Australian Dermatological Hospital) at Bulford, Wiltshire on 16th April, 1917 with V.D. Pte Cox was transferred to Parkhouse on 4th May, 1917 & discharged to Depot on 19th May, 1917. Total period of 34 days with V.D.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was marched in to Convalescent Training Company at Parkhouse on 19th May, 1917.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from Overseas Training Depot on 10th June, 1917. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 16th June, 1917. Pte Cox was marched out from 5th A.D.B.D. on 11th July, 1917.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox rejoined his Unit in France on 13th July, 1917.

Private Lyle Hampden Cox was appointed Lance Corporal in the field on 21st September, 1917.

Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox was evacuated – N.Y.D.N. (Not yet diagnosed neurosis – shell shock) on 26th September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Field Ambulance then transferred to 15th Casualty Clearing Station on 27th September, 1917. A Medical Report for those without any visible wounds was completed on L/Cpl. Cox where he stated he had nerve pain in his shoulder & ear & stated he had been blown up by a shell in the support line in Polygon Wood. The Commanding Officer of the 58th Battalion verified that L/Cpl. Cox had been exposed to very heavy shell fire & his Casualty was classified as “Shell Shock – wounded”. L/Cpl. Cox was transferred on 28th September, 1917 by No. 30 Ambulance Train & was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 29th September, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 6th October, 1917. L/Cpl. Cox was transferred from No. 6 Convalescent Depot on 8th November, 1917 to No. 14 Convalescent Depot at Trouville, France & admitted on 9th November, 1917. He was discharged to Base Depot on 26th November, 1917.

#### War Diary – 58th Battalion

*POLYGON WOOD – 26 September, 1917 – Weather Fine*

*1 am – Enemy shelled the whole area with heavies. 59th Bn, 29th and 31st Bns were successfully guided and placed in laying out positions. Zero hour for the attack was fixed at 5.50 am and the artillery opened to time. 59th Bn. secured the first objective. 14th Bde. on our left gained their objective. Prisoners were taken.*

*12 noon – Enemy shelled the whole area intermittently.*

*6.15 pm – Enemy counter-attacked from direction of CAMERON HOUSE (REF. BELGIUM 28) S.O.S. on our right brought artillery and Vickers Gun barrage which broke up the attack.*

*10 pm – Artillery fire of both sides slackened.*

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France from Hospital on 27th November, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 20th December, 1917 & rejoined his Unit – 58th Battalion in France on 23rd December, 1917.

Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox on furlough to UK from 10th March, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 29th March, 1918.

Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox was wounded in action – 2nd occasion on 2nd September, 1918. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 2nd September, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to right arm. L/Cpl. Cox was transferred the same day to 61st Casualty Clearing Station then transferred & admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 3rd September, 1918. He was invalided to England on 7th September, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle* with gunshot wounds to chin & arm.

## War Diary – 58th Battalion

2 September, 1918 – Attacked & captured PERONNE (see narrative attached)

Lt. S. A. Philip left to attend 4th Army Musketry School.

Lieut. H. V. Morey was killed in action & the following officers wounded. Major H. D. G. Ferres M.C., Capt. R. B. Forsyth M.C., Lieuts C. A. Deane & N. L. MacKinlay.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

## **58th Battalion**

The 58th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 17 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Roughly half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 6th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 6th, the 58th was predominantly composed of men from Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 23 June, the 58th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles on 19 July. The battle was a disaster. The 58th had the dual role of providing carrying parties and a reserve force. The reserve force (approximately half of the battalion) was ordered to attack late in the battle and was virtually annihilated by machine-gun fire; as a whole, the 58th suffered casualties equal to almost a third of its strength. Despite the grievous losses in its battalions, the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

Early in 1917 the 58th battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, but it was spared from the assault. It did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt, between 9 and 12 May. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 58th's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie; the 58th Battalion was the 15th Brigade's reserve during its now legendary counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April. When the Allies launched their own offensive around Amiens on 8 August, the 58th Battalion was amongst the units in action, although its role in the subsequent advance was limited. The battalion was involved in the fighting to secure Peronne at the beginning of September and entered its last major battle of the war on 29 September 1918. The battalion withdrew to rest on 2 October 1918 and was still doing so when the war ended. Weakened by the progressive return of troops to Australia, the battalion ceased to exist as such when it merged with the 59th Battalion on 24 March 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox was admitted to Auxiliary Military Hospital, Barry Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England on 8th September, 1918. He contracted Influenza on 27th October, 1918 & jaundice appeared on 8th November, 1918.

Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox died at 12pm on 16th November, 1918 at Barry Road Hospital, Northampton, England from gunshot wounds to right arm & chin, broncho pneumonia & jaundice.

A death for Lyle Cox, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.

Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox was buried on 21st November, 1918 in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England – Plot number 463. I. 17954 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from Brother (patient in hospital) and Hospital Staff of Barry Road V.A.D. Hospital. The "Last Post" was sounded at the*

graveside, and the Chap. the Rev. Lawson officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.

Names of relatives & friends present at the funeral – Brother No. 7218 Pte William Cox, 23rd Battalion, A.I.F. patient in Duston War Hospital, Northampton.

Lyle Hampden Cox requested in his Will, dated 12th October, 1915, that all his estate & effects be given to his father – William Cox, Presbyterian Minister of Kyabram & if he should die to his mother Elizabeth Cox.

Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Cox's father - Rev. W. Cox, 12 Carnarvon Street, East Brunswick, Victoria, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox – service number 4761, aged 27, of 58th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of the Rev. William and Elizabeth Cox, of Nagambie, Victoria, Australia.

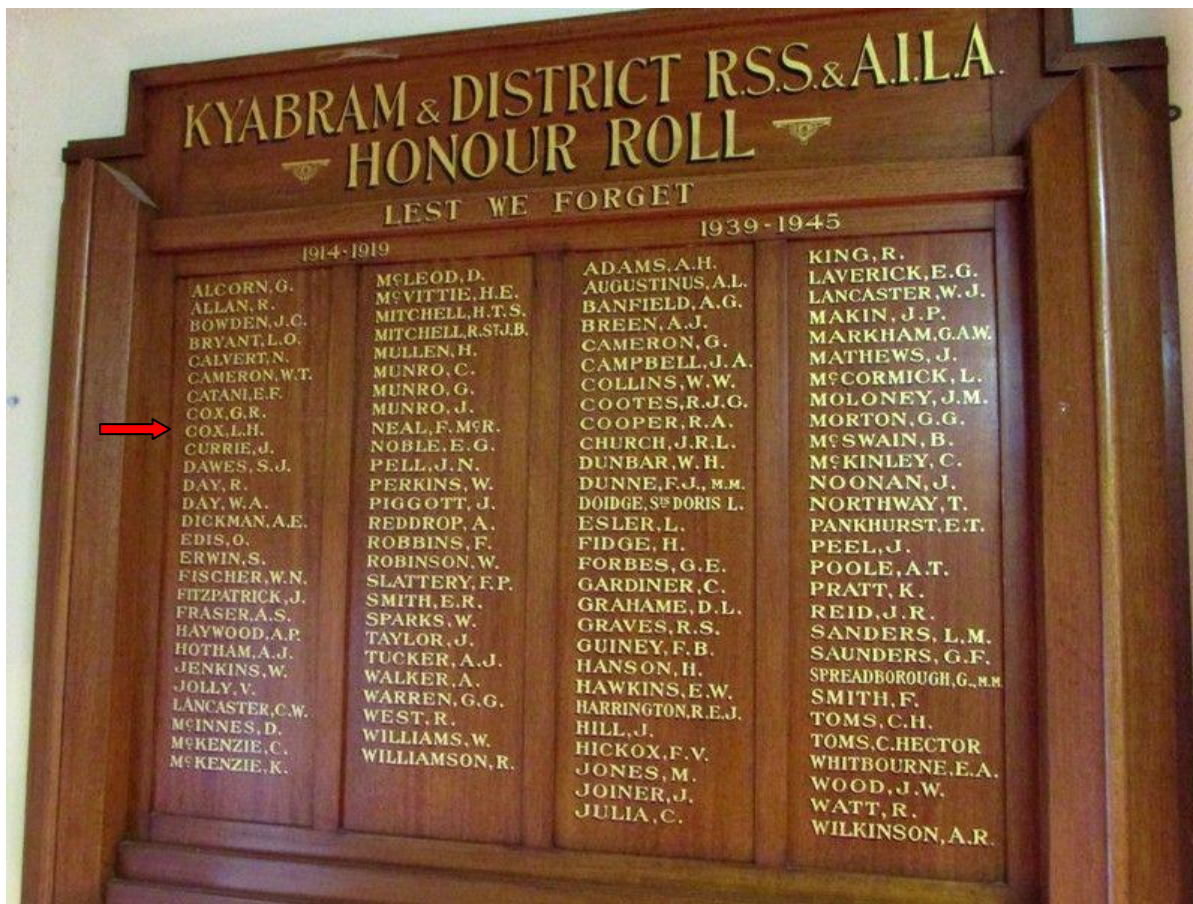
L. H. Cox & his brother, G. R. Cox, are remembered on the St. David's Presbyterian Church Honour Roll, located inside St. David's Presbyterian Church, 17 Church Street, Kyabram, Victoria.



St. David's Presbyterian Church Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

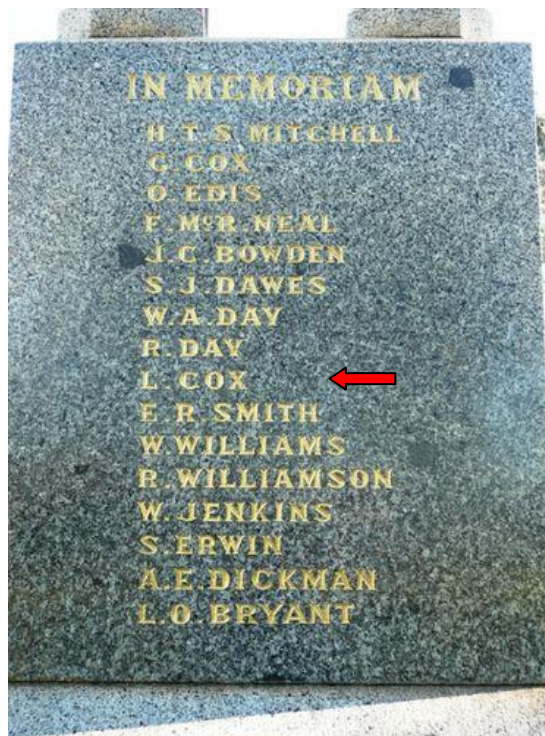
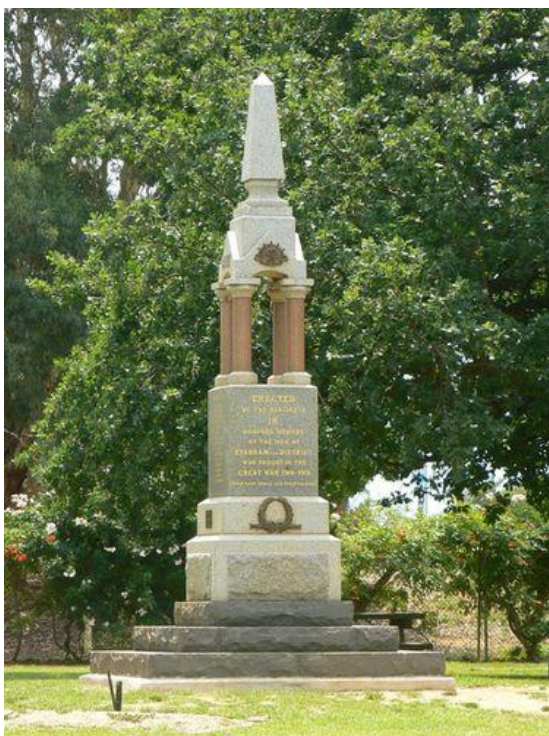


L. H. Cox & his brother, G. R. Cox, are remembered on the Kyabram & District R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. Honour Roll, located in the Kyabram RSL Club, 26 -28 Unitt Street, Kyabram, Victoria.



Kyabram & District R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

L. Cox & his brother, G. Cox, are remembered on the Kyabram War Memorial, located in Memorial Gardens, Allan Street, Kyabram, Victoria.



Kyabram War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Lance Corporal L. H. Cox is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 165.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(87 pages of Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



### [Connected to Lance Corporal Lyle Hampden Cox:](#)

Younger brother – Private Graham Rodgers Cox, 2567, 15th Australian Machine Gun Company. Enlisted 25th June, 1915. Embarked 15th September, 1915. Killed in action in France 20th July, 1916, aged 21. Buried in Rue-Du-Bois Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France – Plot I. B. 1.



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **Kyabram Soldier Acknowledges Gift**

Miss McGill, of Toolambam is in receipt if the following letter from Private Lyle H. Cox, of Kyabram, written in the trenches, and which speaks for itself:- I am sending you a few lines from France to let you know the socks you knitted for a soldier, have reached their destination. In a short note you say (will wearer kindly write to Toolamaba post office). Well, I am not exactly the wearer, but this is how I am writing. Our Battalion is at present back from the line resting in billets, and a chap sleeping next to me received your socks, and of course, the usual thing with the soldiers it to F—for a note, and this chap got yours, and said they were from a lady living at Toolamba. Needless to say, I was interested, living for some time not a great distance away (Kyabram), but since I left home, my people have shifted to Nagambie, and are living there now, so still I am not so far from Toolamba. I have been wondering how long ago you sent the socks; you did not put the date on your note. Up to a few days ago, we have been getting

beautiful weather in France, but now it rains every day. The worst of this country, the winter is far too long, and the summer too short. The boys are very tired of the war, and will not be sorry when the time comes to go back to sunny Australia. The thought of another winter approaching makes one shudder. Well, Miss McGill, I hope these few lines will reach you, as I know how the ladies of Australia, who are working for the soldiers, are anxious to know if the socks, etc., reach these parts.

*(Kyabram Guardian, Victoria – 9 November, 1917)*

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## **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

### **LISTS Nos. 367 and 368**

#### **Victoria**

Wounded

L. H. Cox, Nagambie

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 December, 1917)*

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## **OUR HEROES**

Mrs D. Menzies, of Kyabram, has received word that her brother, Pte Lyle Cox, has been wounded in action – second occasion.

*(Kyabram Guardian, Victoria – 24 September, 1918)*

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## **OUR HEROES**

### **Pte Lyle Cox,**

son of the Rev. W. Cox, of Nagambie, has been reported wounded (second occasion).

*(Nagambie Times, Victoria – 27 September, 1918) & (Shepparton Advertiser, Victoria – 30 September, 1918)*

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## **CASUALTY LIST NO. 439**

### **Wounded**

L.-Cpl. L. H. Cox, Nagambie (2nd occ.)

*(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 November, 1918)*

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## **DIED ON SERVICE**

COX – L.-Cpl. Lyle H. Cox, No. 4761, 58th Battalion, second son of the Rev. William and E. Cox, St. Andrew's Manse, Nagambie, on November 16, 1918, at the Military Hospital, Northampton, of wounds and pneumonia (private cable message), 2 years and 8 months' service, brother of Private William B. Cox (on active service, 23rd Battalion), Mrs Duncan Menzies (Kyabram), Gunner Graham R. Cox (killed in action at Fleurbaix, 19th July, 1916) and Private Hubert F. Cox (Military Hospital, Caulfield).

Our dear soldier sons reunited.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 November, 1918)*

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## **OUR HEROES**

### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

#### **L.-CORP. LYLE COX**

By a private cable message on Monday last, the Rev. W. and Mrs Cox, of Nagambie (formerly of Kyabram) were informed of the death of their second son, Lance-corp. Lyle H. Cox. The deceased soldier was an inmate of a military hospital in Northampton, England, having been wounded in the heavy fighting in France. From the information to hand it would appear that he contracted pneumonia, and this was finally the cause of the death of a gallant young soldier, who like thousands of others has made the supreme sacrifice un the cause of liberty and righteousness. The deceased had been on active service for close on three years. His elder brother, Gunner Graham Cox was killed in action at Fleurbaix in July, 1916. A third brother, Private W. B. Cox, is at present on active service, and the youngest brother is at the military hospital, Caulfield. The deceased was well known in the Kyabram district, and the news of his death on Tuesday morning came as a great shock to the citizens.

*(Kyabram Guardian, Victoria – 22 November, 1918)*

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### **Australians on Service**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

News, received in Kyabram on Monday, that L-cpl. Lyle Cox, son of Rev. W. Cox and Mrs Cox, of Nagambie (formerly of Kyabram ) had died in an English hospital from wounds and pneumonia was received with feelings of deep sorrow. The deceased soldier was well-known in Kyabram, where he spent some years of his life, and, owing to his fine manly disposition, he was exceedingly popular with all sections of the community. As a footballer he was one of Kyabram's best — a stalwart defender, who always "played the game," and friends and opponents admired his sportsmanlike attitude in the field. Nearly three years ago he enlisted and had seen some very hard fighting, having been wounded twice and gassed. The blow to his parents and friends is increased, because of the fact that his brother, Graham, another Kyabram boy, was killed in a battle at Fleurbaix. The heartfelt sympathy of everyone goes out to Mr and Mrs Cox who have thus lost two of their brave sons. A third son, Bramwell, is also on service abroad, while the fourth, Private Hubert Cox, is in the military hospital, Caulfield. Mrs Duncan Menzies, a sister, is residing in Kyabram.

*(Kyabram Free Press and Rodney and Deakin Shire Advocate, Victoria – 22 November, 1918)*

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#### **DIED ON SERVICE**

##### **LANCE CORPORAL L. H. COX**

The news of the death from wounds and pneumonia on the 16th inst. in Northampton Military Hospital, England, of Lance-Corporal Lyle H. Cox, second son of the Rev. W. and Mrs Cox, of Nagamabie, was received on Monday. Corporal Cox, who had seen two and a half years' active service, was one of four brothers who all answered to the call of duty, and two of whom have now made that supreme sacrifice. The greatest sympathy is expressed for Mr and Mrs Cox in their great loss.

*(Nagambie Times, Victoria – 22 November, 1918)*

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### **THE 450th CASUALTY LIST**

#### **VICTORIAN NAMES**

##### **DIED OF OTHER CAUSES**

L.-Cpl. L. H. Cox, Nagambie

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

COX – In proud and loving memory of our sons and brothers, L.-Cpl. Lyle H. Cox, 58th Battalion, A.I.F., who died of wounds and pneumonia at Barry Road Military Hospital, Northampton, on 16th November, 1918; also Gunner Graham R. Cox, of the 15th Machine Gun Company, 58th Battalion, A.I.F., killed at Fleurbaix, on the 19th July, 1916.

“The Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land.”

-(Inserted by the Rev. William and Elizabeth Cox, of East Brunswick Presbyterian Church, Mrs Duncan Menzies, of Kyabram, William B. Cox, 23rd Battalion, A.I.F. (returned) and Hubert F. Cox, Army Medical Corps, A.I.F.).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 November, 1919)

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### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(*Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921*)

Lance Cpl. L. H. Cox does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England**

Northampton (Towcester Road) Cemetery contains 116 First World War burials and 17 from the Second World War, most of which form a combined war graves plot to the left of the chapel. The cemetery also contains five non-war service burials and three Czech war graves.

(*Information & photos from CWGC*)







**Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton**





Photo of Lance Cpl. L. H. Cox's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.



*(Photo from Great War Forum - Biffo)*